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Argentina

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 August 1982

Falkland Islands Review

The Financial Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Ridley, has been refreshing his memory of the Foreign Office and Cabinet papers relating to the Falkland Islands which he saw while Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

He has told Robert Armstrong that neither the Foreign Office nor the Cabinet papers include a note of a meeting which he had with the Prime Minister in September 1979. As he remembers, it was a long meeting, and important in its contribution to Government policy on the subject. The Prime Minister and he were the only two Ministers at it but Mr. Ridley recalls that you were there and thinks that you made a note of the meeting.

If a ^enoting of the meeting was made it should probably be made available to the Falkland Islands Review Committee. We have checked our records and can find no such note. I enclose a copy of FCO telegram number 585 to UKMIS New York which shows that Mr. Ridley had a meeting with the Prime Minister on 25 September 1979 to discuss an OD paper on Argentina and the Falkland Islands. It may be that, since it was decided to take the whole question to an early meeting of OD, it was felt that there was no need for a record of the discussion.

I should be grateful if you can throw any light on this matter. I shall be going on leave on 4 August but Willie Rickett is aware of the subject and will inform Robert Armstrong, who has been in touch with Mr. Ridley, of the contents of your reply.

A.J. COLES

His Excellency Mr. M.O'D.B. Alexander, C.M.G.

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