



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 March 1984

Argentina/Falklands

At their meeting this morning the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary discussed the proposed OD minute enclosed with your letter of 14 March.

The Prime Minister said that the main difficulty which she saw in the proposed note was the way it dealt with the three points which Argentina wished to add to our own six points for discussion at the talks. She believed that we should make it plain to Argentina in advance of the talks that we would not be able to discuss these matters. If Argentina nevertheless raised them we should have certain points to make in reply. For example, if the Argentines raised item B ("A halt to the fortification of the Islands ... etc.) we would counter this with questions about Argentina's military dispositions, its armaments etc. and we would make plain that we were entitled to defend the Islands. Similarly, if Argentina raised item B (nuclear weapons), we should raise the question of nuclear developments in Argentina.

The Prime Minister said that it would be wrong to imply that Argentina had any right to discuss these questions with us.

It was agreed that the paper would be adjusted to deal with these points and that the Prime Minister would be shown it again prior to its circulation to OD.

BF

A. J. COLES

NR

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.