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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 April 1982

*Dear John,*

Falkland Islands: Mr Pym's Statement  
in the House of Commons

/ As you know, Mr Pym is to make his statement at 3.30 this afternoon. I enclose a draft which reflects his comments on an earlier version but which he has not yet had time to see in its present form. He will do so shortly after 2 o'clock to meet the deadline, and I shall be grateful if you will let me have by telephone any comments which the Prime Minister may have.

*Yours ever,*  
*BJP*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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PMM

Falkland Islands: Statement in the House of Commons, Wednesday  
21 April 1982

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a brief statement on the Falkland Islands.

My Rt Hon Friend told the House yesterday that I would be travelling to Washington tomorrow to discuss with Mr Haig our reactions to the latest Argentine proposals. I know I do so not only with the support of my Cabinet colleagues but of the whole House.

Any negotiation which is concluded satisfactorily must deal with certain critical points: in particular the arrangements for Argentine withdrawal; the nature of any interim administration of the Islands and the framework for the negotiations on the long-term solution to the dispute for which the United Nations Resolution calls. We put to Mr Haig, when he was in London, ideas which we believed would commend themselves to the House, <sup>and he in accordance with the wishes of the Islanders</sup> and he subsequently took them to Buenos Aires. The latest Argentine proposals - despite Mr Haig's efforts - still fail to satisfy our essential requirements in certain important respects relating to these points. They reflect continuing efforts by Argentina to establish by her aggression and her defiance of the UN - a defiance continued and aggravated by her reinforcement of her invasion force - what could not be established by peaceful means.

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/We continue



We continue to keep in close touch with our friends. In particular, I was glad that a meeting of Community Foreign Ministers could be arranged yesterday under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency and that my colleagues were able to attend despite the inevitably short notice. I took the opportunity to thank them personally for their support and to explain the situation to them. They reaffirmed their support for us, emphasising the importance of securing the implementation of Security Council Resolution 502, their hope for a peaceful solution and their gratitude to Mr Haig for his efforts.

Since I last reported to the House, messages from the Falklands suggest that the Islanders are still able to leave if they wish: a further party of 30 are on their way to Montevideo. Most of those leaving appear not to be permanent residents of the Islands.

The most recent contact with the 15 remaining scientists and wild-life photographers on South Georgia through the British Antarctic Survey was at 4 pm yesterday our time. I am happy to report that all were safe and well and in good heart.

These are some of the main issues I shall be discussing with Mr Haig, and I shall of course have some ideas of our own to put forward. I shall continue to keep the House informed on my return.