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Mr Mallaby - Planning Staff

Falklands: Today's 'Panorama'

I thought it best, given the Secretary of State's absence, to speak to Mr Nott's Private Secretary rather than write to him. I did so on the basis of the draft attached to your minute of 24 May. Mr Omand predictably emphasised the difficulties of a ceasefire.

I said that we recognised this and that we were not proposing a formula which suggested that we would take seriously any ball which the Argentines chose to return. There was no reason not to make it clear that it would take a pretty fundamental change in the Argentine attitude to Resolution 502 for us to take them seriously; but it was better to put the argument on this basis than to suggest that we had closed the door on negotiations. Mr Omand took the point that a 'door-closing' message would be particularly awkward for Sir A Parsons in New York; and he will I think do his best in briefing Mr Nott.

*[Handwritten signature]*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

24 May 1982

- cc: PS/PUS
- Mr Giffard
- Mr Payne, Emergency Unit
- News Dept

1. Mr [unclear] *[Handwritten initials]*  
 2. [unclear] *[Handwritten initials]*