

CONFIDENTIAL

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PP MADRID

GRS 188

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FM FCO 131230Z MAY 82

TO PRIORITY MADRID

TELEGRAM NUMBER 154 OF 13 MAY

INFO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, GIBRALTAR

YOUR TELNO 250: FALKLANDS: MESSAGE FROM KING JUAN CARLOS

1. WE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE MESSAGE LATE ON 5 MAY UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO LORD BELSTEAD WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MYSELF. SINCE WE DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO REJECT THE KING OF SPAIN'S SUGGESTIONS OUT OF HAND, IN REPLYING TO THE LETTER LORD BELSTEAD WELLCOMED THE MESSAGE QUOTE AS A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS TO WHICH WE REMAIN DEDICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF SCR 502 UNQUOTE.

2. WITH THE PRESS WE ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT WE WELCOME ANY CONSTRUCTIVE ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. WE ARE DECLINING TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MESSAGE SINCE IT WAS NOT ADDRESSED TO US, BUT, IF PRESSED, WE SHALL POINT TO THE BRITISH REQUIREMENT THAT ANY CEASEFIRE SHOULD BE LINKED TO AN ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ISLANDS. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN MINIMAL PRESS INTEREST HERE.

PYM

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FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

SED

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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