



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 May 1982

Prime Minister

Content to delay any broadcast  
by you until there is a suitable  
major development?

Yes  
A.J.C. 27/5

Dear John,

Call on the Prime Minister by the Governor of the Falkland Islands

In my letter of 13 May I said I would be replying separately on the question of a broadcast to the Falkland Islanders by the Prime Minister, mentioned in (d) of your letter of 10 May. Mr Pym believes that at an appropriate moment such a broadcast would prove very valuable but, as you say in your letter, its timing would need careful consideration.

Since 26 April, the BBC World Service's special 40-minute "Calling the Falklands" programme has been transmitted every night at 2220 hours GMT. The programme consists mainly of news bulletins and messages from relatives, sometimes accompanying musical requests. The Governor has spoken several times on this programme, as have the Chief Secretary, Mr Cheek and Mr Luxton. So, incidentally, has the Archbishop of Canterbury. When there has been some significant development a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister has also spoken on the programme - usually the Minister of State, Mr Onslow, but on two occasions the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has done so.

A message from the Prime Minister would be very much appreciated and act as a great fillip to the Falklanders' morale. The right moment for it would be when there is a really major development. This might occur at very short notice, in which case we could quickly prepare a draft message and arrange for the BBC recording staff to go to wherever it would be convenient for the Prime Minister.

If you agree, we will therefore keep the possibility of a broadcast by the Prime Minister in reserve for the moment but revert as soon as we judge that a suitable opportunity is likely to occur.

Yours ever

J. E. Holmes

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(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AA



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