

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 April 1982

Dear John,

ASL 19/4
h-c

Falkland Islands: Message from Haig

You will have seen the latest message from Mr Haig to Mr Pym delivered this morning. Mr Pym believes that we should reply quickly to this. Mr Haig's suggestion that Mr Pym should now go to Washington is in line with Mr Pym's own views of the best next step and he is strongly of the opinion that he should accept. If this is agreed, he would propose to leave London by Concorde on Thursday morning with a view to beginning discussions in Washington on the afternoon of the same day, having sent to the Americans beforehand our comments on the latest text and the amendments we would need to make it acceptable to us.

I enclose a draft message from Mr Pym to Mr Haig in the form of a telegram to Washington along these lines. Mr Pym has agreed this in draft but, as you know, will not return from Brussels until about 3.30 pm this afternoon. I understand that the terms of the reply to Mr Haig may be discussed in the ODSA meeting at noon today.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Defence, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
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Precedence/Deskby
FLASH

1 ZCZC

2 GRS

3 CONFIDENTIAL

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5 DESKBY FLASH

6 FM FCO 20 Z APRIL 82

7 TO FLASH WASHINGTON

8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 AND REPEATED FOR INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

10 FALKLAND ISLANDS

11 1. Please pass the following further message from me to Haig
12 as soon as possible:

13 Begins. Many thanks for your further message which reach-
14 ed me this morning. It is good to know that your thinking on
15 the next step is close to ours. I agree that we need to study
16 the text which you brought back from Buenos Aires, and we are
17 doing this urgently. The Prime Minister and I also agree that I
18 should come to Washington to discuss the whole problem with you
19 personally. If acceptable to you, I should like to do this on
20 Thursday 22 April: this will I hope give us time to let you have
21 in advance a further indication of the points on which the
22 current text requires amendment.

23 I quite see your point about the need for you to preserve
24 your position in Buenos Aires so long as your peace-making role
25 continues. I spoke along these lines yesterday in the House of

NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword

Commons,

File number

Dept
S/S OFFICE

Distribution

Drafted by (Block capitals)
J E HOLMES

Telephone number
233 4641

Authorised for despatch

Comcen reference

Time of despatch

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

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2 Commons, and there may be a chance for the Prime Minister to do
 3 the same when she answers questions in the House today. She
 4 may also announce my visit to Washington, and I hope that this
 5 will cause you no difficulties.

6 I am just off to Brussels to talk to my colleagues in the
 7 Ten. Without going into detail, I shall take the line that by
 8 tremendous exertions you have brought the Argentinians some
 9 distance from their starting point: that the latest text will
 10 not do, for the reasons you and I well understand: but that
 11 provided the political and economic pressures are maintained, in
 12 addition to the military threat from the British task force,
 13 the chance of a peaceful settlement remains.

14 I very much look forward to our meeting. Ends.

15 PYM

16 NNNN

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NNNN ends
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Catchword

20 APR 1962



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