



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 May 1982

Prime Minister
 Content with this message as
 amended?

A. J. C. $\frac{24}{5}$

Dear John.

Falkland Islands: Message to the Prime Minister from the
 President of Colombia

The Colombian Ambassador delivered to the FCO on 22 May a message from President Turbay. The original was sent to you on 22 May, but I enclose a copy for reference. Although delivered on 22 May, the message appears to have been composed before the news broke about the British landings on 21 May.

The Colombian Ambassador called at the FCO again on 23 May, on instructions from his President, to urge that an early reply be sent to the message, particularly since President Galtieri had already replied (the Ambassador could give no details of this reply). The Ambassador relayed President Turbay's fears that the conflict could have not only grave consequences for British and European relations with South America in general but also for inter-American institutions and democracy in the region. Now that Britain was again in strength on the Islands, there might be a new opportunity to begin a new round of talks. The Colombians wished to do all they could to promote negotiations and end the hostilities: Colombia had a profound wish to preserve its friendly relations with both parties.

Since the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, Colombia has maintained a moderate position even when that has meant departing from the ranks of Latin American solidarity, eg in abstaining on the resolution adopted by the Rio Treaty signatories on 28 April. She is proud of her democratic traditions in a region not noted for them.

The President's message, although it contains nothing specific which could usefully be built on in present circumstances, was clearly sent with the best of intentions and it deserves a full reply. With further Rio Treaty action possible this week, it will be important for us that Colombia continues to act as a counterweight to the more extreme Latin American positions.

/I enclose



/ I enclose a suggested draft reply to President Turbay, which we would propose, if the Prime Minister agrees, to transmit to him through our Ambassador in Bogota. It would be helpful if this could be sent today, given the evident Colombian anxiety for an early reply.

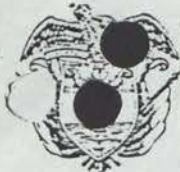
Mr Pym has not seen this draft.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

J E Holmes

A J Coles Esa
10 Downing Street



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

C O P Y

"BOGOTA, 21 DE MAYO DE 1982

SEÑORA MARGARET THATCHER
PRIMER MINISTRO DEL REINO UNIDO
LONDRES.

APRECIADA PRIMER MINISTRO:

CONOCE BIEN VUESTRO GOBIERNO CUAL HA SIDO LA POSICION QUE EL GOBIERNO COLOMBIANO HA ADOPTADO EN EL CONFLICTO ENTRE VUESTRA PATRIA Y LA ARGENTINA ALREDEDOR DE LA SOBERANIA DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS. NO FUIMOS PARTIDARIOS DE LA CONVOCATORIA DEL ORGANO DE CONSULTA POR CONSIDERAR QUE ANTES QUE INTENTAR APLICAR LAS MEDIDAS PREVISTAS EN EL TIAR RESULTABA ABSOLUTAMENTE INDISPENSABLE AGOTAR TODOS LOS RECURSOS POLITICOS, JURIDICOS Y DIPLOMATICOS PARA EVITAR UNA GUERRA DE IMPREVISIBLES CONSECUENCIAS NO SOLO POR EL NUMERO DE VICTIMAS INOCENTES SACRIFICADAS EN LA CONFRONTACION ARMADA, SINO POR LAS GRAVES TENSIONES QUE SE PRESENTARIAN ENTRE VUESTRO PAIS Y LATINÓAMERICA QUE COMPARTE A ESCALA UNIVERSAL CON EL REINO UNIDO LA DEFENSA DEL SISTEMA DEMOCRATICO.

SE QUE YA SE HAN PRODUCIDO LOS PRIMEROS ENCUENTROS MILITARES ENTRE ARGENTINOS Y BRITANICOS Y CONTEMPLA CON HORROR LA EXTENSION DE LA GUERRA Y SUS FATALES CONSECUENCIAS. PIENSA MI GOBIERNO QUE LAS NACIONES DEMOCRATICAS TIENEN LA OBLIGACION DE FORTALECER EL SISTEMA CONTRA LOS RIESGOS QUE LO AMENAZAN Y DICHA FINALIDAD NO SE LOGRA A NUESTRO JUICIO DEBILITANDONOS EN GUERRAS CRUENTAS Y ESTERILES, SINO REVISTIENDONOS DE LA PACIENCIA NECESARIA PARA DIALOGAR HASTA ENCONTRAR UN PUNTO DE APROXIMACION QUE LE DEVUELVA AL MUNDO LA CONFIANZA EN LA ELIMINACION DE LOS PELIGROS DE UNA NUEVA CONFLAGACION.

