

13/5/82

FROM: Deputy Chief Whip

All Whips to see please and return to my cabinet by:- A.S.A.P.

J. S-T. ✓

T.B.

C.M.

R.B.

J.C. ✓

P.B. ✓ Unbelievable.

J.G.

A.G.

D.T.

N.B.

	13/5/82	DATE RECEIVED
	A.S.A.P.	DATE REQUIRED
	14/5/82	DATE RETURNED
		SUBJECT

D.H. ✓ Why or earth is he now pushing him so hard

I.L.

T.G-J. Bowen did send me a copy of this, but I did not consider it worth reporting; his views change constantly and, generally speaking, he can be got into line

13/5/82

FROM: Deputy Chief Whip

Allegation to see please and return to my cabinet by:-

1. 8-1. 1

T.B.

M.C.

<u>DATE RECEIVED</u>	13/5/82
<u>DATE REQUIRED</u>	A.S.A.P.
<u>DATE RETURNED</u>	14/5/82
<u>SUBJECT</u>	Letters re FALKLANDS Bowen Wells / PM (dated 26/4/82) PM / B. Wells (undated)

A.B.

L.O.

P.B.

J.G.

A.G.

D.T.

H.B.

based on info given in the ...

I.I.

Bowen Wells ...
 Bowen Wells ...
 Bowen Wells ...
 Bowen Wells ...
 Bowen Wells ...

MJ
29.4.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 April 1982

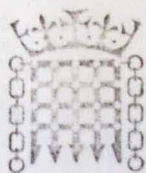
Dear Bowen,

Thank you for your letter of 26 April.

I am sure that there will be an opportunity for you to set out your views in the House, and I am grateful to you for making public your support for the actions we have taken to date, and your ideas about what components of a settlement might be acceptable.

*Yours
Rogers*

Bowen Wells, Esq., M.P.



22/4

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London. SW1

26th April 1982

Dear Prime Minister

Although you have kindly made it plain that you will see any M.P. privately, I find that, because the Speaker has not called me, in spite of my membership of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, I am left with no alternative way than to write you an open letter on the Falkland Islands if my views are to be publicly known. Firstly, may I say how much I admire and applaud your courage in sending the fleet immediately to support the principles of the United Nations Charter of which Britain is a Guardian as a permanent member of the Security Council. Without the strengthening of our armed forces since we came to power in 1979 it would not have been possible to prepare and send the fleet so quickly. The resolution 502, passed by the Security Council, supports us in the view that the Argentine, by invading the Falkland Islands, committed an act of unprovoked, blatant, naked aggression against British territory and virtually defenseless British people. That the leaders of Argentina should have done this when Lord Carrington and Richard Luce were actively negotiating with them, in good faith, in obedience to a U.N. resolution of 1965, makes them guilty of duplicity. They cannot therefore be trusted and they must withdraw from the Falkland Islands which must, if sadly necessary, be insisted upon by force. If this requires putting out of action their air force based on the mainland to reduce loss of life then we must not flinch from using pin point methods to achieve that objective, again minimising the loss of innocent Argentinian servicemen's lives. I know you will always have at the forefront of your mind the necessity to use the minimum force needed to achieve the objective because we would prefer that nobody is killed. The repossession of South Georgia has brilliantly combined these objectives. You, and those who carried it out, have earned the nation's admiration and gratitude.

Once having achieved the objective of reasserting British administration on the islands, we have to return to the negotiating table, so dishonestly deserted by President Galtieri. Because he has proved himself untrustworthy, we shall need a United Nations, or other guarantees, to ensure that the treaty eventually agreed will be respected by Argentina.

What should this treaty involve? The realistic position, long recognised by both Labour and Conservative parties and actively pursued by Lord Carrington and Richard Luce, is that the islands can never be developed or the islanders feel secure so long as Argentina continues to claim sovereignty even though she is not prepared to test the issue at the International Court at The Hague. If we could rely on

The Prime Minister

26th April 1982

Argentina respecting the decision of that Court, that would be the easiest way out. Failing this, we must find a way that will satisfy some of Argentina's ambition but safeguarding the Falkland islanders' rights of self determination - a right which is also enshrined in the United Nations Charter. However, it must be impressed upon the Falkland islanders that Britain cannot imperil our own defence or bankrupt our economy by keeping sufficient forces permanently in South American waters prepared to physically defend the Falklands. It is for this reason that I supported Lord Carrington and Nicholas Ridley when they proposed to Argentina a lease-back solution 18 months ago. I think you should know that I would support such a solution with two provisos: one, that the lease, as in Hong Kong, should be for a period of 99 years renewable and two, that such an agreement is guaranteed by the United Nations and/or the United States in view of the Argentinian duplicity. Such a solution, or one like it, would secure a peaceful means of satisfying Argentina's territorial ambitions, safeguard the future of the islanders and permit the development of the Falkland Islands.

Such a solution would demonstrate Britain's determination to enforce the terms of the United Nations Charter, if necessary by force, but at the same time our readiness to negotiate disputes and arrive at a realistic settlement. There are no less than 72 territorial disputes of a similar character throughout the world, of which about 20 are in the Caribbean and South America and I learn that Venezuela, in addition to her claim for two-thirds of Guyana and part of Colombia, has now claimed Trinidad. Without Britain's determination to uphold the rule of international law through the United Nations, the world could be plunged into ever widening areas of war. Your action, with the support of our friends in the Commonwealth and the EEC in particular, will be shown as a courageous act of peace-keeping in the highest traditions of the ideals enshrined in the U.N. Charter for which so much blood has been spilt this century.

Yours Sincerely

B. Mason.
