



*me in
cBI*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 July 1989

NEW PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA

Thank you for your letter of 29 June enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to President-Elect Menem. This may issue in the slightly revised form enclosed.

C. D. Powell

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 June 1989

See Charles,

have amended,
I think we should refer
to democratic elections

Prime Minister

Agree to send
a short
message?

CBM
3076

New President of Argentina

The Argentine President Elect, Carlos Menem, will take office on 8 July. We need to consider whether the Prime Minister should send a message of congratulation.

We cannot be sure how the new Argentine government will behave. We must expect to find them difficult and unpredictable. There have been some indications, including the secret report referred to in your letter of 21 June, that Menem and his chosen Foreign Minister may be ready to consider some movement in our relations without insisting on unacceptable linkage to sovereignty. We cannot be optimistic, but we should not discourage them.

As the Prime Minister knows, we have asked the Americans to pass a message to Menem, stressing both our readiness to have more normal relations (with sovereignty clearly left out) and our determination to defend our interests robustly if need be.

The Foreign Secretary believes that a further brief direct message from the Prime Minister would usefully demonstrate to domestic, Falkland Islander and international opinion that, while we have no illusions and no intention of making any concessions on sovereignty, we are still seeking a more normal, practical relationship with Argentina. The inauguration provides a chance to send such message without going into detail, or appearing to be taking any special initiative. The Prime Minister sent Alfonsin a well-publicised message on his inauguration in 1983 (text enclosed, with his reply).

I enclose the text of a short message which could be delivered by the Swiss (as in 1983). If the Prime Minister agrees, we will arrange for the text to be sent by telegram to Berne. It would be appropriate for the No 10 Press Office to release the text, once delivered.

James,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MENEM
OF ARGENTINA, ON HIS INAUGURATION, 8 JULY 1989

I congratulate you on your inauguration as President
of Argentina ^{*in accordance with the result of democratic elections*} ~~[The transfer of power through the ballot box~~
~~is a significant achievement for democracy in Argentina.]~~ *end*
I wish you success.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT ALFONSIN AT HIS
INAUGURATION, 10 DECEMBER 1983

On the occasion of your inauguration I wanted to let you know that, although we have many differences, we can all take pleasure in the restoration of democracy to Argentina, believing it will bring freedom and justice to all your people. Today brings new hope to your country.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ALFONSIN TO THE PRIME MINISTER,
10 DECEMBER 1983

I thank you for your words regarding the restoration of democratic institutions in Argentina. I agree with your appreciation on the existence of differences between Argentina and the United Kingdom. In this respect it would be worthwhile mentioning the old English proverb "where there's a will, there's a way" .

