



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 November, 1982

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Dear Tam,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November about RFA 'Fort Austin'.

There is very little that I can add to what John Nott and I have said on this subject in the House, or to what John has said in his recent letter to you. However, since you imply that it is surprising that a vessel of over 16,000 tons should be sent to replenish HMS 'Endurance', I might just point out that all of the stores support ships in service with the RF Auxiliary at that time were upwards of 16,000 tons.

I feel I ought also to repeat that the House approved the setting up of the Franks Committee to look into the events leading up to the Argentine invasion in April, and that it really would be better not to try to prejudge the Committee's report, which the House will have a chance to debate.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Tam Dalyell, Esq., M.P.,

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