



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1982

L-a.
 M 14
 4

Dear John,

Falklands: Commons Debate on 14 April

I enclose a draft speech for the Prime Minister which should take slightly less than twenty minutes to deliver. Mr Pym has not seen the draft. The speech is based on the assumption that the change in the Argentine position conveyed by Mr Costa Mendez to Mr Haig before lunch today will leave open the possibility of a diplomatic solution.

The draft takes account of points made by Mr Healey in the media during the weekend, in particular that the chances of a peaceful solution are increased by wise deployment of armed strength (I enclose a transcript of his interview on the World This Weekend). The draft does not mention Mr Healey's points that Argentine withdrawal might be succeeded by a UN administration and peacekeeping force or that sovereignty over the Islands is less important than the wishes of the Islanders themselves.

I am copying this letter with enclosures to the Private Secretaries to the Defence Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Baroness Young.

Yours ever

John Holmes
 (J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
 10 Downing Street

DRAFT SPEECH

1. In this time of difficulty over the Falkland Islands it was only right that the House should be recalled early to be informed of the latest developments. Honourable Members will expect to hear what action the Government are taking to achieve the objectives which were explained here last week. I hope and believe that the House will then be able to give clear support to this action.

2. ~~As I have explained to this House,~~ our objective is to see that the Islands are freed from occupation and are returned to British administration at the earliest possible moment. The Islanders must be liberated from the domination of an alien military régime, in accordance with their own wishes and with the Security Council Resolution.

3. Our strategy has been based on a combination of military, economic and diplomatic pressure. That pressure has had some influence. There have seemed at times to be signs that Argentina's leaders were very concerned at the approach of the British Task Force. And the decision of the European Community and of other countries to ban all imports from Argentina has come as a particularly severe blow to them. So has the almost universal disapproval that their action has aroused across the world.

4. From the very beginning it has been clear that the United States would have a key role to play in the search for a peaceful outcome. The closeness of understanding

between/

Objectives

A

StrategyU.S.

between Britain and America does not need to be described. But America also has good relations with Argentina. This puts her in a unique position to be helpful.

5. The American Secretary of State, Mr Haig, has now paid two visits to this country. He has undertaken a gruelling programme of shuttle diplomacy and we admire and welcome his efforts. His first visit last Thursday provided the opportunity for the Government to make clear their determination to secure Argentine withdrawal from the Falkland Islands and dependencies, by whatever means might be required. " Mr Haig took this message to Buenos Aires, where he held talks with the leaders of Argentina. // He was back in London for further talks on Easter Monday and yesterday. *On his second visit; he brought back certain ideas which involved* The discussions were long and detailed. Mr Haig presented specific ideas which took account of his earlier discussions. The Government saw substantial difficulties in parts of these proposals. Yet they seemed to provide a basis for progress in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 502. We therefore made suggestions for various alterations to the proposals. Our many hours of talks with Mr Haig on Monday were constructive. *h* At the end of the day he was prepared to return to Buenos Aires for further talks in pursuit of peace *and* // *late that evening* Argentina put forward *other proposals which gave rise to certain difficulties; when it seemed that* it seemed that these might endanger Mr Haig's efforts. But happily Mr Haig learned from Buenos Aires yesterday that *understood* the Argentine position was not exactly as had been described. [He has therefore returned to Buenos Aires and we wish him well in his further discussions with the Argentine authorities.] *Further ideas are now being considered and something like has now*

returned to Washington with a view
to be made somewhat shortly
to B.A.

~~The House will indicate~~
~~that this process~~ These discussions
are various difficult, various and
changing, ~~and difficult, to make~~.

We ~~have to~~ the more so because
they are being placed between - making
justice or a demand for the people
and one which is not prepared to
compromise that demand that they
~~submit of their statements~~ ~~initial~~ ~~papers~~
but what the initial papers required
in the meantime. We seek a content

to make a definite solution
and the House will ~~expect me~~ to be able to
revert that it would ~~rependue~~ that can
we 1 to five further details at this stage -
which ~~has been~~ ~~has been~~ ~~surrounding~~
his adherence to confidentiality.