

DRAFT TELEGRAM TO GENERAL GALTIERI FROM THE PRI

ME MINISTER

I am sending you this personal message because I want to be sure that you fully understand the situation and the choice which now faces your country, your government and yourself.

The decisive battle in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is about to begin. With your military experience you must be in no doubt as to the outcome. In a few days the British flag will once again be flying over Port Stanley. In a few days also your eyes and mine will be reading the casualty lists. On my side, grief will be tempered by the knowledge that these men died for freedom, justice, and the rule of law. And on your side? Only you can answer that question.

Similarly, only you have it in your power to avert this outcome. You can do so by announcing two things without delay. First, that you have instructed the Argentine garrison on the islands to cease fire immediately and to begin withdrawing to the mainland, this withdrawal to be completed within fourteen days, including equipment. Second, that Argentina's claims in respect of the Islands will henceforth be pursued in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, that is to say by peaceful means without the use or threat of force.

If you will make these two announcements today, 3 June, I am ready to instruct the British forces on the Islands to cease fire simultaneously, and to place no obstacle in the way of the departure of the Argentine forces. [When their removal from the Islands is complete, I shall be ready to act in accordance with the third operative paragraph of Resolution No 502 of the United Nations Security Council, which called upon the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to seek a diplomatic solution to our differences. I suggest that the modalities should be arranged through the Secretary-General of the United Nations.)

Mr President, you initiated this crisis and you have it in your power to end it in the way which I have suggested.

I propose to publish this message as soon as I know that you have received it.