



CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

Prime Minister
Hope that Mr Ridley may proceed
as in para 4 below.

PM/80/13

PRIME MINISTER

Yes *no* *Print*

Falkland Islands

1. We discussed policy towards Argentina in the dispute over the Falkland Islands in OD on 29 January. The Committee invited me to seek written confirmation from Island Councillors that it was their wish that talks with the Argentines be resumed.

2. Councillors have now given their confirmation in reply to a message from Nicholas Ridley. Councillors have also endorsed the terms of a possible announcement in Parliament on the following lines:

"Representatives of the British and Argentine Governments have agreed to meet in the near future to discuss the Falkland Islands and related issues."

3. Councillors are content that talks should be general and exploratory and without commitment. They have responded positively to our suggestion that one or two of them might join a British delegation. I enclose copies of the exchange.

File 2 tel 2 8-2-80
Part Stanley 25 13-2-80

4. I now propose to ask Nicholas Ridley to make contact with his opposite number in the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to suggest a meeting. Provided the Argentines agree, we would hope to arrange a first meeting not too long after Easter.

5. It is possible that the Argentines will suggest a joint announcement in which, on past form, they might want to see some specific reference to the question of sovereignty. If so, we will need to indicate our preference for short separate public statements and inform them of the formula which we intend using. We would also ensure that

/Island

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

2

Island Councillors were given adequate forewarning of our announcement.

6. Unless you or other members of OD, to whom I am copying this minute, see objection, I would propose to proceed as above before the end of this month.

7. I am copying also to the Secretary of State for Energy, to the Attorney General and to the Secretary of the Cabinet.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CARRINGTON'.

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
22 February 1980

CONFIDENTIAL



72 FEB 1960

TEXT OF PORT STANLEY TELEGRAM NO. 25 OF 13 FEBRUARY TO FCO

MY TELNO 24: MINISTERS MESSAGE TO COUNCILLORS

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE FOLLOWING COULD BE PASSED TO THE MINISTER IN RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE TO COUNCILLORS IN FCO TELNO 19 OF 8 FEB:

I HAVE NOW BEEN ABLE TO HAVE THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL COUNCILLORS WHO EXPRESSED THANKS FOR YOUR MESSAGE, CONFIRMED AGAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HOLDING OF TALKS BETWEEN THE UK AND ARGENTINES ABOUT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ENDORSED THE TERMS OF YOUR DRAFT ANOUNCEMENT. THEY NOTED THAT WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND WAS QUOTE A GENERAL AND EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION WITHOUT COMMITMENT UNQUOTE AND FELT THAT THIS WAS MOST IMPORTANT IN FORMULATING THEIR OWN ATTITUDE AND HOPED THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE MADE CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINES.

2. IN VIEW OF THE QUOTE EXPLORATORY AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT UNQUOTE NATURE OF THE TALKS THEY FELT THAT INSPIRE OF ONE OR TWO COUNCILLORS HAVING SOME RESERVATIONS, THEY SHOULD ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO SEND PARTICIPENTS AS MEMBERS OF YOUR DELEGATION ON THIS OCCASION. THEY THOUGHT THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND WOULD PROPOSE, WITH YOUR AGREEMENT, TO CHOOSE THESE AT A JOINT COUNCILS MEETING IN, SAY, TWO OR THREE WEEKS TIME.

3. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TALKS. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SUCH NEWS TENDS TO BE LEAKED EARLY ELSEWHERE CAUSING EMBARRASSMENT TO ELECTED COUNCILLORS WHEN ASKED FOR INFORMATION BY THEIR CONSTITUENTS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE APPRECIATED IF AGREEMENT COULD BE GIVEN FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE RELEASED HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN THE BRITISH/ARGENTINE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.

4 IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEM IN PREPARING FOR THE TALKS, COUNCILLORS
ASKED IF THEY COULD BE GIVEN EARLY INFORMATION ON WHAT MATTERS
EACH SIDE WISHES TO RAISE, AND ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE UK
DELEGATION.

5. THEY APPRECIATED YOUR CONTINUING PERSONAL INTEREST AND ASKED
FOR THEIR GOOD WISHES TO BE PASSED ON TO MRS RIDLEY AND YOURSELF.

BAKER

NNNN

SENT 1031955 PJ

RECD 131955Z DW

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

11 24 11 D

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 383

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 080930Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR ACTING GOVERNOR)
TELEGRAM NUMBER PERSONAL 2 OF 8 FEBRUARY
AND TO ROUTINE BUENOS AIRES

MIPT: TEXT OF MR RIDLEY'S MESSAGE TO COUNCILLORS

BEGINS

WHEN WE MET LAST JULY, DURING MY FIRST VISIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, I MENTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION OF TALKING TO THE ARGENTINES ABOUT THE WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES COVERED BY THE DISPUTE. YOU GAVE ME YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS PROPOSAL: AND I IN TURN UNDERTOOK TO KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

I HAVE SINCE, WITH MY COLLEAGUES, BEEN LOOKING CAREFULLY AT THE WHOLE SITUATION. THIS HAS TAKEN SOME TIME. BUT WE HAVE ALL FELT THAT IT WAS RIGHT NOT TO BE HASTY. I HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS THROUGHOUT OF MY FIRM UNDERTAKING THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE AGAINST ISLANDERS' WISHES. I THOUGHT IT RIGHT THEREFORE TO SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE NOW TO LET YOU KNOW WHERE MATTERS STAND. WE NOW THINK THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ARGENTINES. WE PLAN TO ARRANGE FOR A FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, POSSIBLY BEFORE EASTER. I HAVE IN MIND A GENERAL AND EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION, WITHOUT COMMITMENT BUT WITH THE AIM OF FURTHERING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. I WANT THE TALKS TO BE GENUINELY WIDE RANGING AND TO EXCLUDE NOTHING WHICH EITHER SIDE WOULD WANT TO RAISE. I INTEND AT THIS STAGE TO SAY IN PARLIAMENT NO MORE THAN THAT 'HMG AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND RELATED ISSUES'. WE COULD ADD DATES AND VENUE WHEN THESE HAVE BEEN FIXED.

I SAID IN JULY THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY FOR COUNCILLORS TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17463 - 3

PARTICIPATE IN ANY TALKS. IF ONE OR TWO OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PRESENT AS MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION, YOU KNOW THAT I WOULD WELCOME IT. I WOULD BE GLAD TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK. WHETHER OR NOT YOU DECIDE TO TAKE PART, I WILL, OF COURSE, ENSURE THAT YOU ARE FULLY BRIEFED ON OUR EXCHANGES.

IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO ME TO KNOW THAT I CONTINUE TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS. I KNOW THAT THIS IS A BUSY TIME. BUT I THOUGHT IT RIGHT TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH MY THINKING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL THE SHEARING SEASON IS OVER OR UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNOR ARRIVES. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME OF THE YEAR. MY WIFE JOINS WITH ME IN SENDING YOU OUR WARMEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

FILES

S AM D

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND

MR HARDING

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

c. c.
D/N
LOD
CO
HO
LCO
HMT
MOD
LPO
LPS

51
Argentina

From the Private Secretary

25 February, 1980.

Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister has seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 22 February on this subject. She agrees that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may proceed as he proposes.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of OD, to Bill Burroughs (Department of Energy), Bill Beckett (Law Officers' Department), and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. OD. B. ALEXANDER

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

6