



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April 1982

Amu

*draft
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Dear Sir,

Argentina

Thank you for your letter of 8 April asking for a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to the Chairman of the British Community Council in Buenos Aires.

I enclose a draft, in the form of a telegram to the British Interests Section in Buenos Aires. We have no other way of communicating with Mr Murchison, who did not give an address.

The reply has been drafted on the assumption that it will be made public. Perhaps you could let me know whether, and if so how, you propose that we should publicize it ourselves.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Forsknings- och Utvärderingsenheten

Enheten för Kvalitet



1-17 82



File No.

Department

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification ENCLAIR
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched	(Date)	POSTBY.....Z
		(Time)Z	

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin)Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix).....

(Security Class.) UNCLASSIFIED (Caveat/Privacy Marking).....

(Codeword) (Deskby).....Z

TO... IMMEDIATE BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION Tel. No. of
(precedence) (post) BUENOS AIRES

AND TO (precedence/post).....

AND SAVING TO.....

REPEATED TO (for info).....

SAVING TO (for info).....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to Mr Murchison, Chairman of the British Community Council in the Argentine Republic in reply to his telex (text in MIFT).

Begins:

Dear Mr Murchison, Thank you for your telegram about the British Community in Argentina.

I recognise the consideration which ~~the~~ Argentine governments ^{have} has shown to the British community in Argentina, who have - I know - contributed much to the prosperity and development of that country. We have ^{long} always valued our relations with Argentina.

You will understand, however, that there can be no question of our failing to respond to the unprovoked

/aggression

Copies to:-

aggression by the Argentine Government in its invasion of the Falkland Islands and their dependencies, and its attempt to settle by force the long-standing dispute between us.

The Argentine action has been condemned by the UN Security Council, which has passed by an overwhelming majority a mandatory resolution calling on Argentina to withdraw, as well as by very many other governments around the world. It is our earnest hope that the Argentine Government will heed this call and withdraw its forces.

The British Government ^{seeks} ~~wishes for~~ a peaceful solution, and will pursue all possible means of securing one. But there must be no doubt of our determination to re-assert British administration over the Falkland Islands.

I realise with deep regret that this situation may cause anxieties for British people living in Argentina. That is why we have been advising people to consider leaving the country by normal commercial means. It is of course for individuals to decide how to respond to this advice.

I earnestly believe that only firmness and resolution ~~in this will be a contribution to maintaining the rule of law and thus preserve peace more generally in the world:~~ ^{contribute to the maintenance of the preservation of} ~~back in the South Atlantic and in the wider world.~~

With best wishes, Margaret Thatcher.

Ends.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN