



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 November, 1983

Mr. Butler.

A. J. C. "u".

Dear John,

Robin Butler wrote on 3 November to Brian Fall about the Lord Mayor of London's offer to pass on a message from HMG to his Argentine business partner Sr Alfredo Spilsinger, who had told the Lord Mayor that he expected to be appointed Argentina's Foreign Minister under Sr Alfonsin's Presidency.

We had not seen any other indication that Sr Spilsinger was a candidate for the Argentine Foreign Ministry: today's press confirms that Sr Dante Caputo has now been appointed. But we could use this contact as one further opportunity to dampen any exaggerated expectations that we might now be more prepared to enter into negotiations about sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

We do not believe that this should be done by means of a formal message. We must avoid giving the impression that we are anxious to enter in to a political dialogue through this channel and we hope the Lord Mayor will be careful to explain that he is not acting as an intermediary in this sense. We would much prefer him to re-state HMG's views following the Argentine elections in terms Ministers have already used, making it clear to Sr Spilsinger that this was all he could expect.

We therefore suggest that the Lord Mayor might reply along the following lines. The Prime Minister said in the House of Commons on 1 November that we are always pleased when a country returns to democracy. She hoped that Argentina would now be prepared to consider better economic and commercial relations with Britain. As to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, the touchstone should be the wishes of the Islanders, who had made clear their view that they should remain British. The Prime Minister reiterated these themes in her interview published in the Daily Mail of 7 November in which she said:-

'If democracy means self-determination in your country, then you ought to recognise it extends to other countries too'.

She added:

'I am willing to enter into talks. We want good commercial relations, diplomatic relations. We want

/normal



normal relations. But I am not entering into talks about sovereignty'.

The Foreign Secretary said at a Press Conference in Rome on 31 October that it was the Argentine invasion of 1982 which had caused the serious rupture in our relations: to get back from the consequences of this was bound to require the passage of a considerable amount of time, starting by trying to recreate the basic foundations of good relations between our two countries.

Having quoted these remarks to Sr Spilsinger, the Lord Mayor may like to add the hope that the new rulers of Argentina will clearly understand both the sincerity of our willingness to restore normal bilateral relations, and the limitations on the range of subjects on which it is realistic to contemplate discussions.

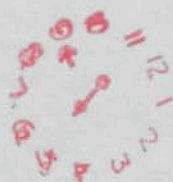
Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Argentina
Pelestrens
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NO 10
NOV 1993

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

3 November, 1983.

Dear Brian,

The Lord Mayor of London telephoned me this afternoon with the following message. The senior partner, Senor Alfredo Spilsinger, of the Buenos Aires Branch of the Lord Mayor's accountancy firm, told the Lord Mayor that, if the Radical Party won the Argentine Election, he expected to be appointed Foreign Minister. If he was so elected, he hoped to have constructive and friendly discussions with the British Government. The Lord Mayor explained that he could not speak for the British Government or act as an intermediary, but said that he would use his good offices in passing on any messages. The Lord Mayor had received a telex from Senor Spilsinger this afternoon in which he had said that he was "now in a position to talk": the Lord Mayor interpreted this message as meaning that Senor Spilsinger had been appointed Foreign Minister, but was hoping to telephone Senor Spilsinger this evening to discover the position.

The Lord Mayor emphasised to me that he was not seeking in any way to become involved in relations between HMG and Argentina, but was willing to use his good offices with Senor Spilsinger in any way helpful to HMG if that could be useful. He had been a close friend of Senor Spilsinger for many years.

I pass this on for what it is worth. The Lord Mayor had tried to speak to Sir Antony Acland, but had been unable to owing to Sir Antony's absence abroad.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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LB

Argentine: P.F. 25
MR. COLES ✓ A.S.C. 1/11.

Mr. Butler

Pl. file until Lord
Mayor returns to the
matter FERB 15.11.

I spoke to the Lord Mayor of London today in the light of Brian Fall's letter of 10 November. He told me that Senor Spilsinger had been in regular contact with him and was to be an adviser to the Argentine Government with special responsibility for the Falklands. Senor Spilsinger will be ringing the Lord Mayor again tonight and had proposed meeting him in Paris next week.

I said that I had communicated to the FCO the message which the Lord Mayor had given me previously. We agreed that the Lord Mayor should not get himself into the position of being an intermediary, but we could give him a speaking note on the British Government's position. The Lord Mayor said that he would be grateful for this. He would telephone me on Monday to let me know what Senor Spilsinger said on the telephone this evening and then perhaps call round to be briefed. If he does so, I propose to give him a speaking note on the attached lines, which are drawn from Brian Fall's letter.

FERB

11 November 1983

E.P.
SPEAKING NOTE FOR THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON IN TALKING TO
SENOR SPILSINGER

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"If democracy means self-determination in your country, then you ought to recognise it extends to other countries too".

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