



IA

Prime Minister.

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

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MS.

My dear Frank,

The French Ambassador came to see me this evening, following a telephone conversation with Michael Palliser, who was also present.

He said that someone - he was not prepared to say who, but he did say that it was not anybody in Government - had recently spoken to him in terms which made it clear that he was aware of the recent contacts with the French military authorities about the performance of the French aircraft operated by the Argentine Air Force. He hoped that as a result of what he had said the person concerned would now be aware of the extreme sensitivity of this information, and of the very great damage that could result from these contacts becoming known. The person concerned might well report this conversation back to his own source. The source was believed to be in the Ministry of Defence.

The President of the French Republic has, as you know, been extremely supportive and co-operative in relation to the Falkland Islands crisis, not only in this but also in other ways. It would be a serious matter if indiscretion on these contacts were to cause him political embarrassment and put his co-operation and good will at risk.

No doubt you will take whatever steps are open to you to ensure that the strictest secrecy is observed in these matters.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Antony Acland.

Yours ever
Robert

Sir Frank Cooper, GCB, CMG

Argentine
Handling



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With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet

C. A. Whitmore, Esq

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 01-233 8319