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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 October 1983

*I think the telegram too mild
 in tone. If U.S. this
 will seem to encourage
 be very hostile in public
 such a decision - very
 Dear John, President
 critical of the
 State Dept. statement
 Prime Minister
 agree with the contents of
 the enclosed telegram?*

A.S.C. 24/10.

Falklands at the General Assembly: American Position

You will have seen from Washington telno 3031 (copy enclosed) that the Americans have told us formally that they intend to vote for the Argentine draft resolution. They have evidently also told the Argentines.

We have always thought it most unlikely that the Americans would change their position on a draft resolution which so closely resembles last year's. We must recognise that it would be difficult for the Americans, in terms of their relations with Latin America, to draw back from the position they adopted at the last General Assembly. The Foreign Secretary continues to think that we should not use up credit unproductively in trying to press the Americans to change their position. He accordingly does not suggest that the Prime Minister should take the matter up personally with President Reagan.

Sir Geoffrey does think however that we should make clear to the Americans our strong feelings about the position they have adopted at the United Nations and should do our best to minimise the impact of their decision on the thinking of our European partners.

The Washington telegram also confirms that the Americans are moving towards the resumption of arms sales to Argentina. We shall need to keep them fully aware of our misgivings on this front also, on the lines the Prime Minister has already taken with the President. But the time-scales are different and the Foreign Secretary thinks it best if the Ambassador concentrates on the UN problem for the moment.

I enclose a draft telegram to Washington and should be grateful for any comments you may have.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

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