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BRITISH EMBASSY,
THE HAGUE.

11 June, 1982

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J L Bullard Esq CMG
FCO, LONDON SW1

My dear Julian

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18 JUN 1982	
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THE DUTCH ATTITUDE TO THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE

1. In my telegram No 148 of 1 June, reporting van Agt's assumption of the Foreign Affairs portfolio, I commented that over Falklands matters at least this could be helpful. That so far remains unproven though I remain moderately optimistic. The trouble is that van Agt is devoting only a small proportion of his time to Foreign Affairs, which is bound to increase the relative importance of the advice put to him by his officials.

2. In this connection I should mention that the Netherlands Ambassador in London, Huydecoper, is apparently reporting in a rather unbalanced way. We know from a number of MFA sources (please protect) that early this week he sent by telegram a long and far-ranging analysis of our Falklands policy, the main conclusions of which seem to have been that we:

- (a) have a Prime Minister who has given up listening to anyone else on this subject and is determined to humiliate Argentina;
- (b) are unreasonably opposed to a resumption of the negotiations with Argentina;
- (c) are putting demands on our EC partners (import embargo etc) which will lead before long to further visible cracks in Western solidarity on this front;

/(d)

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(d) seem likely to end up with a semi-permanent financial burden, flowing from the need to maintain a sizeable force in the Falklands, which is highly likely to have an adverse effect on our contribution to NATO.

3. We are naturally working hard at this end to combat Huydecoper's influence, and his views are far from universally shared here. But you may think it worthwhile to give him some special attention in an effort to persuade him that there are other aspects to our policy which he seems to be overlooking.

Yours ever
Philip

Philip Mansfield

c.c. Sir M Butler KCMG, UKREP BRUSSELS
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