

CONFIDENTIAL



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1986

VISIT OF ARGENTINE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Thank you for your letter of 12 February about the forthcoming visit of a delegation of Argentine Parliamentarians.

The Prime Minister agrees that Mr. Eggar should have a meeting with the delegation so that there can be no misunderstanding at all about HMG's position and views. She attaches great importance to his giving an interview to the BBC World Service immediately after the meeting to provide reassurance to the Islanders.

I am copying this letter to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

(CHARLES POWELL)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

12 February 1986

Agree that Mr.

Eggar should see the delegation so that there

Yes no

Dear Charles, ^{is} no misunderstanding about our views? CD 13/2

Visit of Argentine Parliamentarians, 16-22 February

In Robert Culshaw's letter of 3 February we said that the Foreign Secretary would give further thought to how the British Government should respond to the visit.

The visit is not a development which we would have sought. During their discussions the delegation will be exposed to a wide-range of views on our policy towards Argentina. The Foreign Secretary has taken steps to ensure that at the backbenchers meetings there will be people present who have been fully briefed about our position and will deploy it. At the same time the Foreign Secretary has decided that we must take the opportunity to put across our case clearly and directly to the delegation. Hence he is arranging for Mr Eggar to have a meeting with the delegation in the House towards the end of their visit. We shall give the Governor of the Falklands a full briefing on this. Mr Eggar will give an interview to the World Service shortly after the meeting in order to reassure the Islanders that our commitment to them has not weakened. In response to any press enquiries, we shall make clear that our policy remains unchanged and that the purpose of the meeting was to emphasise our commitment to the Falklands and our confidence in our title together with our desire for more normal relations with Argentina if the latter is prepared to respond positively.

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I am copying this letter to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF BAHIA

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