

Prime Minister



To note how the F/C.O. prepare to handle the Falklands debate at this year's UNGA.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

A.D.C. 27/7

27 July 1983

I hope the U.S. will note vote in favour of such a resolution while with the F.S. and are not there.

Dear John,

Falklands Debate at the Next General Assembly

The Argentines have begun their preparations for the next round in the United Nations General Assembly. The Italians have given us the text of a draft resolution they have received from the Argentines. I enclose a copy.

Apart from the seventh preambular paragraph the draft is a minimal updating of last year's resolution, of which I also enclose a copy for comparison. It takes note of the report the Secretary-General will have presented as mandated by the Assembly, regrets the absence of any progress and calls upon him to continue his mission.

The minimum Argentine aim will be to achieve at least the 90 votes they got last year and preferably to register a significant increase. While they must have been tempted to go for a tougher resolution more directly critical of our refusal to negotiate they have evidently recognised that this could cost them support and have set their sights quite low. We shall need to be on the watch for a switch to tougher tactics at a later stage but this seems unlikely now that they have begun to show the text around.

We must recognise that, with the further lapse of time since the Argentine use of force, a number of the countries who were willing to abstain last year are likely to be inclined to vote in favour of what will be seen as a comparatively moderate draft and some of those who cast negative votes will shift to abstentions. Argentina will no doubt try to attract more non-aligned support by representing the construction of the airfield as a NATO ploy and the use of Cape Town by the contractors as evidence of some sinister understanding with South Africa. We have briefed posts to deal with any such propaganda; to continue to put over our position on negotiations; and to explain that the possible advent of a democratic government in Argentina does not of itself portend any change of heart about the future of the Islands or any greater respect for the wishes of the Islanders. In general the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

/thinks





thinks that we should work hard to secure the best result possible, without appearing to attach excessive importance to these votes at the United Nations, which are likely to be an annual event for many years to come.

The most disappointing feature of last year's vote was of course the American decision to vote in favour. For broad reasons of policy towards Latin America, the Americans are likely to want to do the same this year and it would indeed be difficult for them to shift their position on a text similar to last year's. When the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary raised the matter with Mr Shultz on 14 July, he referred to its sensitivity for the United States and would say only that the US would consult us closely and would do nothing we did not know about in advance. Sir Geoffrey Howe thinks that it is important not to use up credit with the Americans unproductively, but believes that we should press them hard to ensure that they do not vote for anything worse than last year. Such pressure could cause the Americans to secure the removal of the present seventh preambular paragraph. We could also point out that the expression of regret at the lack of progress so far is in effect a criticism of us and that American support for it would be inconsistent with their assurance to us last year that they did not favour the setting of a timetable for negotiations.

We shall also need to work hard on our European partners who continue to be worried about their relations with Latin America. We are urging them to take the line with the Latin Americans that as a matter of principle they cannot be expected to vote diametrically opposite to us (though one partner, Greece, of course did so last year). It would be a major setback for us in UN terms if we lost the European votes, and would give much more comfort to Argentina than the acquisition of some extra Third World support. We are asking Community posts to take all appropriate opportunities to remind our partners that we rely on them to stand firm.

We shall as usual be pressed by our partners to say how we see the way ahead. We shall emphasise our willingness to normalise relations, our responsible attitude in the IMF, etc. On the dispute itself, we propose to continue to emphasise that what is needed is a complete change of heart in Argentina, which positive votes for the Argentine draft resolution at the UN can only set back; and to draw attention to the failure of Argentina to accept a cessation of hostilities, renounce the use of force or accept the rights of the Islanders, as well as to continuing bellicose Argentine statements. We shall of course avoid suggesting that there are any circumstances in

/which we

*Remind me  
of the  
points  
over  
Argente*





which we would be prepared to negotiate sovereignty. Where it is likely to be productive (which is more likely to be in the Third World than in Europe) we shall emphasise that Argentina needs to accept the applicability of the principle of self-determination.

*You ever*  
*John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



*Imp  
Argentina*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 August 1983

FALKLANDS DEBATE AT THE NEXT GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

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Thank you for your letter of 27 July about the Falklands Debate at the next General Assembly. The Prime Minister has noted the position and has commented that she hopes that the United States will not vote in favour of the Argentine draft resolution while either the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary or she is there.

*B.F.1*  
Mrs. Thatcher has also asked to be reminded of the position on Mayotte and I should be grateful if you could provide a note on this.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),  
Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible  
with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling its Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065  
(XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,  
31/49 of 1 December 1976 and 37/9 of 4 November 1983,

Recalling also Security Council Resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April  
1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Having received the report of the Secretary-General on his  
mission of good offices,

Regretting the lack of progress in the implementation of General  
Assembly Resolution 37/9,

Aware of the interest of the international community in that  
the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland resume their negotiations in order  
to find as soon as possible a peaceful and just solution to the  
sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland  
Islands (Malvinas), thereby eradicating a cause for grave  
concern to the Latin American region,

Taking into account the existence of a de facto cessation of  
hostilities in the South Atlantic and the expressed intention  
of the parties not to renew them,

Reaffirming also the principles of the Charter of the United  
Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in inter-  
national relations and the peaceful settlement of international  
disputes,

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the  
interests of the population of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)  
in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly Resolutions  
2065 (XX) and 3160 (XXVIII):

1. Reiterates its request to the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);
2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 37/9;
3. Requests the Secretary-General on the basis of the present resolution to continue his renewed mission of good offices in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made in paragraph 1 above and to take necessary measures to that end;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled 'Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)'.





General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/RES/37/9  
9 November 1982

Thirty-seventh session  
Agenda item 135

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/37/L.3/Rev.1)]

37/9. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 and 31/49 of 1 December 1976,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Taking into account the existence of a de facto cessation of hostilities in the South Atlantic and the expressed intention of the parties not to renew them,

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX) and 3160 (XXVIII),

Reaffirming also the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

1. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

2. Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of the present resolution, to undertake a renewed mission of good offices in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made in paragraph 1 above and to take the necessary measures to that end;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

55th plenary meeting  
4 November 1982



27 JUL 1988

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