

CONFIDENTIAL

R M

24 April, 1982

ASSISTANCE FROM CERTAIN WEST AFRICAN
GOVERNMENTS OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
DISPUTE

Thank you for your letter of 23 April.
The Prime Minister agrees that the messages to
Presidents Diouf and Stevens may issue.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 April 1982

Prime Minister

Dear John,

*Amend
ms*

*Agree that there 2
messages may be despatched?*

A.S.C. 23/4.

Assistance from certain West African Governments
over the Falkland Islands dispute

I am writing to you separately enclosing a circular telegram to most of our High Commissioners suggesting that they be instructed to convey orally to their host governments at the highest possible level the Prime Minister's thanks for their support over the Falkland Islands dispute. There are two governments in West Africa, namely Senegal and Sierra Leone, to whom we feel individual and personal messages should be sent, in view of the particular assistance which these governments have been giving. We are also considering a separate message to President Shagari, but this may take some little time to prepare for reasons I will not go into here.

The Senegalese Government have given us invaluable assistance by providing facilities at Dakar Airport for the staging of our aircraft en route to Ascension Island. On 9 April we advised our Ambassador in Dakar that we attached great importance to Senegalese cooperation but were not at that time contemplating a high-level message. However, in the two-week period to 18 April, no less than 160 RAF aircraft staged through Dakar and the moment seems right to express our gratitude. It is difficult to envisage how this operation could have been mounted so quickly and effectively without Senegalese support. We must not take it for granted. It is all the more gratifying that this assistance should have come from a non-Commonwealth country with whom we have a friendly but not very substantial relationship.

The Sierra Leonean Government recently provided bunkering services to the 'Canberra' and 'Elk' and may be asked to help over the staging of Victor and Harrier aircraft, and with hospital ships. This cooperation comes at a time when Sierra Leone is in poor shape economically and facing difficult elections (albeit one-party ones) in a few days' time. President Stevens' assistance therefore is all the more appreciated. A message to him could not

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be exploited in the election campaign; his own position as Head of State is not constitutionally affected by the elections.

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I therefore enclose draft telegrams to Dakar and Freetown conveying messages to Presidents Diouf and Stevens respectively.

Yours ever

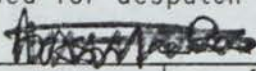
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	↓	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL	
CAVEATS	4		
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO	
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE DAKAR	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9		
	10	FALKLAND ISLANDS	
	11	1. Please pass following personal message from the Prime	
	12	Minister to President Diouf.	
	13	Begins:	
	14	Dear President Diouf	
	15	I should like to express my very sincere gratitude for all the	
	16	help you are providing to the British Government during these	
	17	difficult times. The assistance which you and your	
	18	government are giving in allowing RAF aircraft to use Yoff air-	
	19	port is most deeply appreciated.	
	20	I am also grateful for the measure of support which your	
	21	government has given in condemning the act of aggression by	
///	22	the Argentine Government, which was so clearly expressed in the	
//	23	Security Council's Resolution No 502. Your Government's	
/	24	actions in this matter are a positive expression of the well-	
	25	known principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, its adherence to	
NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword the UN
File number		Dept WAD	Distribution FCO: WAD, SAmD Cabinet Office Additional Distribution: Falkland Islands cc PS/No 10
Drafted by (Block capitals) A C D S MACRAE			
Telephone number 233 4576			
Authorised for despatch 			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

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2 the UN charter, its stand on the non-acquisition of territories
3 by force and on the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the
4 exercise of the right to self-determination of all peoples.

5 Yours sincerely,

6 Margaret Thatcher

7 Ends

8 2. Please let us know when message has been passed.

9 PYM

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OUT TELEGRAM

	↓	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
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DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

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2	GRS
3	CONFIDENTIAL
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6	FM FCO
7	TO IMMEDIATE FREETOWN
8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
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10	FALKLAND ISLANDS
11	1. Please pass following personal message from the Prime
12	Minister to President Stevens.
13	Begins:
14	Dear President Stevens
15	I should like to express my very sincere gratitude for all the
16	help you are providing to the British Government during these
17	difficult times. The assistance which you and your
18	government have given in allowing some British vessels attached
19	to the Falkland Islands Task Force to refuel at Freetown is
20	deeply appreciated.
21	I am also grateful for the expression of support which your
22	government has given in condemning the act of aggression by
23	the Argentine Government, which was so clearly expressed in
24	the Security Council's Resolution No 502. Your support, and
25	that of our other Commonwealth friends, has been very

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword encouraging
File number	Dept WAD	Distribution FCO: WAD, SAmD Cabinet Office Additional distribution: Falkland Islands cc PS/No 10
Drafted by (Block capitals) A C D S MacRae		
Telephone number 233 4576		
Authorised for despatch <i>[Signature]</i>		
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats
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 encouraging to me and my colleagues. It is a positive
 expression of the Commonwealth's principles of the right of
 self-determination and its stand on the non-acquisition of
 territories by force and on the peaceful settlement of
 disputes.
 I carry very pleasant memories of your visit here in November
 1980.
 Yours sincerely,
 Margaret Thatcher

Ends

2. Please let us know when message has been passed.

PYM

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NNNN ends
 telegram

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Catchword