

Mr Wignall
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Argentina

POINTS TO BE MADE ABOUT TODAY'S RESIGNATIONS

1. The PM did everything possible to dissuade Lord Carrington from resigning.
2. Mr Atkins and Mr Luce felt that once Lord Carrington had decided to go they should in all honour go with him. As the PM's letter makes clear she understands their reasons of honour, respects them immensely for their action and accepts with the greatest of regret.
3. There is no question of the PM sacking or rebuking Lord Carrington.
4. Mr Nott offered to resign as a matter of honour. The PM refused to accept it. As her letter to Mr Nott makes clear the Ministry of Defence is not the Department responsible for policy towards the Falkland Islands. She considers it vital that Mr Nott continues as Secretary of State for Defence as our forces prepare for the possibility of armed action, and she says she has the fullest confidence in his ability to carry out the crucial test that lies ahead.
5. The PM is now working on the reconstruction of her Government. It is not clear when any names will be announced. We shall, of course, communicate the names when appointments have been made.



B. INGHAM
5 April 1982