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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 June, 1982

Falklands: Mr. Foot's Letter to the
Prime Minister of 9 June

You sent me last night a suggested line for the Home Secretary to take at Question Time today if Mr. Foot pursues the point made in his letter.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary have discussed this in Bonn. As a result, the Prime Minister has approved the attached revised line to take.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Andrew Burns in Sir Antony Acland's office.

M. A. PATTISON

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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IT IS NOT THE CASE THAT WE ARE DEMANDING UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER: WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF THE ARGENTINE FORCES IN PORT STANLEY ANNOUNCE THEIR WISH TO WITHDRAW TO THE MAINLAND THEY WILL BE GIVEN TIME TO DO SO WITH DIGNITY AND IN GOOD ORDER.

WE MADE CLEAR TO THE ARGENTINES BEFORE THEIR INVASION THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS WITH THEM; EVEN AFTER THEIR INVASION WE WERE PREPARED TO DO SO IF THEY PROMPTLY WITHDREW; BUT THEIR RESPONSE WAS TO INSIST ON AN ULTIMATE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO THEM AS A PRE-CONDITION. THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

SINCE OUR LANDINGS ON THE ISLANDS AND THE LOSSES WHICH WE HAVE INCURRED, IT IS UNTHINKABLE TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS AS IF EVERYTHING WERE STILL AS IT HAD BEEN BEFORE. THE SITUATION HAS MOVED ON, AND THE ISLANDERS WILL NEED A BREATHING SPACE BEFORE THEY CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURE.

10 JUNE 1982