

SECRET

File JWP



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 April 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Prime Minister expressed some concern today that the prominence given by the media to the views of armchair strategists on the military options available to HMG could prejudice our interests since it was not inconceivable that they might alight on an option which HMG might eventually wish to select.

Mrs. Thatcher spoke to the Home Secretary about her concern and asked whether it would be possible for him to contact the BBC and ITV at a high level to explain the problems which could be caused by such speculation. The point could be made that, when the task force was about to sail, such public comment was liable to be particularly damaging. The Home Secretary undertook to take action on this matter.

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and David Omand (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

J. F. Halliday, Esq.,
Home Office.

SECRET

B