

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

*Original file on
Argentine Relations PR
23.*

MR. COLES

I have received a copy of your letter of 5th June to Brian Fall recording the Prime Minister's debriefing on her discussion with other Heads of State and Government at the Versailles Summit on Friday, 4th June about the Falklands.

2. I had an opportunity of hearing from one of the Canadians to whom Mr. Trudeau had debriefed. The picture that emerged was slightly different. There was no doubt that all those present would support us in going on to take Port Stanley and repossess the Falkland Islands. The discussion made it clear, however, that we could not count on such support from that point on. There was a clear warning to us that others would be looking for action on our part which would make possible a complete cessation of hostilities. This was particularly true of President Reagan. There had been agreement on the idea that the lifting of sanctions could be used, after the fall of Port Stanley, to bring pressure to bear upon the Argentinians to agree to a total cessation of hostilities; but my informant said that Mr. Trudeau had suggested that we should strike while the iron was hot; support for this sort of idea might evaporate, and we should do well to follow the thought up quickly in capitals, before the memory of the discussion at Versailles receded too far into the past.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to Brian Fall.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Robert Armstrong

8th June 1982

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