

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

~~Prime Minister~~  
Agree to send message at  
Flag F?

The Prime Minister agreed.  
AR 25/4  
27 April 1982

Dear John,

AR 25/4

Falklands: Japanese Position

The Japanese Prime Minister has sent a further letter to Mrs Thatcher, delivered today to Sir Antony Acland by the Japanese Ambassador. The original is enclosed. The letter is unsatisfactory in a number of ways.

- i) it avoids any Japanese commitment to impose a ban on imports;
- ii) it goes no further on export credits than previous private assurances: 'no application for new commitments ... is expected for the time being'. This assurance has not been made public by the Japanese nor will they allow us to refer to it in Parliament in any clear form. Thus it is not an effective element in the campaign of public pressure on Argentina;
- iii) On trade with Argentina, the letter says only that the Japanese Government will 'guide business circles ... not to unduly take advantage of the measures (taken by the EC and others).' Whatever the word 'unduly' might mean, this falls very far short of our request for an import ban by Japan.

Mr Pym believes it would be helpful if the Prime Minister could reply in rather stiff terms to this letter. The Japanese should be under no illusion about our expectation from them of more full-hearted support than we have had so far. I enclose three draft telegrams, the last of which contains a draft for the Prime Minister's reply, and would be grateful for approval for their despatch.

Yours ever  
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC  
GRS  
CLASS  
CAVEATS  
DESKBY  
FM FCO  
PRE/ADD  
TEL NO

1 ZCZC  
2 GRS  
3 CONFIDENTIAL  
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5  
6 FM FCO 271800Z APRIL 82  
7 TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO  
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
9 AND TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
10 YOUR TELNO 199: FALKLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION  
11 1. Japanese Ambassador called today on <sup>PUS</sup> ~~Acland~~ to deliver text  
12 (in MIFT) of further letter from Suzuki to Prime Minister.  
13 2. Acland made the following points:  
14 (a) we had been grateful for original Japanese support  
15 (voting for SCR 502, summoning Argentinian Ambassador on  
16 12 April, private assurance, now reaffirmed, of block on  
17 new export credits to Argentina).  
18 (b) but we were disappointed that Japan had not felt able  
19 to follow the lead of EC, Commonwealth and other  
20 industrialised countries in imposing ban on imports from  
21 Argentina. Japan's reluctance to take similar measures  
22 left a big hole. Position of US (as mediators) was  
23 naturally different.  
24 (c) we were grateful for Mr Suzuki's undertaking about  
25 'not taking advantage' but the wording was not satisfactory.

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File number		Dept FED	Distribution  FCO FED SAmD  Additional dist: Falkland Islands
Drafted by (Block capitals) M C STARK			
Telephone number 233 3259			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		



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Classification and Caveats  
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What was meant by 'unduly'? Public opinion in Europe would not understand any (underlined) increase in Japanese trade with Argentina resulting from our sanctions.

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(d) we hoped the Japanese would look again at the question of an import ban. Arguments that GATT and the Argentina/Japan bilateral treaty constituted insuperable obstacles seemed to us invalid. EC, Canada, Norway etc were also in GATT. The bilateral treaty contained an escape clause similar to GATT Article XX1 allowing trade restrictions where international security was at stake. Japan had found ways of restricting trade with Iran during the hostage crisis.

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e) we were frankly disappointed that Japan had not felt able to give us more whole-hearted support in this crisis. We believed that Argentina was seriously worried by the combination of military, diplomatic and economic pressure. Now was the time for Japan as a major democracy with strong economic links with Argentina to tighten the screws. (f) he would pass Mr Suzuki's letter on at once: he thought the Prime Minister would probably wish to reply.

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OUT TELEGRAM

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ZCZC 1 ZCZC  
 GRS 2 GRS  
 CLASS 3 CONFIDENTIAL  
 CAVEATS 4  
 DESKBY 5  
 FM FCO 6 FM FCO 271730Z APRIL 82  
 PRE/ADD 7 TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO  
 TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
 9 AND TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
 10 MIPT: FALKLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION  
 11 1. Text of Mr Suzuki's letter:  
 12 BEGINS: Dear Mrs Thatcher,  
 13 I have been following with serious concern - as I mentioned in  
 14 my letter of April 12th - the developments in and around the  
 15 Falkland Islands and earnestly hoping for an early and peaceful  
 16 solution of the dispute, ever since the Argentine military action.  
 17  
 18 In pursuance of its national policy of the peaceful settlement of  
 19 international disputes, Japan deeply regrets the Argentine use  
 20 of force and considers that their forces should withdraw promptly  
 21 in accordance with Resolution 502 of the United Nations Security  
 22 Council. In line with this position, my Government has continued  
 23 to make approaches to the Argentine side. Our actions, as  
 24 mentioned in my previous letter and repeatedly expressed as our  
 25 official views, are based on the consideration, inter alia, that

