



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1982

A.F.C. $\frac{26}{5}$
h.a.

Dear John,

Falkland Islands: Views of Mr Edward Heath

You asked for advice on this.

The main point that Mr Heath made in the debate on 13 May was that the three amendments put forward by Argentina to the Peruvian proposals, and subsequently published, should be acceptable to us, with the possible, though doubtful, exception of the reference to Resolutions of different international organisations concerning the Islands. Later, Mr Heath intervened during Mr Nott's winding up speech to say that there must be some explanation of the fact that Argentina was reported to have made three amendments and yet HMG were saying that Argentina had rejected the Peruvian proposals.

We explained the situation to Mr Heath's office on 17 May on the following lines:

- a) As Mr Nott said in the House, the two versions of the Peruvian proposals which appeared in the Times on 10 May were not the ones we had been considering. The version we had received was one which already incorporated changes resulting from suggestions by Argentina and the United States. The version that Argentina later rejected incorporated further US amendments reflecting some of Britain's comments.
- b) There were several reasons why we did not accept the Peruvian/US proposals as they stood originally. In the version we received, and also in the published versions, there was no link in time between the first two elements in the list of points - namely a ceasefire and Argentine withdrawal. Another difficulty was that the proposals implied, in the published versions and in different words in the version we received, that the administration of the Islands might be taken over very comprehensively by third parties. The changes we proposed covered in particular these points. The position we took in accepting the final version of the Peruvian/US proposals was summarised in the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's statement in the House on 7 May.

/Mr Pym

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Mr Pym will of course be prepared to deal with these points in the winding up speech if Mr Heath raises them again in the debate this afternoon.

Yours ever

John Holmes

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