

MR COLES

*26.  
5*

Mr. Lyle

*ATC*

*5/1*

cc Mr Hatfield

I today received Mr Woltz, the new editor of NRC Handelsblad - the Times of Holland - and his successor as London correspondent, M E Chavannes.

The prime purpose of the meeting was for Mr Woltz to introduce Mr Marc Chavannes to me.

He had, however, warned me that he would also seek my advice on an alleged tape recording of a conversation between the Prime Minister and President Reagan during the Falklands campaign.

Mr Woltz produced for me his transcript of the tape recording (Annex I) plus his translation from the Dutch of the covering letter (Annex II).

After reading the transcript and listening to the tape I told Mr Woltz that I regarded the whole thing as a fabrication, a hoax, a put up job. I said the eccentric and unstructured nature of the transcript (and actual conversation) did not ring true; that the voice simply did not sound anything like that of President Reagan - it was far too fluent and articulate for the man in ordinary animated conversation; and that the Prime Minister on tape did not sound like her, though it sounded closer to the real thing than Reagan's alleged voice on the tape.

I promised Mr Woltz to check with someone who had closer knowledge of any Prime Ministerial conversations with President Reagan during the Falklands and to let him know later our view of the tape.

I consulted you over lunch and on the evidence of the transcript you pronounced the conversation a total fake.



At 4.00pm today I informed Mr Woltz that my initial judgement had been confirmed by a more reliable witness. He should regard the tape as a total fabrication.

In response to questions I said we had no idea who might be responsible but we would of course investigate on the basis of the information he had supplied. It would be helpful if he would let us have a copy of the tape as well as the transcript and covering letter. This he agreed to do, hoping that we would let him know the outcome of our inquiries.

I thanked him for this offer.

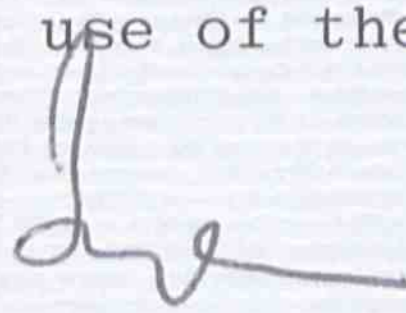
Mr Woltz confirmed that the tape had been posted to him in Amsterdam; that the transcript (Annex I) was his work; and that the translation of the covering letter (Annex II) was also his work.

He noted that the final paragraph of the covering letter said that the tape of the alleged conversation was procured from British Telecom.

You may care to consider whether B/Telecom should be alerted.

*I don't  
think so. I  
don't believe  
it. A.S.C. 26/5*

On the basis of my guidance I do not believe that Mr Woltz will make use of the tape recording.



B. INGHAM  
25 May 1983



THATCHER \_ REGAN

A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORDED DURING THE FALKLAND WAR

T: .... your own business !

R: I must urge you to control yourself. That is absolutely necessary otherwise the area will go to the dogs.

T: Listen, our aims are completely different. Al Haig..

R: Secretary Haig....

T: ... does not seem to be able to find a solution.

R: Why was the Belgrano destroyed? You took the lead. The Argentines were sailing away at that moment.. Secretary Haig had reached an agreement.

T: Argentina was the ~~invader~~ invader! ~~Force is being used~~ We must use force. And force is being used at the moment to punish them as soon as possible

R: Oh, God that is not true. You are the cause that the Sheffield was hit. We followed the (-Exocet-) missiles on our radar-screens, you must have done the same. You did not communicate this to them (of the Sheffield). What did you hope to gain?

T: What I told you before... Andrew- ... And now that the ~~missiles~~ missiles will come into our country, I will persuade anybody of their usefulness..

R: There is an agreement.. You will receive one third more submarine based ballistic missiles and in return you take care that the forces of the US can be kept at strength permanently. The medium-range missiles are meant for the defense of the United States. You proposed to build them in Europe for economic reasons. That is not functional, the programs are social economic. The United Kingdom is -- eh... small country

T: You still need these small countries. ~~You~~ You can be sure now that for a long time international markets are available to you.

R: Our allies support us, whether they like it or not

T: I, I do not understand what you mean...

