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*From the Private Secretary*

17 April 1984

Foreign Affairs Select Committee: Falklands  
Inquiry

The Prime Minister has seen and noted your letter of 16 April to John Coles about the forthcoming visit by the Foreign Affairs Committee to the UN in connection with their Falklands inquiry. The Prime Minister has commented that she finds the Select Committee's plans, and in particular their request for a call upon the Argentine Mission, astonishing.

(David Barclay)

Roger Bone Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*I find it  
also in [unclear]*

16 April 1984

Prime Minister

*John [unclear]*

*A & C. 1/4*

*Copy: Mr. [unclear]*

Foreign Affairs Select Committee: Falklands Inquiry

I enclose a copy of a press release from the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee which announces their intention to visit the UN in New York between 7-10 May to seek the views of Latin American and other countries on the prospects for a settlement of the Falklands question.

*M* It is our normal practice for posts overseas to arrange a programme of calls at the request of the FAC. In this case they have asked for a number of calls, including one on the Argentine Mission. We have agreed to ask the Brazilians in New York to arrange a separate meeting with the Argentines, at which, of course, there would be no British official presence. We have instructed our Mission in New York to point out to the Brazilians that as part of our policy of maintaining the confidentiality of our exchanges with Argentina, we have not revealed to the FAC the content of the messages we have sent via the Swiss to Argentina. We have also suggested that the UN Secretariat be reminded that the FAC should not be viewed as intermediaries.

The Prime Minister may wish to be aware of this forthcoming visit, as it is likely to generate some publicity. Ministers will be in touch with the Chairman of the FAC before his departure to offer the Committee any briefing they may wish to have.

*[Handwritten signature]*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



# Foreign Affairs Committee

(A)

COMMITTEE OFFICE HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

12 Apr 1984

## Press Notice No 6

### Falkland Islands

In connection principally with its inquiry into the Falkland Islands, five Members of the Committee will visit the United Nations in New York between 7 and 10 May, to seek the views of Latin American and other countries on the prospects for a settlement of the dispute. A similar visit was made in November/December 1982, when the Foreign Affairs Committee of the previous Parliament held informal discussions with the Secretary General, six Latin American Missions and seven other foreign Missions.

While at the United Nations, the Committee will take advantage of the opportunity to hold preliminary discussions on its proposed inquiry into the economic and political security of small states and the UK dependencies. (For the terms of reference of this inquiry, see overleaf.)

The Members going to New York are expected to be Sir Anthony Kershaw (Chairman), Mr Dennis Canavan, Mr Jim Lester, Mr Ian Mikardo and Mr Bowen Wells.

The Committee has already agreed the following terms of reference for the inquiry:

"To examine progress towards the restoration of diplomatic and commercial relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina since June 1982; to examine the future constitutional and economic development of the Falkland Islands; and to examine the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the UK-Argentine dispute over the Falkland Islands in the light of the establishment of a democratic regime in Buenos Aires and in the light of previous failures to secure such a settlement".

Evidence has already been taken in London in connection with the inquiry from Mr David Watt (former Director of the Royal Institute for International Affairs), Dr Walter Little (former Specialist Adviser to the Committee), Mr Adrian Monk (London Representative of the Falkland Islands Government), Mr David Taylor (Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government), Sir Nicholas Henderson GCMG (former UK Ambassador to Washington) and Sir Anthony Parsons GCMG (former UK Permanent Representative at the United Nations). Further hearings will be held after the Committee's return from New York.

### **The economic and political security of small states**

In December 1983 the Committee announced its intention to undertake an inquiry into the future of the micro-states, with particular reference to the remaining UK dependent territories. The Committee has now agreed the following terms of reference for the inquiry:

"**The economic and political security of small states:** to consider the security and economic and political viability of small, newly-independent developing countries, the prospects for the development of effective regional security organisations and regional machinery for economic cooperation, the prospects for bilateral, multilateral or United Nations guarantees for the security of such states, and, in the light of these questions, the potential viability of the United Kingdom's remaining dependent territories as prospective independent states".

The Committee expects to begin public hearings in connection with this inquiry in June after the Whitsun recess. Details of the hearings will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile, the Committee will welcome the submission of written evidence from interested individuals or organisations. It would be helpful if such written submissions could reach the Clerk to the Foreign Affairs Committee, at the address above, **by Monday 4 June 1984.**

### **FCO and ODA Main Estimates**

As part of its continuing responsibility for monitoring the expenditure and administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Overseas Development Administration, the Committee will be examining the 1984-85 Estimates shortly after the Easter recess. It is expected that oral evidence will be taken from the FCO, the ODA and the British Council in mid to late May. Details of the hearings will be announced in due course.

12 April 1984

K J BROWN  
Assistant to the  
Clerks to the Committee