



File

T 124A/82

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Bf

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

10 June 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA

As I told Brian Fall on the telephone from Northolt yesterday, the Prime Minister was not entirely happy with the draft reply to the President of Colombia which you sent with your letter of 8 June 1982 to John Coles. In particular, she thought that the last sentence of paragraph 1 did not ring true.

She therefore deleted this sentence and substituted for it the following one:

"As I told the House of Commons yesterday, provided Argentinian withdrawal can be linked unequivocally to a ceasefire, we will make arrangements on the spot which allow the Argentinian forces to leave the Islands with safety, dignity and despatch".

This change required a consequential amendment to the last paragraph of the message. This paragraph should now end with the words "to stop the fighting". And the rest of the paragraph should be deleted.

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As I told Brian Fall, with these changes the Prime Minister was content for the message to the President to be despatched.

CAW

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

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1 <<<<

2 I warmly reaffirm the importance which we attach to our
 3 relations with the countries of Latin America. We are
 4 proud of Britain's historical record in supporting the
 5 efforts of those countries in first establishing their
 6 independence, and then in assisting the development of the
 7 rich economic potential with which so many Latin American
 8 states are endowed. I believe that most governments in
 9 South and Central America appreciate that it is this same
 10 devotion to the cause of freedom which leads us now to
 11 insist on the withdrawal of Argentine forces, so as to
 12 enable the Falkland Islanders to choose their own way of
 13 life.

14 I ~~am grateful for the moderate stance~~ ^{appreciate the concern} that you and your
 15 Government have ~~adopted~~ ^{shown} throughout this crisis. I have
 16 given particularly careful attention to the thoughts in
 17 your letter, inspired as it is by sentiments of friendship
 18 and humanitarian concern. But it was Argentine aggression
 19 which provoked the fighting and it is for the Argentines
 20 to leave the Islands in order to stop the fighting. I have
 21 ~~made it clear publicly that the moment they announce they~~ ^{make clear that}
 22 ~~are prepared to go we shall do everything possible to~~
 23 ~~assist them to do so with safety and in good order.~~ ^{dignity} We
 24 ~~cannot do more.~~

25 ENDS

26 2. If the Colombians wish to publish this exchange, as they
 27 did the previous one, we have no objection.

29 PYM

30 NNNN

/// 31
 // 32
 / 33
 34

NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword