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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 January 1983

Dear Lord Franks.

There will be later opportunities for me to put on public record my gratitude, and that of the Government, to you and your colleagues for the prompt delivery of the Report of the Falkland Islands Review Committee and for all the work which made that possible. But I wanted to write this personal note to you at once to thank you most warmly for all that you have done to this end.

When in July I expressed the hope that you would be able to report within six months, I was well aware that I was setting my sights high and you and your colleagues a formidable task. I know that you and your colleagues have had to work hard and intensively to read and digest all the papers put at your disposal and to hear the evidence of all the witnesses whom your task made it necessary to call. It is an extraordinary achievement that all this material has been absorbed and concentrated into so thorough and comprehensive a report in so short a time. Not only its thoroughness but also the fact that it is unanimous will give it tremendous authority.

I realise how fortunate we have been that you were prepared to take this inquiry on, to give so much time to it, and to chair it with such skill and authority. I am deeply grateful to you.

With best wishes for 1983.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable
The Lord Franks OM GCMG KCB CBE FBA DL