

From: Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

24 May 1982

Thank you for your letter of today's date about the Falkland Islands. It was very helpful to have your views, and I shall feed them in.

Robert Rhodes James Esq MP
House of Commons
SW1

From: Robert Rhodes James, M.P.

Personal



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Thank
V. Helpful.
I shall feed it in.

mf
24.5.

My dear Michael,

The point I was making was simply that if the Port Stanley garrison offers to surrender, and that this is accepted by the Task Commander as HMG without any obligation upon the Argentines to cease their air and naval attacks upon our forces, we could be in an uneasy situation within the Party on the ground that we had not capitalised sufficiently upon the advantage that our forces had achieved to persuade the Argentine regime to desist from action against our people.

If we effectively recaptured the Falklands on these terms, but our ships continued to be attacked, damaged, and some sunk, the pressure to escalate the conflict to attacking the Argentine fleet within the 12-mile zone, and even to bomb the mainland, would grow enormously within the Party. This is a development which neither you, I, or Francis would welcome at all.

As you know, I am rather a "hawk" on this matter, but I am worried about the effect an operation in

our Party if it were thought that we had not taken
sufficient advantage of the extraordinary achievements of our
forces to ensure that our ships and men are not exposed
much longer to attack from the mainland.

I do hope you will forgive me for adding to your
formidable burdens by this letter, but I am sure you
appreciate the spirit in which it is written.

Yours,

Admiral