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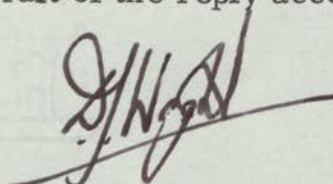
MR. WHITMORE

Falkland Islands Review

— Thank you for your minute of 14th July,
enclosing a copy of Mr. Chapman Pincher's letter.

2. My instinct, like yours, suggests extreme
caution in the reply. I should be inclined not to dis-
cuss the details of what Mr. Callaghan and Dr. Owen
have or have not said in the House of Commons or any-
where else.

— 3. I attach a redraft of the reply accordingly.


ROBERT ARMSTRONG

(Approved by Sir R Armstrong
& signed on his behalf)

15th July, 1982

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T. P. S.

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
MR. CHAPMAN PINCHER

Thank you for your letter of 10th July 1982 about the events leading up to the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands.

I was very interested to read what you said about the 1977 episode. I have of course heard what Mr. Callaghan and Dr. Owen have said about it in recent debates in the House of Commons. I have no means of establishing exactly what happened in 1977 since, as you know, I have no access to the papers of the Labour Government. But the Committee of Privy Counsellors will be able to see the papers of past Administrations as well as of those of the present Government, and I imagine that, in view of what Mr. Callaghan and Dr. Owen have said, the events of 1977 are something which they may well wish to look into.