



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 October, 1983

Dear John,

MB

Prime Minister

Read in full.

Falklands at the General AssemblyA.P.C.  $\frac{15}{10}$ 

You may care to have a summary of the position we have reached in our lobbying of our European partners.

You will be aware from the telegrams that the Italians have been speaking to our other partners about the importance of relations with Argentina and Latin America as a whole and making clear that they would like to be able to vote for a resolution on the Falklands. The Italians are anxious to offer encouragement to a new democratic government in Argentina. The vote in the General Assembly will be taking place in the week beginning 7 November, shortly after the elections in Argentina on 30 October.

The Foreign Secretary summoned the Italian Ambassador as soon as we learned of this initiative. Lord Bridges took parallel action with Andreotti in Rome. He obtained an assurance that Italy would not vote for the present text. Sir Geoffrey also spoke personally to Andreotti in Athens. But the Italians have confirmed that they are working on an alternative draft resolution.

The French have been in close touch with the Italians. They say they favour negotiations in principle (despite their own position on negotiations over Mayotte - see my letter of 12 September) and have only one sticking point in the present draft (the preambular reference to colonial situations being incompatible with the ideal of peace). They appear to have let it be known to the Italians and the Argentines that they would be prepared to support a resolution which omitted this passage. It is clear that Cheysson hankers after voting with Argentina. Sir Geoffrey has told him that we would regard a French vote in favour of an amended resolution as a very unhelpful gesture indeed.

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Of our other Community partners, abstentions by Denmark and Luxembourg seem firm and the Dutch, Irish and Belgians are also planning to abstain. German officials have recommended an abstention but a final decision is not expected until much nearer the time of the vote. This is likely to come just after the Anglo-German Summit on 8-9 November and the Prime Minister will be able to speak to Chancellor Kohl then if necessary. There is a glimmer of hope that the Greeks will move to an abstention under cover of their tenure of the Presidency.

The Argentines are reluctant to make any changes in their present text. But the French and Italian votes would be major gains for them and we cannot exclude the possibility that continued French and Italian encouragement may decide them to make a cosmetic change. If the French and/or Italians were to change from an abstention to an affirmative vote, this would be likely to have a serious effect on our support elsewhere in the Community and indeed in the rest of the world.

You will recall that it was the personal intervention of the Prime Minister with Mitterrand on the eve of the vote last year which finally secured the French abstention then. The Foreign Secretary regards it as essential that the Prime Minister should leave Mitterrand in no doubt of the continuing importance we attach to France's position in the General Assembly when he is here later this week.

*Yours ever*

*J E Holmes*

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Private Secretary

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ARGENTINA Relations

# 35

18 OCT 1983







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*From the Private Secretary*

19 October, 1983

Falklands at the General Assembly

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 18 October.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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