

MR COLES

Bernard has asked whether we have any intention of setting the record straight with Michael Foot's office. I am still of the view that no harm - and possibly some good would be done by a brief letter from the Prime Minister. It need say no more than the attached draft.

If the Prime Minister is prepared to write I suggest, that, as the draft says, it should be copied to David Steel and made available to other Parties through the Whips Office. We would need to consider to copy it direct to David Owen.

MAP

27 April 1982



DRAFT LETTER TO MR FOOT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

During Question Time this afternoon, you asked me about the Government's response to an appeal put out by the United Nations Secretary General yesterday.

I should first make it clear that the Secretary General's appeal took the form of a press release put out by his spokesman. It has not been circulated as a document of the Security Council or General Assembly, nor has it been ~~mentioned~~ <sup>communicated</sup> to Her Majesty's Government in any formal way.

*in an appeal this way* *it would be most unusual for any formal response to be sent to such* *to be sent an appeal issued*  
The United Kingdom's ~~Permanent Representative~~ <sup>Permanent Representative</sup> at the United Nations nevertheless spoke to the Secretary General on behalf of the Government yesterday. He told Mr De Cuellar that any suggestion that we had failed to comply with Security Council Resolution No 502 was unacceptable, and that it was Argentina which was in breach of the Resolution.

I am sending a <sup>copies</sup> copy of this letter to David Steel ~~and~~ <sup>David</sup> Owen.

*In view of the importance which you attached to these exchanges this afternoon, I shall of course release this letter to the press.*





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

27 April 1982

In the light of exchanges at Question Time this afternoon, the Prime Minister may wish to send a letter to Michael Foot this evening on the lines of the attached draft.

I should be grateful for rapid confirmation that the draft is factually correct. It is based on the information you gave John Coles earlier this afternoon.

M. A. PATTISON

John Holmes Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.





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I should first make it clear that the Secretary General's appeal took the form of a press release put out by his spokesman. It has not been circulated as a document of the Security Council or General Assembly, nor has it been communicated to Her Majesty's Government in any formal way.

It would be most unusual for any formal response to be sent to an appeal issued in this way. The United Kingdom's Permanent Representative nevertheless spoke to the Secretary General on behalf of the Government yesterday. He told Mr De Cuellar that any suggestion that we had failed to comply with Security Council Resolution No. 502 was unacceptable, and that it was Argentina which was in breach of the Resolution.

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Yours sincerely

Robert Thatcher

The Right Honourable Michael Foot, M.P.