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BRITISH EMBASSY,  
THE HAGUE.  
11 June, 1982

J L Bullard Esq CMG  
FCO, LONDON SW1

My dear Julian

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THE DUTCH ATTITUDE TO THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE

1. In my telegram No 148 of 1 June, reporting van Agt's assumption of the Foreign Affairs portfolio, I commented that over Falklands matters at least this could be helpful. That so far remains unproven though I remain moderately optimistic. The trouble is that van Agt is devoting only a small proportion of his time to Foreign Affairs, which is bound to increase the relative importance of the advice put to him by his officials.

2. In this connection I should mention that the Netherlands Ambassador in London, Huydecoper, is apparently reporting in a rather unbalanced way. We know from a number of MFA sources (please protect) that early this week he sent by telegram a long and far-ranging analysis of our Falklands policy, the main conclusions of which seem to have been that we:

- (a) have a Prime Minister who has given up listening to anyone else on this subject and is determined to humiliate Argentina;
- (b) are unreasonably opposed to a resumption of the negotiations with Argentina;
- (c) are putting demands on our EC partners (import embargo etc) which will lead before long to further visible cracks in Western solidarity on this front;

/(d)

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- (d) seem likely to end up with a semi-permanent financial burden, flowing from the need to maintain a sizeable force in the Falklands, which is highly likely to have an adverse effect on our contribution to NATO.

3. We are naturally working hard at this end to combat Huydecoper's influence, and his views are far from universally shared here. But you may think it worthwhile to give him some special attention in an effort to persuade him that there are other aspects to our policy which he seems to be overlooking.

*Yours ever  
Philip*

Philip Mansfield

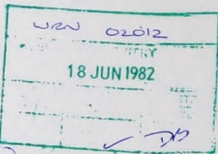
c.c. Sir M Butler KCMG, UKREP BRUSSELS  
Sir A Parsons Esq KCMG, UKMIS NEW YORK  
P R Fearn Esq., Emergency Unit, FCO



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 June 1982

P R A Mansfield Esq CMG  
THE HAGUE

Dear Philip,

## DUTCH ATTITUDES TO THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE

1. Many thanks for your letter of 11 June, and not least for the insight into the reporting of the Dutch Ambassador in London. He came to see me on 3 June. I had expected some particular enquiry about one of the many problems whizzing round our ears at that time, But it turned out that he wanted an old fashioned tour d'horizon. This had to be cut to twenty minutes because he arrived a bit late and I had to go to a meeting at No 10. But he said enough to reveal the kind of prejudices which you mention in para 2 of your letter. I am sorry to learn that my answers had so little effect.
2. In this connection I might mention that the new Dutch Political Director, Jakobovits-Szeged, has so far proved a slightly tiresome colleague. With his good looks and his excellent English and French he makes a favourable first impression, but I have found that the things he says are often things I do not agree with. On 24 May, for example, he spoke in far harsher terms than anyone else about the need for the UK to state its willingness to negotiate with Argentina on the Falklands. (The contrast with Reinink's solid support at earlier meetings was striking.) He was also in the forefront of those telling us we should not give the House of Commons the latest Genscher/Colombo draft, though his Minister had nothing to say to the Secretary of State.
3. You suggest that we might try to give Huydecoper some special attention, and we will see what can be done. The trouble is that in London one really has to leave it to the Ambassador to make the running, as some of them do very effectively.
4. Another device might be to get Jakobovits-Szeged to come to London for a day or half a day of talks, for example on his way to or back from one of the Political Committee meetings in Copenhagen during the second half of this year. The dates of these meetings are as follows: 12-13 July, 1-2 September, 5-6 October, 15-16 November and 20-21 December. In principle I could fit him in either immediately before or immediately after any of these, avoiding weekends if possible. If you think this idea worth trying - and it is one which I have found valuable in the past - you might like to mention it to Jakobovits-Szeged. We can then fix dates next time we meet.

*Yours ever  
Julian*

bcc Mr Goodison  
Mr A Wood

J L Bullard