

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 June 1982

Dear John,

Falklands: Other Territorial Disputes

In your letter of 1 June you said the Prime Minister wished to have a comprehensive list of territorial disputes before she went to Versailles.

I enclose a list which we have attempted to make as comprehensive and as accurate as your deadline allowed. Only Eastern Europe has been excluded: none of the historical 'claims' there is being seriously pressed at present (those of Hungary on Romanian Transylvania, of Romania on Soviet Bessarabia, Bulgaria on Yugoslav Macedonia and Albania on Yugoslav Kosovo).

The list is intended for background only. Third parties might regard it as expressing or implying a British official view of the facts or merits of any particular case and it could be used against us. Moreover, some of the entries (eg those relating to possible claims by Saudi Arabia on Oman and by Vanuatu on the Wallis and Hunter islands) include 'sensitive' information. You will see that Africa has a large number of territorial disputes. Member states of the Organisation of African Unity are pledged not to use force in the settlement of disputes and are bound by the Boundary Resolution of 1964 to accept frontiers inherited at independence. But these constraints have not proved fully effective.

No attempt has been made to assess the possible impact had Britain failed to resist Argentina's invasion of the Falklands. But the 'ripple effect' could have exacerbated at least the disputes between Argentina and Chile, Venezuela and Guyana, and Guatemala and Belize.

/I might

CONFIDENTIAL

CFW
*Top copy
as
Versailles
Summit*

CONFIDENTIAL



I might mention incidentally that Mr Rostow has told us he had referred to the existence of some 150 (not 100) territorial disputes and that he had plucked the figure out of thin air. Our figure comes to just short of 90.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>633</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>Enclosure to letter from Holmes to Coler dated 3 June 1982</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>23 April 2012 Wayland.</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	