

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

When leaving for Hamburg, the Prime Minister declared:

"After the anguish and sadness caused by the serious encounters of recent days in the South Atlantic, which caused the loss of so many lives, the latest news is comforting and brings a note of relief into this dramatic affair.

In restating the appeal which the Italian Government has already made repeatedly to the two sides, that they should cease hostilities and make every possible effort to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, I will examine in depth with Chancellor Schmidt all aspects of the Anglo-Argentine crisis to agree a common position, with the intention of favouring the route of dialogue and negotiation. In this phase, in addition to the American mediation attempts, the efforts made by Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations, in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 502, take on a particular importance. The Italian Government hopes that the initiative of Perez de Cuellar can lead to an unblocking of the situation with the resumption of negotiations between the two sides - the only valid way of reaching a definitive settlement of the dispute."

Palazzo Chigi
Rome
6 May 1982