

Jock Bruce-Gardyne, M.P.

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Personal

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

April 5th '82

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The rt honble Mrs Thatcher, MP
10 Downing Street,
SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you at such a hectic and difficult moment. But I felt that I must send you a message of sympathy and strong support which will, I know, be shared by my constituency Association.

What has happened could - or so it seems to me from a position of blind ignorance - have happened at any time over the past ten or fifteen years; and one wonders how some of the glib and voluble critics would have regarded the permanent stationing of a large part of the Fleet in Falkland waters, as would presumably have been required to give the islanders any real degree of protection.

But it's no use dwelling in the past. Now we must all hope that a swift and lasting solution can be found; for thereafter I have little doubt that the Falkland incident will recede into perspective. With the help of our friends it should not, one feels, be beyond the wit of man to devise a compromise which does not involve crippling humiliation for the Argentinians or permanent submission to an alien Government for the Falklanders. More spectacular solutions may appeal to the gallery: but would they last? And if they went wrong might they not involve really irreparable damage to the Government - damage out of all proportion to the significance of the islands sub specie aeternitatis?

No reply - of course.

Yours ever
Jock