

FROM: GENERAL SIR ROBERT FORD GCB CBE
COLONEL COMMANDANT SPECIAL AIR SERVICE



Royal Hospital
Chelsea
London SW3 4SL

17 November 1982

My dear Prime Minister,

I am delighted to hear from your Parliamentary Private Secretary that you and Mr Thatcher are able to accept an invitation from the SAS to dine privately with us on Wednesday, 12th January.

It so happens that as well as being Colonel Commandant of the SAS, I am Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and we feel that the most suitable venue for the dinner will be my Apartments in the grounds of the Hospital where we can ensure complete privacy and security. Indeed, I am hopeful, that unless you wish it otherwise, the evening need have no publicity whatsoever and all those who attend, including the staff who will come from the Army, will be informed of the necessity for complete confidentiality.

It is our intention to limit the total numbers attending to 26 or 28, for which the Wren Dining Room is ideal. There will be only three ladies present, yourself, Mrs Gow and my wife. Other than Colonel David Stirling who founded the Regiment in the last war and about four of his contemporaries from the original SAS (probably Viscount Head, Lord Jellicoe, Sir Stephen Hastings and the Rev Fraser McLuskey), attendance will be confined to serving officers with particular emphasis on those who took part in the Falklands Operations. We hope to have all - or nearly all - of the Majors and Captains who were there, plus the Commanding Officer.

We are all much looking forward to the evening. In due course the Regiment will send you a more formal invitation to dinner together with a list of those who will be there and something about the part played by each officer.

I cannot overstate how pleased we all are that you are able to come.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Robert Ford
