



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 November 1985

CD 22/11

Dear Charles,

Falklands at the UN: Call on the Prime Minister by the  
New Zealand High Commissioner

Since our brief for this meeting was written, the New Zealand High Commission have told us of the New Zealand position on the Falklands resolution.

Mr Lange is apparently considering a change in the New Zealand vote (they have traditionally voted with us) in the light of the Argentine "soft" resolution.

New Zealand claimed to see the chance of a consensus text, with explanations of vote from our friends, emphasising the Charter's principle of self-determination. They thought this would avoid an acrimonious debate and a slippage in our vote, and would remove the item from the agenda in future years.

New Zealand would therefore support the amendments we propose on self-determination. If the resolution was adopted with these amendments, and with no other changes, New Zealand would vote for it. If our amendments were not adopted, New Zealand would abstain.

We have expressed disappointment at this change, and emphasised that the notion of a consensus was entirely misplaced, since the Argentine position on sovereignty was unchanged. The Prime Minister may wish to emphasise this point to Mr Harland tomorrow.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

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