

From: George Foulkes, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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21st December 1984

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing St.,  
London S.W.1

Dear Prime Minister,

While you are considering your reply to my letter of 13th December could I ask another question?

Lord Lewin has stated in his evidence to the Select Committee that Northwood was not aware of Conqueror's sighting of the Belgrano until midnight on 1st May. Much of his subsequent evidence was based on this assertion.

It now appears from parliamentary answers this week that Northwood was informed on the afternoon of 1st May.

Either Lord Lewin was misleading the Committee (whether deliberately or as a result of a faulty memory), or Northwood did not bother telling him that the Belgrano had been sighted.

If the latter is true and if indeed the Belgrano posed a threat to the Task Force, do you not consider it scandalous that Lord Lewin was not told of the threat until at least 15 hours later?

Since the information reached Northwood in the afternoon and not the middle of the night, as Lord Lewin had claimed, there was clearly enough time and opportunity to brief the mandarins committee and assemble the War Cabinet.

Have you been aware of these discrepancies? Do you still maintain full political control? And can you still claim that "in every important respect the Government and military machines worked extremely well during the crisis."

I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

*Eric Salama*  
George Foulkes MP

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(Dictated by Mr Foulkes and signed in his absence)