



GR 300  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM WASHINGTON 052312Z MAY 82  
TO ROUTINE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1623 OF 5 MAY  
INFO BIS NEW YORK

FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS: MEDIA

1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MR KEITH FULLER,  
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS :-

QUOTE  
DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A BIT FAIRER IF AN ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTER  
WERE ALLOWED TO COVER THE BRITISH FLEET IN PERSON.

AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND A STRONG  
BACKER OF THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM CAUSE, I CAN'T RECONCILE THE  
PAROCHIAL VIEWPOINT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN PERMITTING  
ONLY REUTERS AND PRESS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES ABOARD THE  
FLEET.

BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES MOVE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY FREELY, ARE  
ACCEPTED AS EQUALS AND OPERATE UNDER ABSOLUTELY NO RESTRICTIONS  
WHATEVER. IN BRITAIN, HOWEVER, ON EVEN ROUTINE NEWS OUR ORGANIZATION  
IS OFTEN EXCLUDED. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND A  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE FUNCTION.

WE HAVE QUIETLY SUFFERED UNDER THESE DISCRIMINATIONS FOR A LONG  
TIME, BUT I MUST SAY THAT THE MOMENT HAS COME WHEN EITHER BRITAIN  
TREATS ITS PRESS PEERS EQUALLY OR I INTEND TO BRING THE MATTER  
UP IN THE MOST VIGOROUS FASHION POSSIBLE AT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
INSTITUTE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MADRID NEXT WEEK.

UNQUOTE

/ 2. WE HAVE

2. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ON WHAT BASIS PRESS GROUP TRAVELLING WITH  
BRITISH TASK FORCE WAS CHOSEN. GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS AND YOUR ADVICE  
BY TELEGRAM AS TO HOW I SHOULD REPLY TO MR FULLER.

3. ADVANCE COPIES TO NEWS DEPARTMENT, FCO AND PRESS OFFICE MOD,  
PLEASE.

HENDERSON

FCO

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CABINET OFFICE

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