

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON


11-2-82
November 2, 1982

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*
SUBJECT: Reply to Margaret Thatcher on the Falklands

Mrs. Thatcher has sent you a second message on the Argentinian U.N. resolution on the Falklands. Her earlier message of October 25 objected to the original Argentinian resolution. This latest message says that even the revised version of the resolution is unacceptable to the United Kingdom, and urges the U.S. to vote against it: 

 She requests that if the United States cannot bring itself to vote against the resolution, it abstain. *(S)*

B1

In addition to informing the U.K., we have told many Latin American countries that we will vote for the improved Argentinian resolution: there is no question now of changing our position. A reply for your signature at Tab I informs Mrs. Thatcher once again that we cannot support the British position that there should be no negotiations on the Falklands, and requests that our vote not raise a public division between the U.S. and the U.K. *(S)*

RECOMMENDATION

OK NO

— — That you approve the attached message to Mrs. Thatcher at Tab A.

Tab A Letter to Thatcher

Printed packet for version
[Signature]

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR FOI-055 #26899

BY CU NARA DATE 3/20/08

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26905
OUTGOING

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 03 THE WHITE HOUSE 7645 DTG: 022027Z NOV 82 PSN: 045014
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FLASH
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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON

~~S E C R E T~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH07645

PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

NOVEMBER 2, 1982

DEAR MARGARET:

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE AND WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE TO BOTH OF US.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, HAVING JUST PAID SO MUCH IN BLOOD AND TREASURE TO REPULSE THE ARGENTINE INVASION. WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO PRESS YOU -- OR TO SEE YOU BE PRESSED -- INTO NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE YOU ARE READY. EQUALLY, WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER THAT IS IN ANY WAY PREJUDICIAL TO YOUR POSITION ON THE QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION. INDEED RESOLUTION 1514 CONTAINS STRONGER REFERENCES TO SELF-DETERMINATION THAN IT DOES TO THE PRINCIPLE THE ARGENTINES PROCLAIM, "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

DECLASSIFIED

NLS

FDI-055 # 26905

BY

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NARA, DATE

1/28/08

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PAGE 02 OF 03 THE WHITE HOUSE 7645 DTG: 022027Z NOV 82 PSN: 045014

MARGARET, MY COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED YOU AND ALWAYS WILL IN DEFEATING ANY EFFORT TO SOLVE THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE BY FORCE. YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN NEUTRAL ON THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. AND WE HAVE ALWAYS FAVORED PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE ISSUE BY NEGOTIATION. I AM WELL AWARE THAT IT WAS THE ARGENTINES THAT INTERRUPTED NEGOTIATIONS BY ATTACKING THE ISLANDS. BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT IN ITSELF IS REASON NOT TO SUPPORT A SOLUTION BY NEGOTIATIONS SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. IT IS HARD FOR THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE ANY OTHER POSITION.

READING YOUR MESSAGE, I BELIEVE MORE WEIGHT OUGHT TO BE GIVEN TO THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION AS IT NOW STANDS. THE BRAZILIAN AMENDMENTS HAVE MADE IT MUCH LESS OBJECTIONABLE. IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF THIS NEW TEXT THAT MY COLLEAGUES INFORMED ARGENTINA AND OTHER SPONSORS THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT IT. IN PARTICULAR, THE REFERENCES TO DE FACTO CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND THE INTENTION OF THE PARTNERS NOT TO RENEW THEM TAKES US A GOOD WAY TOWARDS THE FORMAL RENUNCIATION OF HOSTILITIES WE BOTH HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR. ALTHOUGH I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU THAT THEY ARE NOT EQUIVALENT.

AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE, OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL PUT CLEARLY ON RECORD OUR VIEWS THAT FORCE MUST NOT BE USED AGAIN TO SOLVE THE DISPUTE, THAT THE UNDERLYING QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT AND CANNOT BE PREJUDICED BY THE RESOLUTION, AND THAT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ISLANDERS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

I AM TRULY SORRY THAT WE DISAGREE ON THIS MATTER AND FOR MY PART WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE SURE THIS RESOLUTION IS NOT ABUSED. YOU MAY BE CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE JOINTLY SHARED PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDED BOTH OUR COUNTRIES THROUGH THE FALKLANDS CRISIS TO ITS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

WITH BEST WISHES,

~~SECRET~~

26911 7592

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

November 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: DENNIS *DB* BLAIR

SUBJECT: Reply to Mrs. Thatcher's Second Message on the Falklands

Attached for your signature is a memorandum to the President forwarding for his approval a reply to Mrs. Thatcher's latest blast.

The President's letter says that the United States will be careful in its public commentary on our vote not to offend British sensibilities. Attached for your signature is a memo to Secretary Shultz forwarding a copy of the President's letter and requesting him to ensure that responsible officials and spokesmen are informed of the President's wishes. *(S)*

RECOMMENDATION

OK NO

- — That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.
- — That you sign the memorandum to Secretary Shultz at Tab II once the President approves the message to Mrs. Thatcher.

Tab I Memo to President
Tab II Memo to SecState

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
NLR REF ID: A55 #26911
BY GI NARADATE 3/20/08

Dear Margaret:

I have carefully read and pondered your second letter to me about the U. N. Resolution on the Falklands. I understand your concerns about the rights of the Falklanders, and an early resumption of negotiations. However, my reading of the revised version of the resolution is that it protects the interests of the inhabitants and does not prejudge the outcome of any ultimate negotiations and that as a consequence we should vote in favor of it.

I am most concerned that the impact of the American vote in your country not be as drastic as you fear. The impact will depend in large measure on the public statements in both our countries. You can be assured that we will portray our vote as neither anti-British nor anti-self-determination, but as an expression of our basic policy that disputes be settled by peaceful means. I would hope that your spokesmen would not dramatize our vote as a dispute between our two countries. It is not. There is no question that the United States supports the United Kingdom when the chips are down.

Sincerely,

Ron

The Right Honorable
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
NLS FOI-055 #26910
BY LOI NARA. DATE 1/28/08