



Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

Dear Jane

12 July 1983

TAM DALYELL AND THE GENERAL BELGRANO

We spoke last week about Mr Dalyell's use of Business Questions on 31 May to pursue with the Lord Privy Seal his interest in the sinking of the Belgrano. You kindly sent us some briefing on this question.

In the event, Mr Dalyell did not revert to his previous line but adopted a new tack when he raised the subject again with the Lord Privy Seal on 7 July (col 417). Mr Biffen undertook to be in touch. We have, therefore, prepared the attached draft reply to Mr Dalyell which I think reflects the tenor of your Department's advice. I should be glad to know if you and John Holmes, to whom I am copying this letter, are content.

A copy of this letter goes also to Willie Rickett for information.

yours ever
N P M Huxtable

N P M Huxtable
Private Secretary

Jane Ridley
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE LORD PRIVY SEAL TO TAM DALYELL MP

You raised during Business Questions last Thursday a number of points concerning the sinking of the 'General Belgrano' which you first put to me in the course of Business Questions the preceding week.

I have now had an opportunity to draw your remarks to the attention of the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary. They consider that the matters raised by you have been dealt with pretty well exhaustively in the House, largely in response to Questions and Debates which you have yourself generated. I do not think, therefore, that there is anything I can usefully add to what was said by Cranley Onslow in the course of the Adjournment Debate on 12 May and by Peter Blaker in reply to your Written Question on 29 November last year.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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13th July 1983

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JBL*

Dear Nick

TAM DALYELL AND THE GENERAL BELGRANO

Thank you for your letter to Jane Ridley of 12th July, attaching the draft of your proposed reply to Mr Tam Dalyell, concerning the points raised during Business Questions on 7th July.

We are perfectly content for you to reply as drafted, and I am sending a copy of this letter to Willie Rickett and John Holmes.

Yours Sincerely.

Harry Kentish

(H KENTISH)
Parliamentary Clerk

N P M Huxtable Esq

Argentina relations

* JUL 1983

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