

cc Mr. Rickett
Mr. Ingham

PRIME MINISTER

Burial of South Atlantic casualties

In the event you had no opportunity at Question time today to announce the Government's decision on this question.

The Defence Secretary has circulated the attached paper to OD(SA) colleagues for discussion on Thursday. While it would be possible to announce your decision before then, by way of a Written Answer, you may wish to give OD(SA) colleagues a chance to comment. You could then, following OD(SA), make the attached pursuant reply. Bernard Ingham would welcome this being made just before his Lobby at 1100 a.m. on Thursday so that there is a press story that day on a subject other than the Inquiry.

Agree to announce decision by attached pursuant reply after OD(SA) on Thursday?

A.J.C. 6/7
Yes
no

6 July 1982

Please check we are not using
the Pursuant - reply too frequently
no



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MO 5/21

6th July 1982

Dear John,

BURIAL OF SOUTH ATLANTIC CASUALTIES

We spoke this morning, following the discussion in OD(FAF) of this topic. You told me that the Prime Minister was still keen to make a positive reference to the possibility of repatriation. I have spoken again to the Secretary of State and he would have no objection to the Prime Minister using the attached form of words if she wishes to do so. As you will see this indicates that we shall be prepared to consider repatriation where practicable and where the relatives wish it. Our Press Office here have been alerted to the possibility that the Prime Minister will make such a statement at Question Time and appropriate press material is being prepared. Perhaps you could let me know whether the Prime Minister will wish to take the opportunity to make this announcement.

*Yours ever
Nick Evans*

(N H R EVANS)

John Coles Esq

LINE TO TAKE

After considering all aspects of this most difficult problem, including the practical difficulties involved, and having read the letters I have received from the next-of-kin of those killed and others, I have decided that, where next-of-kin wish, arrangements will be made for the return to the UK of the bodies of the fallen who have been given temporary burial on land in the Falkland Islands. Where next-of-kin wish the bodies to remain in the Falkland Islands they will be buried with all due ceremony at Port Stanley. Arrangements will be made for close relatives to visit the graves if they so wish; and similar arrangements will be made for close relatives of those lost or buried at sea or in unmarked graves who wish to visit the Falkland Islands.