



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 July, 1982

Prime Minister

To see.

A.S.C. 9/7.

[Handwritten scribble]

AM 12/7
h.c.

Dear John,

'Calling the Falklands'

/ You may like to see the enclosed letter from Miss Eckenstein at the BBC, who is the director of their special programme broadcast to the Falkland Islanders.

The programme consisted mainly of news and messages to the Islanders with some music. Mr Pym broadcast twice to the Islanders on the programme, Mr Nott three times and Mr Onslow eight times. It clearly did a lot to boost the Islanders' morale during the crisis; Argentine attempts to prevent it being heard were unsuccessful.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street



Enter ID 6/7

BBC

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

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TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADBRIT LONDON TELEX

1st July 1982

Mr John Doble
Information Department
Room G5/3
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London
SW1A 2AH

Dear John,

I promised to let you have some of the feedback we have been receiving from the islands about our programmes during the crisis. Here is a sample.

Telegrams: From Patrick Watts, Broadcasting Officer of the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station "Our sincere thanks for your wonderful work during our dark days from us all in the islands. God bless you." From Harry Milne (Manager on the islands of the Falkland Islands Company), "Regarding Calling The Falklands programme. Consider it would be excellent morale booster to people here if nightly transmission continued. Communications greatly improved but still require outside help especially in the Camp. Would suggest extension to cater for garrison." From Jean Dobbys at Bluff Cove "Thought I would write you a short note, to say how much we appreciated hearing you speak to us on "Calling The Falklands" and working so hard for us. Words cannot express just how much that programme meant to us during our 'dark days'....Once again, let me say a big 'thank you' to you and the BBC for the wonderful job you have done for us all." From listeners "Thank you all for programmes they were great morale booster during our dark days. We kept our heads down, you kept our hearts high."

Verbal messages have reached us by various means from islanders: "To all concerned with BBC Calling The Falklands programme, thanks a million for the programme - even jamming didn't stop us from hearing some of the programmes. Love and best wishes from Miriam in Stanley and all your listeners in the Falklands." "The messages were the lifeline." "All messages received and thanks for what you have done." "Everyone has been glued to their sets. It was a great help - tremendous when every night we were kept in touch with the outside world and kept in touch with what was going on in the rest of the islands. It was personal for us." "Your messages - really bucked us up."

A number of islanders in this country have now received letters and telegrams and have rung us to pass on comments.

p.t.o.

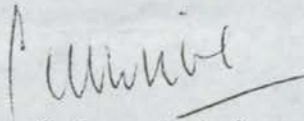
A fairly typical extract is: "Thanks for keeping in touch, it was the only way that I knew what was happening."

John Witherow who was the reporter in the Falklands for The Times, spoke to Jerry Timmins on his return and described how important "Calling The Falklands" had been to the islanders. He described how at Bluff Cove they had asked him to be quiet while the programme was on so that they could give it their full attention and he said that he had been impressed by the detailed coverage of what was happening in the islands.

Early on (8th April) before links were cut, we received a telegram from Port Stanley saying "Thank you. Keep it up. All are listening." And a specific message on 10th of May via one of the hams "The BBC is doing an excellent job, particularly with the new arrangement of relaying a special 40 minute programme of news and messages every night."

Comments are still coming in and it is nice to know that all our efforts were appreciated. Thank you again for all your help. I hope you will come over to Bush House again fairly soon, and I will give you a ring to fix a mutually convenient day.

Yours sincerely,



(Genevieve Eckenstein)
Editor, Topical Tapes



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