



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1982

*N. S. P. R.*

*The P. R. has seen a telegram  
version. No reply required.*

*AR 14/4  
h-a*

*Dear John,*

/ I enclose a message to the Prime Minister from the Japanese Prime Minister which was delivered at the Foreign Office on 12 April.

/ I attach, for ease of reference, a copy of Tokyo telegram number 181: Sir H Cortazzi's comments on Mr Suzuki's message are in paragraph 8.

*Yours ever,*

*Francis Richards*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 181 OF 12 APRIL

RFI PRIORITY WASHINGTON CANBERRA OTTAWA UKMIS NEW YORK AND EC POSTS.  
SAVING WELLINGTON

MY TEL NO 180

#### FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. KATO HANDED ME THIS AFTERNOON A COPY OF MR SUZUKI'S REPLY TO MRS THATCHER (TEXT IN MIFT). HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE HANDED OVER FORMALLY BY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TODAY. KATO HAD KEPT ME WAITING FOR SOMETIME AS IT WAS APPARENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN LAST MINUTE DRAFTING CHANGES IN THE TEXT. KATO SAID THAT WHILE THE PRESS WOULD BE GIVEN AN OUTLINE OF THE REPLY THE TEXT WOULD NOT BE RELEASED.
2. KATO TOLD ME ON INSTRUCTION THAT THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE VICE MINISTER HAD CALLED IN THE ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING AND HAD MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:-
  - A) JAPAN DEEPLY REGRETTED THE ARGENTIAN USE OF FORCE AND DEMANDED AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTIAN FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.
  - B) JAPAN ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND WANTED THE ARGENTINIANS TO PAY DUE ATTENTION TO THIS WARNING SO THAT THEY DID NOT FORCE JAPAN INTO A MORE DIFFICULT POSITION. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT PLACED HIGH EXPECTATIONS ON THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES AND HOPED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THESE EFFORTS.
  - C) IF THIS CRISIS WERE PROLONGED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA'S FUTURE MIGHT BE UNDERMINED AND THE SMOOTH DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT BE IMPEDED ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS JAPAN WISHED ARGENTINA TO EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO SEEK AN EARLY SOLUTION.

KATO SAID THAT THE VICE MINISTER HAD MADE THESE POINTS

KATO SAID THAT THE VICE MINISTER HAD MADE THESE POINTS FIRST AND THAT THEY HAD THEN BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHOSE TIME HAD BEEN VERY LIMITED. THE GIST HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE PRESS. AS A RESULT JAPAN DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY AND HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING A FORMAL STATEMENT.

3. KATO ADDED THAT THE ARGENTINIAN AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE WARNING AND WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY. THE AMBASSADOR HAD STRESSED THE PEACEFUL INTENTION OF THE ARGENTINIANS (SIC) AND SAID THAT NO BLOOD HAD SO FAR BEEN SHED. THEY HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR WARSHIPS FROM THE AREA OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND HOPED FOR A SINCERE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I POINTED OUT THE CYNICISM OF THESE STATEMENTS.

4. IN COMMENTING ORALLY ON MR SUZUKI'S REPLY TO MRS THATCHER KATO SAID THAT NO APPLICATION FOR NEW COMMITMENT OF EXPORT CREDIT WAS EXPECTED. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT BANK LOANS HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT NEW LOANS WERE UNLIKELY IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. I SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED THAT JAPAN HAD NOT SEEN ITS WAY TO PLACE A BAN ON ARGENTINIAN IMPORTS. WERE THEY CONSIDERING THIS MATTER FURTHER? KATO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN REPLY:-

A) THE LEGAL STATUS OF EUROPE AND JAPAN IN RELATION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WAS DIFFERENT. EUROPE WAS INDIRECTLY A PARTY TO THE MATTER BECAUSE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMUNITY UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME;

B) A TOTAL OR PARTIAL BAN ON IMPORTS WAS LEGALLY SPEAKING VERY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE UNDER JAPANESE LAWS;

C) AS STATED IN THE MESSAGE JAPAN LOOKED FOR ACTION UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER IE IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SANCTIONS JAPAN WOULD HAVE A LEGAL BASIS ON WHICH TO TAKE ACTION;

D) ARGENTINA WAS A MEMBER OF THE GATT AND JAPAN HAD A BILATERAL TREATY WITH THE ARGENTINIANS. THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH ACTION COULD BE TAKEN UNDER THIS TREATY WAS UNDER ARTICLE 13 WHICH ALLOWED EXCEPTIONS ON SECURITY GROUNDS.

6. I ASKED ON WHAT BASIS JAPAN HAD TAKEN ACTION

D) ARGENTINA WAS A MEMBER OF THE GATT AND JAPAN HAD A BILATERAL TREATY WITH THE ARGENTINIANS. THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH ACTION COULD BE TAKEN UNDER THIS TREATY WAS UNDER ARTICLE 13 WHICH ALLOWED EXCEPTIONS ON SECURITY GROUNDS.

