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COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS' REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS CRISIS

1. Attached is a list of Commonwealth Governments' reactions to the Falklands crisis as at 23 April.

23 April 1982

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COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS CRISIS


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Country

- * Antigua and Barbuda Robust statement by PM. Full support also to UN initiative. Copy of statement to Commonwealth Secretary-General.
- * Australia Recalled Ambassador but now considering reinstating him; ban on imports; ban on credit. Robust statements/messages of support. Statement at Security Council. PM has written to President Reagan.
- *+ Bahamas Robust reply to PM's letter, to be referred to in Government statement. Note to Argentinian Government urging compliance with SCR 502. Robust statement.
- Bangladesh Statement condemning 'use of force in settling disputes'. Robust statement privately to Ambassador from Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs. Helpful within NAM.
- *+ Barbados 'Full and complete support to any Commonwealth protest and initiative'. Prime Minister delivered statement during televised budget debate ensuring maximum coverage. Support in OAS.
- *+ Belize Reply to PM. Telegram to UNSG. Robust statement.
- * Botswana Statement 'strongly condemns' Argentine action. No specific mention of support for UK. Replied to SG's letter.
- * Canada Robust and helpful line. PM endorsed separately statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs. Recalled Ambassador. Reinstated 21 April. Message Trudeau/Galtieri urging compliance with SCR 502. Banned military shipments. Cancelled Defence College visit. Ban on imports and export credit.

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Cyprus

- *+ Dominica Robust letter to Prime Minister. Robust message to UNSG.
- *+ Fiji Robust statement by PM.
- * The Gambia Robust Government statement
- Ghana [No response expected.]
- Grenada Unhelpful statement supporting Argentine's territorial claim but disapproving of use of force.
- *+ Guyana Strong statement by Guyana Government. Voted for SCR 502. Robust reply to Ramphal's letter. Robust reply PM letter.
- India Lukewarm; appealing to 'all parties' to seek a 'peaceful resolution'.
- *+ Jamaica Robust statement.
- * Kenya Robust statement

- * Kiribati Robust statement. Message to Argentine Government condemning invasion.
- Lesotho Response to SG expressing 'deep concern'.
- *+ Malawi President's robust reply to PM: moral backing for use of force if necessary. Robust statement.
- Malaysia Weak statement although 'deeply disturbed'.
- Malta No statement yet. Avoided participation in Council of Europe vote; but in conversation with BHC Foreign Minister said Malta 'committed in support'
- *+ Mauritius Robust reply to Ramphal quoting Security Council instructions. Robust statement.
- Nauru
- * New Zealand Robust statements/messages of support. Broken diplomatic relations. Support at UN. Cancelled Argentine flight schedule. Ban on trade, supply of arms/military material, export credits.
- *+ Nigeria Message to PM. Helpful statement.

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- * Papua New Guinea Robust statement by PM PNG. To make feelings known through international bodies. Responded to SG quoting statement. Told Argentine Government that unless complies with SCR 502 PNG will break off diplomatic relations.
- *+ Saint Lucia Strong statement. Helpful statement in OAS,
- *+ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Robust statement. Copy sent to SG.
- * Seychelles Response to PM letter, deploring aggression: made public.
- *+ Sierra Leone Statement views developments 'with great concern'. Ambassador UN instructed to 'condemn Argentine Action in strong terms'. SLG agree to provide facilities for refuelling etc.
- *+ Singapore Fairly robust statement although no specific mention of support for UK. Robust reply from PM to PM's message.
- *+ Solomon Islands Robust statement. Government has also sent message to SG of UN and to SG of Commonwealth. 'Assurance' of support to Prime Minister. Robust reply to PM letter.
- Sri Lanka Message to Prime Minister 'condemns use of force' but no specific support for UK.

- *+ Swaziland Statement expressing 'great concern' at invasion and supporting SCR 502. Instructions on similar lines sent to New York.
- Tanzania Statement. regrets Argentine military action. but no specific mention of support for UK. Letter to PM from President expressing 'sympathy' over Falklands problem.
- * Tonga Robust reply to PM letter: would support 'any action' by us to reassert sovereignty. Robust public statement. Argentine citizens banned from Tonga.
- + Trinidad and Tobago 'Feeble' statement. Helpful in OAS. Abstained in vote to invoke Rio Treaty.
- *+ Tuvalu Robust reply to SG and Secretary of State.
- * Uganda Voted for SCR 502. Helpful with Non-Aligned. Replied to PM letter: 'great concern'. Statement condemning aggression.
- * Vanuatu Statement 'strongly condemns' invasion, but also calls upon UK to "reconsider" military retaliation Copied to SG, PM, Argentine Government, UN.
- Western Samoa
- *+ Zambia Statement by Acting President deploring invasion

Zimbabwe

Inadequate statement but urging UK and Argentina to abide by SCR 502.

Notes:

- * Countries which have explicitly (or implicitly through support for SCR 502) in public or in private condemned Argentina's invasion and/or called for withdrawal of Argentine forces.
- + Countries which have expressed support for the principles of self determination in relation to the Falklands.