



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December, 1983

Dear John,

F-a. A-d C. 13/12.

Argentina: Reply to the Prime Minister's Message

You will have seen our telegram no 139 to Berne, confirming that the text of President Alfonsin's reply to the Prime Minister's message had been received here, and that its terms were those carried in several of Sunday's newspapers.

I now enclose for the record a copy of the Note from the Brazilian Embassy delivered late on Sunday which formally transmits the message, together with an unofficial translation of President Alfonsin's words.

File -
date order.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CÓPIA.

de Morte
afa T207AC/83

Nº 128/921.5 (B29) (F27)

The Ambassador of Brazil presents his compliments to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and, at the request and on behalf of the Argentine Government has the honour to transcribe hereunder a message from His Excellency Señor Raul Alfonsin, President of the Argentine Republic to the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher:

"Agradezco sus expresiones referentes al restablecimiento de instituciones democráticas en Argentina. Coincido con su apreciación sobre la existencia de diferencias entre la Argentina y el Reino Unido. A este respecto seria útil recordar un viejo proverbio inglés: 'Where there's a will there's a way'.

Raul Alfonsin
Buenos Aires, 9 de diciembre de 1983."

An unofficial translation is attached.

The Ambassador of Brazil avails himself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretary of State the assurances of his highest consideration.

London, December 11th, 1983.



Filed in
date order
9/12/85

CÓPIA.

SERVIÇO NO EXTERIOR

Subst

cc Mark
ops

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 207 AC/83

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

"I thank you for your words regarding the restoration of democratic institutions in Argentina. I agree with your appreciation on the existence of differences between Argentina and the United Kingdom. In this respect it would be worthwhile mentioning the old English proverb: 'Where there's a will there's a way.'

Raul Alfonsin

Buenos Aires, 9 de diciembre de 1983."



Argentine file

10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

EMBARGO: NOT FOR BROADCAST, PUBLICATION OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 17.00 HOURS GNT, SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 1983 (12.00 HOURS BUENOS AIRES TIME)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT ALFONSIN OF ARGENTINA

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP, has sent the following personal message to President Raul Alfonsin, who will be inaugurated in Buenos Aires today, 10 December, 1983.

"On the occasion of your inauguration I wanted to let you know that, although we have many differences, we can all take pleasure in the restoration of democracy to Argentina, believing it will bring freedom and justice to all your people. Today brings new hope to your country."

The following text is also being presented today to the new Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Dante Caputo.

"Following the general elections in Argentina the British Government issued a formal statement, and the Prime Minister has commented on the outcome of the elections, both in the House of Commons and in an important newspaper interview. Reference has been made to these statements in the Argentine press. It may, nonetheless, be helpful for the new Government of Argentina to have the precise texts of these."

/On

On 31 October 1982 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued the following statement about the Argentine elections:

'We welcome this step towards the restoration of democracy in Argentina. We hope that the new Government will be more inclined to respond positively to the ideas we have put forward to secure the restoration of normal relations between our two countries. This is the only realistic way towards the restoration of confidence between us.'

Answering a question about the elections in Parliament on 1 November, Mrs Thatcher said, 'We are always pleased when a country returns to democracy. There can be no question about that. I hope that, now that that country has returned to democratic ways, it will be prepared to consider better economic and commercial relations between itself and Britain.'

Mrs Thatcher also said in her newspaper interview published in the Daily Mail on 7 November 1983, 'I am willing to enter into talks. We want good commercial relations, diplomatic relations. We want normal relations. But I am not entering into talks about sovereignty'."

9 December 1983

NOTES FOR EDITORS

These messages are being handed over by the Swiss State Secretary, Herr Probst, who is attending the inauguration ceremonies in Buenos Aires. Switzerland is acting as the protecting power for British interests in Argentina, in the absence of normal diplomatic relations (Brazil has been performing a similar role for Argentina).