



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:  
Michael Foot MP

9 June 1982

*Dear Prime Minister,*

Yesterday at Question Time I raised with you our position in the Security Council and urged that the British Government should bring another resolution before the Security Council for which we can get full support. You know, of course, that we very much regret Britain's veto on 4 June, but that is now past.

Since our exchange in the House, I have become even more concerned about the need to maintain wholehearted backing from our allies and even more convinced that a United Kingdom resolution which indicated the Government's willingness to achieve a negotiated settlement would be well received in the Security Council, and would strengthen the support which we need both now and in the future from the international community.

Of course, I accept your argument that Argentina has caused the whole crisis and that the first requirement must be that they should agree to withdraw from the Falklands. But I cannot believe that it is prudent to continue to press for such withdrawal without any offer whatsoever of further discussions, preferably through the United Nations. There is growing support for this view in world opinion and I believe that it is both short-sighted and dangerous to ignore it. In the longer term, too, there will have to be a negotiated settlement if victory now is not to be followed by continued Argentine harassment which will make the islands untenable for their inhabitants and impose an expensive and risky burden on Britain.

All the indications from the Argentines are that, so long as their only alternative is unconditional surrender to a British ultimatum, they will persist in defending Port Stanley and other points on the islands. This may well lead to heavy casualties.



-2-

Both for Britain's good name, and for the sake of the servicemen on both sides who may be killed and wounded, is it not worth giving the Argentines an undertaking that discussions will reopen as soon as they complete their withdrawal?

I urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the Government's position and to initiate positive proposals along these lines in the Security Council.

Michael Foot

---

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP