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SW



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 April, 1982

Falkland Islands

As you know, one of the main criticisms raised against the Government in yesterday's debate in the House of Commons was that an analysis of the Argentine press and public statements by the Government of the Argentine in the period since the present junta took office would have shown, well before the most recent events, that there was an intention to invade the Falkland Islands. The Prime Minister considers it important that this charge should be carefully examined before the next debate in the House of Commons.

I should be grateful if you could let me have, for submission to the Prime Minister on the evening of 5 April, an analysis of this kind with any comment you wish to offer. It would also be helpful if, for comparative purposes, an analysis could be provided of Argentinian Governmental and press comment at earlier periods - it may be possible to show that similar bellicose statements had been made which had not been followed by an invasion.

It was also stated in yesterday's debate that letters from Falkland Island counsellors and other Falkland Islanders in recent months provided further evidence of the likelihood of an Argentine invasion. Perhaps you could take account of this as well.

I am copying this letter to David Omand (Ministry of Defence).

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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