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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
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FOREIGN SECRETARY

OD: FALKLAND ISLANDS: FISHERIES

I have seen your paper OD(83)19 on the arguments for and against declaring a 200-mile Exclusive Fisheries Limit around the Falklands.

2. I agree that there would be disadvantages either in leaving things as they are or in declaring an EFL unilaterally, but that we should not rule out establishing an EFL with a Regional Fisheries Administration. However, fisheries protection and management is expensive, and would presumably be a charge on the Falkland Islands Government, substantially offsetting the financial benefits of licensing. Indeed, with depleting fish stocks, the cost of policing could well be greater than the revenue from licensing. A feasibility study of an EFL should therefore include a full financial appraisal.

3. Since I shall not be at the OD meeting on 31 January, I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, other members of OD, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'N.L.' with a flourish underneath.

(N.L.)  
30 January 1984

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30 JAN 1984

