



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

You may like to see the instruction Mr. Lynn is sending about "international solutions" to the Falklands.

24 February 1983

A.C.C. 2 1/2.

Consideration of Antarctic Treaty & U.N. Trusteeship - the note we note strongly except against. They could be "Soviet"

Dear John,

Falklands: Proposals for International Solutions

We have been keeping a watch on the various ideas that have surfaced recently in Parliament and in the press for multilateral or international solutions to the Falklands dispute. You may have seen that a selection of these were put to Mr Onslow when he appeared before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 21 February. Others, especially proposals based on the Antarctic Treaty, are regularly advocated in the media.

It would be helpful to send instructions to our representatives abroad, to ensure that we all speak with the same voice about these proposals. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary intends to do this on the lines of the enclosed draft guidance telegram. You may like a chance to comment before it issues.

I am copying this to Richard Mottram (MOD) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby ROUTINE
ZCZC	↓		
GRS	1	ZCZC	
CLASS	2	GRS	
CAVEATS	3		
DESKBY	4		
FM FCO	5		
PRE/ADD	6	FM FCO	
TEL NO	7	TO ROUTINE CERTAIN MISSIONS	
	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	AND TO SAVING CERTAIN OTHER MISSIONS	
	10	FUTURE OF THE FALKLANDS: PROPOSALS FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS	
	11	1. A range of ideas have for some months been canvassed in the	
	12	press and in Parliament for quote internationalising unquote	
	13	the Falklands dispute. The visit of the House of Commons Foreign	
	14	Affairs Committee (FAC) to the Falklands recently has stirred up	
	15	further interest. Mr Onslow was asked about possible	
	16	multilateral solutions when he appeared before the FAC on	
	17	21 February. Among the formulae advocated are:	
	18	(a) extension of the Antarctic Treaty Area to include the	
	19	Falklands and Dependencies;	
	20	(b) the Islands to be put under UN Trusteeship;	
	21	(c) international collaboration, based on the Falklands, to	
///	22	explore and exploit energy resources in the area;	
//	23	(d) international environmental/scientific/wild-life programmes	
/	24	on the Falklands;	
	25	(e) appointment of a High Commissioner for the South Atlantic	
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		with	
		File number	Dept
		Distribution	
		Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY	
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		Comcen reference	Time of despatch

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CONFIDENTIAL

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 2 with a mandate to work for a broad international solution.
 3 LINE TO TAKE
 4 2. You should not take the initiative in raising these topics.
 5 If questioned about them, you should acknowledge that the great
 6 majority of those promoting the schemes are doing so with the
 7 best of intentions, and say we are taking careful note of all of
 8 them. But you should emphasise that proposals for international
 9 multilateral solutions have to take full account of the wishes
 10 and the future security of the Islanders. I have said many times,
 11 eg in the debate on the Franks Report on 26 January, that it must
 12 in the longer term be in the Islanders' interests to be enabled
 13 to live in a peaceful and beneficial relationship with the main-
 14 land, but at present the conditions for this do not exist.
 15 Argentina is unrepentant, and continues to demand nothing less
 16 than the early transfer of sovereignty. Argentina's domestic
 17 political situation is evolving uncertainly. Above all, as I
 18 said in the House on the same occasion, the scars of war are
 19 still too fresh. So, as the Prime Minister said in winding up
 20 the debate on 26 January quote it is obviously premature for
 21 either the Islanders or ourselves to speculate, as has been done
 22 both in the House and in the media, about specific policies for
 23 the long-term future. unquote.
 24 3. A report by the Port Stanley correspondent of the Daily
 25 Telegraph on 9 February, headlined quote Plan for shared
 26 responsibilities for Falklands unquote, suggested that the
 27 Foreign Affairs Committee had, during their visit to the Falklands,
 28 been given the impression that the Islanders were interested in
 29 discussing some of the plans for quote internationalisation unquote.
 30 If this is raised, you may tell trusted contacts that the Civil
 31 Commissioner has reported that Islander witnesses appearing before
 32 the Foreign Affairs Committee did not repeat not welcome
 33 suggestions that their position should be internationalised.
 34 4. If you are pressed on individual proposals, please draw

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 2 selectively on the following:
 3 (a) Extension of the Antarctic Treaty
 4 ~~This has the superficial attraction of freezing questions of~~
 5 ~~territorial sovereignty.~~ But extension of the Treaty Area to
 6 include the Islands would require the unanimous consent of all
 7 14 consultative parties. This would give not only Argentina
 8 but also the Soviet Union the right to establish scientific
 9 stations on sites of their choosing and to man them with
 10 military (though unarmed) personnel if they wished. The Treaty
 11 is geared to territory where there is no permanent population.
 12 Direct application of its provisions would not meet the
 13 situation of the Falkland Islanders. The Antarctic Treaty is a
 14 carefully constructed and specialised instrument of great
 15 value, but it was not designed to meet situations such as the
 16 Falklands dispute and it would be wrong to risk de-stabilising
 17 its regime.
 18 (b) UN Trusteeship
 19 The UN accepts that Britain is the sole administering authority
 20 for the Falklands. As such, and in fulfilment of our
 21 responsibilities under Article 73 of the Charter, we have made
 22 it clear that we shall not allow any constitutional arrangements
 23 to be imposed on the Islanders against their wishes. They are
 24 all too well aware that Argentina would be likely to wish to
 25 play a significant role in a Trusteeship arrangement:
 26 Mr Onslow emphasised to the Foreign Affairs Committee on
 27 21 February the difficulty of obtaining Islander agreement in
 28 these circumstances.
 29 5. Other proposals more vaguely formulated than 4(a) and (b)
 30 above also come up against the twin obstacles that they must be
 31 acceptable to the Islanders and that they would only work
 32 satisfactorily with full Argentine co-operation. The process
 33 of consultation with the Islanders about their future is still
 34 in its early stages and it would be wrong to rush them. For

*Soviet
power?*

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the moment, their views about their relations with, respectively,

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Britain and Argentina are abundantly and understandably clear.

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In considering various ideas such as those listed above, the

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Islanders will naturally look in the first place for

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reassurances against further Argentine aggression. Argentina

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has not even declared a formal cessation of hostilities, let

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alone renounced the future use of force: none of the proposals

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can be regarded as practical without a fundamental change of

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heart by Argentina.

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