



Bm
S

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 May 1983

Dear Mr. Wigley,

Thank you for your letter of 3 May about the possibility of a visit to the Falklands by the next of kin of the Argentine servicemen killed during the fighting there.

We have all along made it clear that we have no objection to a visit to the Falkland Islands by relatives of Argentine servicemen who died during the hostilities, provided that the visit is organised and supervised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and is purely humanitarian in nature. The conditions which we have specified to the ICRC and which they relayed to Senor Destefanis were those necessary to ensure this and that remains our position. We will place no obstacle in the way of a visit by a bona fide group of relatives which meets our conditions and is prepared to come under arrangements made and supervised by the ICRC. I have made that quite clear in the House. There can, however, be no question of our allowing Senor Destefanis and his group the access to the Falkland Islands which he seeks. Senor Destefanis has not only refused to accept the conditions conveyed to him: his arrangements have been judged unacceptable by the ICRC for reasons of principle.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

de

Dafydd Wigley, Esq., M.P.