



CC CO

HL

DR. PERUTZ

29/4

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1982

CF file

Falkland Islands

I enclose a copy of a telegram which the Prime Minister has received from Dr. M.F. Perutz.

I should be grateful for your comments on the suggestion in the newspaper article to which he refers that General Galtieri visited Washington three times prior to his overthrow of President Viola, in order to obtain the approval of President Reagan and the Pentagon for the Falklands' takeover.

I should also be grateful for a draft reply to Dr. Perutz for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

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John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Duty Clerk No. 10.

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TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER
M.P. FROM DR M.F. PERUTZ, CH, FRS.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

MAY I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE
EDITOR IN YESTERDAYS

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

DOES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOT KNOW THAT GENERAL GALTIERI
VISITED WASHINGTON THREE TIMES PRIOR TO HIS OVERTHROW OF
PRESIDENT VIOLA, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT
REAGAN AND THE PENTAGON FOR THE FALKLANDS TAKEOVER? THIS WAS
GALTIERI'S PRICE FOR OVER THROWING THE ~~GALTIERI~~ REGIME,
WHICH WASHINGTON CONSIDERED A DANGER TO THE STABILITY OF
THE SOUTHERN CONE DUE TO ITS PLANS FOR ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD
ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PERONISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT.
(SIGNED) MICHAEL T. WELLS, LONDON.

VIOLA

I HAVE NO MEANS OF CHECKING THIS ALLEGATION, BUT IT DOES NOT
READ AS THOUGH THE AUTHOR HAD INVENTED IT. AFTER THIS REVOLTING
BETRAYAL, THE PRESIDENT MAY WELL ORDER THE CIA TO ENSURE THAT
GALTIERI DOES NOT LOSE, AND THE DICE MAY BE LOADED HEAVILY
AGAINST THE BRAVE CHAPS OF THE BRITISH TASK FORCE. I KNOW THAT
IT IS NOT FOR ME TO GIVE YOU ADVICE, BUT THIS NEWS ITEM MADE ME
WONDER IF IT WOULD NOT BE WISER TO AGREE TO A COMPROMISE,
RATHER THAN RISK THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH FORCE THROUGH
TREACHERY REPEAT TREACHERY WITH ALL THIS WOULD IMPLY FOR
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY REPEAT COUNTRY.

YOURS SINCERLY SINCERELY

M.F. PERUTZ

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