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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1982

Falkland Islands

As you know, Mr. Needham of the Falkland Islands Company rang me on Sunday morning to say that he proposed to send a telex to his representative on the Falkland Islands asking whether it was felt in the Islands that some of the older people and children should leave. If so, and if they would be allowed to do so, this should be arranged and he (Mr. Needham) would find some means of raising the money. Mr. Needham told me that he was not seeking the Government's approval but wished to know that we would not object to such a telex being sent.

You consulted the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and in the light of your advice I rang Mr. Needham to say that the Government certainly had no objection to such a message being sent though it should be made clear that this was an entirely private initiative. Mr. Needham said that he fully understood this point.

I am copying this letter to David Omand (Ministry of Defence), John Halliday (Home Office) and Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office).

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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