6. I ASKED ON WHAT BASIS JAPAN HAD TAKEN ACTION AGAINST IRAN IN THE CASE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. KATO REPLIED THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON IMPORTS FROM IRAN BUT THEY HAD PLACED EXPORTS FROM IRAN UNDER THE APPROVAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER IRAN WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE GATT AND JAPAN HAD NO COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH IRAN. I SAID THAT WE WOULD WISH TO PURSUE FURTHER THE LEGAL ASPECTS.

7. IN CONCLUSION KATO SAID THAT HE HAD TWICE MET THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TODAY. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED AND HAD MUCH SYMPATHY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN THE PRESENT CRISIS.

COMMENT

8. THE JAPANESE REPLY IS DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE OF THE JAPANESE FAILURE TO TAKE SPECIFIC AND FIRM ACTION AGAINST THE ARGENTINIANS BUT THEY HAVE AT LEAST NOW COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION AND I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BECOME CLEAR IN THE PRESS. THE REPLY IS BETTER THAN I HAD FEARED AND SUGGESTS THAT THE VIGOROUS LOBBYING OF THE LAST FEW DAYS HAS HAD SOME RESULT.

FCO PSE PASS SAYING WELLINGTON

CORTAZZI

NNNN

KILO SEND INFO AND ALSO REPLY AND ALSO INFO TO BE SENT

REPLY TO ARGENTINA GOVERNMENT  
GIVEN MESSAGE FROM ARGENTINA GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING TO  
MIGHT BE INTEREST SPECIFICALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA'S AND TO BE  
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE KEPT FROM BEING THE UNQUALIFIED  
COMPARISON AND BEHOLD IN VENEZUELA'S ENERGY WHICH IS DETERMINED  
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA

SUBJECT.

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 70/82

EMBASSY OF JAPAN  
UNITED KINGDOM

cc. Market set  
ops

London: 12th April, 1982

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I am asked by the Prime Minister  
of Japan, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, to forward a  
message to you.

It gives me much pleasure to  
enclose this message herewith.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Tsuyoshi Hirahara*

Tsuyoshi Hirahara

Ambassador

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,  
10, Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN  
UNITED KINGDOM

12th April, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for your detailed message concerning the Falkland Islands issue, which was delivered to me through your Ambassador, Sir Hugh Cortazzi. I have been following with a sense of grave concern the developments in and around the Falkland Islands since military action was taken by the Argentine armed forces. I have also read your message with great attention. The Government of Japan considers that the use of force by Argentina violates the basic principles of peaceful settlement of conflicts and non-use of force of the United Nations Charter and that such action can never be accepted. We strongly hope that the withdrawal of the Argentine forces will be promptly realized and that this dispute peacefully settled through diplomatic negotiations.

It was from this basic standpoint that Japan immediately supported the resolution tabled by your Government at the Security Council of the United Nations and that, also in Tokyo, the Japanese Government clearly explained our position both domestically and internationally.

This position of Japan has been conveyed to the Argentine side on various occasions, and on the 12th April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in conformity with my wishes, made the following representations to the Argentine Ambassador:

- (i) We deeply regret the use of force by Argentina and urge that its forces withdraw in compliance with the Security Council resolution;

- (ii) The Government of Japan places high expectations on good offices by the United States and hopes that Argentina will respond positively to the efforts of the United States in its good offices and will try to reach a peaceful settlement through diplomatic negotiations.

In this connection I wish to state similarly to you that Japan places, for the present, expectations on the efforts of good offices by the United States.

To your request for co-operation in the concrete measures proposed in your message, I should like to reply as follows:

The basic idea of the Japanese Government is that measures to secure the implementation of the Security Council resolution adopted on April 3 should primarily be sought within the framework of the United Nations in accordance with its Charter. We are certainly prepared to make efforts for the improvement of the situation by diplomatic and other means outside the United Nations, too. Such efforts should be naturally exerted in such a manner as not incompatible with the existing international obligations. It is also natural that we shall exert such efforts on the basis of what we judge for ourselves to be the long term interests of the Free World.

In more concrete terms, Japan pursues the policy of abstaining from exporting arms to foreign countries and is satisfied that it is thus contributing towards the maintenance of international peace and stability. This policy is being applied strictly to Argentina.

Bearing these considerations in mind, we stated to the Argentine side in our representations of April 12 that if the present crisis is prolonged, it is feared that the confidence of the Government and people of Japan in that country's future might be undermined and that the smooth development of relations between the two countries might be impeded, especially in the economic field, and expressed our hope that for these and other reasons the Argentine side will endeavour for an early solution of the current situation.



We shall continue to see that the Argentine side is reminded of it.

As a statesman shouldering the responsibilities of government as you are, I can imagine how seriously you are concerned about this affair. But I have known for a long time your outstanding leadership in a broad range of state affairs. In the firm belief that the United Kingdom will not fail to tide over this difficult situation under your able guidance, I send you my very best wishes for your good health and for every success in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Zenko Suzuki  
Prime Minister of Japan