

FILE

JR

BELGRANO



cc MOD
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CO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 November 1984

Dear Dr. Owen

Thank you for your letter of 31 October.

As I told you in my letter of 8 October, information about the precise course of the Belgrano when she was attacked did not come to the attention of Ministers until the end of November 1982. The fact that this information was contained in HMS CONQUEROR's signal making the initial report of the attack does not affect that statement. Although information in the signal was used in drafting the statements on the attack on 4 May, Ministers did not see the signal itself.

After the passage of two-and-a-half years, it is impossible to be certain of the exact circumstances surrounding the drafting of one statement made during a period of fast-moving military and diplomatic events. I had tried to make this clear to you in my letter of 8 October. None the less, the accuracy of the facts given in my letter, and in other recent statements on this subject, have been carefully checked against documentary records and the memories of those involved.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen, MP.

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