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Se refiere a:

**03JUN82 – Holmes a Coles.** Documentos para la concurrencia de Margaret Thatcher al Summit del G7 en Versailles.  
Anexo 06: Actitud de Italia.

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## VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT : ATTITUDES TO THE FALKLANDS OF OTHER SUMMIT COUNTRIES

## ITALY

1. About half of Argentina's population is of Italian extraction. There are over one million Italian passport holders in the country, who are entitled to vote in Italy's national elections and therefore form an important lobby. Italy has important commercial interests in Argentina and generally in South America.
2. Italian foreign policy often closely reflects internal political considerations. The Prime Minister, Spadolini, along with Foreign Minister, Colombo, was keen to maintain Community solidarity (a constant in Italian foreign policy) by renewing EC sanctions against Argentina, but his tiny Republican party commands only 3% of the Italian vote. The Christian Democrats and Socialists, the two largest coalition partners, were opposed. Had Spadolini gone ahead with a renewal of EC sanctions the government could have collapsed.
3. Many Italians saw sanctions as contributing to the escalation of the conflict. They saw opportunities for the Soviet Union in Argentina and adverse effects on long term relations between Europe and Latin America. Coupled with this were doubts about the efficacy of sanctions. Many Italians, including politicians, thought they would make matters worse by hardening junta attitudes.
4. Among Italian politicians and public there is an automatic assumption that every problem can be solved by negotiation. Issues tend to be sidestepped in search of acceptable compromise rather than tackled head on. The common press clichés are that the hostilities are 'absurd' and Britain's reaction to the Argentine invasion 'disproportionate'. The Pope's comments on the tragedy of war and senseless loss of life will understandably have struck a chord with most Italians.
5. Since the decision not to renew sanctions there has been some

criticism of the Government's stance. Spadolini and Colombo have stressed that there has been no weakening in Italy's political support for the UK. Spadolini took a robust line in a meeting with the new Argentine Ambassador to Italy on 24 May, (Rome telno 282).

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MY TELNO 274: FALKLANDS: ITALIAN VIEWS

1. SPADOLINI RECEIVED LUCHETTA, THE NEW ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, ON 24 MAY. OUR TRANSLATION OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTERWARDS IS AS FOLLOWS :

QUOTE. SPADOLINI STATED THE ITALAIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVES TO NEGOTIATION FOR THE GRAVE CONFLICT WHICH HAS STRUCK THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, FOLLOWING ON FROM THE ARMED VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CARRIED OUT BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WITH THEIR INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND FROM ALL THE MILITARY ACTION WHICH RESULTED. SPADOLINI RECALLED ITALY'S CONDEMNATION OF THE USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND HER CALL , IN COMMON WITH THE EC COUNTRIES, FOR THE FULL APPLICATION OF RESOLUTION 502. ITALY HAD DEMONSTRATED IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THAT SHE TOOK ACCOUNT OF HER ETHNIC LINKS WITH THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. SPADOLINI ASKED LUCHETTA TO TRANSMIT TO HIS AUTHORITIES AN URGENT APPEAL TO GIVE PROOF OF A GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, COOPERATING IN EVERY WAY FOR A PEACEFUL AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN INITIATIVE, AN INITIATIVE WHICH WAS ITSELF WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF THE US MEDIATION.

UNQUOTE.

2. THE MFA ASSURE US THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE FIRM LINE TAKEN BY SPADOLINI. THEY BELIEVE THE PHRASE ABOUT "GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY" MAY CAUSE DIFFICULTY IN BUENOS AIRES.

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