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**Se refiere a:**

**01JUN82 – Coles a Holmes.** Otros territorios en disputa.

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10 DOWNING STREET

1 June 1982

From the Private Secretary

FALKLANDS: OTHER TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

The Prime Minister was impressed by a remark made by President Reagan on television recently to the effect that, if the aggressor had his way over the Falklands, there would be serious implications for some fifty other territorial disputes. Since then, I understand that Mr. Eugene Rostow has referred to one hundred such disputes which could be exacerbated if Argentina succeeds in its aims in the South Atlantic.

The Prime Minister expects to have to spend a good deal of time on the Falklands in conversation with our allies during the various forthcoming international meetings. She would like to be armed, before she goes to Versailles, with a comprehensive list of territorial disputes with, in each case, a very brief description of their cause and the present situation. I emphasise that this could be very much in the form of a list with no more than two or three sentences relating to each dispute. Could this possibly be produced by close of play on 3 June?

21/6/82

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 June 1982

Prime Minister

I believe you asked

for this.

A.J.C. 1/6.

Dear Sir,

You asked this morning for a list of former US Colonies, and I explained that there might be problems of definition. The attached paper bears this out but I hope that it will be useful.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



## FORMER UNITED STATES TERRITORIES

The Philippines

Ceded to the United States by Spain in 1899. Governed by the United States until independence in 1946 although limited self-government (as a Commonwealth) was granted in 1935. Occupied by the Japanese 1941-44.

## PRESENT UNITED STATES OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

(a) Self-governing Areas

Puerto Rico A 'Commonwealth', freely and voluntarily associated with the United States. Formerly an incorporated territory of the United States after being ceded by Spain after the Spanish-American War.

Guam The largest of the Mariana Islands. (W. Pacific). Acquired by the United States from Spain in 1898. The government of Guam is supervised by the United States Department of the Interior.

(b) Non-Self-governing Territories

American Samoa (administered by the United States Department of the Interior);  
Baker, Howland and Jarvis Islands (Uninhabited. Part of the National Wildlife Refuge Association);  
Canton and Enderbury Islands (jointly administered by the United States and the United Kingdom);  
Johnston Atoll (A Naval Defence Sea Area and Airspace Reservation under the jurisdiction of the Defence Nuclear Agency);  
Kingman Reef (A Defence Sea Area and Airspace Reservation);  
Midway Islands (A Naval Defence Sea Area);  
US Virgin Islands (Purchased by the United States from Denmark in 1917.) Since 1931 administered by the Department of the Interior ;  
Wake Island (Administered by United States Air Force under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior).

(c) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia)

More than 2,000 islands including the Northern Mariana, Caroline and Marshall Islands. In 1947, the United Nations Security Council approved a Trusteeship agreement proposed by the United States under which the Northern Mariana, Caroline and Marshall Islands became a Strategic Trust Territory under the administration of the United States. The Department of the Interior took over the administration of the Islands in 1962. In 1978 the Northern Marianas became a Commonwealth under American Sovereignty but remain legally a part of the Trusteeship until the future status of the Trust Territory is decided. The termination of the Trusteeship was scheduled for 1981. In 1980, a Compact of Free Association was initialled by the United States and the Micronesian Political Status Commissions.

PRIME MINISTER

*Erasmus*

*259*

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

I have commissioned a paper from the Foreign Office which will be available before you leave for Versailles.

You wanted a short list of Latin American territorial disputes before your various media interviews today. Here are eight:

- (a) Venezuela/Guyana
- (b) Guatemala/Belize
- (c) Argentina/Chile (Beagle Channel)
- (d) Ecuador's claim to part of Northern Peru
- (e) Nicaragua's claim to two islands occupied by Colombia
- (f) Colombia/Venezuela: a minor dispute over the position of the land boundary which, however, affects the maritime boundary
- (g) Bolivia's claim to a piece of land lost to Chile in the nineteenth century. Peru is also involved in a minor way
- (h) The claim of Honduras to the Sapodilla Cays (small islands off Belize)

*AJC*

2 June 1982