



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

FILE VC
SUBJECT *cefeo*

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. *T206/86*

cc Master
13 November 1986
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Dear Helmut-

Although the draft resolution on the Argentina/Falklands issue is identical in substance to last year's, there is a new factor to which I want to draw your attention before the debate in the General Assembly.

During the course of this year Argentina, in pursuing her sovereignty claim, has acted with increasing irresponsibility; undermining the attempt to secure a multilateral solution to the fisheries problem in the South West Atlantic by concluding bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria that purport to cover Falklands waters; and seeking to justify on sovereignty ground the use of force at sea more than 200 miles from Argentina and within 200 miles of the Falklands. This, as you know, resulted in loss of life.

This development of Argentine policy followed the increased vote at last year's General Assembly for the resolution on the Falklands, from which the Argentine Government has evidently drawn encouragement. Renewed endorsement for Argentina in the General Assembly may well stimulate further the irresponsible tendencies that we have seen this year and reinforce Argentina's apparent determination to refuse any kind of cooperation. That would be a negative development.

Since President Alfonsin was elected in 1983, your government, like mine, has supported Argentine democracy and has been able to distinguish between this necessary task and supporting Argentine policy on the Falklands which has become worryingly unrealistic. In the light of the way Argentine policy has developed this year, maintaining that distinction has become all the more important.

Against this background, I very much hope that your government will continue to abstain on the resolution.

For our part we shall vote against the resolution, without tabling any amendments.

Yours ever

Margaret

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl