hon zeen.

ALW 048/325/14

Mr Duggan, SAMD 25/2 28 SEF 1979

FALKLAND ISLANDS

You will have seen copies of comments by certain Ministers on Lord Carrington's minute to the Prime Minister about the Falkland Islands, including a request by the Secretary of State for Energy for a discussion of the issues raised in the minute. We have been told by telephone that the Defence Secretary has no comments; and that the Lord Chancellor thinks an attempt should be made to assess the other side of the coin — ie the nature and extent of the Argentine threat, including an assessment of their forces and of the stability of the regime. Lord Hailsham regards the moral commitment to the islanders as paramount, but accepts that we might be able to end the dispute in such a way as to derive solid advantages.

RMLyne

(R M J Lyne)

24 September 1979

cc:- PS/LPS
PS/Mr Ridley
PS/PUS
Mr Harding