



Security Council

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TELEGRAM DATED 4 MAY 1982 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF COLOMBIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Colombian Government has taken note of your decision to act as mediator in the absurd dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom which has already brought the two countries into a military confrontation and led to the loss of innocent people's lives. In offering you full support in your peace-making efforts, Colombia trusts that the United Kingdom and Argentina will make a supreme effort to find a peaceful solution to the dispute which has caused justified international alarm. We emphasize that peace can be achieved more easily through dialogue than by resorting to the bloodshed of war. It is also indispensable to maintain hemispheric unity with respect to the essential principles of the System, all-important among which is the principle of non-intervention, certainly far removed from that of the collective action provided for in inter-American positive law.

With the same clear conscience and sense of responsibility as prompted us to abstain in the vote on the convening of the organ of consultation, which finally took none of the decisions provided for in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, and with the same firmness with which we condemned the military take-over of the Malvinas by Argentina, we denounce the attack on the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano outside the exclusion zone.

Colombia has the honour to suggest to the parties through you that the Security Council, the organ which has full competence to act in this case, should be immediately convened with a view at least to ordering a cessation of hostilities which will prevent a worsening of the tragedy taking place in the South Atlantic.

Julio Cesar TURBAY AYALA  
President of the Republic of Colombia