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COMMONWEALTH

REACTIONS.

EMERGENCY UNIT



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RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
American Section

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London, SW1A 2AH

COMMONWEALTH

Secretary-General Ramphal. Forthright Condemnation

ANTIGUA AND  
BARBUDA

Statement by Prime Minister strongly condemned Argentina, called for withdrawal. Full support also to U N initiative. Forceful statement 23 April rejected Argentine initiative under Rio Treaty.

AUSTRALIA

Strong statement of support. Positive response to Ramphal's letter. Statement to U N Security Council. All imports banned w e f 8 April, except those under existing contracts. No new export credit guarantees to be given. Withdrew Ambassador but considering his return.

BAHAMAS

Strong statement by Foreign Minister reported Note to Argentina rejecting use of force, commitment to self-determination, unconditional support for SCR 502. Press support for U K.

BANGLADESH

Statement condemned use of force in settling disputes. Privately, Foreign Minister expressed strong support. Likely to act in support of U N Charter, principles of NAM and Commonwealth solidarity.

BARBADOS

"Full and complete support to any Commonwealth protest and initiative." Prime Minister delivered statement during televised budget debate ensuring maximum coverage. Condemned breach of international practice, liberties of inhabitants stand to be extinguished.

BELIZE

Telegram to U N Secretary-General protesting Argentine action, urging action for Argentine withdrawal, supports self-determination. As Chairman of CARICOM requested Caribbean supporting protests.

BOTSWANA

Official statement condemned invasion, violation of U N Charter and Commonwealth principles. Called for withdrawal and peaceful settlement. April 21 parliamentary statement referred to mandatory SCR 502, condemned Argentina again.

CANADA

Strong support. Prime Minister endorsed separately statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs. Withdrew Ambassador but decided to return. Banned military shipments. Cancelled military visit. Ban on imports 12 April influenced by EC. No export credit for new transactions.

CYPRUS

No public statement until NAM consulted.

DOMINICA

P M Charles condemned Argentina in TV interview. Letters sent to P M Thatcher and U N Secretary-General and Government issued press release objecting to Argentina's disregard of SCR 502. In letter to P M U K referred to precedent, self-determination.

FIJI

Official statement condemned invasion. Fiji supported territorial integrity, self-determination, urged withdrawal and settlement through normal rules before escalation to armed confrontation.

THE GAMBIA

Statement supporting SCR 502, calls for Argentine withdrawal, talks, settlement in accordance with U N Charter.

GHANA

GRENADA

Foreign Minister's statement 15 April called for peaceful settlement. Grenada joined other non-aligned countries, OAS and Socialist International in supporting Argentina's claim to FI. Suggested joint Argentina-U K Commission to work out time-table for hand-over. (No evidence of S I support for Argentine claim.) Rejects use of force in support of claim or to regain FI.

GUYANA

Voted for SCR 502. Official statement. Grave concern, violation of U N Charter including peaceful settlement, territorial integrity, self-determination. Complete solidarity with U K or Commonwealth initiatives. Strong reply to Commonwealth SG's initiative and P M's letter.

INDIA

Official statement expresses regret at state of U K/Argentine relations due to Argentine military actions. Notes Indian support for NAM backing for speeding up Argentine/U K negotiations. Urges peaceful solution. Press notes interests of islanders. Mrs Gandhi's message to P M expresses concern to reduce tension and avoid confrontation. Hopes for peaceful solution.

/JAMAICA

JAMAICA

MFA press release deplored invasion, contrary to U N Charter, called for withdrawal, urged restraint on both governments, diplomatic solution in accordance with SCR 502, taking self-determination into account.

KENYA

Statement said armed occupation unacceptable, called for withdrawal, peaceful settlement. Chairman of OAU.

KIRIBATI

Message to Argentina condemned invasion, called for withdrawal, restoration to U K. Urged Argentina to negotiate to avoid bloodshed.

LESOTHO

Message to Secretary-General of Commonwealth. Concern, support for U N and other efforts to find peaceful solution in conformity with Charter, justice and international law.

MALAWI

Official statement condemned invasion, called for withdrawal. Referred to self-determination. Private support for force as last resort, but editorial 14 April says negotiated solution should be found with blessing of U N. April 22 reports MFA and Finance Minister expectation of negotiated solution.

