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As per attached distribution list

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS' REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS CRISIS

1. Attached is a list of Commonwealth Governments' reactions to the Falklands crisis as at 19 May. Reactions from the Dependent Territories have also been noted.

19 May 1982

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COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS' REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS CRISIS

Country

- \* Antigua and Barbuda Robust statement by PM copied to Commonwealth SG. Full support to UN initiative. Support in OAS/UN. Remain 'strongly pro-British' after recapture of S.Georgia.
- \* Australia Recalled Ambassador. He returned 28 April, delivering strongly worded message to Galtieri. Ban on imports; ban on credit. Robust statements/messages of support before and after recapture of S.Georgia. Statement at Security Council. PM wrote to President Reagan/lobbied with VP Bush. But quoted as saying that unlikely to be drawn into 'hostilities': "outside our sphere of influence and our region".
- \*+ Bahamas Robust reply to PM's letter, to be referred to in Government statement. Note to Argentine Government urging compliance with SCR 502. Robust statement.
- Bangladesh Statement condemning 'use of force in settling disputes'. Robust statement privately to High Commissioner from Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs. Helpful NAM.
- \*+ Barbados 'Full and complete support to any Commonwealth protest and initiative'. Prime Minister delivered statement during televised budget debate ensuring maximum coverage. Support in OAS.
- \*+ Belize Reply to PM. Telegram to UNSG. Robust statement. Message to Caricom ministers urging support for SCR 502. Continued support after recapture of S.Georgia and further hostilities.
- \* Botswana Statement 'strongly condemns' Argentine action. No specific mention of support for UK. Replied to SG's letter. 'Likely' to continue support following recapture of S.Georgia (BHC).
- \* Canada Robust and helpful line and statements. Recalled Ambassador. Returned 21 April. Passing reports from BA and other information to UK. Banned military shipments. Cancelled Defence College visit. Ban on imports and export credit. Helpful statement on recapture of S.Georgia.



- Cyprus After long silence prior to recapture of South Georgia, declined to make 'an independent statement' but will not 'say anything adverse'.
- \*+ Dominica Robust letter to Prime Minister. Robust message to UNSG.
- \*+ Fiji Robust statement by PM. 'Understanding and support' at official level after recapture of South Georgia.
- \* The Gambia Robust Government statement. Helping with refuelling, etc.
- Ghana Response unlikely because of domestic crises. But Ghana 'would not condemn Britain, nor support Argentina'. Instructions to Missions on these lines.
- Grenada Unhelpful statement supporting Argentine's territorial claim but disapproving of use of force.
- \*+ Guyana Strong statement by Guyana Government. Voted for SCR 502. Robust reply to Ramphal's letter. Robust reply PM letter. Assurance of support from PM in UN/NAM before and after recapture of South Georgia.
- India Lukewarm; appealing to 'all parties' to seek a 'peaceful resolution'. PM privately does not approve either of Argentine or UK action over South Georgia. BHC thinks in public India 'will probably try to maintain some sort of balance, but that Indian sympathies 'essentially with us'. This could change if international opinion turned against UK.
- \*+ Jamaica Robust statement.
- \* Kenya Robust statements (one in UNGA).



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- \* Kiribati Robust statement in message to Argentine Government condemning invasion (made public).
- \*+ Lesotho Response to SG expressing 'deep concern'. Helpful in NAM. PM 'saw no difficulty about support' over S.Georgia but would need to consult. Statement in National Assembly in support of S.Georgia.
- \*+ Malawi President's robust reply to PM: moral backing for use of force if necessary. Robust statement. President assured that he 'fully supported British action in South Atlantic' following recapture of S.Georgia and further hostilities. President's 'deep sorrow' at losses of HMS 'Sheffield' and Harriers.
- Malaysia Weak statement although 'deeply disturbed'. Little prospect of 'official reaction' to recapture of S.Georgia; but UK points conveyed to PM.
- Malta No statement yet. Avoided participation in Council of Europe vote; but in conversation with BHC Foreign Minister said Malta 'committed in support'. Disposition after recapture of S.Georgia unchanged.
- \*+ Mauritius Robust reply to Ramphal quoting Security Council instructions. Robust statement. Congratulated on recapturing S.Georgia. PM 'sympathetic' after further military action.
- Nauru
- \* New Zealand Robust statements/messages of support. Broken diplomatic relations. Support at UN. Cancelled Argentine flight schedule. Ban on trade, supply of arms/military material, export credits. 'Support of [NZ] Government' for action taken to recapture S.Georgia.
- \*+ Nigeria Message to PM. Helpful statement. Instructions to be helpful in NAM.

