



COMANDANTE EN JEFE ARMADA
CHILE

Santiago, August 24th, 1989

*The Rt. Hon.
Margaret Thatcher
M.P.
10 Downing Street
London S.W. 1
GREAT BRITAIN*

Dear Prime Minister:

It is an honor and a pleasure to write to you about a sensitive and highly relevant matter for the preservation of peace and harmony in this part of the world.

As it is known, Argentine Armed Forces are developing, with Algerian funding, a new missile, the CONDOR, which through the employment of the Chinese Silkworm's guidance system or something of the sort, would have a range of 270 nautical miles.

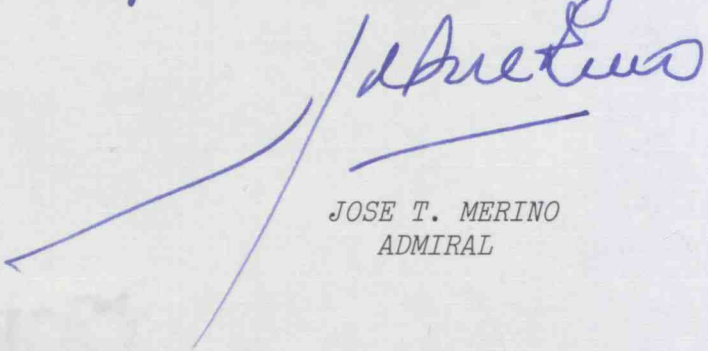
This type of weapon added to the Argentine nuclear reactor, which is also being developed with Algerian funding, means a serious potential unbalance between the Armed Forces of the South American nations, in circumstances that the hard economic situation generally prevailing in this continent makes it utterly absurd to undertake investments of such magnitude.

We know you have handled not long ago more or less similar issues with Argentina and, although the new Argentine Government has shown interest in peacefully settling the Falklands problem, it seems contradictory that they are at the same time building up their war capacity not only with the above mentioned weapon, but also updating their aircraft carriers and manufacturing or purchasing armaments which definitely are not necessary in a region where war is by no means a solution for political problems.

Therefore, it would be desirable that those powers that can have an influence on these decisions, make their best to avoid such demonstrations of belligerent purposes because they only cast doubts on the veracity of good intentions uttered at diplomatic talkings.

I hope you will understand the threat that this situation represents for a small country like ours, that since its Independence has had problems with this neighbour, due to its lack of sincerity. I am addressing you as President of the Legislative Power of Chile, that is doing its best to give its people welfare and security to foster economical development so as they may have the high standard of life they deserve because of their efforts and working spirit.

with great respect I remain yours sincerely


JOSE T. MERINO
ADMIRAL