

Subject

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GRS 356
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 091630Z JUNE 82
TO FLASH BOGOTA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 128 OF 9 JUNE.
INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK
MY TELNO 119: FALKLANDS: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T/26/82**

1. PLEASE NOW DELIVER FOLLOWING REPLY TO PRESIDENT TURBAY'S
LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:
BEGINS:

I SHARE THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN YOUR EXCELLENCY'S
LETTER OF 2 JUNE AT THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER BLOODSHED IN
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE HAVE NO WISH TO ADD TO THE TRAGIC
LOSS OF LIFE WHICH BOTH BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA HAVE ALREADY
SUFFERED IN THIS CONFLICT. IF ANY MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO
PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES,
AS DEMANDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AS FAR
BACK AS 3 APRIL, FURTHER CONFLICT COULD BE AVOIDED. AS I
TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY, PROVIDED ARGENTINE
WITHDRAWAL CAN BE LINKED UNEQUIVOCALLY TO A CEASEFIRE, WE
WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ON THE SPOT WHICH WILL ALLOW
ARGENTINE FORCES TO LEAVE THE ISLANDS WITH SAFETY, DIGNITY
AND DESPATCH.

I WARMLY REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA. WE ARE
PROUD OF BRITAIN'S HISTORICAL RECORD IN SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS
OF THOSE COUNTRIES IN FIRST ESTABLISHING THEIR
INDEPENDENCE, AND THEN IN ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
RICH ECONOMIC POTENTIAL WITH WHICH SO MANY LATIN AMERICAN
STATES ARE ENDOWED. I BELIEVE THAT MOST GOVERNMENTS IN
SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA APPRECIATE THAT IT IS THIS SAME
DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM WHICH LEADS US NOW TO
INSIST ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES, SO AS TO
ENABLE THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN WAY OF
LIFE.

I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE

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SHOWN THROUGHOUT THIS CRISIS. I HAVE GIVEN PARTICULARLY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE THOUGHTS IN YOUR LETTER, INSPIRED IT IS BY SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. BUT IT WAS ARGENTINE AGGRESSION WHICH PROVOKED THE FIGHTING AND IT IS FOR THE ARGENTINES TO LEAVE THE ISLANDS IN ORDER TO STOP THE FIGHTING.

ENDS

2. IF THE COLOMBIANS WISH TO PUBLISH THIS EXCHANGE, AS THEY DID THE PREVIOUS ONE, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION.

PYM