



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 May 1982

Dear Mr. Turner.

Thank you for your letter of 11 May in which you express your desire to see a speed-up in the supply of material coming from our forces in the South Atlantic.

No-one would be more pleased than I to see pictures and television film showing the marvellous work which our ships and aircraft are doing. It would certainly have helped to contradict Argentine propaganda if we had been able to show the cratering of Port Stanley airport soon after it had happened. However, the long-range communication facilities available to our forces in the South Atlantic cannot transmit colour or black-and-white television pictures. At present we can only send black-and-white photographs (in slow time), speech and copy. The experts are investigating alternative possibilities by working to overcome technical and other difficulties.

We shall continue to do all that we can. Five ships now carry suitable equipment to send still photographs from the Task Force area and every opportunity will be taken to exploit sea deliveries of film by ships returning to Ascension Island. Rest assured that we will be as delighted as you to see national newspapers carrying pictures.

Since you wrote - we have managed to provide more information and pictures. - We realise how important it is.
Lloyd Turner, Esq. Thank you for your wonderful support.
Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher