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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 April 1982

Dear Mr Luxton

Thank you for your recent telegram about the Falkland Islands. It was a generous thought and a great encouragement.

It has always been our wish, and it still is our wish, to settle this dispute by negotiation. Our repossession of South Georgia, including the attack on the Argentine submarine, in no way alters that. We seek the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution demanding the withdrawal of Argentine forces, and we seek it by peaceful means if possible. But throughout many years of discussion with Argentina, we have always stressed the importance of the Islanders' rights and wishes and we cannot allow these to be denied by Argentina's territorial ambitions. No-one should doubt our determination to free the Islanders from occupation, and to allow them to express their views freely on their future.

Secretary of State Haig has been tireless in his efforts to find a negotiated settlement. However, the Argentines have shown no inclination to implement the UN Security Council's Resolution. I hope they will reconsider this. As our fleet approaches the Islands, the urgent need is to speed up the negotiations. We remain in close touch with Mr. Haig.

It is good to know that we have your support, and the support of all true Kelpers.

*Every good with
Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

W. Luxton, Esq.