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Recd via FCO  
1500 hrs 22/5.



EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Bogotá, 21st May 1982.


The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
London

Dear Prime Minister,

Your Government is well aware of the position that the Colombian Government has adopted in the conflict between your country and Argentina on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. We did not agree to the convocation of the Organ of Consultation as we felt that before trying to apply the measures provided for in the TIAR (Interamerican Treaty for Reciprocal Assistance) it was absolutely essential to exhaust every political, juridical and diplomatic resource in order to avoid a war of unforeseeable consequences, not only because of the number of innocent victims that would be sacrificed in an armed confrontation, but also because of the very serious tensions that would arise between your country and Latin America, a continent that shares the defence of the worldwide democratic system with the United Kingdom.

I know that the first military clashes between the Argentines and the British have already taken place, and I regard the escalation of the war and its fatal consequences with horror. My Government believes that democratic nations have the obligation of strengthening the system against the risks threatening it and, in our opinion, this aim is not achieved by weakening ourselves in unproductive wars involving

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a lot of bloodshed, but rather through endowing ourselves with the necessary patience to persevere in dialogues until it is possible to find suitable meeting points which would restore the world's confidence in the elimination of the dangers of a new conflagration.

There are many formulas that could be useful, if not to resolve the whole problem from the outset, at least to make progress in new diplomatic contacts which would allow peaceful solutions to be worked towards.

I am aware that the President of Perú has sent your Government and the Argentine one a proposal which could lead to more advanced talks. This proposal or any other which might drive away the danger of war is obviously of interest to us as democrats. The Colombian Government that has always maintained a position of respect to its own juridical tradition believes that your Government will well understand the concern prompting Colombia to find peaceful solutions that would avoid the escalation of the already very dangerous conflict between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

From now on we offer the Colombian Government's assistance for the achievement of a peace formula which would be in the best interests of both Great Britain and Argentina, countries to which we feel linked by old and strong ties.

Yours sincerely,

JULIO CESAR TURBAY-AYALA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA "