

CONFIDENTIAL

*Misfaxed to Chequers  
at 2045, 22/5*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

22 May 1982

Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

*Prime Minister  
You spoke to Mr Rickett  
about the attached preliminary  
draft and agreed that FCO  
should have more time to  
consider your response.*

*Duty Clerk  
22/5/82*

*Dear Private Secretary,*

I submit a draft reply from the Prime Minister in answer from the Pope's telegram received this afternoon.

This draft has been conveyed to the Secretary of State's Private Office by telephone but has not been seen by Mr Pym. Nor has it been seen by the PUS or Supervising DUS, both of whom are in transit to weekend addresses.

Since there is a possibility that the Pope may intend to give wide publicity to the Prime Minister's reply in announcing his decision on the visit to the UK, I am sure that it would be prudent for us to clear the draft here before the Prime Minister's reply is sent. We would also like to consider whether Cardinal Hume needs to be warned of this exchange. There is the further possibility that the Pope may make reference to the Prime Minister's reply in his Sunday address at St Peter's, if it is sent this afternoon.

I will proceed urgently with clearance of the draft here, and will telephone to the Duty Clerk as soon as possible with suggested amendments. I would hope that we could before this evening provide any comments which the Secretary of State or the PUS may have.

*A Payne.*

A J Payne  
Emergency Unit

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REPLY  
DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teletype/letter/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:  
His Holiness John Paul The Second

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Your urgent appeal, and the anguish which you express at the loss of life in the tragic conflict over the Falkland Islands finds immediate echo here in London. We do not seek to continue the conflict. We have striven for 7 weeks to secure in peace a negotiated settlement. That our cause is just, and that the principles which we uphold are shared and understood by democratic nations throughout the world I have not the slightest doubt. I am ready for a ceasefire, so urgently needed for the reasons of compassion and humanity which are uppermost in your mind, but the conditions for this must not leave an aggressor in possession of the rewards of military adventure. The world has seen too often in this century the tragic consequences of failure to defend the principles of justice, civilised values, and international law.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

We have always been ready, and still remain ready to seek to end the conflict through negotiations. But Argentina has shown no disposition to match our endeavours in good faith. Aggression must not be allowed to succeed. International law must be upheld.

/Sovereignty

Sovereignty cannot be achieved by armed invasion. The liberty of the Falkland Islanders must be restored.

We earnestly desire a reasonable, peaceful and honourable settlement. We are ready to do all in our power to achieve it but we cannot succeed alone. The conflict was not of our making. It could be ended immediately if Argentina were to withdraw its forces in accordance with Security Council Resolution 502 and reassert by so doing the authority of the United Nations. I pray that such counsels may yet prevail in Buenos Aires before more lives are lost.