



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 February 1984

Dear Brian,

Sir Anthony Jolliffe telephoned me yesterday to report that he had received a telex from his contact in Argentina, Dr. Spilsinger. Sir Anthony said that he had not had any other contact with Dr. Spilsinger since he had previously spoken to me.

The message ran as follows:

"Dr. Spilsinger has had a meeting with the person you know. The Minister handed Dr. Spilsinger the following message as an informal note":

'If your counterpart is willing to have a meeting, he must let it be known through the official channel of his Government by means of the same route. I will answer affirmatively. I am in no position to grant accreditation. I consider that the way I suggest makes it unnecessary and gives me assurances as to the veracity and reality of the suggested encounter.' "

Sir Anthony Jolliffe said that he did not know who was referred to by "the person you know" in the first sentence but thought that it must mean the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He agreed with me that the latter part of the message was difficult to understand.

After asking Sir Anthony Jolliffe whether I could give him my frank impression, I said that there was some reason to think that Dr. Spilsinger might be trying to give an impression to the Argentine Government that, through his acquaintance with Sir Anthony Jolliffe, he had access to the British Government. Sir Anthony Jolliffe said that he thought that this was quite likely. In answer to a question from me, he said that he had it in mind not to reply to this telex message. I said that I thought that this course was very wise. I was sure that the British Government would not want to use this channel.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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