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CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC  
AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN: 4 MAY

Note by the Secretaries

The attached message to the Prime Minister from President Reagan was considered by the Sub-Committee this morning (OD(SA)(82) 26th Meeting). It was dated 4 May and transmitted overnight.

Signed ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
R L WADE-GERY  
R L L FACER

Cabinet Office

6 May 1982

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Text of message from President Reagan to the Prime Minister  
via Cabinet Office

Dear Margaret,

The decisions I made last Friday were aimed at putting you in the strongest possible position to achieve a peaceful settlement in line with the basic principles and values to which we are both committed. I believe there is now a chance to realise that aim, and that we must seize it before more lives are lost.

Al Haig has sent to Francis Pym new formulations which might provide a basis for a peaceful settlement if recent military developments have instilled a greater sense of realism in Buenos Aires. I am sure that the ideas sent to Al by your Foreign Secretary would not provide such a basis. Equally important, you will see that our suggestions are faithful to the basic principles we must protect.

I urge you to agree to have these ideas proposed by us and Peru as soon as possible, recognizing that it will be difficult to get Peruvian agreement to join us in this initiative and more difficult still to gain Argentine acceptance. This, I am convinced, is now our best hope.

Sincerely, Ron.