

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

21 September 1979

Dear Paul,

The Lord Chancellor has seen the Foreign Secretary's Minute to the Prime Minister of 20 September about the Falkland Islands. He has said that he thinks an attempt should be made to assess the other side of the coin, that is, the nature and extent of the Argentine threat and intention, their forces, the stability of their regime and so forth. It would be a sorry business to give over British subjects of UK origin to the whims and changes of a South American dictatorship. On the other hand solid advantages could be gained from the termination of this tiresome dispute. The Government's moral commitments to the islanders, however, should be paramount.

I am sending copies of this letter to the private secretaries to the other members of OD, the Secretary of State for Energy, the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,
William Arnold

W ARNOLD

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