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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 February, 1985



Dear Charles,

yes and

Prime Minister
Agree these
instructions?
CDP 10/2

Relations with Argentina

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You will have seen from Berne telegram numbers 48, 49 and 52 (copies enclosed) that the Argentines made, and then promptly withdrew, a proposal that a so-called fortuitous meeting should be contrived between Lady Young and an Argentine representative at the Presidential inauguration ceremonies in Montevideo on 1 March. Berne telegram number 49 also reported that the Argentines had taken exception to one sentence in our message of 25 January (which the Swiss had belatedly transmitted a few days before). The sentence in question was as follows:-

"Moreover, the absence of normal economic and commercial relations with Britain must inevitably hamper the development of broader cooperation between Argentina and the European Community".

Sir Geoffrey Howe considers that it would be right to pass a message back to the Swiss, and through them to the Argentines, making our position plain that we do not want any meeting arranged between Lady Young and an Argentine representative in Montevideo. Even though the Argentines have withdrawn the suggestion, there will be a danger of ambiguity unless we spell out our position, given the Swiss offer to arrange an introduction if desired. For the same reason of wishing to avoid ambiguity, Lady Young would prefer to decline an offer by the Swiss Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Keusch, to brief her about the Argentine position while she is in Montevideo.

I enclose a telegram of instructions to HM Ambassador Berne. This also corrects the misunderstanding of the sentence quoted above from the 25 January message.

P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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