

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
VIENNA.

20 August 1982

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Dear John,*

## FALKLAND ISLANDS REVIEW

Thank you for your letter of 3 August.

The meeting on 25 September 1979 between the Prime Minister and Mr Ridley was arranged, so far as I recall, at the suggestion of the then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Lord Carrington was himself away in New York that week but he wanted Mr Ridley to have an opportunity for a preliminary discussion with the Prime Minister before he finalised his draft paper for the subsequent meeting of OD. The discussion was envisaged by the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and, I believe, by Mr Ridley as entirely informal.

As Mr Ridley evidently recalls, I made a few notes. But it was implicit in the way the meeting was set up and, I am fairly confident, made explicit at the time that no formal record would be made. As you say, the OD meeting was due to follow shortly. I informed Mr Ridley's Private Secretary on the telephone that I would not be sending him a letter about the meeting: he cleared the gist of FCO Tel 585 to New York with me.

If you thought it appropriate, I would be happy to let you have a brief summary of the points made by Mr Ridley and of the Prime Minister's response. But, given the lapse of time and the sensitivity which the issues have now assumed, you may think that this would not be the proper course to follow. Let me know what is decided.

It may be worth, incidentally, making two detailed comments now:

- (a) it is true the meeting was a long one: it lasted about an hour. But, while policy towards the Falkland Islands was the main topic, a number of subjects, including Rhodesia and domestic economic policy, were touched on;

/(b) the



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- (b) the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's meeting with the Argentinian Foreign Minister in New York was only mentioned in passing.

*Yours ever*

*Richard.*

M O'D B Alexander