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DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
INDEX	Action Taken
13	

M Fearn

8/5

This really needs to await the outcome of the T-02's further talks with Blair
ANTHONY ACLAND

Mr Fearn - SAmD

Falkland Islands - US Guarantee

I have distributed separately copies of Mr Coles' letter of 13 May explaining why the Prime Minister has not despatched the draft message enclosed in my letter of 12 May. I have had a word with Mr Coles on the telephone, and made the points:

- i. that the fault in the original draft could fairly easily be cured; and
- ii. that it may be too late to approach the Americans for a guarantee when we are on the point of deciding whether or not a particular negotiated settlement is acceptable, and that it would be sensible contingency planning to try to get a positive response in principle from the Americans.

Mr Coles personally saw force in these arguments and has suggested that we try another draft which could be presented as a follow-up to the telephone conversation between the Prime Minister and President Reagan yesterday evening. It should also take care to exclude any suggestion that we would accept a text which contained unsatisfactory elements.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a revised draft on these lines for the Secretary of State to consider.

[Handwritten signature]

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

14 May 1982

- cc: PS
- PS/Mr Onslow
- PS/PUS ✓
- Mr Bullard
- Sir I Sinclair
- Mr Ure
- Mr Gillmore
- Defence Dept
- UND
- Planning Staff
- News Dept

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