

SUBJECT PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 66/82

cc Mate
Ops

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OO MEXICO CITY DESKBY 081600Z
GRS 356
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DESKBY 081600Z
FM FCO 081529Z APR 82
TO IMMEDIATE MEXICO CITY
TELEGRAM NUMBER 279 OF 8 APRIL

YOUR TELEGRAMS NUMBERS 247 AND 248:

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO
PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO:-

'I WANTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AT A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS
MOMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS. I DO SO CONSCIOUS OF THE FRIENDSHIP
AND UNDERSTANDING WE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN US WHEN I VISITED
MEXICO LAST YEAR.

2. THROUGH AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST VIRTUALLY UNDEFENDED
ISLANDS HUNDREDS AND SOMETIMES THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES FROM
THEIR OWN SHORES, ARGENTINE FORCES HAVE OUTRAGED THE PRINCIPLES
ON WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER IS BASED AND ON WHICH MY COUNTRY,
AS YOURS, HAS BUILT ITS FOREIGN POLICY: IN PARTICULAR, SELF-
DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.
AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAS SINCE PASSED
A MANDATORY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT SO FAR THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF BEING WILLING TO
COMPLY WITH THIS RESOLUTION.

3. THIS CHALLENGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND RULE OF
LAW AFFECTS ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY, AND I APPEAL
FOR YOUR HELP IN BRINGING HOME TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THE
SERIOUSNESS OF ITS ACTIONS AND THE GREAT DANGERS ARISING FROM
ITS FAILURE SO FAR TO RESPECT THE DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL FOR WORLD PEACE. THE GREATER THE WEIGHT OF
INTERNATIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF ARGENTINE AGGRESSION, THE MORE
LIKELY A SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

4. AS YOU KNOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DESPATCHED

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SUBSTANTIAL FORCES TO THE AREA. WE HOPE IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO USE THEM. WE ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE ALL PEACEFUL MEANS OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE. BUT FAILURE TO SETTLE IT BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO PREVENT FURTHER ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY POWERFUL COUNTRIES AGAINST WEAKER OR SMALLER NEIGHBOURS.

5. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE, THROUGH OUR AMBASSADORS, TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH THIS UNHAPPY PERIOD AND TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER.'

ENDS

PYM

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DISTRIBUTION
STANDARD
SAMD
MCAD
UND

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FALKLAND ISLANDS