

Note

I have told FCO that this should be despatched.



10 DOWNING STREET

WM
21/5

Prime minister
MS (Falklands)

You will recall the telegram from Mr Morrison, Chairman of the British Community Council in Argentina, suggesting that all children on the Falklands should be evacuated to mainland Argentina to be sheltered in the homes of British residents.

I attach the FCO's suggested reply. If you are content, it will be telegraphed to the British Interests Section in Buenos Aires for onward transmission.

WM
19/5

A. Macleod
ms



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May, 1982

Dear John,

The P.S. approved a
copy of the.

MR 21/5

hwa.

Thank you for sending me a copy of a telegram to the Prime Minister from the Chairman of the British Community Council in Argentina, proposing the evacuation of children from the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Murchison. This, like earlier messages to him, should be telegraphed to the British Interests Section in Buenos Aires for them to pass on. Mr Pym has not yet seen the draft. I will pass on any comments he may have as soon as possible.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

UNCLASSIFIED

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

1 ZCZC

2 GRS

3 UNCLASSIFIED

4

5

6 FM FCO MAY 82

7 TO IMMEDIATE BISBA

8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 Please pass following to G T Murchison, Chairman, British
10 Community Council in the Argentine Republic, from the Prime
11 Minister in answer to Murchison's Telex of 17 May.

12 'Thank you for your telegram about the children who
13 remain on the Falkland Islands. I appreciate your
14 anxiety for their safety.

15 'The children can best be safeguarded by the early
16 withdrawal of the Argentine occupying forces from the
17 Islands, as required by the Resolution 502 of the Security
18 Council. We have given the Argentine government every
19 opportunity to withdraw peacefully. Moreover it is not
20 possible for me to say whether your proposal would be
21 acceptable to the Falkland Islanders. They may not of
22 course wish their children to be evacuated from the
23 Falkland Islands. And if they did, they might well not
24 wish them to go to Argentina.

25 'In these circumstances any sounding of the opinion

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword of
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) J E HOLMES		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

UNCLASSIFIED

Page

2.

1 ZCZC

2 of the Islanders could best be undertaken by representatives
3 of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

4 Unfortunately the Argentine authorities have not permitted
5 representatives of the Committee to travel to the Islands.
6 We regret this.

7 'You may be sure we shall do all in our power to
8 protect the safety and well-being of all the Falkland
9 Islanders. But I must repeat that the best guarantee of
10 their safety would be immediate Argentine withdrawal as
11 demanded by the international community through the
12 Security Council'.

14 PYM

15 NNNN

NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword