



Prime Minister

The manner of publishing this makes clear that it is a propaganda

MR POWELL

ARGENTINE OFFER TO DECLARE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

effort.
CDP
17/xi

Attached are the latest Reuters and BBC monitoring reports of an offer by Argentina to declare a cessation of hostilities. A note has apparently been sent to the Prime Minister through the Swiss.

HEMALL

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17 November 1986

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171626 :AM-FALKLANDS =2 BUENOS AIRES

Argentina's refusal until now to declare a formal cessation of hostilities has been a major stumbling block to talks for a settlement to the conflict.

The statement said Argentina would be willing to declare the cessation of hostilities, "in spite of being juridically unnecessary, ... as part of process of elimination of the conflict's consequences."

Argentina has maintained until now that a declaration of cessation of hostilities was legally unnecessary to begin talks.

The statement also said Argentina was willing to "begin overall negotiations with the United Kingdom" according to the terms of Resolution 40/21 of the United Nations General Assembly, which calls for talks on all aspects of the dispute without specifically mentioning the question of sovereignty.

Before such negotiations could begin, both countries would have to begin an "open dialogue ... to create the conditions of confidence necessary to carry out the negotiations successfully and establish timetables for them," said the statement.

It said the success of the proposal "depends on the will" of Britain to negotiate.

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171708 :AM-FALKLANDS =3 BUENOS AIRES. (REOPENS)

The statement reads in part: "The Argentine government expresses its willingness to facilitate the opening of negotiations by means of a declaration that at the right moment, despite of being juridically unnecessary, establishes the formal cessation of hostilities... that should put an end to the so-called military protection zone of 150 miles."

Britain imposed the exclusion zone immediately after the war ended in June, 1982.

The statement was issued only hours before President Raul Alfonsin was due to meet U.S. President Reagan in Washington. The two were expected to discuss Argentina's protest over Britain's newly-claimed fishing conservation area around the islands.

Alfonsin, who arrived last night for a five-day, unofficial visit to the United States, today gave the proposal to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Reagan met on Saturday with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who, on her arrival in Washington, renewed Britain's refusal to discuss the sovereignty of the islands in any talks with Argentina.

The Argentine statement implied Britain and Argentina could open contacts at the United Nations later this month, when the General Assembly debates the Falklands question.

"Both parties could demonstrate to the world that reason, imagination and will can construct peace," the statement said.

After distributing the statement, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jorge Sabato stressed to reporters that the formal cessation of hostilities would come only "at the right moment," without elaborating.

Sabato said the statement makes "concrete proposals that could serve to establish dialogue, if there is will and imagination, to solve this conflict."

He said Argentina's offer to end hostilities was issued to "the nations of the world" but was sent to the British government this morning through diplomatic channels.

The two countries have had no diplomatic relations since the 74-day war, which cost nearly 1,000 lives on both sides.

The statement said Argentina would be willing to discuss "all problems... in addition to the sovereignty dispute," including the dispute over rights to the plentiful fishing resources around the islands.

Argentina has previously refused to discuss fishing rights in the Falklands with Britain because, says Argentina, doing so would imply British sovereignty over the islands and confirm Britain's status as a South Atlantic power.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe offered to enter into talks with Argentina over fishing resources when he announced Britain's fisheries limit around the islands on October 29.

Howe said the fisheries zone was needed to counter over-fishing in the area by fleets from various countries and "aggressive patrolling" by Argentina.

Argentina has called the British decision an affront to Argentine sovereignty and a provocation that would heighten tensions in the South Atlantic.

The statement repeated Argentine claims that no aspect of the conflict could be resolved if talks ignored "the deep problem that separates the two countries, ... (which) is, precisely, the sovereignty over the Malvinas islands," using the Argentine name for the islands.

REUTER

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BBC B B69/1 ARGENTINA OFFERS TO DECLARE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES
OVER FALKLANDS=:

(ARGENTINE NEWS AGENCY NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS) BUENOS AIRES: THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TODAY OFFERED ITS BRITISH COUNTERPART +TO BEGIN AN INTRODUCTORY AND PREPARATORY STEP+ TOWARDS A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE MALVINAS (ED: FALKLANDS) ISLANDS, +AN OPEN DIALOGUE AIMED AT ESTABLISHING THE CONDITIONS OF TRUST NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGING IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AND TO SET UP THE AGENDA FOR THEM.+

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TODAY SENT A NOTE TO MARGARET THATCHER'S ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE SWISS EMBASSY. THE NOTE OFFERED +THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AIMED AT CLEARING AWAY THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONFLICT, A PROCESS WHICH SHOULD DO AWAY WITH THE SO-CALLED MILITARY PROTECTION ZONE OF 150 MILES+.

MORE FOLLOWING BBC MON 17:11 1711 MD

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BBC B B69/2 ARGENTINA (FALKLANDS) - 2 - WANTS OPEN DIALOGUE=:

THE DECLARATION, WHICH WAS ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO GREAT BRITAIN'S UNILATERAL DECISION TO EXTEND THE ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ZONE TO 150 MILES AROUND THE MALVINAS ISLANDS, PROPOSES:

1. TO BEGIN OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN KEEPING WITH U.N. RESOLUTION 40/21.

2. TO BEGIN, AS AN INTRODUCTORY AND PREPARATORY STEP FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AIMED AT ESTABLISHING THE CONDITIONS OF TRUST NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGING IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AND FOR SETTING UP THEIR AGENDA.

3. TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH A DECLARATION WHICH - DESPITE BEING JURIDICALLY UNNECESSARY - WOULD ESTABLISH IN DUE TIME A FORMAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, AS PART OF A PROCESS AIMED AT CLEARING AWAY WITH THE SO-CALLED MILITARY PROTECTION ZONE OF 150 MILES.

4. TO RESOLVE, AS ALWAYS ADVOCATED, BY NEGOTIATIONS, AND IN KEEPING WITH U.N. RESOLUTION 40/21, ALL THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, IN ADDITION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTE, NAMELY:

REMOVING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONFLICT, IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND WHEN APPROPRIATE, THE PROTECTION OF FISHING RESOURCES. ALL THIS SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HELP OF THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL.

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BBC B B69/3E ARGENTINA (FALKLANDS) -3- SOVEREIGNTY MAIN ISSUE=:

5. TO ANALYSE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS, ALL POSSIBLE APPROACHES FOR A SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE THAT WOULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO MEASURES CAPABLE OF PROMOTING TRUST AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS WITH THE HELP OF THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL.

IN ITS PREAMBLE THE ARGENTINE NOTE STATES THAT +THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ON 24TH NOVEMBER WHEN THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS DISCUSSING THE MALVINAS ISSUE, THE TWO PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW TO THE WORLD AT LARGE THAT REASON, IMAGINATION AND WILL CAN BUILD PEACE.

THE NOTE ALSO RATIFIED THE +PEACEFUL INTENTIONS+ OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND +ITS FIRM WILLINGNESS TO ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND OF THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT+.

THE NOTE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT IN THIS REGARD +THE DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT ON 29TH OCTOBER THIS YEAR, REVEALS BY BRITAIN'S SEEKING TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER MARITIME AREAS, THAT THE MAIN ISSUE IN THE CONTROVERSY IS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS ISLANDS.+

END BBC MON 17:22 1711 VY.

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