



10 DOWNING STREET

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*From the Private Secretary*

20 October 1984

*Dear Len,*

Address to the European Parliament by the  
President of Argentina

Thank you for your letter of 19 October enclosing a press line to draw upon if we are asked for a reaction to President Alfonsin's appearance before the European Parliament.

The Prime Minister thinks that we should react sharply to this. She has commented that a better draft is needed than the one enclosed with your letter which is "very bad".

My own suggestion is that you should reverse the order of the paragraphs, make clear that we think it inappropriate for Alfonsin to have been invited to address the Parliament, say that we hope that at the least he will now show willingness to declare a definitive cessation of hostilities and take out some of the hot air words ("whole-hearted", "on a pragmatic basis") from your first paragraph.

*Yours sincerely*  
*C.D. Powell*

(C.D. POWELL)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister  
This is likely to  
harm our cause  
and we ought to  
have been more active  
in trying to head  
the Assembly off.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 October 1984

Dear Charles, It is too late now. But we ought to react quite sharply.

Address to the European Parliament by the President of Argentina

The Enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament has agreed to a request by President Alfonsin to visit the Parliament and to address its Members between 23 and 25 October.

Agree proposed press line?

CDP 19/10

The Foreign Secretary thinks the Parliament acted wrongly in agreeing such a request from the Head of State of a country which has no diplomatic relations with one Member State of the Ten, and which has still not declared a definitive cessation of hostilities. But he has concluded that it would be unproductive to seek to reverse the Bureau's decision.

President Alfonsin apparently does not intend to raise the Falklands issue when he addresses the Parliament. Nevertheless, it would be surprising if he said nothing at all about relations with Britain. We are concerned that the President of Argentina should be given this forum in which to assert his democratic credentials at a time when our partners in the Ten would be considering how to vote on the Falklands question at the General Assembly a few days later, on 31 October. But it might not necessarily be disadvantageous for us if the President does refer to relations with the United Kingdom.

Yes - but a better draft is needed. It is very

If he takes the unconstructive line he took in the General Assembly on 24 September, President Alfonsin will score an own goal. Conversely, if he shows signs of willingness to work for an improvement in bilateral relations without imposing the pre-condition of discussion of sovereignty, we can argue that this demonstrates the value of our own policy. We would urge other Member States not to give support to Argentine false hopes at a time when realism may be beginning to prevail.

but at present not

The Foreign Secretary therefore suggests that if we are asked for a reaction to President Alfonsin's appearance before the Parliament, we should draw on the attached press line.

Yours ever,  
Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S ADDRESS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

LINE TO TAKE

2. Britain has wholeheartedly welcomed the return of democratic rule to Argentina. We have tried to normalise commercial bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina on a pragmatic basis. As the Foreign Secretary said in New York on 26 September, this remains our intention. The Community made proposals to the previous Argentine Government for the normalisation of economic and commercial relations. That Government failed to respond positively. We had hoped the new Argentine Government would respond more favourably. So far they have not done so. But the proposals remain on the table.

indeed inappropriate  
1. It is surprising at the least that the Head of State of a country, which has still not declared a definitive cessation of hostilities against a member state, should be invited to address the European Parliament. But we hope President Alfonsin will now indicate a willingness to do so and to develop normal relations with Britain on a realistic basis, without imposing the preconditions of discussion on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The Argentines see this discussion as having a single, predetermined outcome - the transfer of sovereignty to them regardless of the wishes of the Islanders, as if the events of 1982 hadn't happened. We obviously cannot accept that.