



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CONFIDENTIAL.

22nd June 1982.

David Home Ruxton,

Falkland Islands Review.

Since I understand that an early meeting is impossible, I thought it might be useful to let you have a note of my reactions to your letter of 21st June as you requested.

I share your general approach to the powers and urgency of the enquiry. I am assuming that your proposed terms of reference include access to cabinet and ministerial papers. However, I have the following reservations:

First, and most important, I think it would be a mistake for this to be a Government-appointed enquiry. It must be seen to be generally supported by Parliament. If it is thought to be too difficult to set it up by resolution of the House (though I don't see why), then at least it should be seen to be more broadly representative than you suggest. An ex-Minister of each of the Governments which have dealt with the Falklands scarcely suffices. I take your point about restricting the size of the group, but I would suggest the addition of one or possibly two more independent persons, and am willing to suggest names.

Second, the urgent priority for the enquiry must be the prelude to the invasion. The enquiry's conclusion and report on that matter should not be delayed by delving into the history of the last twenty years, though I entirely agree that this could form a useful second part of the enquiry.

(/cont'd.)

Third, is it your view that the terms of reference are wide enough to take in the policy of arms sales to régimes such as those in the Argentine? I doubt if they are, and I think this ought to be reviewed either by this enquiry or somewhere else.

Lyons

David Hunt

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing St.,
London SW1.

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