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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 April 1982

Dear John,

AR 27/4  
h.a.

Mrs Gandhi: Falklands

Thank you for your letter of 19 April suggesting that the closing words of Mrs Gandhi's letter of thanks to the Prime Minister about her recent visit create an opening for a further attempt to influence the Indian attitude on the Falklands.

Just before we received your letter, we had instructed Sir John Thomson to call on Mrs Gandhi in order to ensure that she personally understands our position. Although we have received a good deal of support from the Indian media for our position on the Falklands the statement issued by the Indian Government was more muted. The Indians are of course conscious of their non-aligned position.

We asked Sir John Thomson whether, if he had not already seen Mrs Gandhi, he would find it helpful to have with him a message from Mrs Thatcher. He has replied that he would prefer to reserve the option of a Prime Ministerial message for use if events take a dramatic turn in the next week or so. He detects a strong current of sympathy for Britain and he will be taking steps to encourage the Indian Government to acknowledge privately and publicly that our case in international law is unanswerable. He hopes to call shortly on Mrs Gandhi, who has just returned from Saudi Arabia.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

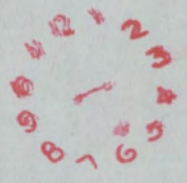
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