

*M. Cotes*

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With the compliments of

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Ref: B06477

26th April 1982

Dear David,

Falkland Islands: Military Decisions

As a footnote to your Top Secret and Personal letter of 24th April to Clive Whitmore, I should record (since I have deliberately not put it in the minutes) that during the 15th Meeting of OD(SA), on 24th April, the Defence Secretary mentioned the decision you described in your second paragraph. The other members of the Sub-Committee took note, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary specifically confirmed that he was content.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Coles (No.10), Brian Fall (FCO) and David Wright.

*John Coles*  
*Brian Fall*  
*David Wright*

R L WADE-GERY

D B Omand Esq.  
Ministry of Defence



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~~Prime Minister~~

A.S.C. 26/4

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FCO SITREP: 0730 26 APRIL:  
OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

South Georgia

- ... 1. I attach summaries of reports by Heads of posts of reactions to the successful attack on the Argentine submarine and/or the recapture of Grytviken.
2. The Ministry of Defence have confirmed that in the above actions there were no British casualties and only one serious Argentine casualty, a seaman who suffered leg injuries as a result of the attack on the submarine.
3. The Argentine forces at Leith have surrendered. No casualties have so far been reported.
4. The British Antarctic Survey reported that at 1300Z on 25 April all their personnel on South Georgia were safe and well. The British forces are now seeking to contact all civilians on the island.

Argentine Reactions

5. The Foreign Minister, Mr Costa Mendez, has said in New York that Argentina and the United Kingdom are now 'technically' at war.
6. The BBC has reported anit-British demonstrations in Buenos Aires.

Washington

7. Sunday's meeting between Mr Haig and Sr Costa Mendez in Washington has been postponed by the Argentine side. Mr Haig was 'chortling over our action' which he thought would be beneficial in the long run though the immediate impact might cause difficulties. He believes that Costa Mendez will meet him later today and the negotiation get on course again.

*E J Sharland*

E J Sharland  
Emergency Unit

26 April 1982

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INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS TO BRITISH ATTACK ON  
ARGENTINE SUBMARINE AND RECAPTURE OF SOUTH GEORGIA

Yugoslavia

Message delivered to Head of Western European Department for transmission to Foreign Secretary. No formal comment yet.

Netherlands

Message delivered to PS/Foreign Minister. No immediate comment.

Saudi Arabia

Message delivered to Head of Western Department. Not yet delivered to Foreign Secretaries.

Brazil

Message delivered to Ricupero. He agreed that task force must defend itself and expressed doubt about basis of Argentine claim to South Georgia.

Ireland

Message delivered to MFA Duty Officer. No official comments.

Sweden

Message delivered to Permanent Under-Secretary. Sweden would 'naturally regret military activity'.

FRG

Political Director 'entirely sympathetic' and passing on our representations. On hearing news of South Georgia landing, Director suggested situation would become much more difficult.

USSR

Message delivered to Semenov, Deputy Head of Second European Department. He said Soviet position already clear. He would report conversation as soon as possible on Monday and arrange call for HMA or Ryzhov or another Deputy Foreign Minister also on Monday.

Belgium

Message delivered to Cahen, Political Director. He took note and said he would be happy to call a meeting of the Political Committee as soon as we wish.

/ Chile



### Chile

Message delivered to Errazuriz. Acting Director General of Foreign Policy at MFA. He received the news calmly. In reply to a question, he said that Chile may now maintain an 'eloquent silence' at the OAS meeting on Monday (rather than use it as a forum to list Chilean grievances against Argentina).

### Canada

Head of Western European Division expected that any statement would regret military conflict. Mr MacQuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, subsequently made helpful statement saying recovery of South Georgia under-lined the need for a renewed attempt to implement Resolution 502 and secure Argentine withdrawal and for a peaceful solution. UK was acting in self-defence and securing recovery of the status quo before the Argentine seizure.

### Ecuador

Message delivered to Valdes, Under-Secretary General of MFA. He said it gave rise to anxiety: Ecuador's overriding objective was peace. Our military action might harden attitudes in OAS.

### Belize

Message delivered to Prime Minister. He said we can count on his continued support.

### Solomon Islands

Message passed to Alebu, MFA Minister and Bugotu, Permanent Secretary. Both wholly sympathetic to British cause.

Guyana