

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 November, 1983

Dear Javid,

Falklands: Sir Nicholas Henderson's Article in the Economist

Thank you for your letter of 16 November about the question which Mr Tam Dalyell intends to raise with the Leader of the House at Business Questions today.

I enclose a suggested Line to Take which refers to the Written Answer by the Prime Minister to Mr Dalyell on the same subject yesterday.

As background I enclose a copy of the relevant Hansard extract—and the background note submitted to the Prime Minister with this reply, In addition I enclose a copy of the Report of the Committee of Privy Counsellors on Ministerial Memoirs. This includes the conclusion (Part IV, paragraph 92 (page 32)) that ''... a former public servant should be under just the same obligation as a former Minister to submit his manuscript to scrutiny ...''. If Mr Dalyell presses further, it is open to us to confirm that Sir Nicholas Henderson did indeed submit his manuscript. For the moment, we see no need to go beyond the more general formulation used by the Prime Minister in her Answer yesterday.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher (No 10), Richard Mottram (MOD) and to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

Your sincreh, Petr Ridalts

(P F Ricketts) Private Secretary

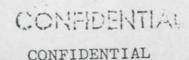
D C R Heyhoe Esq Privy Council Office Whitehall

''USE THAT MAY BE MADE BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS OF DIPLOMATIC TELEGRAMS AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTS' Line to Take I take it that the hon Member's interest in this matter stems from the article in the Economist of 12 November by Sir Nicholas Henderson, the former British Ambassador in Washington. As my right hon Friend the Prime Minister told the hon Member in a written reply yesterday, Sir Nicholas acted A in accordance with normal procedures in consulting officials about certain points reflecting material to which he had access during his time as Ambassador in Washington. I therefore see no need to discuss the matter further. 3.

## BACKGROUND NOTE

- 1. A copy of Sir N Henderson's article is attached, together with the line to take in answer to press enquiries agreed last week between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence.
- 2. Mr Dalyell's interest is entirely predictable. Sir N Henderson's article provides a number of detailed glosses on events whose main outline was already well known. The account of events in Lima on 1-3 May 1982 accords with material prepared for contingency use by Ministers, but not previously deployed in full.
- 3. There is a passage on page 56 (sidelined) in which Sir N Henderson's information could be said to derive from intelligence sources. This can be countered by referring to Admiral Woodward's remarks in the preceding paragraph, making the point that a 'pincer movement' against the Task Force was expected.
- 4. The proposed reply takes into account the requirement for retired officials to consult the Permanent Under Secretary before publishing material deriving from knowledge or experience gained as a result of their official duties. It would not be normal practice to confirm or deny that 'authority' had been given for such publication: if appropriate, the expression that there had been 'no official objection to publication' could be used, although it does not (yet) appear to be necessary in the present instance.

Falkland Islands Department 15 November 1983



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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2AT

16 November, 1983

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FALKLANDS: SIR NICHOLAS HENDERSON'S ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST

Mr Tam Dalyell telephoned me at lunch-time today to give notice of his intention to raise with the Leader of the House at Business Questions tomorrow afternoon, with reference to Sir Nicholas Henderson's article in The Economist of 12 November (pp 49-60), 'the use that may be made by former civil servants of diplomatic telegrams and intelligence reports'.

Mr Biffen would be very grateful if you could provide him, by midday tomorrow, with a line to take which he might use in reply to Mr Dalyell.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher (Number Ten), Richard Mottram (MOD) and to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

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Junia

D C R HEYHOE Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts Esq., Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary