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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

8 April 1982

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Hon. Sir Victor Garland, KBE

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T65/82

My dear Prime Minister

A telegram from my Prime Minister asks me to convey to you the following message:

Begins -

"My dear Margaret,

Sir John Mason yesterday handed me your letter seeking our help in bringing pressure to bear on Argentina to withdraw from the Falkland Islands.

You mentioned various possible measures - a ban on the supply of arms and other military material, an embargo on all or some imports of goods from Argentina, the ending of export credit guarantees for new commitments to Argentina, and discouragement of further international lending to Argentina.

Not all of these are applicable to us; we are neither an arms supplier nor a lender to Argentina. Nevertheless, I am happy to say that the Australian Cabinet this morning decided that we should make clear our opposition to Argentina's aggressive act in seizing the islands, and our solidarity with you at this critical time.

Accordingly, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tony Street, has announced a ban with effect from today on all imports from Argentina other than those on the water or subject to existing contracts, and that no export credit guarantees will be extended to Argentina.

In your letter you expressed the hope that such measures, taken rapidly, would show Argentina that force does not pay; and you expressed the hope it would bring about withdrawal of their forces and a peaceful solution. I am happy that we have been able to take this action to show in a practical way our support for your Government.

I hope that this in turn will contribute to bringing about a peaceful settlement of this most trying and dangerous situation.

My warmest personal regards,

Malcolm Fraser."

Ends.

Victor Garland
R.V. GARLAND

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.