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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1982

Dee John,

Possible Discussion of Falklands at Commonwealth Heads of
Government (Asia/Pacific) Regional Meeting: Suva, 14-18
October 1982

- mPM's Box
I wrote to you on 4 October to recommend that the Prime Minister send a message to the Prime Minister of Fiji. You may by now have seen UKMIS telno 1602 (copy enclosed) which recommends that we should send a message of gratitude to Fiji for her support for us in the non-aligned movement. This could be covered by the insertion, at the end of paragraph 1 of the draft telegram to Suva (enclosed with my letter of 4 October), of the following two sentences:

'I was particularly grateful to learn of the outstanding efforts which have been made by your delegation in New York. Their extensive lobbying and the encouraging response achieved as well as their declared intent to vote against the Latin-American resolution, epitomizes the robust support which Fiji and other Commonwealth countries have given us in the crisis and I am glad to be able to take this opportunity to thank you personally'.

The regional meeting begins in Suva on 14 October. I therefore hope that the Prime Minister's message to Ratu Mara can issue soon if she agrees.

Yours ever

John Holmes

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NY 0172

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 080022Z OCT 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1602 OF 7 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY SUVA ROUTINE VILA

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON

SUVA TELNO 206: FALKLANDS AT UNGA 37

1. I CALLED TODAY (7 OCTOBER) ON THE FIJIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND THANKED HIM FOR THE SUPPORT FIJI HAD GIVEN US IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24. THE MINISTER SAID THAT FIJI'S POSITION WAS THAT THEY WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE LATIN AMERICAN RESOLUTION (MY TELNO 1567 NOT TO ALL). THE VIEW OF THE INFORMAL SOUTH PACIFIC GROUP HERE, WHICH INCLUDED AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WAS IN LINE WITH THE POSITION FIJI HAD TAKEN UP IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24, BUT WITH A QUESTION MARK OVER VANUATU. MOST DELEGATIONS WERE LIKELY TO SPEAK IN THE DEBATE ON THE FALKLANDS.
2. FIJI HAD ALSO BEEN DRUMMING UP SUPPORT AMONGST THE AFRICANS FOR OUR POSITION "BEGINNING WITH THE EASIEST" AND HAD HAD A FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM KENYA, MALAWI AND THE SUDAN.
3. FIJIAN EFFORTS ON OUR BEHALF ARE MOST ENCOURAGING ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE OVER-ESTIMATING THE RESPONSE THEY HAVE HAD. THEIR UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT TO VOTE AGAINST THE LATIN AMERICAN RESOLUTION IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND AS SUCH IS IMPORTANT, WHETHER OR NOT IT SURVIVES IF THE DRAFT IS AMENDED. I RECOMMEND A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE AT PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THIS COULD HELP MAINTAIN FIJIAN ROBUSTNESS.
4. IT MIGHT ALSO BE WORTH MAKING A DEMARCHE IN VILA. THE VANUATU REPRESENTATIVE HERE IS STILL THE UNRELIABLE VAN LIEROP (GOULDING'S LETTER NO25/1 OF 2 DECEMBER 1981 TO WILLIAMS, UND).

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18 OCT 1982

