



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 November 1982

*Argentine  
File No*

*Q*

THE FALKLANDS CRISIS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Your letter of 16 November enclosed the text of an article which Sir Anthony Parsons proposes to publish in the January issue of "International Affairs".

We have no objection to the publication of this article but would like to see some changes to the text.

On page 2, we should like the sentence "Meanwhile I had been warned by London that an invasion of the Falklands might be imminent" to be deleted. As you know, there is great interest at present in the sequence of events which led to the Government being aware of the likelihood of an Argentine invasion. This is bound to be revived when the Franks Report is published - and that could be in January. While the sentence concerned need not necessarily contribute to the argument, some readers might be inclined to investigate when precisely Sir Anthony Parsons received the warning that an invasion was imminent. I note that, according to his narrative, this can only have been on 31 March but even that does not dispose of the matter because there is interest in the precise time on that day when the facts became available.

On page 3, in the middle paragraph, we should like the words "tactical" and "and avoid involvement in the merits of the dispute over sovereignty on which we could not expect to secure majority support" to be deleted. Both of these could lead to unfavourable comment by people who are inclined to argue that the Government's attitude on sovereignty has not always been sufficiently robust.

On page 5, could the sentence "At the outset ..... Jordan" be deleted? Given the Prime Minister's relations with, in particular King Hussein, and his ready response to her request that he should vote for the resolution in question, I do not think she would want it put about by, as it were, a member of her staff that there was a time when we doubted whether Jordan would be with us. Nor would she wish to indicate that we doubted others who voted with us.

/On page 9,

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

On page 9, the reference to "the Inner Cabinet" should be deleted. The sentence could simply read "That weekend in London and at Chequers our final detailed position on the draft agreement was worked out".

I should be grateful if you could pass on these points to Sir Anthony Parsons.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL