

SECRET



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 April 1982

Falkland Islands: US Assistance

The Prime Minister has seen Washington's unnumbered telegram of 20 April describing a conversation with Senator John Tower about the help which the United Kingdom would require from the United States if Haig's negotiations failed.

With reference to the last sentence, Mrs. Thatcher has commented that she too would be grateful for early consideration of what our attitude on this matter should be. Perhaps you could let me know your thinking as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

E. J. COLES

David Omand, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

SECRET

RJ

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PS/M Hood
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TELNO U/N OF 20 APRIL 1982.

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SECRET UK EYES ALPHA
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1. ON MON 19 APR WITH MINISTER, NAVAL AND AIR ATTACHES I MET SENATOR JOHN TOWER, CHAIRMAN SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. AT THE END OF A PRIVATE DISCUSSION ON THE FALKLAND SITUATION SEN TOWER AFFIRMED HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR UK AND HIS VIEW THAT THIS WAS SHARED BY THE MAJORITY OF CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING THAT IF HAIG'S NEGOTIATIONS FAILED WHAT HELP UK WOULD WANT FROM US. I GAVE INTELLIGENCE AND AIR SUPPORT AS WHAT I TAKE TO BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITIES.
2. ALTHOUGH UNPREPARED BY THIS INQUIRY WE MUST EXPECT SIMILAR QUESTIONS FROM OUR US COLLEAGUES IF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES FAIL. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF WHAT OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE.

BT

So should I
M

NNNN

HENDERSON