



Prime Minister 2

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

to be aware of this debate

26 June 1986

Mr J:U

N.L.W.  
26.6

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Mine Clearance in the Falkland Islands

Thank you for your letter of 16 May conveying the Chief Secretary's view that it would not be appropriate to regard the costs involved in mine clearance in the Falkland Islands at a future date as part of Operation Corporate.

The Foreign Secretary recalls that the undertaking given by the Prime Minister to Parliament on 15 June 1982 that the mines would be removed was given immediately after the conflict, and as such was closely linked to Operation Corporate. He has also noted that the Defence Secretary's minute of 22 April to the Prime Minister, while stating that there was no military requirement to clear the mine fields in the Falkland Islands, pointed out that there might be a military advantage from this technology (which could presumably also involve potential future sales to overseas customers). He also understands that the responsibility for the clearance of mines or bombs laid by an enemy in British territory is traditionally that of the MOD. It would be inconsistent for this task, should new technology become available, to fall to the civilian administration in the case of the Falklands.

The Foreign Secretary therefore remains of the view that if reliable technology did become available to remove the mines, and approval to do so were to be given, this would be a legitimate charge to Operation Corporate or to the defence budget.

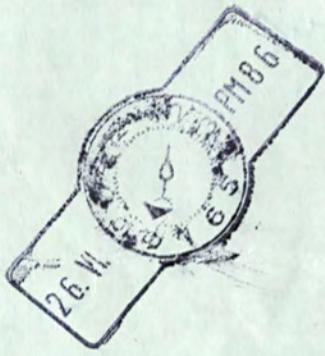
I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the other members of OD(FAF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

Miss Jill Rutter  
PS/Chief Secretary to the Treasury

ARGENTINA: Defence of Falklands: Pt 14.



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

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CCPC



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Robert Culshaw Esq  
 Private Secretary to the Secretary of State  
 for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
 King Charles Street  
 London  
 SW1

CJP  
19/5

16 May 1986

Dear Robert,

**MINE CLEARANCE IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS**

The Chief Secretary has seen your letter of 9 May together with the Defence Secretary's minute of 22 April and the Prime Minister's reply.

The Chief Secretary has noted that Mr Younger pointed out that there is no military requirement to clear the minefields in the Falklands and that this requirement is purely a civil one. His view is therefore that if at some future date there is further consideration of an attempt to clear the minefields, it would not be appropriate to regard the costs involved as part of Operation Corporate - that is, as a Falklands cost met from the Reserve as an addition to the defence budget.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD(FAF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

**JILL RUTTER**  
 Private Secretary

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ARGENTINA  
DEFENSE OF  
FAULKLANDS  
PT 14

