



10 DOWNING STREET

5th May, 1982

Thank you very much for your letter of  
4th May.

It was good of you to have taken the trouble  
to write.

I have shown your letter to the Prime  
Minister.

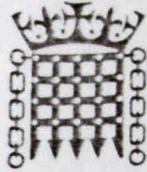
Your message of support has been of real  
encouragement to her.

IAN GOW

Sir Nigel Fisher, M.C., M.P.  
House of Commons

*My*  
*6.5*

From: Sir Nigel Fisher, MC., MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

4th May, 1982.

*Dear Jen -*

At this anxious time when the Prime Minister must be under great strain, I would like to record the admiration we all feel for her courage and leadership.

Since the initial error in not realising the intentions of the Argentine Government to invade the islands - which I imagine was a misjudgement by Peter, not Margaret - she has not put a foot wrong in her decisions or in her performance in the House or on television; and I had ample evidence in my constituency this weekend of the public approval, indeed enthusiasm, of the way she is handling this very difficult issue.

If I may say so, with diffidence, there is only one word which I hope she will not go on repeating: "Paramount". I think it has unintentionally misled the islanders, who clearly cannot have an overriding veto over British foreign and defence policy indefinitely, because in the longer term I should have thought there must be an element of compromise with the Argentine, if only because the islands are virtually indefensible at this distance and the oil and fishery potentials cannot be developed without Argentina's co-operation. But that is a relatively minor point. Do assure the Prime Minister of the full support of the Parliamentary Party in whatever difficult decisions lie ahead.

*Yours ever Nigel*

Ian Gow Esq., MP.

*No reply, of course - but I do hope the Admiral will stop talking & leave that to Ministers, who are better at it!*



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With the compliments of

IAN GOW