



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

12 November 1982

Agree that this message  
should be telegraphed?

A.P.C. 12/11

Yes - and  
one to Oman  
ms

Dear John,

Falklands at the General Assembly

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, with which you enclosed a copy of a message from the President of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister about the Sri Lankan decision to vote against the Argentine draft resolution.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should send a brief message of appreciation in reply. We had not expected Sri Lanka to do better than abstain and the decision is known to have been very much the President's own.

We do not propose that the Prime Minister should send any other messages of appreciation. Her messages to the Prime Ministers of New Zealand, Fiji and Belize in the week before the vote already took the form of expressions of gratitude for the robust attitude those governments were taking rather than requests for assistance. Apart from Sri Lanka, the only Heads of Government to have replied to the Prime Minister's messages are Australia, Singapore and the Maldives, which all abstained. All the posts concerned have already been asked to convey our thanks as appropriate for negative votes or abstentions, making clear that they do so on instructions from Ministers.

Oman?  
Should we  
thank? The  
rest of the  
Celtic abstained  
(I am sure that  
is kind for  
us)

Yours ever  
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

## DRAFT MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

Your High Commissioner delivered to me on 4 November your reply to my message about the Argentine resolution on the Falkland Islands which was voted on later that day. Sri Lanka's decision to vote against this resolution is most warmly appreciated in this country and I am most grateful to you for the decision you took.