

# Centre for Policy Studies

8 Wilfred Street • London SW1E 6PL • Telephone 01-828 1176 Cables: Centrepol London

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Dear Prime Minister,

I have recently been twice to Washington in connection with lectures at Georgetown University. I shall be writing later about my general impressions.

On my last visit I was telephoned by Sr. <sup>Lucio</sup> ~~Lucio~~ Garcia del Solar the Argentine ambassador to the US. He had learned that I wd. be there, through mutual friends. He wanted to discuss something with me. I agreed. We talked on Tuesday last, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sr. Garcia del Solar represented himself as a member of the Radical party in the Argentine & a friend since 1973 of his future chief of state, Sr. Alfonsín. He said that he had talked recently with Sr. Alfonsín & the foreign secretary designate, Sr. Caputo.

Sr. Garcia del Solar told me that Sr. Alfonsín wd. like:

- (a) to end the state of war between us; &
- (b) to restore full diplomatic, & not just commercial, relations, as soon as possible.

He said that Sr. Alfonsín wd. do this if we cd see our way:

- (a) to abbreviate the exclusion zone; &
- (b) to "slow down the military build-up on the Falklands," if only for "economic reasons".

After this, Sr. Alfonsín wd. like to return <sup>to</sup> the negotiations with us where they were "wrongly" (his word) broken off in

/ March

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March 1982.

Sr. Garcia del Solar added:

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- (a) during the recent election Sr. Alfonsín had spoken of the "war in the South Atlantic" as deriving from "an illegal government, in a fair cause";
- (b) Sr. Alfonsín had declared himself, in the course of the war, to have been against the war, in Sr. Garcia del Solar's presence, in an interview with an Irish journalist;
- (c) Sr. Alfonsín recognizes that his own unique opportunity as president of a new democratic Argentine derives ultimately from yr. courage in sending the task force (!!) & therefore feels his fate is linked to yr. action; he admires yr. contribution to the revival of Britain;
- (d) Sr. Alfonsín & Sr. Caputo (the foreign minister designate) knew of his proposed <sup>with</sup> conversation with me. No one else did. They had wished ~~to~~ <sup>him</sup> talk to me because of my reputation as an occasional adviser to you, & because they had read my books (Alfonsín, of course, is of Spanish origin: his great-grand father came from Galicia, in North West Spain). Perhaps I am believed to be a dove?

I subsequently discovered independently that Sr. Garcia del Solar has a good reputation as a honest man, who resigned from his post as ambassador to Moscow after a coup d'état in Buenos Aires in the 1960s; that he is looked on as a socialist, despite very courtly & old fashioned manners; & that he was talked of as a possible foreign minister in place of Sr. Caputo. He will now remain in Washington as ambassador.

Wd. you like me (a) to talk again to Sr. Garcia del Solar when I go back to the US in the New Year; (b) to forget that this conversation occurred; (c) to talk to you about it when we meet next week (Friday)?

I have, of course, mentioned this to no one & shall not do so.

Yours ever  
Augh.