SECRET AND THRSONAL

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From the Private Secretary

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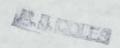
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6 May 1982

I enclose a copy of a message which the Prime Minister sent to President Reagan on 5 May about the Falkland Islands problem. I should be grateful if you, and the other recipients of this letter, would not circulate it beyond Private Offices.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to John Halliday (Home Office), David Omand (Ministry of Defence), Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), and David Wright (Cabinet Office).



Brian Fall, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

DESATCHEAT OSUSOLICIE SECRET Message from the Prime Minister to President Reagan Dear Ron, My Cabinet colleagues and I spent some four hours earlier today considering Al Haig's latest proposals. Francis Pym has replied on our behalf, but I am writing to you separately because I think you are the only person who will understand the significance of what I am trying to say. Throughout my administration I have tried to stay loyal to the United States as our great ally, and to the principles of democracy, liberty and justice for which both our countries stand. In your message you say that your suggestions are faithful to the basic principles we must protect. But the present rulers of the Argentine will not respect those principles, and I fear deeply that if a settlement based on your suggestions is eventually achieved, we shall find that in the process of negotiation democracy and freedom for the Falkland Islanders will have been compromised. Above all, the present proposals do not provide unambiguously for a right to self-determination, although it is fundamental to democracy and was enjoyed by the Islanders up to the moment of invasion. We asked you earlier that it should be included explicitly. / Al Haig's