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DRAFT

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FROM

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT

TEL NO.

10 May 1982

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Dafydd Wigley Esq MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Mike,*

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT

Thank you for your letter of 28 April enclosing a letter from two Welsh Nationalist MPs. I enclose a brief draft reply from the Prime Minister.

In Confidence

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

CA 100

*Yours ever*

*J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

The Government have repeatedly made clear that we have no wish for military confrontation and have consistently sought to solve the dispute by peaceful means. We are continuing to do so by every available channel. We sought UN assistance in solving the problem from the outset. The result was UN Security Council Resolution No 302, which is mandatory and which calls on Argentina to withdraw. Argentina has so far failed to comply. Our Permanent Representative to the UN has been in constant touch with the UN Secretary General since then. Francis Poma has also been in New York. We are currently engaged in urgent discussions with the Secretary General of fresh peace proposals. I hope that Argentina

/will pass

DRAFT: ~~XXXXX~~/letter/~~XXXXX~~/despatch/~~XXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

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Prime Minister

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Dafydd Wigley Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 28 April, signed also by Dafydd Elis Thomas, putting on record the views of Plaid Cymru on the Falkland Islands dispute. I respect your viewpoint, but I cannot but regret that you are unable to support the Government at a time when the united support of Parliament is so obviously needed.

CAVEAT.....

The Government have repeatedly made clear that we have no wish for military confrontation and have consistently sought to solve the dispute by peaceful means. We are continuing to do so by every available channel. We sought UN assistance in solving the problem from the outset. The result was UN Security Council Resolution No 502, which is mandatory and which calls on Argentina to withdraw. Argentina has so far failed to comply. Our Permanent Representative to the UN has been in constant touch with the UN Secretary General since then. Francis Pym has also been to New York. We are currently engaged in urgent discussions with the Secretary General of fresh peace proposals. I hope that Argentina

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

will prove readier to embark on the path of peace than she has been so far. If not, she can be in no doubt of our resolve to end her illegal occupation by whatever means are necessary.

One of the reasons for the widespread international support for us on this question is the realisation that the issue spreads beyond the Falklands themselves. Whilst no-one wishes to see war or bloodshed, to allow the basic democratic rights of a peaceful people to be over-ridden by threats of acts of force would be a recipe for worldwide violence and anarchy. These are concerns which all the people of Britain share.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dafydd Elis Thomas.

3. I know that the Attorney General considers that, so long as the carrier is on its present course and in its present posture, our justification for attacking it would be questionable.

4. I am in no doubt whatever about the political consequences of an attack upon the carrier in that posture, while we were waiting for the Argentine response to the proposals which Cabinet endorsed this morning. International opinion would be outraged. We should, I believe, forfeit much of our Parliamentary and public support at home. We should make it impossible, at least in the short term, for Argentina to accept an agreement of the kind envisaged. And,

/most