SON MUCHAS LAS FORMULAS QUE PODRIAN SERVIR SI NO PARA RESOLVER DESDE EL PRINCIPIO LA TOTALIDAD DEL PROBLEMA, POR LO MENOS PARA AVANZAR EN NUEVOS CONTACTOS DIPLOMATICOS QUE PERMITAN TRABAJAR SOBRE EL CAMINO DE LAS SOLUCIONES PACIFICAS.

ESTOY ENTERADO DE QUE EL PRESIDENTE DEL PERU HA ENVIADO A VUESTRO GOBIERNO Y AL DE LA ARGENTINA UNA PROPUESTA QUE PODRIA DAR PIE A MAS AVANZADAS CONVERSACIONES. ESA FORMULA U OTRA CUALQUIERA QUE HAGA POSIBLE EL ALEJAMIENTO DEL PELIGRO DE LA GUERRA, OBIVIAMENTE ESTIMULA NUESTRO INTERES DE DEMOCRATAS. EL GOBIERNO

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EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

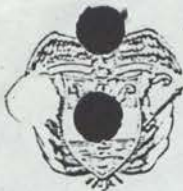
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COLOMBIANO QUE HA OBSERVADO UNA POSICION DE RESPETO A SU TRADICION JURIDICA CREE QUE EL VUESTRO ENTENDERA MUY BIEN LA PREOCUPACION QUE A COLOMBIA LE ASISTE PARA ENCONTRAR SOLUCIONES PACIFICAS QUE EVITEN QUE SE AGRAVE EL YA BIEN PELIGROSO CONFLICTO ENTRE EL REINO UNIDO Y LA ARGENTINA.

DESDE AHORA OFRECEMOS LA COADYUVANCIA DEL GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA PARA LA FORMULA DE PAZ QUE MEJOR SE ACOMODE A LOS INTERESES DE LA GRAN BRETAÑA Y DE LA ARGENTINA, PAISES A LOS CUALES NOS SENTIMOS UNIDOS POR VIEJOS Y FUERTES VINCULOS.

ME SUSCRIBO COMO VUESTRO CORDIAL AMIGO,

JULIO CESAR TURBAY-AYALA
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA."



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Bogotá, 21st May 1982.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
London

Dear Prime Minister,

Your Government is well aware of the position that the Colombian Government has adopted in the conflict between your country and Argentina on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. We did not agree to the convocation of the Organ of Consultation as we felt that before trying to apply the measures provided for in the TIAR (Interamerican Treaty for Reciprocal Assistance) it was absolutely essential to exhaust every political, juridical and diplomatic resource in order to avoid a war of unforeseeable consequences, not only because of the number of innocent victims that would be sacrificed in an armed confrontation, but also because of the very serious tensions that would arise between your country and Latin America, a continent that shares the defence of the worldwide democratic system with the United Kingdom.

I know that the first military clashes between the Argentines and the British have already taken place, and I regard the escalation of the war and its fatal consequences with horror. My Government believes that democratic nations have the obligation of strengthening the system against the risks threatening it and, in our opinion, this aim is not achieved by weakening ourselves in unproductive wars involving

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EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

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a lot of bloodshed, but rather through endowing ourselves with the necessary patience to persevere in dialogues until it is possible to find suitable meeting points which would restore the world's confidence in the elimination of the dangers of a new conflagration.

There are many formulas that could be useful, if not to resolve the whole problem from the outset, at least to make progress in new diplomatic contacts which would allow peaceful solutions to be worked towards.

I am aware that the President of Perú has sent your Government and the Argentine one a proposal which could lead to more advanced talks. This proposal or any other which might drive away the danger of war is obviously of interest to us as democrats. The Colombian Government that has always maintained a position of respect to its own juridical tradition believes that your Government will well understand the concern prompting Colombia to find peaceful solutions that would avoid the escalation of the already very dangerous conflict between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

From now on we offer the Colombian Government's assistance for the achievement of a peace formula which would be in the best interests of both Great Britain and Argentina, countries to which we feel linked by old and strong ties.

