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1982 Nov 2 Tu  
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## Falklands: Reagan letter to Thatcher (defends US stance at UN) [declassified 2000]

Document type: Thatcher Record

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Venue: White House

Source: Reagan Library: NSA Head of State File (Thatcher: Cables [1]) Box 34

F96-107#18

Journalist: -  
by SMF, NARA, Date 3/24/09

Importance ranking: Key

Secret

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Themes: Foreign policy (USA), Defence (Falklands War 1982), Foreign policy (Ame  
November 2, 1982

Dear Margaret

I have just received your message and would like to respond  
immediately, given the importance of the issue to both of us.

I fully understand that negotiations are not acceptable [fo 1]  
to you, having just paid so much in blood and treasure to  
repulse the Argentine invasion. We have no intention to press  
you - or to see you pressed - into negotiations before you are  
ready. Equally, we have no intention to take a position on the  
substance of the matter that is in any way prejudicial to your  
position on the questions of sovereignty and self-

determination. Indeed Resolution 1514 contains stronger references to self-determination than it does to the principle the Argentines proclaim, "territorial integrity".

Margaret, my country has always supported you and always will in defeating any effort to solve the Falklands dispute by force. You know that we have always been neutral on the question of sovereignty. And we have always favored peaceful solution of the issue by negotiation. I am well aware that it was the Argentines that interrupted negotiations by attacking the islands. But I do not think that in itself is reason not to support a solution by negotiations sometime in the future. It is hard for the United States to have any other position.

Reading your message, I believe more weight ought to be given to the text of the resolution as it now stands. The Brazilian amendments have made it much less objectionable. It was on the basis of this new text that my colleagues informed Argentina and other sponsors that we would support it. In particular, the references to *de facto* cessation of hostilities and the intention of the partners not to renew them takes us a good ways towards the formal renunciation of hostilities we both have been working for, although I would agree with you that they are not equivalent.

At the time of the vote, our representative will put clearly on record our views that force must not be used again [fo 2] to solve the dispute, that the underlying question of sovereignty is not and cannot be prejudiced by the resolution, and that the aspirations of the islanders must be taken into account.

I am truly sorry that we disagree on this matter and for my part will do everything in my power to make sure this resolution is not abused. You may be confident that the United States will continue to abide by the jointly shared principles which guided both our countries through the Falklands crisis to its successful conclusion.

With best wishes  
Ron