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COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS' REACTIONS TO FALKLANDS' CRISIS

1. Attached is a list of Commonwealth Governments' reactions to the Falklands crisis as at 8 November 1982.
2. Dependent Territories have been eliminated from the list.

8 November 1982

COMMONWEALTH COORDINATION DEPARTMENT

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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. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November; spoke in UK favour at UN before and at debate.
- *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'. Private message of congratulations to PM and congratulatory public statement following Argentine surrender. Government contribution of A\$250,000 to national appeal to assist families of British servicemen and Falkland Islanders. Diplomatic effort in BA to ensure fast return of Argentine prisoners. Offer to reconsider purchase of Invincible. Spoke robustly in Committee of 24. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- 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. PM and Foreign Minister refused to see Argentine lobbying delegation travelling in Caribbean; seen by senior official. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- Bangladesh Statement condemning 'use of force in settling disputes'. Robust statement privately to High Commissioner from Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs. Helpful in NAM. 'Sympathetic' but abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+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. Although sympathetic to UK position, PM said Barbados would be unlikely to vote against Argentine resolution (28 September). Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.

/Belize ...

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*+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. Sustained pro-British attitudes throughout the hostilities, in the press, at home and abroad (e.g. meeting in Costa Rica in May). Further message to some Commonwealth colleagues urging them to rally Caricom and Commonwealth countries to support UK at UN. Instructions to support us in NAM and UN. Unsuccessful attempt to table helpful statement in NAM Regional meeting, but played crucial role in mustering moderates in full NAM meeting. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.

**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). Helpful in NAM. Strong statement at 27th UNGA in defence of non-use of force and self-determination but voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November, although claim that position on basic issues has not altered. High Commission does not write off support in the future.

*+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. Canadian House of Commons motion. Abstained on Latin American resolution.

Cyprus

After long silence prior to recapture of South Georgia, initially declined to make 'an independent statement' but undertook not to say anything 'adverse'. However statement published on 24 May referred to SCR 502 but condemned 'the retention at the end of the 20th century of the last remnants of colonialism'. We remonstrated, and the speech subsequently made by the Cyprus Foreign Minister in Havana was apparently in milder language although the message remained essentially the same. A further statement, issued on 21 June and quoting the Havana speech, confirmed that this remained the Cyprus Government's position. Voted for the Argentine resolution on 4 November.

*+Dominica

Robust letter to Prime Minister. Robust message to UNSG. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.

/Fiji

- *+Fiji Robust statement by PM. 'Understanding and support' at official level after recapture of S. Georgia. Helpful in Committee of 24. UK can count on 'continued support at UNGA and in Committee of 24'. Outstanding efforts at UN: lobbying with some success among Africans. First to declare unequivocal support to vote against Latin American resolution. PM thanked Ratu Mara. As Chairman of CHGRM he agreed to urge support at UN for UK policy on Falklands. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- +The Gambia Robust Government statement. Helpful with refuelling and overflights of Task Force planes. Mrs Thatcher sent personal message in April. Entered reservation on NAM communiqué. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- Ghana Response unlikely because of domestic crises. But Ghana 'would not condemn Britain, nor support Argentina'. Instructions to Missions on these lines. Entered reservation on NAM statement. After Argentine lobbying, MFA said 'now was not the time to open a debate on sovereignty'. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- +Grenada Unhelpful statement supporting Argentine's territorial claim but disapproving of use of force. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+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 S. Georgia. Entered reservation on NAM statement after some attempt at Havana to amend it. Keen to help us. Not optimistic that support in NAM would affect pro-Argentine tilt, but thought that likely to be more effective in UNGA. Unsuccessful attempt to table helpful statement in NAM Regional Meeting. Supported references to self-determination/non-use of force in full NAM Meeting. Abstained on Latin American resolution.
- India Lukewarm: appealing to 'all parties' to seek a 'peaceful resolution'. PM privately does not approve either of Argentine or UK action over S. 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

if international opinion turned against UK. India would 'try (repeat try) to ensure a moderate consensus' in NAM, but would find it difficult not to support call for negotiations. PM 'made no particular response' to Mr Nott's personal appeal during his visit. Reacted unhelpfully to PM's message to CHGRM Heads of Delegation. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.

*+Jamaica

Robust statement. As deputy PM recently told Mr Onslow, maintained firm stance in OAS. Some attempt at Havana to change language of NAM statement: subsequent reservation. Continued 'general sympathy and support'. Glad to see 'resumption of contact' with Argentina not ruled out. 'Ready to speak right' in NAM and UNGA provided not isolated. Introduced references to self-determination and non-use of force into NAM communiqué. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November but made robust statement as explanation of vote.

