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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 January 1984

Dear John,

The Cabinet Office will cover this in
the proposals to business.

A. & C. 15/1

Discussion of Papers on Argentina/Falklands at OD

attached

The Foreign Secretary circulated to OD colleagues on 29 December a Memorandum (OD(83)19) on Falklands Fisheries. The plan was to discuss this in OD on Wednesday 25 January.

Since then, the need for decisions on the next steps in our relations with the new government of Argentina has become more urgent. The Foreign Secretary will shortly be circulating a paper on this subject for discussion at OD on 25 January. He sees advantage in discussing these more central policy questions in advance of consideration of the fisheries paper.

Sir Geoffrey considers, however, that discussion of the proposed fisheries limit should not be delayed too long. Pressure from the Falkland Islanders for an early decision on this issue remains strong, as Lady Young's visit this week has confirmed. He therefore favours taking the fisheries paper at the next opportunity after OD on 25 January. I understand that the OD Secretariat have it in mind to propose discussion of the Fisheries paper at an OD meeting on 31 January. Sir Geoffrey would welcome this. In that case we would re-circulate the Memorandum on Falklands Fisheries as soon as possible after 25 January, amending it to take account as necessary of discussion then.

Sir Geoffrey has minuted separately that he is content with the proposal from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland that the OD meeting on 25 January should consider the possible sale to Argentina of two electricity generating sets from the Northern Ireland Electricity Service.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries of OD Ministers, and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office)

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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16 JAN 1984

