



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We need a decision

London SW1A 2AH

Tonight?

7 November 1983

Agree message to Mitterrand

Mitterrand and Signe Craxi? ✓

Yes

Dear John,

A.J.C. $\frac{7}{11}$

no

Falklands at the General Assembly

As you know, the vote is still expected to take place on 10 November. We have been considering what further action we should take with our European partners in the last few days before the vote.

The Italians have confirmed to us that they are still toying with minor amendments to the Argentine draft. Lord Bridges has suggested that the Prime Minister should send a message to Craxi. Sir Geoffrey Howe agrees and thinks that the Prime Minister should also send a message to Mitterrand since the French are known to be in close touch with the Italians about the possibility of revising the Argentine draft resolution.

We do not recommend messages to any other head of government in the Ten. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will have an opportunity to speak to Kohl and Genscher in Bonn shortly. If we can hold the Germans, we have a good chance of holding the other Community countries even if we lose the French and Italians. Denmark and Luxembourg are probably sound but we will check the position of the Belgians and Dutch. Mr Papandreou confirmed to the Prime Minister that Greece would abstain. As they confirmed at the Anglo-Irish Summit, the Irish are also set on an abstention.

I enclose a draft telegram to EC posts and draft messages to Craxi and Mitterrand for the Prime Minister's consideration.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
		CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE ROME
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM
	9	REPEATED IMMEDIATE OTHER EC POSTS
	10	REPEATED ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK
	11	YOUR TELNO 550: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
	12	1. Please deliver the message from the Prime Minister to
	13	Craxi contained in MIFT.
	14	2. For Paris: please deliver the similar message from the
	15	Prime Minister to Mitterrand which is being telegraphed to
	16	you separately.
	17	3. The Prime Minister and I will have an opportunity to
	18	speak to Kohl and Genscher when we are in Bonn on 8/9 November.
	19	4. Brussels should be aware that the Italian Minister here
	20	suggested to Giffard on 4 November that the Belgians might
	21	be involved in seeking minor changes to the Argentine draft
///	22	resolution. We are inclined to discount this suggestion but
//	23	Brussels should check the Belgian position at a senior level.
/	24	The Hague should do likewise.
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File number	Dept	Distribution Falkland Islands distribn.
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		
Telephone number 233-4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats	Page
↓	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE 2

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1 <<<<
 2 5. For Athens: Papandreou confirmed to the Prime Minister
 3 on 4 November that Greece would abstain.
 4 6. For Dublin: The Irish confirmed during the Anglo-Irish
 5 Summit on 7 November that they too will abstain.
 6 7. Other EC Posts should stand by to intervene at a high
 7 level as necessary in the remaining days before the vote which
 8 is still expected on 10 November.

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 10 HOWE
 11 NNNN

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OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
4
5
6 FM FCO 071200Z NOV 83
7 TO IMMEDIATE ROME
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 MIPT: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 1. Following is text of Prime Minister's message to Craxi.
11 Begins:
12 When you were here on 16 September we had a word about the
13 debate on the Falkland Islands at the United Nations General
14 Assembly. Sir Geoffrey Howe and Signor Andreotti have
15 discussed the matter in the meanwhile, but with the vote due on
16 10 November, I thought I should get in touch with you to remind
17 you personally of the great importance to us of the position
18 to be adopted by Italy.
19 Signor Andreotti has given us an assurance that Italy would not
20 vote for the draft resolution as currently circulated by
21 Argentina. But I am aware that consideration is being given to
22 the possibility of making some small changes to the draft.
23 I am sure you will appreciate that our attitude to the draft
24 resolution is not affected by small details. What I am
25 concerned about is Argentina's evident determination that the

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File number	Dept UND	Distribution Falkland Islands distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) N C R WILLIAMS		
Telephone number 233 4330		
Authorized for despatch		
Comcon reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

Page

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

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 2 negotiations called for in the draft should have only one
 3 possible outcome; the transfer of sovereignty over the Islands
 4 to Argentina, regardless of the principle of self-determination
 5 which applies to the people of the Falklands as much as to
 6 anyone else. We all welcome the successful holding of elections
 7 in Argentina on 30 October. We in this country have been trying
 8 to develop a more normal relationship with Argentina and will be
 9 hoping for a better response from the ^{NEW} Government than we had
 10 from the military. I can understand the desire of European
 11 partners to make a gesture of encouragement and support to the
 12 emerging democratic Government in Argentina. But there are many
 13 ~~ways~~ ^{WAYS} in which this could be done. It should not be done in the
 14 context of the Falkland Islands or at the expense of the United
 15 Kingdom.

16 A switch to a positive vote by a country as important as
 17 Italy would send the wrong signal to the incoming Government.
 18 It would suggest to them that they should continue to follow the
 19 present sterile course and that we could eventually be brought
 20 to negotiate the transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of
 21 the Islanders. This can only serve to maintain the present
 22 tension. I need hardly tell you with what dismay a positive vote
 23 by so close a partner and ally as Italy would be received in this
 24 country. We are not asking you to vote with us and directly
 25 opposite to Argentina, but I do ask you most earnestly not to
 26 vote with Argentina and directly opposite to the United Kingdom.
 27 Ends.

28 HOWE

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telegram

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Catchword

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO 071230Z NOV 83
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE PARIS
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	MY TELNO TO ROME: FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
	10	1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to
	11	President Mitterrand. Begins:
	12	When you were here on 20/21 October we had a word about the
	13	debate on the Falkland Islands at the United Nations General
	14	Assembly. With the vote due on 10 November, I thought I should
	15	get in touch with you to remind you of the great importance to us
	16	of the position to be adopted by France.
	17	You were good enough to give me an assurance that France would
	18	not vote for the draft resolution as currently circulated by
	19	Argentina. But I am aware that consideration is being given to
	20	the possibility of making some small changes to the draft.
	21	I am sure you will appreciate that our attitude to the draft
///	22	resolution is not affected by small details. What I am concerned
//	23	about is Argentina's evident determination that the negotiations
/	24	called for in the draft should have only one possible outcome:
	25	the transfer of sovereignty over the Islands to Argentina,

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File number		Dept	Distribution	
		UND	Falkland Islands distribution	
Drafted by (Block capitals) N C R WILLIAMS				
Telephone number 233 4330				
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Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

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regardless of the principle of self-determination which I know
France/ always upholds and which applies to the people of the
Falklands as much as to anyone else. France ~~of all countries~~
will surely understand the problems we face.

6

We all welcome the successful holding of elections in Argentina
on 30 October. We in this country have been trying to develop a
more normal relationship with Argentina and will be hoping for a
better response from the new Government than we had from the
military. I can understand the desire of European partners to
make a gesture of encouragement and support to the emerging
democratic Government in Argentina. But there are many ways in
which this could be done. It should not be done in the context
of the Falkland Islands or at the expense of the United Kingdom.

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A switch to a positive vote by a country as important as
France would send the wrong signal to the incoming Government.
It would suggest to them that they should continue to follow
the present sterile course and that we could eventually be
brought to negotiate the transfer of sovereignty against the
wishes of the Islanders. This can only serve to maintain the
present tension. I need hardly tell you with what dismay a
positive vote by so close a partner and ally as France would be
received in this country. We are not asking you to vote with us
and directly opposite to Argentina, but I do ask you most
earnestly not to vote with Argentina and directly opposite to
the United Kingdom. Ends.

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Catchword

CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 November, 1983

Falklands at the General Assembly

Thank you for your letter of
7 November.

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The Prime Minister agrees that the
proposed messages to Signor Craxi and
to President Mitterrand should be despatched.

A. J. COLES

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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