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 2 they should be compatible with our existing international  
 3 obligations - including those under the United Nations' Charter -  
 4 while ensuring the long-term interests of the Free World with  
 5 due attention to unity and cooperation with the Western  
 6 industrialised countries.  
 7  
 8 From this point of view, my Government intends to guide the  
 9 business circles to pay due attention not to unduly take  
 10 advantage of the measures to ban imports from Argentina taken  
 11 by the EC members and other countries for the benefit of  
 12 economic interests of Japan. I believe that it not only  
 13 conforms to Japan's basic position, but also meets your requests.  
 14  
 15 With respect to the supply of official credit, I should like to  
 16 state that no application for new commitment to export credit to  
 17 Argentina is expected for the time being, in view of the tense  
 18 situation now prevailing.  
 19  
 20 Japan has placed strong hopes in the good offices of Secretary  
 21 of State Haig since April 6th and highly appreciates your  
 22 country's positive response to his efforts. During the recent  
 23 visit to Japan of Vice-President Bush of the United States, my  
 24 Minister for Foreign Affairs explained our position and urgently  
 25 requested that the United States should continue to exert its  
 26 utmost efforts to secure a peaceful solution of this dispute.  
 27  
 28 I am deeply concerned that the position brought about by  
 29 Argentina's use of force should not escalate into a large-scale  
 30 military clash, bringing with it incalculable loss for all  
 31 Western nations. May I therefore reiterate my earnest hope  
 32 that the United Kingdom will find itself able to cope with this  
 33 most difficult situation through peaceful settlement, in the  
 34 overall interests of the Free World and to meet the desires of

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2 ~~the~~ people everywhere. I am confident that the way to a  
3 peaceful solution will be opened by your wisdom and resolute  
4 decision.  
5  
6 In view of Japan's position as a member of the Security Council,  
7 my Government intends for its part to continue its own efforts -  
8 both inside and outside the United Nations - to prevent the  
9 escalation of the dispute and work for a peaceful settlement.  
10  
11 Please understand, my dear Prime Minister, that I am trying to  
12 convey to you the thoughts in my mind at this anxious time,  
13 with best wishes for your success in discharging your important  
14 duties in fulfilment of the British people's trust.  
15 Yours sincerely,  
16 ZENKO SUZUKI  
17 Prime Minister of Japan ENDS  
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19 PYM  
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6 FM FCO 271700Z APRIL 82  
7 TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO  
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

*Agreed MS*

9 AND TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
10 MIPT:FALKLANDS: JAPANESE POSITION  
11 1. You should deliver at appropriate level following reply  
12 from Prime Minister:

13 BEGINS: Dear Mr Suzuki,

14 I was grateful for your letter which your Ambassador delivered on  
15 27 April. I am pleased to note that Japan will continue to give  
16 diplomatic and other support to our efforts to secure Argentine  
17 withdrawal from the Falkland Islands.

18  
19 As you know, the European Community were able to agree very  
20 swiftly to ban imports from Argentina, and other industrialised  
21 countries (not all from the Commonwealth) have taken similar  
22 measures. While I am grateful for your assurance that Japanese  
23 business circles will be guided 'not to unduly take advantage'  
24 of these restrictions, I am bound to say that ~~I doubt whether~~  
25 this does not fully meet our request. Public opinion in Europe

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2 would certainly not understand it if any (underlined) increased  
3 trade between Argentina and Japan were to result. I should like  
4 to urge you now to reconsider whether Japan could not impose  
5 actual restrictions on trade with Argentina. *and make public the decision you take, as well*  
6 move by Japan, if undertaken swiftly, could have an important *those you*  
7 effect in showing Argentina the serious economic consequences *have*  
8 of refusal to withdraw her forces in accordance with Security *already*  
9 Council Resolution 502. *taken.*

10 Yours sincerely

11 Margaret Thatcher ENDS

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13 PYM

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