

SUBJECT

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SECRET

Dear Margaret:

I have your urgent message of March 31 over Argentina's apparent moves against the Falkland Islands. We share your concern over the disturbing military steps which the Argentines are taking and regret that negotiations have not succeeded in defusing the problem.

Accordingly, we are contacting the Argentine Government at the highest levels to urge them not to take military measures which would make a just solution more difficult to achieve. As you requested, we are also asking for assurances from them that they will show restraint and not initiate hostilities.

I want you to know how we have valued your cooperation on the challenges we both face in many different parts of the world. We will do what we can to assist you here.

Sincerely,

Ron

SECRET



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

April 1, 1982

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver the attached message to you from President Reagan, which was received at the Embassy this afternoon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Edward J. Streater".

Edward J. Streater
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

T 18
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 55 B/82

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO CABINET OFFICE, LONDON
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+ 3 copies to f.a.
Duplicate to
Frank Clee, who *AB* 2/4

APRIL 1, 1982

DEAR MARGARET,

I HAVE JUST TALKED AT LENGTH WITH GENERAL GALTIERI ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLANDS. I CONVEYED TO HIM MY PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARGENTINE INVASION. I TOLD HIM THAT INITIATING MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA AND I URGED HIM TO REFRAIN FROM OFFENSIVE ACTION. I OFFERED OUR GOOD OFFICES AND MY READINESS TO SEND A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE ISSUES BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE GENERAL HEARD MY MESSAGE, BUT GAVE ME NO COMMITMENT THAT HE WOULD COMPLY WITH IT. INDEED, HE SPOKE IN TERMS OF ULTIMATUMS AND LEFT ME WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS EMBARKED ON A COURSE OF ARMED CONFLICT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE, BOTH IN ATTEMPTING TO AVERT HOSTILITIES AND TO STOP THEM IF THEY SHOULD BREAK OUT. WHILE WE HAVE A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE, WE WILL NOT BE NEUTRAL ON THE ISSUE OF ARGENTINE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

WARMEST WISHES,

RON

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 April 1982

Falkland Islands

I enclose a copy of the reply from President Reagan to the Prime Minister's message of 31 March. This was delivered by the US Embassy at 1820 hours today.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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SECRET