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01JUN82 – Ingham a Margaret Thatcher. Indicaciones para la cena con los corresponsales de USA.

(Margaret Thatcher Foundation) (desclasificado 2013)

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In the course of the afternoon you will have given Len Downie, Washington Post, an on-the-record interview and next week you hope to give the US television networks some of your time. This dinner was conceived as an unattributable occasion to minimise your preparation. But you are in the business of getting over your point of view in the USA. You could sharpen this by saying a few opening remarks on-the-record (which I am sure would be appreciated) taking the subsequent Q&A session unattributably.

You may care to consider whether you would like to go on-the-record with your opening remarks. If so, I should alert your hostess.

So far as opening remarks are concerned I would suggest the following structure:

1. We meet approaching climax to Falklands campaign; regret military action necessary; but aggression must not be rewarded; world will thank us for responsibility we are shouldering.
2. No quarrel with Latin-America or Argentine people; infinitely sad Argentine people pushed into ill-judged adventure, but inconceivable that democratic Falklanders could be handed over to live under unpleasant dictatorship.
3. We shall face the future need to safeguard the Islanders and to develop good relations with Latin-America (which has many border reasons for not wishing Argentine to succeed) with same resolution as we faced need to remove invader.
4. We seek peace and prosperity; not war.
5. While preoccupied with Falklands let us not lose sight of economic progress at home; the developing co-operation, in spite of hiccups, between our friends and neighbours (almost on eve of first of second cycle of Economic Summits, and Nato Summit);
6. Visit of President Reagan to Europe and more particularly to UK to cement our close relations;
7. Greatly welcome President Reagan to our shores; look forward to working with him in the years ahead and winning through together.

The questions will range widely for the Association is a diverse and alive group.

On the Falklands their preoccupation will be with where we go next and the damage being done within the American hemisphere.

On: the UK economy, whether you have time to get it right.

On UK politics whether the Falklands will have a lasting effect on electoral attitudes? Whither the Labour Party and SDP? Will you win a second term?

On Summitry what are you going to tell President Reagan about his deficit/interest rates?

On EC, how sore are you with your colleagues who did not tell you they were going to rat? What are the prospects for improving the atmosphere?

On East-West relations, prospects for arms reduction talks; resolution of difficulties over trade with Soviets?

Domestically, how do you assess your progress over 3 years? How worried are you about a new round of riots? Can you possibly contemplate winning with 3m unemployed and less than 2 years to go?

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Date 2/6/82