

Clark Hutchison MP

24 February 1977

Thank you for your letter about the Falkland Islands. I think we are all very conscious of the implications of the Rowlands talks.

John Davies had had a word with me and says that he is pressing the Foreign Office for a statement next week. One is likely on Wednesday when we can urge our case. He makes the point that it is difficult to see any worthwhile economic development in the Falkland Islands without some Argentinian involvement.

I know you will continue to keep John fully informed.

Michael Clark Hutchinson, Esq. MP

FROM: MICHAEL CLARK HUTCHISON M.P. - EDINBURGH SOUTH



22 Feb. 1977

Rt. Hon Margaret Thatcher M.P.

Dear Margaret,

I am deeply disturbed about the Falkland Islands. The Press reports about Ted Rowlands' activities there and in the Argentine are alarming. May I ask that you and our Front Bench look into the whole question and make their views very clear. You will not be alone in expressing strong views.

It seems to me, from press reports, that what Rowlands has said does not fit in with what Gordon said in the House, a few days ago. Rowlands is going much further on the sovereignty question than any previous Government spokesman has ever done. I have a notion there is arm-twisting being exercised in the local legislative Council and then in the Falklands.

I have a profound distrust of

the Foreign Office on the whole subject.

The key to the Falklandi future lies in the extension of the air field, as anyone who studies the question knows. But the F.O. is deliberately blind - to them the Falklands are a nuisance.

I do hope we can speak out for these British people. The Press are entirely on our side and are interested. I can provide massive information, if you so wish, through the UK - Falkland Islands Committee.

I have sent a similar note to John Davies but not to anyone else - except a brief word with Geoffrey Howe.

Yours Ever,

Michael

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