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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 June 1982

Argentina: Release of Detained British Personnel

As I told Francis Richards on the telephone this afternoon, the Prime Minister believes that we should find some way of using our willingness to repatriate prisoners to Argentina to obtain the release of the one British prisoner of war and the three British journalists who are detained. She was asked a question in Parliament this afternoon about the journalists and rather implied in her reply that we should be trying to make such an arrangement.

B/F /  
Mrs. Thatcher would be grateful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Defence Secretary could consider how this objective can best be achieved. It might be useful to have a preliminary discussion at OD/SA tomorrow morning.

I am copying this letter to Nick Evans (to whom I have already spoken) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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