

Ps/No 10 Downy St
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SECRET DEHOC

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OO WASHINGTON (DESKBY 291430Z)
OO UKMIS NEW YORK (DESKBY 291430Z)
GPS 375
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DEHOC
DESKBY 291430Z BOTH POSTS.
FM FCO 291330Z APRIL 82
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NO 868 OF 29 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR).

FALKLANDS

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE URGENTLY FROM ME TO MR HAIG. BEGINS. I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW IMMEDIATELY THAT THE BRITISH CABINET HAS NOW CONSIDERED YOUR PROPOSALS FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE FALKLANDS CRISIS.

AS YOU KNOW, CABINET MEETS REGULARLY ON THURSDAY MORNINGS AND WE HAD EXPECTED THAT THE ARGENTINIANS WOULD BEFORE THEN HAVE EITHER ACCEPTED YOUR PROPOSALS WITHOUT TEXTUAL ALTERATIONS OR REJECTED THEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS AND THE DEADLINE WHICH YOU SAID YOU WOULD BE PUTTING TO COSTA MENDEZ WHEN TRANSMITTING THE TEXT TO HIM. I CANNOT CONCEAL FROM YOU THAT MY COLLEAGUES WERE VERY SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE DEADLINE HAD PASSED AND THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINIAN PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS APPEARED NOT TO BE EXCLUDED.

THE CABINET TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE COMBINATION OF ARGENTINIAN DELAY AND THEIR REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR REPEATED PUBLIC INSISTENCE THAT THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY, MUST BE CONSTRUED AS AN ARGENTINIAN REJECTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS AS THEY STAND. IT IS THEREFORE OUR VERY FIRM EXPECTATION, BASED ON ALL THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAVE HAD TOGETHER, THAT YOU WILL CONFIRM THIS PUBLICLY TONIGHT AND THAT WE SHALL HENCEFORTH BE ABLE TO RELY ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES IN APPLYING

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PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA TO MOVE FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITION. I HOPE THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN GET TOGETHER VERY QUICKLY TO DISCUSS WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO THIS END.

GIVEN THE ARGENTINIAN REJECTION OF YOUR PROPOSALS, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO REASON FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PRONOUNCE ON THEM IN ANY DETAIL AT THIS STAGE. BUT I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE CABINET HAD FUNDAMENTAL RESERVATIONS, IN PARTICULAR ABOUT THOSE AREAS WHICH YOU KNOW FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS TO BE OF THE GREATEST CONCERN TO US IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED AS OF OVER-RIDING IMPORTANCE.

MARGARET THATCHER WILL BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE SHE ATTACHES TO US SUPPORT IN THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE NOW FIND OURSELVES. ENDS

PYM

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 April 1982

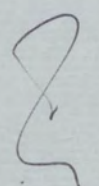
AJC

Dear Sir,

Falklands: Message from
Mr Pym to Mr Haig

I enclose a draft as we discussed.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,


(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO MR HAIG

I should let you know immediately that the British Cabinet has now considered your proposals for a negotiated solution to the Falklands crisis.

As you know, Cabinet meets regularly on Thursday mornings and we had expected that the Argentinians would before then have either accepted your proposals without textual alterations or rejected them, in accordance with the conditions and the deadline which you said you would be putting to Costa Menez when transmitting the text to him. I cannot conceal from you that my colleagues were very surprised to find that the deadline had passed and that the possibility of Argentinian proposals for amendments appeared not to be excluded.

The Cabinet took the view that the combination of Argentinian delay ^{and} their request for amendments, together with their repeated public insistence that there can be no compromise on the issue of sovereignty, must be construed as an Argentinian rejection of the United States Government's proposals as they stand. It is therefore our very firm expectation, based on all the discussions that we have had together, that you will confirm this publicly tonight and that we shall henceforth be able to rely on the active support of the United States in applying pressure on Argentina to move

/from their

from their present position. I hope that our people can get together very quickly to discuss what your Government could do to this end.

Given the Argentinian rejection of your proposals, there would seem to be no reason for the British Government to pronounce on them in any detail at this stage. But I should make it clear that the Cabinet had fundamental reservations, in particular about those areas which you know from our discussions to be of the greatest concern to us in the light of the principles which we have always regarded as of overriding importance.

Margaret Thatcher will be sending a message to the President to underline the importance she attaches to US support in the situation in which we now find ourselves.