

SUBJECT.



FILE

RM.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 May, 1982

✓. Minister ask

Dear John,

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr Rex Hunt, accompanied by Mr Cheek and Mr Luxton, who as you know are prominent Falkland Islanders, called on the Prime Minister on Friday, 7 May at Mrs Thatcher's request.

I am not recording the conversation in detail because it was largely devoted to a discussion of the nature of life on the Falkland Islands and the likely impact on the Islanders of recent events.

But you should be aware of the following points:-

(a) The Governor, supported by Mr Cheek and Mr Luxton, expressed the firm conviction that the Islanders would wish even more strongly than before the invasion to remain British.

(b) Mr Hunt conveyed to the Prime Minister information which was new to her but may not be to you, namely that two weeks before the invasion a group of 17 Argentines had arrived on the Falkland Islands to build a ramp for a gas company; in retrospect Mr Hunt had no doubt that they were preparing some aspect of the invasion.

(c) Mr Cheek asked whether Falkland Islanders who had reached this country would qualify for treatment under the National Health Service. The Prime Minister gave her personal assurance that they would have no difficulty in obtaining treatment under the same terms as United Kingdom citizens.

(d) The Governor suggested that the Prime Minister might broadcast a message to the Islanders. In discussion, it was agreed that the desirability and timing of any broadcast would need very careful consideration. (I should be grateful if you could let me have advice in due course).

BF (1)

/During

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BK(2) During the course of the conversation Mr Hunt said that he had just completed a despatch on the future of the Falkland Islands. I should be grateful if you could arrange for me to receive a copy in due course, together with any comments which the Department may wish to offer.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and David Clark (Department of Health and Social Security).

Yours ever

John Cole.

John Holmes, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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