*Kenya

Robust statements (one in UNGA). Entered reservation on NAM statement. Kenya would support in UN even if NAM position different; President also continuing chairman of OAU. Supported moderate amendments helpful to UK in NAM communiqué. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.

*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. Entered reservation on NAM statement. Lesotho's support for Britain reiterated by Lesotho High Commissioner on 25 May. No reason why Lesotho's 'basically pro-UK attitude' should change. Agreed Argentine demand for negotiations leading to sovereignty inappropriate. Entered reservation on NAM resolution. Promised support in debate. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.

*+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 S. Atlantic' following recapture of S. Georgia and further hostilities. President's 'deep sorrow' at losses of HMS 'Sheffield' and Harriers. Personal message of congratulations from President following Argentine surrender. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.

/Malaysia

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Malaysia Weak statement although 'deeply disturbed'. Little prospect of 'official reaction' to recapture of S. Georgia; but UK points conveyed to PM. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.

The Maldives Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November. President wrote to PM explaining position.

Malta Government remained aloof throughout and made no statement. Avoided participation in Council of Europe vote; but in conversation with BHC Foreign Minister said Malta 'committed in support'. During televised debate at beginning of May, however, he said that too much attention was being given to the issue. Voted in favour of Latin American UN resolution.

*+Mauritius Robust reply to Ramphal quoting Security Council instructions. Robust statement. Congratulated on recapturing S. Georgia. PM 'sympathetic' after further military action. Did not attend NAM and do not know if reservation entered. New Government (since 11 June) said would support UK over non-resumption of early negotiations. Consequently abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.

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. Loan of frigate. Congratulatory private message to PM and positive public statement following Argentine surrender. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.

*+Nigeria Message to PM, acknowledged by her. Helpful statement. Instructions to be helpful in NAM: Support for 'genuine negotiations', self-determination, appreciation of UK mood. Intervention helpful to UK in NAM but voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.

/Papua New Guinea

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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. New Government confirmed would follow similar (sympathetic) line to predecessor. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+Saint Lucia Strong statement. Helpful statement in OAS. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Robust statement. Copy sent to SG. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *Seychelles Response to PM letter deploring aggression: made public. Unwilling to give indication of 'likely Government reaction' after recapture of S Georgia. Believe did not attend NAM. Do not know if entered reservation. In the event absent from vote on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+Sierra Leone Statement views developments 'with great concern'. Mrs Thatcher sent personal message in April. Ambassador UN instructed to 'condemn Argentine action in strong terms'. SLG providing extensive facilities for bunkering and refuelling etc of Task Force. Support after recapture of S. Georgia. Helpful in NAM. Presidential message welcoming cessation of fighting, acknowledged by Mrs Thatcher. Very helpful statement in Committee of 24. Supported moderate amendments helpful to UK in NAM communiqué. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+Singapore Fairly robust statement although no specific mention of support for UK. Robust reply from PM to PM's message. Entered reservation in NAM statement. Supported moderate amendments helpful to UK in NAM communiqué. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November. PM wrote to Mrs Thatcher explaining reason.

/Solomon Islands ...

- *+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 recover S. Georgia. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- Sri Lanka Message to Prime Minister 'condemns use of force' but no specific support for UK. Helpful in NAM. Voted against Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+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 assurance of continued support in UN and generally. Entered reservation on NAM statement. Intervention helpful to UK in NAM. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *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. President privately expressed pleasure at Falklands outcome. Went along with NAM on Argentine sovereignty. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *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.
PM's message thanking for help in OAS made public. Senior Minister privately expressed strong support for UK position. Entered reservation on NAM statement after some attempt at Havana to amend it. Abstained in Latin American resolution on 4 November.

/Tuvalu

- *+Tuvalu Robust reply to SG and Secretary of State. Congratulatory message from PM following Argentine surrender.
- *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. Supported SCR 505 but no reservation on NAM. Appeal for support at UN to be given 'sympathetic consideration'. But in event voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *Vanuatu statement 'strongly condemns' invasion, but also calls upon UK to 'reconsider' military retaliation. Copied to SG, PM, Argentine Government, UN. PM 'most receptive' and 'entirely satisfied' over recapture of S. Georgia. Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- Western Samoa Abstained on Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- *+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. High Commission told Mr Onslow on 25 May that no change in Zambia's attitude to British stance on Falklands. Entered reservation on NAM statement. Voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.
- Zimbabwe Inadequate statement but urging UK and Argentina to abide by SCR 502. Protested successfully in NAM at Chair's (Cuba) attempt to steamroller unhelpful text through meeting. But voted for Latin American resolution on 4 November.

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.

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