

OPS

AMBASÁD NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

Subject Argentina - Rebs
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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T75A/8

MESSAGE FROM THE TAOISEACH, MR. CHARLES J. HAUGHEY, TO
THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.

I was very glad to receive yesterday your message of thanks for our support in enabling the Community to reach agreement on joint action in relation to the situation in the Falkland Islands. The fact that it was possible, in such a short time, to arrive at agreement is indeed an impressive example of Community co-operation.

You are, I know, already aware of my Government's attitude to the use of force by Argentina, in defiance of the Security Council. We have made our views clear both in the Security Council and in our support for the Joint Statements by the Ten on this issue.

At the same time, however, we have always been doubtful about the effectiveness of economic sanctions, particularly in circumstances where they cannot be universally applied. In addition, I was aware that while our own trade with Argentina was not substantial, the imposition of an embargo would have a serious effect on a number of Irish manufacturers.

Nonetheless, in the present special circumstances, and in the interests of solidarity between Community partners, we felt it important to support Community action and demonstrate this solidarity. I am gratified that we have all been able to do this so rapidly and I believe it augurs well for the Community's capacity to act to resolve its own difficulties in the future.

I hope that the Community's action will contribute directly to efforts to bring about a diplomatic solution. In the meantime, let me assure you of my Government's continuing readiness to help insofar as we can in advancing a resolution of the crisis and the achievement of an honourable and enduring settlement.