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Se refiere a:

11JUN82 – Margaret Thatcher a Dalzell. Confidencia en el apoyo de Estados Unidos.

(Margaret Thatcher Foundation) (desclasificado 2013)

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1982

Dear Tom.

Thank you for your letter of 2 June about the United States attitude to the Falklands dispute.

I have no knowledge of the specific claims you make but do not regard them as at all likely or plausible. Our exchanges with President Reagan and other United States leaders over the last few days, in Versailles and here in London, have confirmed our confidence in United States understanding and support for Britain in the Falklands dispute. This support, both moral and practical, had already been thoroughly endorsed by numerous statements by President Reagan, Mr. Haig, other US political figures and all sides of US public opinion. I imagine you will have heard President Reagan's forthright reassertion of his country's attitude during his address in the Palace of Westminster on 8 June, in which he made clear American recognition of the two essential principles at stake in the dispute - resistance to aggression and the right of self-determination.

/The dispute

The dispute is a complex and difficult one, in which the United States own interests are very closely involved. However, we have no doubt of the wholehearted nature of their support, and we have made our gratitude for it clear.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Tam Dalyell, Esq., M.P.
