



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 April 1985

FALKLANDS: BELGRANO:
REQUEST FOR FURTHER MATERIAL FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Thank you for your letter of 17 April conveying the Foreign Secretary's proposed response to the request from the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs to be provided with documents relating to the Peruvian peace proposals and the Belgrano.

The Prime Minister agrees with the way in which the Foreign Secretary proposes to handle this request. She also agrees that the Committee may be given the time for which members of OD(SA) were asked to attend the meeting at Chequers on 2 May 1982.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

(Charles Powell)

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 April 1985

Prime Minister

Dear Charles,

Yes not

Agree with the way in which the Foreign Secretary proposes to handle this?

Falklands: Belgrano: Request for Further Material from the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs

COP 17/4

The Select Committee on Foreign Affairs have asked the Foreign Secretary to provide them with FCO documents relating to the Peruvian peace proposals and the Belgrano. I enclose a copy of the letter of 1 April in which the Clerk to the FAC puts this request.

Sir Geoffrey Howe does not think it would be right to provide the FAC with copies of any of the documents they request. All but one of the FCO telegrams, etc, in question form part of the "Crown Jewels". You will remember from Richard Mottram's letter of 1 March to you about the meeting with the FAC in the Ministry of Defence that it was envisaged that this would represent the sole access which the Committee would be allowed to the documents. Sir Geoffrey Howe sees no merit in going back on this firm and precise arrangement.

The Foreign Secretary is however prepared to send the Committee a brief unclassified Memorandum reiterating the timings and the essential points in telegrams from Lima and Washington on 2 May 1982, in the terms in which these have already been given in evidence to the Committee themselves, and in both Houses of Parliament. I enclose a copy of our draft.

We also believe that, subject to the Prime Minister's views, there need be no objection to giving the Committee the time - 12 noon - for which members of OD(SA) and Sir Antony Acland were asked to attend the meeting at Chequers on 2 May 1982. The time of the decision at that meeting to change the Rules of Engagement - 1 p.m. - has already been given by the Prime Minister in the enclosure to her letter of 19 September 1984 to Mr George Foulkes MP.

I am copying this letter and enclosures to Richard Mottram in the MOD.

Y ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM

EVENTS OF 2 MAY 1982: TELEGRAMS FROM HM EMBASSY, LIMA AND
HM EMBASSY, WASHINGTON

I Lima

- a) At 1830 (Peruvian time) on 2 May, the Peruvian Foreign Minister called in HM Ambassador. He told him that after their conversation the previous day - at which Dr Arias Stella gave no indication to Mr Wallace that the Peruvians had formulated specific proposals, or conveyed them to either the Americans or the Argentines - President Belaunde had decided to make a further attempt to bring about the withdrawal of the Argentine troops from the Falklands. A 7-point formulation had eventually been worked out with Mr Haig. Mr Wallace told the Committee about this conversation, and his reporting of it, when he gave evidence to them on 14 November 1984. His telegram reporting it was sent at 2003 hours Peruvian time, ie 0103 hours, 3 May, GMT.
- b) As Mr Wallace also explained in detail to the Committee on 14 November, he heard on his car radio, on his way to his appointment with Dr Arias Stella, part of the broadcast of the press conference at which the Peruvian President announced at 1800 local time on 2 May that a 7-point plan had been drawn up which the Argentines were considering. His staff

/heard

heard the entire broadcast, and the Embassy despatched the telegram reporting the press conference at 2044 local time on 2 May ie 0144 GMT on 3 May.

II Washington

- a) Mr Francis Pym had conversations with Mr Haig in Washington on 2 May 1982, in the morning (Washington time). As Mr Pym told the Committee on 11 June 1984, the subjects discussed had included 'the outline of a possible future proposal'; he added that Mr Haig had himself said on more than one occasion in the course of 2 May that these proposals needed further work and clarification. Lady Young confirmed to the Committee on 20 June 1984 the timing of the despatch of the telegram from Washington reporting the outline of the Peruvian proposals, ie 1715 Washington time (2215 GMT).
- b) At 1730 local time (2230 GMT) HM Ambassador in Washington sent a further telegram. Mr Cranley Onslow told the House of Commons on 13 May 1983 that HM Ambassador reported in this that he had reminded Mr Haig that Mr Pym had not yet consulted London about the proposals. Sir Nicholas Henderson said in his article in the Economist on 12 November 1983 that Mr Pym asked him to put it to Mr Haig that 'what had been put forward so far seemed only vague and indeterminate and provided no basis on which to do business'.

/III.

III. The Belgrano was sunk at 1900 GMT on 2 May 1982.

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