



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April, 1982

Dear John,

Type letter pl.
WA 22/4

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MESSAGES FROM EC GOVERNMENTS

(Italian text on pt 5) (pt 7)

Thank you for your letters of 14 and 16 April enclosing messages to the Prime Minister from the Italian Prime Minister and President Mitterrand. As you will have seen from Athens telegram number 136 of 15 April, a letter from Mr Papandreou, also in reply to the Prime Minister's message of 6 April, is on its way, and it might be helpful if I also let you have our advice on that letter.

None of the three letters seems to us actually to need a reply. As the Prime Minister has already sent personal messages of thanks (on 13 April) to all European Community Heads of State and Government (and Signor Spadolini's letter was actually written before those messages were sent), we think it would be over effusive for the Prime Minister to send yet another round of thank-you letters doing no more than thanking the recipients for what the Prime Minister has already thanked them for. (If the situation changes we may need to consider further personal messages). The Foreign Secretary is a little concerned about the risk of raising the price of our European Community partners' support by an excess of gratitude.

M. Mitterrand's letter is however different from the other two in that he goes beyond the measures of support covered by the Prime Minister's message of 13 April by undertaking to raise with the Japanese the Falklands issue during the French state visit to Japan last week. At a Community briefing in Tokyo, M. Cheysson told the British Embassy that the matter was in fact raised on three occasions during the visit, once by President Mitterrand and twice by him. M. Cheysson has now confirmed this in a letter to the Secretary of State. We think it would therefore be appropriate for the Prime Minister to reply to President Mitterrand's letter expressing appreciation for this gesture. I enclose a draft which could be transmitted once signed through the French Embassy here, since that was the original channel of communication.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

Registry No.

DRAFT MESSAGE

Type 1+

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret.
- Secret.
- Confidential.
- Restricted.
- Unclassified.

To:- President Mitterrand

From
 Prime Minister
 Telephone No. Ext.
 Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

As I said in my message of 13 April, I am ~~deeply~~ *most* grateful to you for the part you played in helping to secure common action by the Ten against Argentina following its illegal and unprovoked aggression against the Falkland Islands. *I* I have since received your letter, delivered by M. de Marjerie on 16 April, in which you agreed to take the matter up with the Japanese during your visit to Tokyo. I ~~have seen from Claude Cheysson's letter to Francis Pym that~~ *also understood that* despite your ~~and his~~ repeated efforts, they ~~have up to now~~ *the Japanese* proved fairly immovable. But I have no doubt that pressure must be maintained on them (and that we need to get it also from the Americans) on this issue (as indeed on others). *but* I am most grateful for your and Claude's personal intervention and close interest. As you know, we are in the closest touch with the Americans and continue to hope that ~~the~~ strong pressures ~~from the international Community~~ *is* will have ~~their~~ effect on Argentina. These pressures ~~must~~ *will certainly need to be maintained* be maintained.

by yourself and Claude Cheysson

not been persuaded to take effective action.

WJ 2/4