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PRIME MINISTER

ARGENTINA/FALKLANDS

You need to reply to President Bush's short message about Menem with the aim of winding down exaggerated expectations. I attach a draft reply. Agree to despatch?

CD?

Yes

C. D. POWELL

15 October 1989

C:\WPDOCS\FOREIGN\ARGENTIN.DAS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1

14 October 1989

Dear Mr Powell,

ARGENTINA

— Job incl.

Thank you for your letter of 11 October. I enclose a draft reply which the Prime Minister may wish to send to President Bush on the hot-line.

The draft concentrates on the protection zone because we see this as the most difficult issue and the one where Argentine expectations will be most disappointed. It will be valuable to put our point of view to the President before the conference takes place.

Yours sincerely

C S Forwood.

PP Stephen Wall

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

RY2ADM

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

a: Scowcroft, dms

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

President Bush

Copies to:

*For Genl Scowcroft from
Charles R. Bell, W. 10 Downing St.
Please pass the following message
from the Prime Minister
to President Bush.*

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

~~I was grateful for your message of 11 October in which
it was good of you to share
you shared your impressions of President Menem.~~

*carefully with him well in dealing it
Argentina's ~~own~~ problems.*

~~I have been watching with great interest his approach to
Argentina's daunting problems. I hope he succeeds in
dealing with them, though I do not underestimate the
difficulties.~~

~~We shall indeed be having a meeting with the Argentines,
in Madrid this week. Our delegation has instructions to
seek an end to remaining Argentine discrimination against
British interests and progress with the normalisation of
our relations. We too want to reduce tensions.~~

But I am
~~I am, however, concerned that Argentine expectations of
the Madrid talks may be unrealistic, particularly where
the protection zone, which we need for the defence of the
islands, is concerned. We want to build up confidence in
the South Atlantic and we shall be putting further
proposals of our own to the Argentines in Madrid. But we~~

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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