



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1982

THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE

Thank you for your letter of 23 April.

The Prime Minister considers that she should send personal letters to the Prime Ministers of Guyana and Barbados and I should be grateful if you could let me have drafts.

The Prime Minister also asked whether she should not send personal letters to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. But, as we discussed on the telephone, she has already sent such letters and further ones might be rather excessive.

As regards the other Governments to which you refer, the Prime Minister agrees that the general circular telegram may issue.

John Holmes, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 April 1982

*Personal letters
to Australia, New Zealand
(I think both have been done)
Guyana (Foster & others)
who has been very helpful and
cancel Barbados
No*

Prime Minister
Agree that your thanks
may be conveyed in the
way?
A.S.C. 23/4.

The Commonwealth and the Falkland Islands Dispute

The reaction of Commonwealth Governments to the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands and the response of individual Commonwealth leaders to the Prime Minister's message have for the most part been strong and very gratifying. I enclose a schedule summarising the action they have taken in the last 2½ weeks. You will see that all but nine of the other 45 members of the Commonwealth have declared themselves, in public or private, in some way against the Argentine action. We have been considering what responses might be made to them.

As the schedule shows, the strength and warmth of the reactions of individual Commonwealth governments vary widely. It would scarcely be practicable to send an individually tailored letter of thanks in reply to each message or statement: quite apart from other considerations, this would only inundate you with paper. Although there are grounds for individually tailored messages from the Prime Minister in a small number of cases - and we have been, or shall be in touch with you separately about these - it would be administratively far simpler if High Commissioners could be instructed to convey to their host Heads of Government the Prime Minister's personal thanks, with greater or lesser warmth as each individual case requires. This could be effected by a general circular telegram to posts and I enclose a possible draft.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Country

Argentina and Barbuda Robust statement by PM. Full support also to UN initiative. Copy of statement to Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Australia Ambassador recalled; ban on imports; ban on credit. Robust statements/messages of support. Statement at Security Council. PM has written to President Reagan.

Bahamas Robust reply to PM's letter, to be referred to in Government statement. Note to Argentinian Government urging compliance with SCR 502. Robust statement.

Bangladesh Statement condemning 'use of force in settling disputes'. Robust statement privately to Ambassador from Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs.

Barbados 'Full and complete support to any Commonwealth protest and initiative'. Prime Minister delivered statement during televised budget debate ensuring maximum coverage. Support in OAS.

Belize Reply to PM. Telegram to UNSG. Robust statement.

Botswana Statement 'strongly condemns' Argentine action. No specific mention of support for UK. Replied to SG's letter.

Canada Robust and helpful line. PM endorsed separately statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs. Recalled Ambassador but reinstated 21/4. Banned military shipments. Cancelled Defence College visit. Ban on imports and export credit.

Cyprus

Dominica Robust letter to Prime Minister. Robust message to UNSG.

Fiji Robust statement by PM.

The Gambia Robust Government statement.

Ghana No response expected.

Grenada Unhelpful statement supporting Argentina's territorial claim but disapproving of use of force.

Guyana Strong statement by Guyana Government. Voted for SCR 502. Robust reply to Ramphal's letter. Robust reply PM letter.

India Lukewarm; appealing to 'all parties' to seek a 'peaceful resolution'.

Jamaica Robust statement.

Kenya Robust statement.

Kiribati Robust statement. Message to Argentine Government condemning invasion.

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Lesotho Response to SG expressing 'deep concern'.

Malawi President's robust reply to PM: moral backing for use of force if necessary. Robust statement.

Malaysia Weak statement although 'deeply disturbed'.

Malta No statement yet. High Commission does 'not expect Malta to support' UK.

Mauritius Robust reply to Ramphal quoting Security Council instructions. Robust statement.

Nauru

New Zealand Robust statements/messages of support. Broken diplomatic relations. Support at UN. Cancelled Argentine flight schedule. Ban on trade, supply of arms/military material, export credits.

Nigeria Message to PM. Helpful statement.

Papua New Guinea Robust statement by PM PNG. To make feelings known through international bodies. Responded to SG quoting statement. Told Argentine Government that unless complies with SCR 502 PNG will break off diplomatic relations.

Saint Lucia Strong statement. Helpful statement in OAS.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Robust statement. Copy sent to SG.

Seychelles Response to PM letter, deploring aggression: made public.

Sierra Leone Statement views developments 'with great concern'. Ambassador UN instructed to 'condemn Argentine action in strong terms'. SLG agree to provide facilities for refuelling etc.

Singapore Fairly robust statement although no specific mention of support for UK. Robust reply from PM to PM's message.

Solomon Islands Robust statement. Government has also sent message to SG of UN and to SG of Commonwealth. 'Assurance' of support to Prime Minister. Robust reply to PM letter via BHC.

Sri Lanka Message to Prime Minister 'condemns use of force' but no specific support for UK.

Swaziland Statement expressing 'great concern' at invasion and supporting SCR 502.

Tanzania Statement regrets Argentine military action but no specific mention of support for UK. Expression of sympathy in letter to PM from President Nyerere.

Tonga Robust reply to PM letter: would support 'any action' by us to reassert sovereignty. Robust public

statement. Government to refuse entry and visa extensions to Argentine passport holders, and to require them to leave Tonga ''forthwith''.

Trinidad & Tobago	''Feeble'' statement. Abstained in OAS vote to invoke Rio Treaty.
Tuvalu	Robust reply to SG and Secretary of State.
Uganda	Voted for SCR 502. Helpful with Non-Aligned. Replied to PM letter: ''great concern''. Statement condemning aggression.
Vanuatu	Statement ''strongly condemns'' invasion but also calls upon UK to ''reconsider'' military retaliation. Copied to SG, PM, Argentine Government, UN.
Western Samoa	
Zambia	Statement by Acting President deploring invasion
Zimbabwe	Inadequate statement but supporting SCR 502.

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE BANJUL
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	AND TO IMMEDIATE BELMOPAN, BRIDGETOWN, COLOMBO, DACCA, DAR ES
	10	SALAAM, GABORONE, GEORGETOWN, HONIARA, KAMAPLA, KINGSTON,
	11	LUSAKA, MASERU, MBABANE, NAIROBI, NASSAU, NUKU'ALOFA, PORT LOUIS,
	12	PORT MORESBY, SINGAPORE, SALISBURY, SUVA, TARAWA, VICTORIA, VILA,
	13	CASTRIES (ST LUCIA), KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT), ST JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)
	14	REPEATED FOR INFO TO: ROUTINE CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, OTTAWA,
	15	LAGOS, LILONGWE, FREETOWN, ACCRA, KUALA LUMPUR, NEW DELHI,
	16	NICOSIA, PORT OF SPAIN, VALLETTA
	17	SAVING TO (FOR INFO) ST GEORGES (GRENADA)
	18	FCO TELNO 99 TO CANBERRA: COMMONWEALTH AND FALKLAND ISLANDS
	19	1. The Prime Minister has been much impressed by the strong,
	20	speedy and heartening response of our Commonwealth partners to
	21	her message in TUR. The great majority of Commonwealth
///	22	countries (paragraph 4 lists the exceptions) have now made
//	23	clear their support for our position. This has been most helpful.
/	24	2. Action addressees should seek an early opportunity to convey
	25	at a suitably high level the Prime Minister's warm personal

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword t h a n k s
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		FCO CCD + FALKLAND ISLANDS ADDITIONAL
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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 thanks for response to her message and/or her grateful
 appreciation of whatever action host governments may have taken
 following Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. You
 should say that it is at difficult times like these that the
 friendship that sustains the Commonwealth is particularly visible
 and the support accorded by Commonwealth friends most welcome.
 You should add that both Prime Minister and I have expressed
 warm appreciation of this support in Parliament.
 3. You should in your approach take account of the particular
 reaction /response of your host government(s) making specific
 reference (where appropriate) to any message or statement that
 they may have issued. Where reactions/statements of host
 government(s) have been less than adequate posts should modify
 messages appropriately and need not deliver at high level. It
 is important that the message be delivered within the next
 few days and thus in advance of any outbreak of hostilities
 which could follow any breakdown in the negotiations.
 4. For information addressees: individually tailored personal
 messages have already gone or are in hand in respect of
 Presidents Banda, Stevens and Shagari and Messrs Fraser,
 Muldoon and Trudeau. No repeat no message need be sent to
 those governments (viz Cyprus, Ghana, Malta, Nauru and Western
 Samoa) who have not responded to the Prime Minister's message
 (the last two of which may not yet have received it), nor to
 the governments of Grenada, India, Malaysia and Trinidad whose
 responses have been disappointing.

PYM
 NNNN

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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