

Prime Minister.

To me.

I have acknowledged and
I have asked the FCO for a draft
reply.

John
11.4.82.

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Westminster,
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The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

11th April, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for the support and sympathy which your Government is showing for the people of the Falkland Islands in the terrible situation in which they now find themselves.

The Falkland Islands have a democratically elected government of which I am the only member at present able to speak freely. I am enclosing a proposal for the future of the Islands which I believe the people of the Falkland Islands may be prepared to consider, with the guarantees for their future territorial integrity which are suggested in the proposal.

I am sure you know that it was the expressed wish of the Islanders given effect at the last elections in 1981 that they should remain under British sovereignty and continue to enjoy the freedom to manage their own affairs through their own elected Council. We were unwilling to accede to the proposal that sovereignty of our country should be ceded to Argentina with any lease-back arrangement or that the Islands should be jointly administered by Britain and Argentina in any form of condominium, and I believe these views will have hardened following the Argentine invasion.

After what has happened in the last fourteen days I feel sure that no Falkland Islander would wish his country to become an Argentine colony which is what the lease-back proposal would involve in fact; or that the Government of Argentina should take any part in the administration of our country.

I am deeply conscious as I am sure all other Falkland Islanders are of the very serious world crisis in which we are now involved. I am sure that if they are given the opportunity to express themselves freely the Falkland Islanders will be prepared to look not only to Britain but also to the Community of Nations to find a peaceful solution.

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The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher.

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I personally believe, and it can in the circumstances only be a personal belief, that the kind of arrangement which has given peace and prosperity to Andorra and to other small communities may be a possible solution.

The discussion of this proposal and any other possible solution can of course only start after the withdrawal of the Argentine forces and civilians from the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

May I thank you on behalf of all Falkland Islanders whose homes are in the Islands and nowhere else, as is mine, for your support.

I am writing similarly to Mr. Francis Pym.

Yours sincerely,

J.E. Cheek

J.E. Cheek
Elected Member Falkland Islands
Legislative Council (Stanley West)

A possible future for the Falkland Islands after the withdrawal of Argentine forces

1. There are precedents for the independence and self-government of small communities under the provisions of treaties involving several other States. Examples are Andorra, Liechtenstein and San Marino in Europe. Some very small Pacific island communities, previously European protectorates, are now full members of the United Nations.
2. By analogy with Andorra, the self-governing status of which was confirmed in the Treaty of Vienna in 1816, it is suggested that the Falkland Islanders are perfectly capable of governing themselves if their territorial integrity can be guaranteed and they can retain control over their own resources. They are a highly intelligent and well educated people with an elected Council, fully capable of managing their own affairs and obtaining any specialised outside help they may need.
3. Andorra is under the suzerainty (not the sovereignty) of France in the person of President Mitterand and Spain in the person of the Palatine Bishop of Burgos as successor to an earlier governing bishop. Neither France nor Spain interferes with the internal affairs of Andorra.
4. If the Islands are to survive economically and to prosper it is essential that they have the right to their 200 mile limits and the right to exploit the potential oil resources and the licensing of sea-fisheries around the Falkland Islands and the two dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.
5. The territorial integrity of the Falkland Islands could be guaranteed by Britain and the other permanent members of the Security Council and by Argentina as signatories to a treaty. Other parties to the treaty might be Brazil and the two traditional friends and supporters of the Falkland Islands, Chile and Uruguay, from both of which countries the Falkland Islands were separated by the Anglo-Argentine Communications Agreement of 1971. Both are directly concerned.
6. A solution on the lines of Andorra would not necessarily require Argentina to give up Argentine claims to historic sovereignty. It would require both Britain and Argentina to accept the right of the Islanders to determine their own future for themselves within the framework of the United Nations Charter, supported

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by the international community. Britain has given up her sovereignty over many colonies and dependent territories. There is no disgrace in Argentina following Britain's example and abandoning her claim to govern the Islands. Any Argentine solution, including lease-back, is no more than the transfer of a colony against the will of its inhabitants.