



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

7th April 1982

We spoke on the telephone last night about the Chief Whip's approach to the Opposition Chief Whip following the public comments by Mr Ted Rowlands MP on the Argentine crisis and I undertook to find out the background to this approach.

I understand that this matter was discussed at a ministerial meeting in the Ministry of Defence yesterday morning at which Mr Blaker, Mr Wiggin and Mr Boscawen were present. There was a discussion on how the Rowlands matter could best be dealt with and it was suggested that the most appropriate way would be for it to be discussed through the usual channels. Mr Boscawen asked the Chief Whip if he would pursue this with Mr Cocks and he accordingly did so. The Chief Whip told me after his meeting that he had discussed the issue with Mr Cocks and I understand as a result of this, Mr Rowlands has undertaken to make no further public pronouncements on this matter.

I am sorry that you were not informed in advance but the Chief Whip naturally took it that a request from Ministers in the Ministry of Defence would have been endorsed by everyone concerned. Indeed Mr Wiggin subsequently came to enquire from the Chief Whip how he had got on.

(M. MacLEAN)

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