



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 April 1982

I enclose three letters to the Prime Minister, which are simply samples of the sort of letter we have been receiving about the situation in the Falkland Islands. I should be grateful if you could arrange for them all to receive a suitable acknowledgement or reply.

As I mentioned to Marsha Fenwick today, it would be very useful to have a model draft reply for use in dealing with letters criticising the Government's handling of the situation. You will obviously want to consult the Ministry of Defence about the drafting of this, since some correspondents have used this incident to question the value of our nuclear deterrent, to criticise the cuts in the surface fleet, and to be generally derogatory about the speed of our military response.

It would be helpful to have this draft as soon as possible.

I am copying this to Derek Piper (Ministry of Defence).

W. F. S. HENRY

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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13, JAVELIN ROAD,
AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
NORWICH NR6 6HP

Mrs. M. Thatcher
10, Downing Street
London

2.4.82

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I am a keen supporter of you and your government and being a manager of a steel supply company am only too aware of the inefficiency of British Industry, so I support your aims.

However it seem sto be a different story on defence.

I can see the logic of Trident and the need for the bomb although personally I would prefer that we did not have nuclear weapons. A view I think the majority of the country would agree with.

You say the bomb is a deterrent well it has not deterred Argentina. Our conventional forces have not been much good either have they?

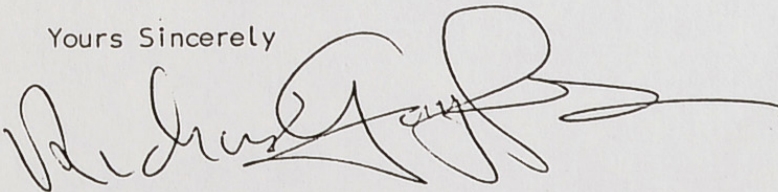
We all knew that this situation with Argentina was going to develop so why was a naval Task Force not already in the area.

I should like to express my digust that this country in now so easily made a fool of by a third rate power.

Just why are we paying our taxes for defence. It's no good having armed forces if we are not prepared to use them.

We all hope you will do something decisive so we may again have pride that Britain is still a power in the world

Yours Sincerely



Richard Gayfer
Branch Manager

BRITISH DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Chairman: Mr John Burke
Vice-Chairman: Mr David Wragg
Secretary: Mr Colin Stroud

87 Ashenground Road,
Haywards Heath,
Sussex.

4 April 1982

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher PC MP,
Prime Minister & First Lord of the Treasury,
10 Downing Street, London S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

Be assured of the total support of our committee in the armed defence of British interests, British territory and British subjects.

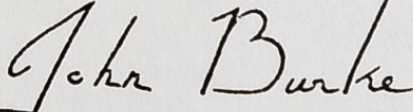
The complacency over the Falklands, turned into a calamity through military neglect by successive governments and a trend towards appeasement within the present opposition, is no longer a marginal issue of accomplished fact and face-saving at the end of the earth.

It has become a test-case of the utmost seriousness to the 55 million people of this realm.

Failure to regain a minor outpost from a smaller, secondary power will be seen as a sign (rightly or wrongly) that we might not be able to defend our mainland and assist our allies against the vast might of the greatest power the world has ever known.

Take courage and act with speed and resolve. Afterwards, get a new foreign secretary at least and rethink national strategy.

Yours faithfully,



J.B. Burke

THIS VITAL LESSON...

ARGENTINA'S grab Britain's most cherished colonies 100 miles away is first tweak of the tail.

And the whole world watch for the winner in the South Atlantic, where a military government is using Latin Americanism to stave off dissent at home. The eventual victor will be the Soviet Union, for the Argentines themselves could easily garrison those 300 to 800 miles from their mainland. If they are too near Africa, where the Argentinians have already made a big claim with their so-called scientific

A personal view by JOHN BURKE, specialist in Latin American strategic studies

stations supplied by air via bases near South Africa.

Argentina is a nearly bankrupt nation with half our population and a smaller navy—most of it bought as near obsolete from Britain.

If the British settlements are overrun it would not be seen as comic opera but as a useful lesson by the Soviet Union, and even countries which are not hostile to us.

Power matters and

examples count. And that is why the world will watch for the winner.

Another worry is America's failure to talk Argentina round in what started out as a tin-pot affair. Now the United States is involved protecting vital Western interests.

A victory for Buenos Aires in the South Atlantic would encourage the generals to go for Chile next—and then big brother Brazil might move in.

So, if the Falklands dispute ends in disaster for us, it will not just be yet another failure for the United Nations talking-shop. It will send ripples throughout unstable Latin America

Worst of all, it will mean more blackmail for Britain from somewhere else next time. Whatever happens, the biggest lesson of all is that cutting down on defence in good times is asking for trouble later.

This is a case of we-told-you-so for the realists, who have long fought a rearguard action for the Services

Now we all know why we have to keep our Navy.

OK THKS

NO DISTRIBUTION

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655738 ITSMAN G

APRIL 04. 1982 1320Z

XESCE4041305Z

MRS-MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER

VIA FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE/LONDON

MADAM: WHILST WE ARE COMPLETELY APOLITICAL BUT AGREE THAT YOU ARE MAKING A VERY HARD EFFORT, GENERALLY (IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES) WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ABOMINABLY FAILED TO DO ITS DUTY (IN TIME) CONCERNING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS PROBLEM STP AS PERSONS WHO LIVE AND PAY TAXES IN THIS COUNTRYRY WE FEEL ENTITLED TO ADDRESS THESE WORDS TO YOU IN THE HOPETHAT YOU MAKE SOME SWIFT CMA LAWFUL MOVE TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THE GOOD NAME AND HONOUR OF GREAT BRITAIN STP J EE

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

J BACA

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE

24961 PRDRME G

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rsly

PS.

PS letter

(238)



S/1/S

D/S of S/PS/10

Copies: PS Minister (AF)
HA DS 11

HEAD OF DS 5 (atten Mr Hutchingson)

PRIME MINISTER'S CASE

I enclose a copy of a letter from No 10 to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary enclosing copies of three letters the Prime Minister has received from Richard Gayer Esq

J.B Burke Esq, and J. Baca Esq

2. As you can see, the Foreign Office have been asked to prepare a draft reply for the Prime Minister's Private Secretary to send.

3. Will you, therefore, please liaise urgently with officials in the Foreign Office to ensure that the draft they send to No 10 is acceptable from our point of view.

J. Smith

APS/Secretary of State
218 7899/6169/6312