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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 June 1984

Point discussed  
between PM  
& FCS on  
13 June. CDD 13/6

Not done to I.R.  
FCS will discuss  
Argentina with the  
tomorrow. A. & C. 17/6.

Dear John,

Relations with Argentina

The Prime Minister will have seen press reports that President Alfonsin has recently spoken publicly about his policy towards the Falklands. In the course of this he apparently accused HMG of 'inflexibility' over the question of talks between Britain and Argentina. He also argued that while he did not intend to pursue Argentina's claim to the Falklands by warlike means, Argentina would certainly not renounce its claim.

The Argentines are still intent on finding a way of raising the sovereignty issue in the talks, but they also seem to concede that this will not get them anywhere. They have been left in no doubt about our firm position. It remains to be seen whether we can open up discussion with them on the practical issues, while, necessarily, preserving our clear position. The Foreign Secretary will be letting the Prime Minister have further recommendations on this shortly. In the meantime we recommend that our public line should be a holding one. We shall be providing briefing on this basis for Prime Minister's Questions in the House tomorrow.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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