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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for your detailed message concerning the Falkland Islands issue, which was delivered to me through your Ambassador, Sir Hugh Cortazzi. I have been following with a sense of grave concern the developments in and around the Falkland Islands since military action was taken by the Argentine armed forces. I have also read your message with great attention. The Government of Japan considers that the use of force by Argentina violates the basic principles of peaceful settlement of conflicts and non-use of force of the United Nations Charter and that such action can never be accepted. We strongly hope that the withdrawal of the Argentine forces will be promptly realized and that this dispute peacefully settled through diplomatic negotiations.

It was from this basic standpoint that Japan immediately supported the resolution tabled by your Government at the Security Council of the United Nations and that, also in Tokyo, the Japanese Government clearly explained our position both domestically and internationally.

This position of Japan has been conveyed to the Argentine side on various occasions, and on the 12th April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in conformity with my wishes, made the following representations to the Argentine Ambassador:

- (i) We deeply regret the use of force by Argentina and urge that its forces withdraw in compliance with the Security Council resolution;

- (ii) The Government of Japan places high expectations on good offices by the United States and hopes that Argentina will respond positively to the efforts of the United States in its good offices and will try to reach a peaceful settlement through diplomatic negotiations.

In this connection I wish to state similarly to you that Japan places, for the present, expectations on the efforts of good offices by the United States.

To your request for co-operation in the concrete measures proposed in your message, I should like to reply as follows:

The basic idea of the Japanese Government is that measures to secure the implementation of the Security Council resolution adopted on April 3 should primarily be sought within the framework of the United Nations in accordance with its Charter. We are certainly prepared to make efforts for the improvement of the situation by diplomatic and other means outside the United Nations, too. Such efforts should be naturally exerted in such a manner as not incompatible with the existing international obligations. It is also natural that we shall exert such efforts on the basis of what we judge for ourselves to be the long term interests of the Free World.

In more concrete terms, Japan pursues the policy of abstaining from exporting arms to foreign countries and is satisfied that it is thus contributing towards the maintenance of international peace and stability. This policy is being applied strictly to Argentina.

Bearing these considerations in mind, we stated to the Argentine side in our representations of April 12 that if the present crisis is prolonged, it is feared that the confidence of the Government and people of Japan in that country's future might be undermined and that the smooth development of relations between the two countries might be impeded, especially in the economic field, and expressed our hope that for these and other reasons the Argentine side will endeavour for an early solution of the current situation.

We shall continue to see that the Argentine side is reminded of it.

As a statesman shouldering the responsibilities of government as you are, I can imagine how seriously you are concerned about this affair. But I have known for a long time your outstanding leadership in a broad range of state affairs. In the firm belief that the United Kingdom will not fail to tide over this difficult situation under your able guidance, I send you my very best wishes for your good health and for every success in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

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Yours sincerely,

Zenko Suzuki
Prime Minister of Japan