

DRAFT: minute/letter/teletype/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Secretary of State

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Sig Emilio Colombo
Foreign Minister
ROME

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I should like to thank you for your letter of 16 June and for the sentiments of solidarity with the United Kingdom which you express in it. I am also grateful to you for your readiness to seek to influence the Argentine government to relinquish, once and for all, the path of aggression.

We welcomed the opportunity at the meeting of Political Directors on 14 June to discuss with our European colleagues the next steps, following our repossession of the Falklands Islands. We noted the view of some of those present that negotiations should be resumed between the United Kingdom and Argentina. However, this view was not supported by all. For our part, our future policy must take account of Argentina's unwillingness to negotiate seriously in the first phase of the crisis, ~~and~~ of the great sacrifices which our forces ^{have} had to make

in order to counter Argentina's unprovoked aggression. Vital principles are at stake and it is politically unthinkable ^{to allow} for Argentina now to reap

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to accept fact that
as well as
Enclosures—flag(s).....

reward of a unilateral attempt to establish Argentine rule by force against the clearly expressed wishes of the Islanders. The British government cannot now sit down to resume negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands as though nothing had happened.

Argentina still shows no sign of recognising its error in invading the Islands. Indeed the Junta refuses to renounce further hostilities in pursuit of its claim. However, it remains our earnest hope that, in response to the representations of the British government and many other governments at our request, the Argentine government will confirm that they regard all hostilities in the South Atlantic as at an end. Such a statement on their part would pave the way to a gradual resumption of more normal relations, which must be our objective as soon as circumstances permit. Meanwhile I am fully conscious of the vital importance of sustaining Europe's links with Latin America as a whole. Friendly relations with the countries of the area are clearly anecessity for all our European partners, as well as for the future development of the Falkland Islands.

I look forward to the opportunity of discussing these questions further when we meet on 20-22 June for the Foreign Affairs Council.



Mr Crowe, ECD(E)

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FALKLANDS: MESSAGES TO EC PARTNERS

1. I understand that you are drafting a message to EC Foreign Ministers, which will take account of the message to the Secretary of State from Sig. Colombo. A toutes fins utiles I attach a redraft of the reply to Sig. Colombo's message which Mr Williams of the Emergency Unit drafted on 17 June. It was prepared on receipt of Mr Williams' submission.

2. WED would be grateful to see your message to Foreign Ministers in draft, if possible.

J R Young
 Western European Department
 W62A 233 4759

18 June 1982

cc. Mr Williams, Emergency Unit
 Mr Wood