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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1984

Dear Charles,

Falklands/General Assembly

/ As requested, I enclose draft messages from the Prime Minister to:

- (a) President Mitterrand;
- (b) Mr Craxi;
- (c) Mr Kohl;
- (d) the Dutch and Luxembourg Prime Ministers; and
- (e) the Prime Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, Ireland and Greece.

It was not possible to show these drafts to Sir Geoffrey Howe before his departure for Rome this morning.

Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER

FALKLANDS VOTE AT THE UN

The vote is likely to be next Wednesday. The text of the Argentine resolution as circulated (Flag A) remains completely unacceptable. There is a risk that they will modify it further, in the hope of making it more acceptable to some of our European partners.

We need to mount a further round of lobbying with our European partners to try to firm up a Community abstention. This will be most effective if in the form of messages from you.

I attach messages to:

- Mitterrand. I think it is worth another go. There is an interesting indication from Paris of likely abstention (Flag B).
- Craxi
- Kohl
- Netherlands/Luxembourg
- Belgium/Denmark/Ireland/Greece

If they are to have the desired effect they need to be with our Embassies early on Monday. It would be helpful if you could let me know on Saturday whether you agree. We have kept copies here which we can despatch as telegrams.

CDP.

26 October 1984

The Prime Minister has decided not

to write to Mitterrand. CDP 29/X.

I think I would be best left to write a letter on Monday morning. - a second one. - I must tell me

BU save letter and Spola to both Cheysson + Dinner on Thursday evening about it... The message is obviously to definitely to check that!

TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

I send you my warmest good wishes at the conclusion of your important and most welcome State Visit. I particularly welcomed your words to the two Houses of Parliament about the strength of our democratic institutions and the enduring ties between our two countries, and congratulate you upon a speech both profound and topical. Your visit has undoubtedly strengthened our ^{relations} ties. I am very glad that the unfortunate incident over security did not mar its success. I look forward to continuing our discussions when we meet again at the end of November. On a personal note, I should like to thank you and Madame Mitterrand most warmly for the beautiful glasses. *birds*

Your visit took place only a few days before the United Nations vote on the Falkland Islands, which is due on 31 October. We talked about this when you came to Downing Street. I had hoped to have an opportunity to discuss it with you further before you left, but this did not in the event prove possible.

I therefore wanted to stress to you once again the very great importance for Britain of this matter. I explained our concerns to you. As for the intentions of our Community partners, I am not certain about the Greeks but have good reason to believe that all the others intend to abstain, as they did last year. I very much hope that, in the wake of such a successful visit here, you will agree that France should not throw its weight behind Argentina in the coming vote.

*All despatched
CR*

TO PRIME MINISTER CRAZI

It was a great pleasure to welcome you and your colleagues to London once again on 18 and 19 November. We had a most useful series of discussions which made clear once again the close identity of views between us.

One of the subjects we discussed was the coming United Nations vote on the Falkland Islands. You were good enough to tell me that Italy planned once again to abstain and that you thought that abstention should be the common position of Britain's Community partners. I thank you most warmly for taking this very helpful position.

I took the opportunity of President Mitterrand's State Visit to give him a full explanation of our concerns. Thanks to you, I was able to tell him that apart from a possible question mark about the Greeks, I had good reason to believe that all our other partners intended to abstain. I am sure President Mitterrand fully understood the importance of the matter to us.

I well understand the close ties between your country and Argentina. I share your hopes that Argentine democracy will take root and flourish. As you know, I believe that support for Argentina's unrealistic ambition of absorbing the Falkland Islands could damage that democracy rather than help it. I warmly welcome your decision that Italy should take a neutral position in the coming vote.

TO CHANCELLOR KOHL

We are approaching another vote in the United Nations General Assembly on an Argentine draft resolution about the future of the Falkland Islands.

President Alfonsin has made it abundantly clear in New York this Autumn that Argentina continues to seek the rapid absorption of the Islands into her territory regardless of the wishes of the inhabitants, whose recollections of the cruel events of 1982 are still vivid. I know that the Argentines have been making a particular effort to persuade our European partners to vote with them and that is why I am writing to you now.

As you know, we mean to stand by the people of the Falklands. We shall uphold their right to live under a government of their own choosing, a right which is not diminished by their geographical circumstances. We cannot negotiate their future with Argentina over their heads and despite their clear wishes.

We have nevertheless made a major effort this year to establish a dialogue with the Argentines and rebuild relations of confidence with them. It is most regrettable that - through no fault of our own - these efforts have not so far borne fruit. I am convinced that such a

/dialogue

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dialogue represents the only possible way forward; and I am most anxious that Argentina should not be encouraged to believe otherwise. It cannot be good for the cause of democratic government in Argentina, which all of us wish to strengthen, for the Argentines to persist in a wholly unrealistic course.

This is a matter of great importance to us in Britain and I am sure you fully understand my concerns. We have never pressed our Partners to cast negative votes on the Argentine draft alongside us. But I do ask you once again to abstain and not to lend your support to a resolution that we must oppose and which runs plainly counter to the principle of self-determination which is so important for both our countries.



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TO THE PRIME MINISTERS OF NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG

We are approaching another vote in the United Nations General Assembly on an Argentine draft resolution about the future of the Falkland Islands.

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This is a matter of great importance to us in Britain. I have been most heartened by the assurances we have had that you will continue to abstain. I am in touch with our other Partners and hope that they will also do so.

TO THE BELGIAN, DANISH,
IRISH AND GREEK PRIME MINISTERS

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28 OCT 1984

