

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(Valid 7/4) (26)

PS
PS/LPS
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PS/LORD TREFGARNE
PS/PUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST
PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLER)
MR PERETZ) H M TREASURY
MR HAWTIN)
MR ILETT)
MR J D MCINTYRE)

DIO CABINET OFFICE

HD/S AM D (STANDARD DIST.+ A.D. "F/I")
HD/DEFENCE D
HD/NEWS D
HD/UND
HD/EESD
RESIDENT CLERK

W.A.D.

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(Copies passed to the Emergency Staff, MOD DITCHEN AND CINC FLEET)

Hd HKGD

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PORT OF SPAIN 071900Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 057 OF 7 APRIL

Handwritten signature

MIPT: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL

1. AT HIS TELEVISED MEETING WITH THE PRESS IN PORT OF SPAIN ON 6 APRIL, MR RAMPHAL DESCRIBED ARGENTINA'S INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AS QUOTE A GROSS, UNPROVOKED AND UTTERLY UNWARRANTED SETBACK IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT THE COMMONWEALTH HAD TAKEN A POSITIVE POSITION ON THE ISSUE AND HAD BEEN QUOTE UNEQUIVOCAL ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABLE NATURE OF SEIZURE OF TERRITORY BY FORCE AND ANY ATTEMPT TO ALTER ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES OTHER THAN BY PEACEFUL MEANS UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT THE INVASION HAD IMPLICATIONS FOR TRINIDAD AS WELL AS OTHER TERRITORIES IN THE REGION, IN ASIA AND AFRICA. HE CALLED ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS TO STAND WITH BRITAIN ON THIS MATTER QUOTE NOT ON THE BASIS OF SENTIMENT, BUT ON THE GROUNDS OF HONOUR AND PRINCIPLE. I AM HEARTENED BY THE RESPONSE FROM ALL OVER THE COMMONWEALTH. I HOPE TO HEAR A UNITED VOICE FROM THE CARIBBEAN SAYING THIS ACTION IS UNACCEPTABLE UNQUOTE.

2. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT HE HAD HOPED THAT THE CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TAKEN A UNITED STAND IN THIS. HE REFERRED TO ARGENTINA'S LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SIMILARITY OF ARGENTINA'S ACTION AGAINST THE FALKLANDS TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTION AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE. QUOTE IT IS A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AND THAT

REFERRED TO ARGENTINA'S LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE
OF ARGENTINA'S ACTION AGAINST THE FALKLANDS TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTION
AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE. QUOTE IT IS A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AND THAT
IS HOW IT IS BEING SEEN BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES UNQUOTE.

3. MR RAMPHAL SAID THAT DR INCE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MINISTER OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAD LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT THAT TRINIDAD SHARED HIS
CONCERN AND ANXIETY AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY SUPPORT THE ARGENTINE
INVASION. HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TRINIDAD'S ROLE IN COMMONWEALTH
AFFAIRS.

4. PRESS EXTRACTS FOLLOW BY BAG.

LANE

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