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cc P.C.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 May, 1984

Prime Minister.

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A.S.C. 9/5

Dear John,

Foreign Affairs Select Committee: Falklands Enquiry

David Barclay wrote to Roger Bone on 17 April recording the Prime Minister's astonishment at the Select Committee's plans, in particular their request to call upon the Argentine Mission.

The Select Committee's decision to seek a call on the Argentine Mission was their own. We can and do take informal opportunities to offer advice on the planning of their visits overseas. But in this case we were not asked for advice before a firm decision was taken by the Committee. We have customarily made administrative arrangements for the Committee's overseas visits, and we took the view that it would have been counter-productive to have refused any assistance in this case. We did however take the opportunity to ensure that the delegation were aware of our views. Lady Young briefed Sir A Kershaw and some of his group on 2 May. She asked Sir A Kershaw to ensure that the Argentines and others they met fully understood the independent role of Parliament and its Committees and that the FAC was in no sense an intermediary for the Government.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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