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*Prime Minister 2
We will let you
have a reply.*

*lmw
7/4*

LT
BUENOS AIRES, APRIL 7TH, 1982
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER NO 10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1

DEAR PRIME MINISTER:
ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, WHICH CENTRALIZES THE CULTURAL, PHILANTHROPIC AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF NATIVE BORN BRITONS AND PEOPLES OF BRITISH DESCENT LIVING IN ARGENTINA, WHO NUMBER IN EXCESS OF 100,000 PEOPLE, WE RESPECTFULLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE DO NOT FEEL THAT OUR SITUATION HAS BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED OR TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND GREAT BRITAIN. ARGENTINA HAS ALWAYS SHOWN EVERY CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE BRITISH COMMUNITY ALLOWING IT TO RUN ITS OWN SCHOOLS, CHURCHES HOSPITALS, OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES, ETC. IN ADDITION MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY HAVE INTEGRATE THEMSELVES INTO ALL ASPECTS OF ARGENTINE LIFE, PLAYING A PROMINENT ROLE ESPECIALLY IN BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL CIRCLES. IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS WE ARE LIVING THROUGH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COMMUNITY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED AND NO ANIMOSITY HAS BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY BY THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS SITUATION AND GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE STRONG BRITISH PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA AND THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY LIVING HERE. WE PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND BLESS YOU AS A PEACEMAKER.
G. T. MURCHISON CHAIRMAN BRITISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

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8 April 1982

Argentina

I enclose a copy of the telegram which the Prime Minister has received from the British Community Council in Buenos Aires. This received some publicity in the media today.

I think it desirable that an early reply should be sent. Could you kindly let us have a draft either late today or, if that is not possible, through our Duty Clerk tomorrow. We would then arrange for the Prime Minister to see it at Chequers.

A J COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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