

CONFIDENTIAL

JG 15  
Argentina



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 April 1982

Dear Brian,

Falkland Islands: Telephone call by President Reagan

President Reagan telephoned the Prime Minister at 8.30 pm this evening. He said that he had wanted to give Mrs Thatcher an account of Mr. Haig's progress in Buenos Aires. Earlier in the day he had been discouraged by the reports. Now he did not know what the position was. Mr. Haig was still engaged in discussions with the Argentines. Meanwhile, the President wished to assure the Prime Minister that he well understood what efforts she had made to reach a compromise. He did not think she should be asked to go any further.

The Prime Minister said that when Mr. Haig had left London he had taken with him a fair and workable compromise. He was a good negotiator and we were very grateful to him.

President Reagan said that President Galtieri had adopted a more reasonable approach than hitherto. But when he resumed contact with the junta the Argentine position hardened. The President said that he had asked Mr. Haig to return to Washington if no progress was made on the proposals he had taken to Buenos Aires, because he did not think it would be reasonable to ask the Prime Minister to move further. He expressed sympathy with the British Government in the present difficult situation. He was "deeply interested in keeping this great relationship which we have".

I am copying this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), David Omand (Ministry of Defence), Keith Long (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Your own  
John Cole

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL