



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 April 1982

Prime Minister

Content that this reply be
sent?

A.S.C. $\frac{17}{4}$

Yes MS

Dear John,

Falklands: Message from the British Chamber of Commerce in
Argentina

Willie Rickett wrote to Francis Richards on 15 April enclosing a telegram from the Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Argentina. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister, in the form of a telegram to the British Interests Section in Buenos Aires.

There were suggestions at an earlier stage that the Chamber of Commerce might wish to send a delegation to London to press their case in person, but so far as we are aware no firm proposal to this effect has been received.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
		UNCLASSIFIED	PRIORITY

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO 191230Z APRIL 82
PRE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION BUENOS AIRES
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
	10	IN ARGENTINA
	11	1. The Prime Minister has received a telegram from the British
	12	Chamber of Commerce in Argentina. The text is in MIFT.
	13	2. Please deliver following reply from the Prime Minister:
	14	BEGINS: Thank you for your telegram about the situation in
	15	the Falkland Islands. I am aware of the important contribution
	16	which your Chamber has made to the development of industrial,
	17	commercial and financial links between Argentina and the UK, and
	18	the major role which these have played in the development of
	19	Argentina. The British Government is, like your Chamber,
	20	concerned that the good relations which have existed between the
	21	two peoples are now at risk. However, this situation has not
///	22	been of our seeking: it has been caused by the unprovoked
//	23	aggression by the Argentine Government against the Falkland
/	24	Islands and their Dependencies.
	25	We want a peaceful solution to the present crisis. We are making

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File number	Dept	Distribution Standard SAmD Emergency Unit ERD cc: PS/No 10
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats
UNCLASSIFIED

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 2 every effort to achieve one. However this must be on the basis
 3 of the mandatory resolution passed by the Security Council of
 4 the UN, which calls for an immediate withdrawal of Argentine
 5 forces. Any intensity of feeling in Argentina on this subject
 6 is fully matched by the outrage at Argentina's invasion felt
 7 here. If the Argentine Government's attempt to impose its views
 8 by force on the people of the Falkland Islands, who have many
 9 times made quite clear their determination to remain British,
 10 were allowed to succeed, there would be the gravest consequences
 11 for peace, security and the rule of law, not only in the South
 12 Atlantic, but in the wider world also. ENDS

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OUT TELEGRAM

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TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	MIPT_ BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
	10	1. Following is text of telegram.
	11	BEGINS: The British Chamber of Commerce in the Argentine
	12	Republic (Inc) represents many and important British and
	13	Argentine companies with industrial, trading or financial
	14	interests in Argentina and the United Kingdom. Within Argentina
	15	its members employ over 10,000 persons and account for an
	16	aggregate investment of over £500 million; they are primarily
	17	responsible for generating a bilateral flow of goods and services
	18	in the order of £1,000 million per year. Ever since its
	19	foundation in 1913 the Chamber has been actively engaged in
	20	the furtherance of economic relations between the two countries.
	21	As such it has witnessed the development of a fruitful partner-
///	22	ship between Argentine and British interests. Generations of
//	23	Britons have chosen to work and live in Argentina and in many
/	24	cases have settled and integrated permanently into the local
	25	community where they found respect and even admiration for

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 2 British values and way of life and never at any time have
 3 regretted their decision. Our Chamber is therefore most seriously
 4 concerned because that long history of friendship is now at
 5 stake to the detriment of the many individuals and companies of
 6 British origin or affiliation present in Argentina putting at
 7 risk a relationship developed over more than a century which may
 8 be destroyed in one day but would require decades to repair. This
 9 concern extends also to what we believe is a lack of awareness
 10 in the United Kingdom with respect to the sincerity and
 11 intensity of the feelings of the Argentine people towards the
 12 issue under discussion ever since it arose 150 years ago and their
 13 frustration after seventeen years of fruitless talks.
 14 The Chamber is anxious that a peaceful settlement to this problem
 15 be reached. The highest sense of mutual respect and consideration
 16 must prevail. The undeniable duty of everyone and particularly
 17 those who wield power is to demonstrate the most sincere
 18 willingness to carry through to a speedy and successful
 19 conclusion the negotiations which have already been initiated,
 20 the failure of which no reasonable person can accept. We urge
 21 you to refrain from the use of force which at this point could
 22 only cause irreparable harm to all concerned and incalculable
 23 damage to the western world and to strive to achieve an
 24 understanding which will allow a positive future to be built in
 25 the best interests of all including the islanders. ENDS

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telegram

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Catchword

19 APR 1982

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