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MR. COLES

By the time you see this, I hope to have mentioned to you on the telephone the Prime Minister's commission to Lord Shackleton to revise his Falklands Report.

I spoke to Robin Fenn about this today, so that the Emergency Unit could start thinking about the necessary arrangements. Shackleton reckoned that only a few days work was required. He spoke to me after the meeting with the Prime Minister, and I left him expecting to be contacted on Tuesday. It seems to me that a suitably senior figure needs to invite him to come in for a talk on Tuesday about admin, financial, and secretarial arrangements, and to undertake to get to him by 7 June terms of reference for the exercise.

Shackleton left the attached somewhat rambling piece of paper. He said that he was confident that he could get the key members of the original team - although one of them is in North Wales until the end of next week. He wanted at least one, and possibly two first class Civil Service secretaries "of No. 10 Private Secretary calibre". He would also need meeting facilities.

I think you will need to ensure that the Prime Minister briefs OD(SA) colleagues about this commission on Sunday or Tuesday. OD ought perhaps to approve the 'scenarios', which are given as part of the TORs. Shackleton has it in mind that these must cover the likely future status of the Falklands and the garrison arrangements, among other points.

Given the suspicions of the Falkland Islanders, and the UK Falklands lobby, of the FCO, there may be a case for finding the Shackleton team an office elsewhere - perhaps in the Cabinet Office. You might think that Michael Palliser would be the best person to talk to Shackleton about getting the details established. I suggest that it would be best for you to telephone Lord Shackleton on Tuesday,
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telling him who will invite him to come in for a talk. We need to ensure that there will be no haggling about picking up the tab, which will be essentially a matter of expenses for those who must take time off other occupations, and finding the necessary staff resources for an exercise lasting no more than two or three weeks.

M. A. PATTISON

28 May 1982