Yours sincerely,

JULIO CESAR TURBAY-AYALA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA "

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC 1 ZCZC
 GRS 2 GRS
 CLASS 3 CONFIDENTIAL
 CAVEATS 4
 DESKBY 5
 FM FCO 6 FM FCO
 PRE/ADD 7 TO IMMEDIATE **BOGOTA**
 TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
 9 RFI UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON
 10 MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TURBAY
 11 1. Please deliver, as soon as possible, the following reply
 12 from the Prime Minister.
 13 BEGINS:
 14 Dear Mr President,
 15 I was most grateful for your thoughtful message of 21 May
 16 about the Falkland Islands. We have been much aware in recent
 17 weeks of the constructive approach which you and your
 18 Government have adopted towards this tragic ~~affair.~~ *situation.* I share
 19 ~~your sorrow that blood has been shed and your hope that, even~~
 20 ~~at this late stage, the way to a peaceful solution can be found.~~
 21 I agree wholeheartedly with you that it should be for
 22 democratic nations to set the world an example, by the patience
 23 with which they pursue peaceful negotiations and by their
 24 reluctance to resort to military force. I am sure you will
 25 recognise that in the seven weeks of negotiations in which we

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

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have engaged in good faith since Argentina invaded British territory, we have shown the greatest patience, as well as the utmost open-mindedness and flexibility consistent with the basic principles of international law and of the United Nations Charter. These are principles which Britain and Colombia, as democratic nations, share.

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The difficulty throughout has been Argentina's refusal to match our constructive approach. President Galtieri and his colleagues have rejected every proposal which has been put to them which would have led to a ceasefire coupled with a withdrawal of Argentine forces, as required by Security Council Resolution 502. ~~We remain ready to consider any~~

valid in consideration of our basic principles

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~~proposal from any quarter which offers a real possibility of a~~

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~~[satisfactory negotiated] solution of this crisis~~ We looked closely and urgently at President Belaunde's recent proposals, which you mention, and I remain grateful to President Belaunde for his continued concern and active interest.

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The essential first stage must however be a firm indication that Argentina is ready to comply with Security Council Resolution 502 and withdraw its forces from the Islands. ~~Negotiations could then resume in good faith on a~~

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~~basis which did not predetermine or prejudge their outcome.~~

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It is because there has hitherto been no sign that Argentina is willing ~~to take these steps~~ ~~so to negotiate~~ that we have been obliged to

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increase our military, as well as our diplomatic and economic, pressure on Argentina. We have at every stage in this conflict stated our position with clarity, and have confined ourselves to using the absolute minimum of force necessary to impose pressure on Argentina, and to protect our own forces, ~~in~~ *and to restore the rights of the 11 islands*

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accordance with our rights of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

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I share your own anxieties on the possible effect of this crisis on relations between my country and those of Latin

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Catchword

America

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

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 2 America. As you know, we attach great importance to our
 3 relations with the region and our consistent objective has been
 4 to foster and strengthen them. It is no wish of ours that they
 5 should be put at risk. But I hope that you can agree that no
 6 country should be allowed to seek a resolution of territorial
 7 disputes by force, if democratic freedoms are to be maintained.
 8 If aggression is not firmly resisted, the consequences
 9 throughout the world would be grave.

10 The point at issue has been and remains Argentine
 11 aggression. No-one regrets more than I do that Argentina has
 12 so far resisted all our efforts to achieve a peaceful
 13 settlement. We have never wanted to resort to military
 14 action: but Argentine obduracy has left us no choice. The
 15 decision to end the present conflict rests squarely with
 16 Argentina.

17 If you, Mr President, can bring home to the Argentine
 18 Government not only the extent of our determination to achieve
 19 a just solution to this crisis, but also the imperative need
 20 to withdraw their forces from the Falkland Islands in
 21 accordance with Security Council Resolution 502, you would be
 22 making a contribution to the peace of South America and of the
 23 world which it would be hard to exaggerate.
 24 Yours sincerely, Margaret Thatcher.

25 ENDS

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NNNN ends
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Catchword

24 MAY 1962

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