

349. Note From the Deputy to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Gompert) to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Eagleburger)¹

Washington, June 16, 1982

LSE:

SUBJECT

Falklands

Putting substance aside, there is currently a communications gap between us and the British. Even allowing for a legitimate UK pre-occupation with war termination, they are simply not keeping us informed well enough.² In particular, Mrs. Thatcher is making announcements (see attached *example*)³ with regard to sensitive political questions—e.g., the return of Rex Hunt, the rejection of negotiations, the rejection of future Argentine “participation” on the Islands—without giving us any fore-warning, let alone consultations. I can’t believe that the FCO is so completely cut out that they can’t give us any advance information. This is not only unfair to us, given what we’ve done, but also a severe handicap.

Now that the Islands are in British hands, there is no excuse for this to continue. If you agree, I can—or ask Bob Blackwill to—convey to the Embassy here on a strictly personal basis the opinion that we will need to be kept better informed in the future. My relationship with Robin Renwick is such that he would welcome a personal heads-up if we foresee a need for a more timely information flow.

DCG⁴

¹ Source: Department of State, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Miscellaneous Files, March 1981–February 1983, Lot 83D210, Falklands [Folder 1]. Secret. A stamped notation at the top of the note indicates that Eagleburger saw it on June 16.

² Gompert added the word “UK” by hand.

³ Attached but not printed is a statement made by Thatcher to the House of Commons on June 15.

⁴ Eagleburger drew an arrow to Gompert’s initials and wrote: “See me!”