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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 May, 1982

Dear Mr. Doig.

Thank you for your telegram of 5 May about the Falkland Islands.

It has always been our wish, and it still is our wish, to settle this dispute by negotiation. Our repossession of South Georgia, and the recent military engagements, in no way alter that. These military achievements have been in support of our overall strategy; they have not been and will not become a substitute for it. We seek the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution demanding the withdrawal of Argentine forces, and we seek it by peaceful means if possible. But throughout many years of discussion with Argentina, we have always stressed the importance of the Islanders' rights and wishes, and we cannot allow these to be denied by Argentina's territorial ambitions. No one should doubt our determination to free the Islanders from occupation and to allow them to express their views freely on their future.

Secretary of State Haig has been tireless in his efforts to find a negotiated settlement. He has not abandoned his endeavours. Nor have we. The Foreign Secretary has been to New York and Washington, and has discussed various options with the Secretary General of the UN, and with Secretary Haig. The President of Peru has also put forward ideas.

Our immediate concern is to implement the Resolution passed by the UN Security Council, which called for the withdrawal of

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Argentine forces, and negotiations on the future, unprejudiced in any way. We are open to any ideas that would achieve this. But so far the Argentines have shown no inclination to implement the Resolution. I hope they will reconsider this. Until they do, we will continue to exercise our rights of self defence, including the use of force under Article 51 of the UN Charter, if this proves necessary.

Yours sincerely
Raymond D. White

The Right Reverend Andrew B. Doig, D.D.