

SUBJECT

TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND SIR ANTHONY PARSONS
ON SATURDAY 8 MAY 1982

PM: . . . oblivious of background, but if the worst comes to the worst and we have to go in and do something with force then its their young men against our young men and that's terrible. And there was a third thing that I wanted to ask your advice about. It is that I feel a little bit remote but I would really like to see him myself.- the Secretary-General - this is what I wanted to ask your advice about. I think perhaps, as events happened we did not make the best impression last weekend. With the Zimbabwe connection I feel great trust and integrity. I also feel myself a little bit remote from these, which I regard as absolutely the crucial negotiations and time is short. I therefore wanted to ask you, I cannot leave London at the present, I can't leave the United Kingdom at the present which you would understand, you can't in a crisis,

Sir Anthony: No of course not.

PM: Is it therefore possible, which is what I wanted to ask your advice about, would it be possible to ask him quite privately if he could consider coming to London. I realise he would also have to go to Buenos Aires. But in the back of my mind is that he is probably the only person who could finally sort something out between us. Are you with me?

Sir Anthony: Prime Minister when I talked to him yesterday I said to him that you know the only thing that would really do for us on this question of not having sovereignty prejudged before the outset was to have something with Galtieri's signature on it. That what was said by officials and that kind of thing here really didn't mean much to us. And he said if I feel that I am getting anywhere, he said if they are absolutely hopeless, I mean he understands the point as well as I do, that if I feel I'm getting anywhere I shall fly to Buenos Aires. And of course if he did he would obviously have to go on to London too. So I think today when I see him in a couple of hours I will get a much clearer idea of how he thinks he is getting on. He will have had a couple of rounds with the Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister by then, one

last night and one this morning and I will be able to get a clearer idea of whether he thinks that there is any hope at all. If so I would expect him, if he makes say one more rung of progress in the next 24 hours then to start moving off on his travels. And in which case of course if he went to Buenos Aires he would obviously come on to London.

PM: All I want him to know is that he would be a very welcome visitor in London.

Sir Anthony: Well I'll tell him that. I think quite honestly he will be very very pleased indeed to have a personal message, to know that you have spoken to me this morning.

PM: Well I heard that you were seeing him and therefore I did want to say that we do feel, have a particular reason to feel his tremendous integrity.

Sir Anthony: Well I will certainly pass that on and I know he will be delighted. It will have a great effect and you know I'm very very glad you rang.

PM: Yes. And I also listened and took the message because it was along the lines, I have been feeling for a long long time that we're not a colonial power at all. Colonisation is only temporary with us as a means of bringing people to independence. And that is still possible. But I don't know whether the ultimate question is that Argentina wants to be the new imperialist or whether she wants us out.

Sir Anthony: Well I know perfectly well that when I spoke to the Argentine negotiator who is up here now who is a very old personal friend of mine I came away feeling they wanted an agreement and you know we are very close and all the rest of it. And I discussed precisely that point and he's an old friend of his too. But we both know that you know that what is said by people like that who are the kind of people like us and what is said by the gentlemen in uniform down there is something quite different.

PM: Yes I know. And that's the difficulty. And in the end you know we might have to go in. I say in the end - time is short but
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I just feel deeply, well I feel deeply about many things, first that our people there were living in self-determination and freedom before this started and one can't hand them over to anything less. But secondly that it is going to be the most awful waste of young life if we really have to go and take those islands.

Sir Anthony: Well I quite agree Prime Minister.

PM: We have more respect for young life than they do. But the resolve will still be there but I just feel that absolutely everything should be done to make it absolutely clear that in the end it is they who have no respect for young life and . . .

Sir Anthony: Exactly. Well I think that however the votes fell here if we had to come into the Security Council or anything like that, because people vote for the wrong reasons on many occasions here, that our case is very very well understood throughout the membership here.

PM: Good.

Sir Anthony: I mean even those who have reasoned with Solidarity or I don't know what, we might not do as well as we did last time. People jolly well understand what our principles are and what our position is and are going to respect it.

PM: . . and they have to matter. And in the end they'll fight for ideals.

Sir Anthony: Well I entirely agree. As far as I am concerned I don't want to sound sentimental but I mean I will always carry out my Government's policy as well as I can but by God I personally believe in it 100%.

PM: Well I personally believe in it 101%, if it were possible, more than 100%.

Sir Anthony: Well we're with you all the way. And I can tell you Prime Minister the whole of the British Mission to the United Nations is absolutely 100% behind you.

/ PM:

PM: What I am firm on now is that I will do everything before the final decision has to be taken to see if we can uphold the rule of international law and the liberty and justice in which I believe passionately for our people to see if we can stop a final battle. A very personal message to him.

Sir Anthony: I'll express these thoughts to him as coming directly from you and I think they are extremely important.

PM: And he will be a very welcome visitor in London the moment he says that he feels that it would help to come and we will put down everything to meet him.

Sir Anthony: OK and if he does come back to London on his travels can I come back to be there with him?

PM: Oh please. Yes please, whether we'll ever let you go again or not I don't know, but still.

Sir Anthony: Thank you Prime Minister. Thank you very much for ringing. I think that's very important and valuable to me. It really is.

PM: So long as you don't mind me just coming in like this when I happen to feel particularly strongly.

Sir Anthony: Prime Minister, any time you want to ring me, 24 hours a day I'm here.

PM: All right. Thank you. And lots of kind thoughts to Lady Parsons. Goodbye.

Sir Anthony: Thank you very much. Goodbye.