

CONFIDENTIAL 2



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

SUBJECT.

Prime Minister

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
The Hon. Sir Victor Garland, KBE

29 October 1982

Excellent
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29/10

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No: T 201/82

Joe Boniehurst

A telegram from my Prime Minister asks me to convey to you the following text of a letter, the original of which is en route by diplomatic bag:

se. transfer set
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Begins -

"My dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October asking for Australia's support in the vote on the Argentine Resolution on the Falklands.

My Government has carefully considered your letter. I am pleased to be able to say that Australia continues to support Britain in this matter, and will abstain in the vote on the Argentine Resolution.

We would be happy for you to refer to our position in representations your Government may make to others on this matter.

With all good wishes,

Malcolm Fraser."

Ends.

Signature of Sir Casey
Signature of R.V. Garland

R.V. GARLAND

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

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File

D89

Argentina



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 October 1982

BF

I attach a copy of a message from the Australian Prime Minister in response to her letter of 29 October seeking Australia's support at the United Nations debate on the Falklands. I assume that no reply is required, but should you consider one necessary, I should be grateful if you could provide a draft.

Timothy Flesher

John Holmes Esq
Commonwealth Office.

ko



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 October 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of today's date in which you conveyed the text of a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia to Mrs. Thatcher.

I will ensure that this is placed before the Prime Minister on her return from Bonn this evening.

Timothy Flesher

The Hon. Sir Victor Garland, K.B.E.

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GRS 335

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FM CANBERRA 010545Z OCT 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 424 OF 1 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

*I am
embarrassed - can't
do any thing
with
France?*

FALKLANDS AT THE UN

1. WE ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION ON NEGOTIATION WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE FALKLANDS UNLESS WE CAN SPELL OUT TO THEM WITH UTMOST CLARITY THE REASONS FOR OUR POSITION.

2. THIS MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED IN TERMS TO MR PATRICK WRIGHT (IN CANBERRA FOR TRI-NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE MEETING) WHEN HEAD OF CHANCERY TOOK HIM YESTERDAY TO CALL ON PETER HENDERSON, PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. MR WRIGHT REHEARSED THE LOGIC OF THE BRITISH POSITION ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, STRESSING THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF OUR AGREEING TO NEGOTIATE SO SOON AFTER ARGENTINA HAD HERSELF DELIBERATELY BROKEN OFF NEGOTIATIONS AND INVADDED THE FALKLANDS. BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION WAS CLEARLY ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

4. HENDERSON REJOINED THAT COOL LOGIC WAS NOT ENOUGH. IT WAS A MATTER OF PERCEPTIONS. THE FACT OF ARGENTINE AGGRESSION HAD BEEN COMPLETELY CLEAR-CUT AS HAD AUSTRALIA'S SUBSEQUENT SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OPERATION. BUT A CALL FOR THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER. IF A RESOLUTION WERE PERCEIVED BY FAIR-MINDED AND REASONABLE PEOPLE TO BE A FAIRMINDED AND REASONABLE PROPOSAL, AND ALWAYS SUPPOSING THAT IT DID NOT CONTAIN OTHER ELEMENTS TO WHICH AUSTRALIA MIGHT TAKE EXCEPTION, SHE WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO VOTE AGAINST SUCH A RESOLUTION. WE SHOULD NOT TAKE AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR GRANTED. AUSTRALIA'S TRADE AND OTHER INTERESTS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND IN THE THIRD WORLD HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (HENDERSON ADDED, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OPERATION HAD BEEN PROJECTED AS UNANIMOUS AND TOTAL, NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES HAD BEEN LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE EXTENT OF AUSTRALIA'S EXTREMELY HELPFUL STANCE AT THE TIME) HENDERSON INDICATED FURTHER THAT IF AUSTRALIA WAS NOW ANXIOUS ABOUT BEING ASKED TO SUPPORT US ON THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, HOW MUCH MORE DIFFICULT MIGHT IT BE FOR OTHERS, LESS COMMITTED THAN SHE HAD BEEN DURING THE CONFLICT, TO GIVE US THE SUPPORT WE WERE LOOKING FOR. GRATEFUL PERSUASIVE AND EXTENSIVE SPEAKING NOTE BY TELEGRAM.

MASON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

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UNB
FID

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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ARGENTINA. JD



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 October 1982

BF

FALKLANDS AT THE UN

The Prime Minister saw Canberra telegram No. 424 over the weekend. She has expressed considerable surprise at the attitude adopted by the Permanent Secretary at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs towards the forthcoming debate on the Falklands in the UN General Assembly. Mrs. Thatcher has asked whether she can usefully take the matter up with the Australian Prime Minister. I should be grateful for early advice on this point.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1982

Prime Minister

Content to wait until nearer the
time of debate before sending personal
messages to Mr. Fraser and others?

Dear John,

Falklands at the UN

Yes on A.S.C. %.

Thank you for your letter of 4 October reporting the Prime Minister's reaction to Canberra telegram No 424.

We are grateful for the Prime Minister's offer to take the matter up with Mr Fraser. As I mentioned in my letter of 4 October, we expect to recommend that the Prime Minister send messages to certain Heads of Government, including Mr Fraser, nearer to the time of the debate on the Falklands. For the present, Mr Pym considers that we should concentrate on putting our case across to the Australians as firmly and convincingly as we can at official level. Instructions to the High Commissioner in Canberra, in reply to his telegram No 424, are issuing today. Mr Fraser will in any case be made aware of the Prime Minister's personal concern through his copy of the message we have recommended Mrs Thatcher send to the Fijian Prime Minister about the Commonwealth Regional Heads of Government meeting in Suva.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street