



DS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 November, 1981

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Dear Lord Buxton,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November about HMS Endurance.

I am grateful to you for your advice, so strongly felt and clearly put. But I am afraid there is really nothing I can add to the letters I have sent you since July. As I said in my last letter, the decision to pay off Endurance was a collective Government decision. It was not taken lightly. And it does not mean we have lost interest in the Falkland Islands, their Dependencies, or our stake in Antarctica. We are in no doubt about our sovereignty over the Islands, and we are determined to ensure their territorial integrity. That is demonstrated by the permanent Royal Marine Garrison we shall be maintaining there.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Lord Buxton of Alsa, M.C., D.L.

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