



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 August, 1984

In the Prime Minister's absence on holiday, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 23 August. I will ensure that she sees your letter on her return and that a reply is sent to you as soon as possible.

(Timothy Flesher)

George Foulkes, Esq., M.P.

George FOULKES, MP

31/8

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 August, 1984

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from George Foulkes, MP.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Henry Steel (Attorney General's Office) and to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

D. Brennan, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

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From: George Foulkes. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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23 August 1984

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Arising from the article in today's New Statesman I should be grateful for answers to the following questions:

1. Did the Overseas Defence Committee (South Atlantic) at its meeting on 30 April agree to order an attack on the Argentine aircraft carrier "Vientecinco de Mayo"?
2. Was such an order opposed by the Foreign Secretary and the Attorney General as being contrary to the UN treaty and against International law?
3. Did they sign a minute of dissent to that effect?
4. Was a polaris submarine deployed, as described on page 9 of the New Statesman article as far south as Ascencion Island?
5. What was the purpose of such deployment and under what circumstances was it envisaged the armaments of the submarine might be used?

I realise that under normal circumstances you would refuse to answer these questions on grounds of national security but in the light of the publication of allegations in detail with supporting evidence it is in the national interest that you give the fullest possible answers to this new information which has not been the subject of direct answers before and which was, of course, not covered by the Franks inquiry.

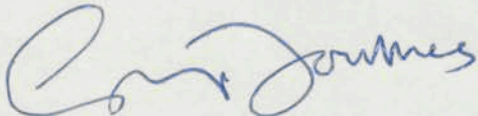
Can I also put to you that, if the information contained in the New Statesman article is correct, and I have no reason to believe otherwise, then it is imperative that a statement be made to explain why the advice of the Foreign Secretary and the Government's chief law officer was ignored.

Cont . . .

If you contest the accuracy of the information then surely it is now incumbent upon you to set up an independent judicial inquiry to determine the facts relating to the incidents involved in view of the clear implication that your only objective was a total military victory and any possibility of a negotiated end to the conflict was never given serious consideration by you.

I should be grateful for substantive and detailed answers to all these points as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Foulkes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Foulkes".

GEORGE FOULKES MP