



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 May 1982

*Likelihood are changing  
day by day - I  
should prefer to  
wait. before sending  
a message.  
not*

*Fairly*

Prime Minister

*Content to send message?*

*HR 2/5*

Mrs Gandhi: Falklands

In my letter of 27 April I reported Sir John Thomson's advice that we should hold in reserve for the time being a Prime Ministerial message to Mrs Gandhi on the Falklands and drew attention to his proposal to call on Mrs Gandhi on her return from Saudi Arabia.

Sir John Thomson saw Mrs Gandhi on 28 April, with the somewhat disappointing outcome reported in his enclosed telegram no 431. Now might be an appropriate moment for the Prime Minister to send a personal message. Although such a message is unlikely to persuade the Indian Government to reconsider their support for the position recently adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement, it can equally do no harm to our cause. A draft telegram to Delhi is enclosed.

*Gandhi*

*PP* (J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing St

11- MAY 1982



# OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

Precedence/Deskby  
**IMMEDIATE**

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 EATS  
 BY  
 CO  
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 NO

1 ZCZC  
 2 GRS  
 3 CONFIDENTIAL  
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 5  
 6 FM FCO Z MAY 82  
 7 TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI  
 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
 9 YOUR TELNO 431: FALKLAND ISLANDS

10 1. In view of Mrs Gandhi's private criticism of our actions,  
 11 but subject to your views on timing, the Prime Minister wishes  
 12 to take the opportunity offered by Mrs Gandhi's letter to send  
 13 the following personal message:

14 Begins. Dear Prime Minister. It was kind of you to write  
 15 in such warm terms about your recent visit. I was delighted to  
 16 have you in London and hope very much that our talks will  
 17 produce the results expected of them. It is, I believe, a cause  
 18 for mutual satisfaction that our agreement on IDA is already  
 19 starting to bear fruit.

20 You will know from Sir John Thomson that I share your  
 21 concern about developments in the South Atlantic. I can assure  
 22 you that we are doing everything in our power to find a peaceful  
 23 solution. We have taken every possible step that has a  
 24 reasonable prospect of helping to achieve our objectives - the  
 25 withdrawal of Argentine forces and the end of their illegal

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword occupation
File number	Dept S/S OFFICE	Distribution SAmD Cabinet Office Additional Dist. Falkland Islands  cc: PS/Chancellor) Sir K Couzens) Mr Littler ) Mr Hawtin ) Treasury Mr Peretz ) Mr Ilett ) Sir M Palliser, Cabinet Office
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcenreference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats	Page
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1 <<<<  
2 occupation of the Islands, the restoration of British  
3 administration, and a long-term solution acceptable to the  
4 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, as well as to the British  
5 and Argentine Governments. It is my earnest hope that these  
6 objectives can be achieved by negotiation.  
7 Our action throughout has been based on a mandatory Sec-  
8 urity Council Resolution which calls for Argentine withdrawal  
9 and a negotiated solution to the dispute. This is a stand  
10 which has received the widest support from the international  
11 community, particularly from our Commonwealth colleagues. For  
12 their part, the Argentine Government have made no move to  
13 comply with their international obligations and responsibilities  
14 by ensuring that a peaceful solution is reached in accordance  
15 with the demands of the Security Council. In these circumstan-  
16 ces, we have had no choice but to exercise our unquestionable  
17 right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations  
18 Charter.  
19 Of course, if Argentine forces are withdrawn from the  
20 Islands we shall immediately cease hostilities and stand ready to  
21 enter into negotiation with a view to resolving the underlying  
22 dispute. What is needed now is for all the democratic peoples of  
23 the world to urge the Argentine Government to take the  
24 necessary steps to make such a solution possible. This sort of  
25 pressure is important if we are to reach a peaceful conclusion.  
26 Ends.  
27  
28 PYM  
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