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cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 July 1984

RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

Thank you for your letter of 9 July concerning use of the word "refused" in making clear that we shall not agree to discuss sovereignty.

I have consulted the Prime Minister who agrees that we should use the same words in public as in the face-to-face discussions with the Argentines, that is the words agreed in OD and reproduced in your letter.

CHARLES POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 July 1984

RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

The Prime Minister saw over the weekend Berne telegram No. 254. She has noted with approval our insistence that we shall maintain the word "refused" in making clear that we do not agree to discuss sovereignty.

C.D. Powell

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

Agree that we should
use the formula agreed

in OD in public 9 July 1984

as well as with the Argentines?

Dear Charles, Yes not CDP 10/7.

Relations with Argentina

attached

The Foreign Secretary has seen your letter of 9 July about whether we should use the word 'refused' in making clear that we do not agree to discuss sovereignty.

A

Since the weekend there have been further exchanges with the Swiss (Berne telno 256). The Secretary of State does not believe that we should accept any of the alternative phrases suggested in the Berne telegram.

He considers that we should tell the Swiss again that when we say 'refused' we mean exactly that. But if we receive a specific assurance from the Swiss, that if we use the same words in public as in the face-to-face discussions with the Argentines, the Argentines would get on with the talks, then we should agree. The Prime Minister will recall that the formula is:

"The British Government have consistently made clear to the Argentine Government, through the Protecting Powers and publicly, that they are not prepared to enter into discussion of the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands [and the Falkland Islands Dependencies]".

This formula has the advantage of being exactly what we would say to the Argentines and would leave no room for misunderstanding of our position. The Foreign Secretary would be grateful for the Prime Minister's confirmation that there is no objection to this course.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

~~BRITISH~~ ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

~~36~~ 36

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/WHITNEY
 PS/RIFKIND
 PS/PCS
~~MR J. ...~~ SIR J
~~MR ...~~ MR FREEMAN
 MR W. HARDING
 MR ... GOODALL
 MR ... O'NEILL
~~MR ... GORDON LENNOX~~
 SIR C. TICKELL
 MR D. C. THOMAS
 MR ... WESTON
 MR MILES
 D/PSD (2)
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 D/DEPT
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 D/PLANNING STAFF

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST. (3)
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 MR ... AUSD STAFF MOD
 MR R. D. NICHOLL
 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 MISS M E CURD) TREASURY
 MR LITTLE)
 SIR E ARMSTRONG)
 MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET C
 DIO) CARTLEDGE)
~~MR V A PATTISON, TD, ODI~~
 MR POWER, SAD, ODA
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FM BERNE 090850Z

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TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO
 TELNO 256 OF 09 JULY
 INFO ROUTINE BRASILIA

MY TELNOS 254 AND 255: RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

1. AS ALREADY REPORTED BY TELEPHONE TO PALMER
 STATE SECRETARY CALLED THIS MORNING. AFTER REFERRING TO
 DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND (REPORTED IN TELS UNDER REFERENCE)
 HE MADE AN APPEAL ON HIS OWN BEHALF AND THAT OF KEUSCH FOR SOME
 FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART IN ORDER TO OVERCOME
 THE LAST REMAINING OBSTACLE. KEUSCH BELIEVED THAT CAPUTO HAD GONE
 AS FAR AS HE COULD AND THAT THE WORD "REFUSED" WAS NOT
 POSSIBLE FOR HIM.

2 BRUNNER SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN LOOKING AGAIN AT THE TEXT OF MR WHITNEY'S STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF 08 JUNE (YOUR RETRACT NO 008). THIS SPEECH HAD NOT CREATED ANY ADVERSE REACTION IN ARGENTINA AND THE LANGUAGE USED MIGHT HELP TO FIND A SOLUTION TO OUR PRESENT PROBLEM.

3. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION THREE POSSIBLE PHRASES WERE MENTIONED AS ALTERNATIVES TO "REFUSED":-

A. "NOT WILLING"

B. "DECLINED"

C. "WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION NOT TO ACCEPT" OR "DID NOT ACCEPT".

4. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT "DECLINED" WAS THE BEST CHOICE FROM OUR OWN PRESENTATIONAL POINT OF VIEW. BRUNNER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HE AND KEUSCH WOULD BE ABLE TO DELIVER CAPUTO'S ACCEPTANCE ON THE BASIS "DECLINED/DESPUESTO". BRUNNER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH DELPECHE AT 0730Z ON 10 JULY. I HOPE YOU CAN AUTHORISE ME TO INFORM HIM BEFORE THEN THAT WE CAN SETTLE FOR "DECLINE/DESPUESTO".

5. BRUNNER ALSO SAID THAT UNLESS WE CAN REACH VERY RAPID AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL 16 JULY OPENING AT 6.00 PM.

POWELL-JONES