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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 April 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your recent telegram.

We are aware of the improvement in the United States' relations with Argentina over the last year and the more frequent exchanges of high level visits between Washington and Buenos Aires. These contacts were part of the efforts of the current United States administration to cultivate closer relations with Latin America. But we have absolutely no evidence to support the allegations of collusion in the newspaper article to which you refer. Nor do we believe them.

The United States have supported Security Council Resolution 502 condemning the Argentine aggression and calling upon them to withdraw their forces. Mr. Haig's negotiating efforts, as he has repeatedly made clear, have been undertaken in the context of that Resolution. The Government accepts that while Mr. Haig is engaged in delicate negotiations it is not practicable for him to align himself with either party. The British Government believe there is clear and sympathetic understanding in Washington of our intentions in our search for a solution to the crisis and of the central principles which we wish to maintain.

A. J. COLES

Dr. M. F. Perutz, C.H., F.R.S.

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