MALAYSIA

MFA privately said Malaysia supported peaceful resolution of disputes and condemned Argentine action. But would be difficult totally to support U K unless prepared to negotiate sovereignty, even with Argentina in possession. New Straits Times generally supports Argentine claim, cautions against escalation. Official statement expresses concern, force inconsistent with principle of peaceful settlement of disputes. Hopes for peaceful settlement.

MALTA Neutral. Dissociated from Council of Europe vote (i e no objection). Government press ambivalent, opposition press parochial, "no sides", independent press pro-British.

MAURITIUS Press statement condemned invasion, supported self-determination. Called on Argentina to withdraw and negotiate. Strong reply to Commonwealth Secretary-General. Telegram to U N Security Council condemned Argentina.

NAURU

NEW ZEALAND Strong support. Broke diplomatic relations with Argentina. Statement to U N Security Council. Cancelled Argentine flight schedules 5 April. Ban on imports and exports (including arms sales) on 13 April. No export credit for new transactions. Signs that not whole of public opinion entirely behind government actions.

NIGERIA Statement supported SCR 502, negotiated settlement, importance of U N resolutions. Appeals to Argentina to withdraw, U K and Argentina to resolve all dimensions of dispute including interests of islanders and right to determine their future. Press comment mixed. Reference to double standard over sanctions against South Africa. Reply to P M. Senate President has said privately Nigeria would continue support and influence other Africans if shooting started.

/PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PAPUA  
NEW GUINEA

Official statement deplores Argentine take-over. Falkland Islands integral part of U K. Will make views known through international bodies.

ST LUCIA

Official statement denounced invasion, supports self-determination, territorial integrity. Appeals for withdrawal.

ST VINCENT

Condemns invasion, urges withdrawal, dialogue with U K. Supports self-determination. Full support for HMG.

SEYCHELLES

Published message to P M. Deplored Argentine use of force. Convinced U K will restore climate for talks, hopes for peaceful settlement.

SIERRA LEONE

Official statement. Argentine action threat to peace, denies islanders self-determination. Strongly recommends withdrawal to facilitate peaceful settlement.

SINGAPORE

Official statement deplored invasion as contravention of U N Charter with respect to non-intervention, self-determination and territorial integrity. Urges Argentina to accede to SCR 502, appeals to parties to exercise restraint and find diplomatic settlement. More outspoken than other ASEANS.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Message to Commonwealth Secretary-General condemns Argentina. Message to Secretary-General of UNGA condemns Argentina, appeals

for just and peaceful solution. Pledged support in international bodies in message to P M.

SRI LANKA

Message to P M rejects Argentine use of force as contrary to U N and NAM principles. MFA said privately Argentine withdrawal is a priority. In NAM is seeking compromise stance between Commonwealth and NAM.

SWAZILAND

MFA statement condemned use of force, supported SCR 502 calling for withdrawal and talks. Notes right to self-determination. Swazi public opinion strongly pro-British.

TANZANIA

Statement regretted Argentine military action. Press factual, balanced, reflecting official guidance.

TONGA

Private message condemns Argentina and expresses support for any U K action to reassert sovereignty.

TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO

Statement supports territorial integrity and historic boundaries in accordance with U N Charter and UNGA resolution 2734 of 16 December 1970. Abhors use of force, supports self-determination especially UNGA resolution 2065 of 16 December 1970 on F I. Therefore supports efforts towards peaceful solution. Press and public pro-U K.

/TUVALU



TUVALU

Message to Secretary of State condemns Argentina in accordance with Commonwealth principles of self-determination, territorial integrity and negation of use of force.

UGANDA

Voted for SCR 502. Statement condemned Argentina, violation of U N Charter. Party message via MFA on 20 April understands U K action in sending troops but reiterated hope for diplomatic solution.

VANUATU

Government statement condemned Argentina, urged withdrawal. Urged U K to reconsider planned military retaliation and both parties to find peaceful solution.

W SAMOA

ZAMBIA

Statement deplored unilateral action by Argentina. Self-determination paramount. Press comments on importance of U N resolutions, self-determination, strengthening U N power. Privately MFA supported reinstatement of U K administration, prior to testing wishes of population again. Interested in African and OAS attitudes. Helpful over NAM.

ZIMBABWE

Foreign Minister's statement 8 April appealed to U K and Argentina to abide by SCR 502, not to use force, resolve dispute by negotiation or arbitration in accordance with international law.