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King's Court

PUBLICITY FOR MESSAGE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Sir A Parsons telephoned me tonight in reply to our query about the scope for giving publicity to the message to the UN Secretary General.
2. He was adamantly opposed to any publicity at all for the detail of the message. He thought that to release it would do us serious harm both with the Secretary General himself and, more generally, in the Security Council. The Secretary General himself had been meticulous in not allowing his own proposals to leak; and although some elements of them had reached the press, this had not been his fault.
3. The message had been given to Sr Perez de Cuellar on a confidential basis and he would not be circulating it to ~~general~~ members of the Security Council or to the Argentines. For us to release it would therefore be unforgiveable.
4. What our Mission have said on the record about the message was in UKMis New York telno 662. We need therefore to be sure that the Secretary of State's statement in the House tomorrow keeps within these bounds. While this will not help us in Parliament or with the press, I think that we must take full account of Sir A Parson's strongly expressed views.

P. R. Fearn

 P R Fearn
 Emergency Unit

6 May 1982

 cc: Private Secretary
 Mr Bullard
 Mr Giffard
 Mr Ure
 Mr Mallaby

ALQ 050/3		
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