



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 May 1982

*Dear John,*Falkland Islands: Message to President Lopez Portillo

Our Ambassador in Mexico City has recommended that the Prime Minister should send a personal message to the President of Mexico, to reach him before the OAS meeting planned for 27 May in Washington. I enclose a draft of a message to President Lopez Portillo, which Mr Pym has not had a chance to see himself. This should be despatched today if at all possible if it is to influence the Mexicans at the OAS meeting.

The Mexican position since the Argentine invasion has been evenly balanced. Although they voted in support of Argentina at the last OAS session and issued an unhelpful statement on 21 May (copy enclosed), the Mexican Government have privately sympathised with our position and have sought publicly to act as a force for moderation within the OAS. The Mexican position could well be crucial at the forthcoming OAS meeting, particularly if the Argentines, as expected, call for diplomatic and/or economic sanctions against Britain. We cannot be too specific about this in the message, as we must avoid any possibility of treading on Latin American sensitivities, but the suggested message makes clear our wish to avoid any damage to our relations with the rest of Latin America.

The Prime Minister has sent two previous messages to President Lopez Portillo (copies of both enclosed). When the Mexican Ambassador spoke to the Secretary of State on 20 May he made it clear that the President was still thinking in terms of a meeting on Mexican soil between the Prime Minister and President Galtieri. We have already made our views on this suggestion clear and there is no need to refer to it again in this new message.

*Yours ever*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

*J E Holmes*

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

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TO FLASH MEXICO CITY  
TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
10 YOUR TELNO 432: FALKLANDS: MESSAGE TO LOPEZ PORTILLO  
11 1. Please deliver following message to President Lopez Portillo  
12 from the Prime Minister.  
13 Begins.  
14 Your Ambassador in London has told the Foreign and Commonwealth  
15 Secretary of your continuing deep concern about the situation in  
16 the Falklands.  
17 I entirely share Your Excellency's concern. Throughout the past  
18 seven weeks I have greatly appreciated the constructive  
19 contributions which you personally and your Government have made  
20 in order to resolve this tragic crisis. It is a matter of the  
21 deepest disappointment to me that <sup>all our</sup> ~~the~~ efforts which we have all  
22 ~~made~~ have come to nothing because of Argentine obduracy.  
23 As you, Mr President, will be fully aware, the conflict which is  
24 taking place has not been of our <sup>making</sup> ~~seeking~~. It was the Argentine  
25 forces' unprovoked invasion of the Falkland Islands ~~nearly eight~~

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			<del>weeks</del> which
File number	Dept	CMU	Distribution  FALKLANDS GENERAL
Drafted by (Block capitals) P R Fearn			
Telephone number 233 4692			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		



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2 ~~weeks ago~~ which ~~has~~ brought about the present situation. Despite  
 3 all the attempts by the international community, for which we are  
 4 most grateful, Argentina has stubbornly refused to withdraw from  
 5 the Islands, end her aggression and bring peace to the region. *She*  
 6 *has* disregard *of* the clear expression of ~~the~~ international will  
 7 contained in Security Council Resolution 502. ~~The problem~~ *confrontation* could  
 8 have been ~~resolved~~ *avoided* at any time through a withdrawal of Argentine  
 9 forces.

10 It is not Britain's wish or practice to use force to end disputes:  
 11 but when an aggressor refuses to heed attempts to achieve  
 12 peaceful solutions, we are obliged to act in defence of our *rights and*  
 13 interests, as provided for in Article 51 of the UN Charter. In  
 14 doing so, we are defending not only the rights of the Falkland  
 15 Islanders: we are showing to the world that aggression cannot be  
 16 allowed to succeed.

17 We are conscious that the Argentine Government has been attempting  
 18 to suggest that British action on the Falklands somehow involves  
 19 Latin America as a whole. This is not the case. Our dispute is  
 20 with the Argentine Military ~~government.~~ It is not with the  
 21 Argentine people and certainly not with the other countries of  
 22 the region. We recognise the very important role which the  
 23 countries of Latin America play in the international community and  
 24 value very highly our relations with them. We wish to preserve  
 25 and strengthen them. It is in all our interests that Argentine  
 26 attempts to widen the scope of the dispute should not be allowed  
 27 to succeed. I hope that it will not be forgotten at the planned  
 28 meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of American  
 29 States that it was Argentina who committed the aggression and  
 30 Britain who was the victim.

31 With warm personal good wishes.

32 Ends.

33 2. In delivering this message, you should also draw as  
 34

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Catchword

appropriate

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2 appropriate on the points in my telno 68 to Asuncion.

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