

MR WRIGHT

cc Mr Whitmore

NW
13m

FREDERICK FORSYTH

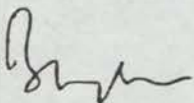
Much to my distress I now discover that Mr Forsyth has had second thoughts about his proposed book on the Falkland Islands campaign.

He told my secretary, who got in touch with him to let him know that we had not forgotten his approach, that his publishers had cast doubt on the entire project. They took the view that the issue will be very old hat in 12 months time and that by then too many books will probably have been produced on the subject. In addition they thought that sales abroad would be limited.

I must confess I am surprised to hear of this, bearing in mind Mr Forsyth's reputation as a story-teller.

However he does not seem to have given up the ghost entirely and says he is doing some more research and may come back to me later.

As a consequence you may feel it worth pursuing the general points which his original request raised as to whether the Government would be prepared to offer help to the extent that he sought and, if so, what we might say in justification of that assistance (and in justification of not giving similar assistance to others, if the demand arose).



B. INGHAM

6 July 1982