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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 June 1982

Dear John,

During the Prime Minister's visit to New York there will be a number of occasions when she may find it useful to set out how we see the future development of our own and the Falkland Islands' relations with the countries of Latin America.

I enclose a draft text (which I shall be showing to Mr Pym on his return from Luxembourg), from which she may wish to draw in speaking to Latin Americans, and also to the media, in order to emphasise our wish to build up a positive relationship with the countries of Latin America.


Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B J P Fall'.

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

PASSAGE FOR USE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Historially Britain has enjoyed the warmest of relations with the countries of Latin America. These have been based on a common adherence to the principles of freedom and self-determination. We in Britain value the part we played both in assisting the independence movements in Latin America and, through our companies and individual entrepreneurs, in contributing to the early development of the rich economic potential which so many of the countries of Latin America possess.

The present British Government has been particularly conscious of the growing importance of Latin America, and has made special efforts to build up our political relations with these countries. The many visits by British Ministers have deepened our understanding of the region. We in turn have been glad to welcome many distinguished visitors from Latin America to our own country. We have all been through a difficult period over the past few months. It is our sincere wish that we should now look to developing our co-operation with the countries of Latin America. We have much to offer each other and should work very closely together.

We hope of course that the Falkland Islanders can live in peace and harmony with their geographical neighbours. What the Islanders require immediately is time to return to their normal

/life and to



life and to reflect on their future. We believe not in colonialism but in self-determination. We would welcome it if the Falkland Islanders wished and were able to develop positive and constructive relations with the region, based on mutual co-operation and respect. The development of such links could be an important factor, not only in the security of the Islands but also in the advancement of their economy. If the countries of Latin America wish to extend a hand of friendship towards the people of the Falkland Islands, we would regard this as a most positive gesture and the best augury for a future relationship.