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SUBJECT

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Prime Minister
22/5/82

cc ^o Paul's
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ETATPRIORITE
THE RIGHT HON. MARGARET THATCHER PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET
LONDONSW1

IN DEEP ANGUISH AT THE NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, WHERE THE ARMED CONFLICT WITH ARGENTINA IS CAUSING GREIVIOUS LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND MAY PROVE ALARMINGLY DETERIORATION CONSEQUENCES FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND EVENFOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE IN GENERAL, I URGENTLY APPEAL TO YOU TO ACT DECISIVELY IN ORDER TO SECURE AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE THAT WILL OPEN THE WAY TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE. MAY THE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES HEED THE EARNEST DESIRE OF MANKIND AND STRIVE WITH ALL THE MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO AVERT FURTHER SACRIFICES AND BLOODSHED. MAY TRUE LOVE FOR THEIR PEOPLES, A DEEP SENSE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE HISTORY AND THE JUSTIFIED APPREHENSION OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY INSPIRE IN THEM AN ATTITUDE CAPABLE OF LEADING TO A MAGNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE OF REASONABLE RENUNCIATIONS FOR THE SAKE OF THE SUPREME GOOD OF PEACE, THUS AVOIDING THE LOSSES BROUGHT BY WAR, WHICH ALWAYS FOSTERS HATRED AND ENDANGERS THE VALUES THAT ARE MOST GENUINELY HUMAN. I ASK GOD, THE FATHER OF ALL, TO GRANT THAT SENTIMENTS OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING WILL PREVAIL, IN ORDER THAT THE ARMED CONFLICT MAYBE HALTED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE AND THAT PEACE MAY BE RESTORED IN A GENERAL SEARCH FOR A REASONABLE, PEACEFUL AND HONOURABLE SETTLEMENT.

IOANNES PAULUS PP II

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