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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 May, 1982

UN Trusteeship for the Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister has recently expressed interest in a UN trusteeship arrangement as one of the possible solutions to the Falkland Islands problem. You will recall that references to this possibility have also been made in Parliament.

This possible solution was briefly described in Sir Michael Palliser's paper circulated as OD (SA) (82) 38 on 30 April.

The Prime Minister told me last night that she would now be grateful for a rather more detailed examination of the idea. In particular, she would like to be informed of any relevant precedents involving UN trustee territories. She also wishes to know what opposition such a proposal would be likely to incur at the United Nations and whether, once a trusteeship arrangement was established, its continuity would depend on approval by UN membership. (Would there be any requirement for a periodic vote to review the arrangement?)

I should be grateful if a paper on these lines could be made available as soon as possible. Please incorporate any other material which you think might be relevant to the Prime Minister's further reflection on this possibility.

I am copying this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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