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- \* Papua New Guinea Robust statement by PM PNG. To make feelings known through international bodies. Responded to SG quoting statement. Told Argentine Government that unless complies with SCR 502 PNG will break off diplomatic relations. Assurance of continued support after recapture of S. Georgia.
- \*+ Saint Lucia Strong statement. Helpful statement in OAS.
- \*+ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Robust statement. Copy sent to SG.
- \* Seychelles Response to PM letter deploring aggression: made public. Unwilling to give indication of "likely Government reaction" after recapture of S. Georgia.
- \*+ Sierra Leone Statement views developments "with great concern". Ambassador UN instructed to "condemn Argentine action in strong terms". SLG providing first-class facilities for refuelling etc. Support after recapture of S. Georgia. Helpful in NAM.
- \*+ Singapore Fairly robust statement although no specific mention of support for UK. Robust reply from PM to PM's message.
- \*+ Solomon Islands Robust statement. Government has also sent message to SG of UN and to SG of Commonwealth. "Assurance" of support to Prime Minister. Robust reply to PM letter. "Wholly sympathetic" over action to recapture S. Georgia.
- Sri Lanka Message to Prime Minister "condemns use of force" but no specific support for UK. Helpful in NAM.

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- \*+ Swaziland Statement expressing "great concern" at invasion and supporting SCR 502. Instructions on similar lines sent to New York. Following S. Georgia and other hostilities PM and FM gave assurances of continued support in UN and generally.
- Tanzania Statement regrets Argentine military actions but no specific mention of support for UK. Letter to PM from President expressing "sympathy" over Falklands problem. "Wholly sympathetic" response from Foreign Minister after recapture of S. Georgia and "no tendency" at highest level to criticise even if force used to remove Argentines.
- \* Tonga Robust reply to PM letter: would support "any action" by us to reassert sovereignty. Robust public statement. Argentine citizens banned from Tonga. "Sympathetic understanding" of UK position after recapture of S. Georgia.
- \*+ Trinidad and Tobago "Feeble" public statement, but helpful in OAS. Twice abstained in votes to invoke Rio Treaty. Likely that Trinidad would maintain in OAS its support for SCR 502. No reaction to recapture of S. Georgia. PM's message thanking for help in OAS made public. Senior Minister privately expressed strong support for UK position.
- \*+ Tuvalu Robust reply to SG and Secretary of State.
- \* Uganda Voted for SCR 502. Helpful with Non-Aligned. Replied to PM letter: "great concern". Statement condemning aggression. Support after recapture of S. Georgia and continued support in UN.
- \* Vanuatu Statement "strongly condemns" invasion, but also calls upon UK to "reconsider" military retaliation. Coped to SG, PM, Argentine Government, UN. PM "most receptive" and "entirely satisfied" over recapture of S. Georgia.
- Western Samoa
- \*+ Zambia Statement by Acting President deploring invasion. Support in NAM. Continued support after recapture of S. Georgia. Foreign Minister expressed "very deep sorrow" at loss of life in HMS Sheffield.

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Zimbabwe Inadequate statement but urging UK and Argentina to abide by SCR 502. No reaction to recapture of South Georgia further hostilities.

DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

\* + Bermuda Public statement: Premier "deplores" invasion; supports self-determination. Offered facilities. Ministers urged trade ban.

British Virgin Islands Import ban.

Cayman Islands Public subscription to be sent to UK with "appropriate message from government and people". Trade ban.

\* Gibraltar Robust resolution in House of Assembly in support of UK following recapture of S Georgia.

Hong Kong Imports ban. Imposed visa requirement on Argentines. Argentine Consulate-General closed.

Montserrat "Public consider Britain is right". "Pleased with S Georgia news".

St Helena "Fully supports UK action".

Tristan da Cunha "Sympathy for Falkland Islanders" and "total support for measures ... to recover island".

Turks and Caicos Islands Statement by Chief Minister: "We are behind Mrs Thatcher".

Notes:

- \* Countries which have explicitly (or implicitly through support for SCR 502) in public or in private condemned Argentina's invasion and/or called for withdrawal of Argentine forces.
- + Countries which have expressed support for the principles of self determination in relation to the Falklands.