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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
 Telephone 01-~~330 7822~~ 218 2111/3

6th October 1982

Dear John,

Prime Minister

To note

A.J.C.  $\frac{6}{10}$ ARGENTINA/FALKLAND ISLANDS

Thank you for your letter of 4th October concerning two questions which the Prime Minister raised on the section on Argentina and the Falkland Islands in JIC(82)(WSI)39.

I can confirm that we do still have one SSN, HMS SPLENDID, in the Falklands area. In addition, a Carrier Battle Group is currently patrolling the Protection Zone of 150 nautical miles around the Falklands. This comprises HMS ILLUSTRIOUS together with a Type 42 destroyer and three frigates. A further Type 42 destroyer and a Type 22 frigate are on picket duty in the western area of the Protection Zone. Maritime surveillance is currently being undertaken two or three times a week by Hercules C130 aircraft, which are flying night operations within and outside the Protection Zone from Port Stanley airfield. Nimrod aircraft operating from Ascension Island are also flying maritime reconnaissance sorties to within 500 miles or so of the Falkland Islands. In short, therefore, we still have a substantial maritime presence in the South Atlantic.

The Commander in Chief Fleet has been alerted to the Prime Minister's concern about possible Argentine action in the Falklands area on 12th October. He will ensure that our forces in the area are at the necessary state of readiness to meet any likely contingency.

I understand that the Home Office will be replying separately on the question of security arrangements for the City of London Salute to the Task Force. The police would, of course, be able to call in the normal way upon assistance from the Army in the event of an emergency.

I am copying this to John Holmes (FCO), John Halliday (Home Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever  
 Nick Evans

(N H R EVANS)

A J Coles Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

MFJ

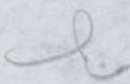
8 October 1982

Argentina/Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 6 October about our current deployments in the Falklands area.

JC

N.H.R. Evans, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 October 1982

Argentina/Falkland Islands

The Prime Minister saw over the weekend the section on Argentina and the Falkland Islands contained in JIC(82)(WSI)39.

With regard to the first paragraph which refers to Argentinian naval exercises to the north of the Falklands, the Prime Minister has asked whether we still have nuclear submarines in the area. Could you please let me know the exact position urgently?

The Prime Minister also noted the possibility that Argentina might take some action on 12 October (the day of the Task Force parade), either in London or in the Falkland Islands area. She has asked whether contingency plans are ready. I should be grateful for a reply on this point as quickly as possible.

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). *Also copied to Home Office.*

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.

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