



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1982

Prime Minister

Agree message?

Yes not

A.F.C. 10/5

Dear John,

President Figueiredo of Brazil has sent a message to the Prime Minister expressing sympathy for the casualties resulting from the attack on HMS Sheffield. We know that President Figueiredo has also sent a message to the Argentine Government following the sinking of the Belgrano. But it will nonetheless be helpful to send a fairly full reply to President Figueiredo, which would provide an opportunity to set out the positive efforts which we are making to secure a peaceful solution to the present crisis. Although the position of the Brazilian Government inevitably tilts towards Argentina, it has sought throughout the crisis to maintain a reasonable balance and Brazil's influence on Argentina could yet be valuable. We therefore need to ensure that our relations with the Brazilian Government are kept in as good order as possible.

I enclose a draft telegram to our Embassy in Brasilia which contains a message from the Prime Minister to President Figueiredo.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
RESTRICTED

Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	RESTRICTED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO 091830Z MAY 82
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	REPEATED FOR INFO TO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK
	10	MY TELNO 100: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO
	11	PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
	12	PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO. <i>Begin</i>
	13	<i>1.</i> I am most grateful to Your Excellency for your thoughtful
	14	message of sympathy on the casualties resulting from the attack
	15	on HMS Sheffield.
	16	<i>2.</i> The tragic loss of life which has occurred on both sides
	17	makes it all the more urgent to find a basis for ending the
	18	present conflict in the South Atlantic. This has throughout
	19	been our objective; and it has therefore been extremely
	20	disheartening that the Argentine Government have rejected both the
///	21	proposals put forward earlier by Mr Haig and the subsequent
//	22	proposals for an interim agreement based on the helpful initia-
/	23	tive of the President of Peru. We are now actively pursuing with
	24	the Secretary-General of the United Nations the constructive
	25	suggestions which he has made. The British Government's

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword positive
File number	Dept	Distribution <i>Falklands General</i>
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats
RESTRICTED

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1 <<<<
 2 positive response reflects our wish to see an early ceasefire
 3 linked to the prompt withdrawal of Argentine forces as called for
 4 in Security Council Resolution Number 502. It is our hope that
 5 the Argentine Government will respond equally positively to the
 6 Secretary-General, so that conflict can end, forces can be
 7 withdrawn, and genuine negotiations to resolve the Falklands
 8 issue can get under way. *But if they do not so respond, they*
 9 *should be in no doubt of our resolve.*
 10 3. Your Excellency may be assured that we for our part will
 11 spare no effort to achieve a peaceful negotiated solution to the
 12 present dispute.
 13 With the assurances of my highest consideration
 14 Margaret Thatcher
 15 Ends.
 16 4. If you have not already done so, please hand over the text
 17 of my statement to the House on 7 May (my telno 362) when
 18 delivering the Prime Minister's reply.

19 PYM
 20 NNNN

/// 31
 // 32
 / 33
 34

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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