



10 DOWNING STREET

Be. Minister act

SUBJECT.

From the Principal Private Secretary

13 April 1982

Dear Brian,

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr. Haig telephoned the Prime Minister again at 0115 this morning.

He said that he had been in touch again with Senor Costa Mendes, who was dissembling and quibbling. On the one hand he was saying that Argentina must have sovereignty. On the other, he said that he wanted the negotiations to go on. He was plainly under a firm remit from President Galtieri.

Mr. Haig said that he had told Senor Costa Mendes that he could not go to Buenos Aires in present circumstances. He would like to sleep on it, while Senor Costa Mendes went back to President Galtieri.

The position as it had developed since he left Downing Street yesterday evening made things difficult for the United Kingdom: it would look to the press as though it had been his meeting with the Prime Minister which had given rise to the present problem. That would be wholly unfair. He therefore proposed to say to the press that he had been on the telephone to Buenos Aires that night and that complications had developed at that end. The picture was still unclear, and he hoped to have it clarified this morning.

The Prime Minister said that she agreed with the line Mr. Haig was proposing to take with the press.

He added that he thought that the outcome would be "grim". He thought that he and the Prime Minister should meet today to discuss the situation. He would at the same time show her a paper which Senor Costa Mendes had given to him as he was leaving Buenos Aires. At that time Senor Costa Mendes had described it as a paper setting out his own thoughts, but now its proposals had apparently become rigid alternative demands of the Argentine Government. The truth was that President Galtieri had created a problem, and it was now running away with him.

/The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister said that she was very ready to see Mr. Haig and they agreed that they should meet at 9 a.m. today.

The Prime Minister subsequently had a short telephone conversation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and they agreed to meet at 8.45 a.m. for a preliminary word before Mr. Haig arrived.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), David Omand (Ministry of Defence), Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*

*Alvin Kitchin.*

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.