



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 November, 1983

Dear David,

Falklands: Sir Nicholas Henderson's Article in the Economist

Thank you for your letter of 16 November about the question which Mr Tam Dalyell intends to raise with the Leader of the House at Business Questions today.

/ I enclose a suggested Line to Take which refers to the Written Answer by the Prime Minister to Mr Dalyell on the same subject yesterday.

// As background I enclose a copy of the relevant Hansard extract and the background note submitted to the Prime Minister with this reply, In addition I enclose a copy of the Report of the Committee of Privy Counsellors on Ministerial Memoirs. This includes the conclusion (Part IV, paragraph 92 (page 32)) that "... a former public servant should be under just the same obligation as a former Minister to submit his manuscript to scrutiny ...". If Mr Dalyell presses further, it is open to us to confirm that Sir Nicholas Henderson did indeed submit his manuscript. For the moment, we see no need to go beyond the more general formulation used by the Prime Minister in her Answer yesterday.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher (No 10), Richard Mottram (MOD) and to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

D C R Heyhoe Esq
Privy Council Office
Whitehall

'USE THAT MAY BE MADE BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS OF
DIPLOMATIC TELEGRAMS AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTS''

Line to Take

1. I take it that the hon Member's interest in this matter stems from the article in the Economist of 12 November by Sir Nicholas Henderson, the former British Ambassador in Washington.
2. As my right hon Friend the Prime Minister told the hon Member in a written reply yesterday, Sir Nicholas acted in accordance with normal procedures in consulting officials about certain points reflecting material to which he had access during his time as Ambassador in Washington.
3. I therefore see no need to discuss the matter further.

BACKGROUND NOTE

- A 1. A copy of Sir N Henderson's article is attached, together
B with the line to take in answer to press enquiries agreed last
week between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry
of Defence.
2. Mr Dalyell's interest is entirely predictable. Sir N
Henderson's article provides a number of detailed glosses on
events whose main outline was already well known. The account
of events in Lima on 1-3 May 1982 accords with material prepared
for contingency use by Ministers, but not previously deployed
in full.
3. There is a passage on page 56 (sidelined) in which Sir N
Henderson's information could be said to derive from intelligence
sources. This can be countered by referring to Admiral
Woodward's remarks in the preceding paragraph, making the point
that a 'pincer movement' against the Task Force was expected.
4. The proposed reply takes into account the requirement for
retired officials to consult the Permanent Under Secretary before
publishing material deriving from knowledge or experience gained
as a result of their official duties. It would not be normal
practice to confirm or deny that 'authority' had been given for
such publication: if appropriate, the expression that there
had been 'no official objection to publication' could be used,
although it does not (yet) appear to be necessary in the present
instance.

Falkland Islands Department
15 November 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Carriage

"import about post - line by line"



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

16 November, 1983

DR
16/11

Dear Peter,

FALKLANDS : SIR NICHOLAS HENDERSON'S ARTICLE
IN THE ECONOMIST

Mr Tam Dalyell telephoned me at lunch-time today to give notice of his intention to raise with the Leader of the House at Business Questions tomorrow afternoon, with reference to Sir Nicholas Henderson's article in The Economist of 12 November (pp 49-60), 'the use that may be made by former civil servants of diplomatic telegrams and intelligence reports'.

Mr Biffen would be very grateful if you could provide him, by midday tomorrow, with a line to take which he might use in reply to Mr Dalyell.

I am copying this letter to Tim Flesher (Number Ten), Richard Mottram (MOD) and to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

Yours ever,

David

D C R HEYHOE
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts Esq.,
Private Secretary
to the Foreign Secretary