

Mr. [unclear] (323)

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[Signature] 21/5.

SAME

cc Mr Giffard
Mr Goodison
WED

FALKLANDS: ITALIAN VIEWS

1. The following is academic but I had better report it.
2. The Minister/Counsellor at the Italian Embassy stayed behind after this morning's Community briefing to give me the attached rough translation of the Foreign Ministry's communique of 19 May. Reading from his usual carefully prepared notes, he said he was instructed to repeat the earlier expressions of Italian solidarity. The imperfect agreement reached in Luxembourg on 17 May did not invalidate Italy's support for Resolution 502 or for the efforts of the Secretary-General to find a peaceful way of putting it into effect. The Italian Ambassador in Buenos Aires had been instructed to tell the Argentines that, notwithstanding their Western links, their behaviour had been such as "to put Argentina objectively to the margins of the Western world". With the increased strength of the new position taken up by Italy since 17 May, she felt entitled to press the Argentine even more strongly than before to accept a peaceful settlement.
3. I thanked Fontana-Giusti and said that I would report his communication.

JJ

20 May 1982

J L Bullard

Munster
M 20/r

The Italian Foreign Minister, Signor Emilio Colombo, met the Argentinian Ambassador, Signor Lucchetta, at the Farnesina, Wednesday, the 19th of May 1982. Signor Colombo explained to him the results of the EEC Council which took place in Luxemburg on the 17th of May.

The Italian Foreign Minister explained to Signor Lucchetta - as to make the Argentinian Government aware of it - the ~~range~~ and the significance of the Italian decision and the difficult context in which it was reached. Undoubtedly this decision does not change the judgment many times expressed by Italy with regard to the Argentinian military action which has caused the present crisis, but brings Italy to persevere more and more with the Argentinian Government in order that a resolute effort be made to find a peaceful solution to the conflict on the basis of Resolution 502 of the Security Council, by offering its utmost co-operation in these dramatic hours during which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is carrying out his mediation.

Rome, 19th May 1982

FALKLANDS CRISIS

COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY FARNESINA

(ROUGH TRANSLATION)