

TEXT OF GALTIERI'S MESSAGE TO THE POPE

BBC MONITORING SERVICE REPORT

Buenos Aires Radio at 1530 GMT broadcast a message sent today to Pope John Paul II by President Galtieri of Argentina which said: 'Grieved like Your Holiness over the loss of human lives, we listen with Christian humbleness to Your call for peace, understanding and prudence. Our people and our Government have made all possible efforts to avoid a military confrontation and bloodshed, and we have participated with a spirit of renunciation and flexibility in the negotiations to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict. In his peace efforts during the past few days, the UN Secretary-General found understanding and a spirit to negotiate in our country.

The call made by Your Holiness strengthens us in our unwavering desire to support all efforts which may lead to stopping a bloody confrontation we have not sought, and which is the result of an obstinate and intransigent attempt to restore an illegal colonial situation.

The Argentine Nation endorses the desire of Your Holiness and, with responsibility before history, is ready to take part in a cessation of hostilities which would allow the re-establishment of peace, and in this climate, to seek a peaceful, honourable and just agreement.'

(Monitored at 1650Z on 23 May 1982)