

SECRET



Secretary of State (62)

U. Mallaby
one taken for the moment
by the exchange between
President Reagan & the Prime
Minister on 16/4

Private Secretary

FALKLANDS: POSSIBLE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

1. You said that the Secretary of State would like to see how a message to the President about British public attitudes to the US and the Falklands might look. I attach a tentative draft for discussion.

for Hides
15/4

C L G Mallaby

C L G Mallaby
Planning Staff

16 April 1982

cc: PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure
Hd/NAD
Hd/SAmD

Enter per [unclear]
4

ALQ 50/304/1			
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY			
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken	

SECRET

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

President Reagan

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

You know that I and my colleagues are most grateful for all that Al Haig is doing to promote a peaceful settlement of the Falklands Islands crisis. I am grateful also to you personally for ^{making} ~~sparing~~ your Secretary of State ^{available} for this purpose. The United States is better placed than any other country or group of countries to help to find a solution. We wish Al every possible success in his current visit to Buenos Aires and we shall be glad to welcome him again in London if and when he thinks it right to return here.

Meanwhile there is one aspect of the present crisis on which I particularly want to share my thoughts with you. It concerns the image of the United States in this country. There are many voices - and some of them were raised in Parliament when it discussed the crisis on 14 April-which are urging that America cannot be neutral between the aggressor and the victim of aggression in this dispute. Other voices are insisting that the United States should join Britain's other allies in imposing economic sanctions on Argentina, as Britain joined America in the affair of the US hostages in Iran.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Let me immediately say that I and my colleagues are well aware that America ^{is} not neutral in the present dispute and is cooperating bilaterally with Britain on important matters, and also that your reason for not imposing sanctions is your wish at the present junct^{ure}~~ion~~ to maximise the chances that Al Haig's mission should succeed. And let me also say that if Al produces a satisfactory outcome which prevents conflict, the voices ⁱⁿ Britain I have described will fall silent and Anglo American relations will be boosted in a most welcome way.

But so long as Al's mission continues, and if it ^{should}~~does~~ not succeed, the danger will exist that criticism of the US will grow in this country. That could have secondary effects on ^{the}~~deeper~~ elements in public opinion, for instance on attitudes to nuclear weapons. I do not think that this problem has yet become acute. But I suggest that our two governments in the days and weeks ahead should pay even greater attention than usual to the way in which we comment on each other's policies and actions. Like that we can reduce the misinterpretations and exaggerations, and can minimise the dangers to our mutual interests.