



Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 January 1983

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO  
CABINET OFFICE

*My dear Robert,*

THE FRANKS REPORT

1. Robin Butler copied to me his minute to you of 4 January on the conclusions reached at the Chequers meeting on the handling of the Franks Report. I have now also seen your letter to me of 6 January about the group being set up under David Goodall's leadership to list the criticisms, comments and suggestions in the Franks Report and to prepare a reasoned commentary. I confirm that Patrick Wright and Robin Fearn will represent the FCO. I am also arranging for the preparation of the historical note on earlier enquiries for which the Prime Minister has asked.

2. One point in Robin Butler's minute which causes me concern is the proposal that we only tell the US Administration more or less simultaneously with the Report's publication here, of those parts of it which relate to US actions and attitudes before the invasion. The Report gives a detailed account of our confidential exchanges with the Americans and is at least implicitly critical of the position taken by the US Administration. It would, I think, be discourteous and could cause unnecessary problems to give the Americans no advance warning of the Report's contents. It would be preferable for our Ambassador to be able to inform them, under appropriate conditions of confidentiality, at least 24 hours before the Report is issued. *Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(4).*  
*Or Wayland, 7 February 2013*  
Perhaps you would consider this.

3. I also think that arrangements should in principle be made for the Civil Commissioner in Port Stanley to receive a copy of the Report on (or as near as possible) to the date of publication. There are obvious problems in coordinating the timing of the Report's delivery to Sir R Hunt and problems too

/of



of confidentiality, but it should be possible for a copy to be sent by safe hand of someone travelling to Port Stanley to arrive at about the time of publication. You may think it right for the Cabinet Office to look into the mechanics with the Ministry of Defence.

4. Finally, I confirm that the FCO sees no need to propose any amendments to the Report, other than those which may be required by the intelligence agencies.

5. I am copying this letter to Clive Whitmore and Robin Butler.

*Yours ever*  
*Antony*

Antony Acland

PS. I'm already have in mind the factual correction to the membership of the JIC (para 14 of Annex B).