R: In case of a conflict we will launch missiles at our allies to make sure that the Sowjet Union stays inside its borders.

T: You mean Germany?

R: Mrs Thatcher, if any country endangers our position, we can bomb the " problem-area " to eliminate the instability.

T: Beg your pardon...

R: It will convince the Soviets to listen. We demonstrate our force with it. The Soviets do need little stimulation to attack..

T: Our British Nation....

R: London!....

T: What...

R: If it is only clear to you



Dear Sir,

Herewith I send you a taped telephone conversation between Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan. The conversation took place during the Falkland war. Enclosed you also find a translation of this conversation.

I hope that you will appreciate that, in view of the way I got hold of the tape in question, it would not be sensible for me to give you my name. I regret I have to remain anonymous.

Details of this taped telephone conversation between Thatcher and Reagan have ~~since~~ <sup>after</sup> the Falkland war been confirmed by journalists and several British Members of Parliament. Among others: Tam Dalyal M.P.; Paul Foot (Daily Mirror); Duncan Campbell (City Limits); Duncan Campbell and others (New Statesman); John Pilger (Daily Mirror); E.P. Thompson (European Nuclear Disarmament) etc.

The telephone conversations at last confirms all their worst fears and what they knew already.

The Argentinian ship General Belgrano was probably torpedoed at the personal command of Thatcher while outside the exclusion zone and while ~~being~~ moving further away from it. The sinking cost 600 lives. It should also be mentioned that this act of war took place when US minister Haig and both warring parties had in principle ~~agreed~~ on a cease fire, which only needed their signatures. Of course, Thatcher knew this. At the time, Reuters reported the events of the night before the sinking.

The HMS Sheffield (of the British Task Force) was not warned when Exocet missiles were approaching. The missiles hit the ship, which later sank. While this was happening the Sheffield was near the HMS Invincible (with ~~since~~ Andrew aboard), who had discovered the missiles on her radar and took action. Because the Sheffield was not informed, not only was the ship hit, but because of this there were also many more lives lost than would have been the case had the ship been on the alert. The effect however was favourable, politically speaking.

The loss united public support for the war. At the same time, the monarchy was protected. And as a result, the protests of ~~the~~ opponents of the missiles have gone unheeded since then. Other, more circumspect ~~ag~~action groups have also had less success after the Falkland war.

The "deal," which is mentioned in the telephone conversation, seems to concern the only partly armed Trident submarines, which ~~England~~ Britain buys from the U.S, and the increasing part ~~England~~ Britain is playing as launching base for American weapons.

The American ~~plans~~ nuclear plans for the E Continent of Europe are by now ~~more~~ widely known than they were, but it was not yet known how far they go.

The British press was not admitted to the war zone during the Falkland war (news teams from CBS were threatened with violence if they were to try and enter the "zone") and the facts and surmises which they nevertheless gathered, were answered with complete denials and accusations of treason.

It seems clear that the hard facts in this telephone conversation cannot be published in Britain because of pressure by the British government. This will only be possible if they appear in the foreign press first.

After the Falkland war, Argentina has rearmed (partly with money borrowed from the EEC, including £ 100 million from Britain). Argentina now has the right weapons to attack ships, for example. Most of the British ships were hit by bombs which ~~did~~ did not explode, because they were only suitable for targets on land.



If the Argentines ~~will~~<sup>are</sup> not ~~be~~ encouraged by the British government to reach a proper agreement, they will attack the British on the Falklands again. And it seems likely that Thatcher then will attack the ~~continent of Argentina~~ mainland of Argentina, causing a "total" war in Latin America. It is also on the cards that a conflict between America and the USSR will follow ( Argentina is of vital interest to the USSR as grain producer).

If this information is made public on the Continent and later in Britain before the elections - together with publication of the telephone conversation, which was procured from a source in British Telecom - then there is the possibility of a public debate. And that could lead to a diplomatic treaty, internationally controlled, between Britain and Argentina. However, if this does not happen before the coming election, there is every chance that such a treaty will never be signed - with terrible results for world peace. ~~Therefore~~ THEREFORE PLEASE PUBLISH THIS STORY.