



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

PM
2vi

1st July 1982

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of all the military staff of the Ministry of Defence and of the Commanders in Chiefs Headquarters may I thank you for the reception you gave in Number 10 last night. Your thoughtful and generous gesture is deeply appreciated by us all, and not just those who were lucky enough to be there.

Talking to so many people at your party you cannot have failed to realise the enormous admiration the services have for your resolute determination and leadership during the Falklands campaign. As

OD (SA) business draws towards its inevitable and satisfactory close, may I add my own thanks for your ready understanding of the military problems and your support and decisiveness when we needed difficult decisions - often quickly. Military operations were never once held up for political reasons and I have absolutely no doubt that thanks to your conduct of business many lives were saved and the job was finished more quickly.

It has been a great privilege to work with you on this affair.

Yours very sincerely,
Henry Lavin
