



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 December 1982

Paul Muntz

JH

23/12

Dear John,

Papua New Guinea was one of the countries sent a message of encouragement from the Prime Minister during the run-up to the United Nations General Assembly vote in November on the Argentine-inspired draft Resolution on the Falkland Islands. In the event PNG was one of the eleven countries to join us in voting against the Resolution.

Mr Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, asked through our High Commission in Port Moresby for his reply to be passed to the Prime Minister. This message (text attached) took a long time to make its way here from the Pacific, but the general points Mr Somare makes on Papua New Guinea's position are still relevant. Our High Commissioner in Port Moresby has already thanked Mr Somare for PNG's 'No' vote, on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



MESSAGE FROM MR MICHAEL SOMARE, PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TO THE PRIME MINISTER

My Dear Prime Minister,

Papua New Guinea regards the Argentinian military invasion of the Falkland Islands in April this year as a serious act of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of another sovereign state. Papua New Guinea has opposed Argentina's actions and will continue to maintain this position. On this basis, Papua New Guinea will not lend its support to the draft Resolution to be introduced by Argentina at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly.

However, Papua New Guinea will continue to support initiatives by the United Nations and other international organisations to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Falkland Islands dispute.

Yours sincerely,

Michael T Somare
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea