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CONFIDENTIAL

FCS/86/155

emg, 5/6

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Mine Clearance in the Falkland Islands

in PM's Box 3/6

1. Thank you for your letter of 3 June enclosing the text for the Parliamentary Question and Answer which you propose to arrange shortly in order to announce the termination of the contract you have with ERA Technology Limited for minefield clearance in the Falklands. I agree that it is preferable to announce the decision quickly rather than await John Stanley's visit to the Islands at the end of July. I am content with the proposed Answer, which helpfully incorporates a number of the points made by Gordon Jewkes, the Falkland Islands Governor. I also agree that Gordon Jewkes should make the decision known in the Islands at the same time as it is announced in London.

2. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, John MacGregor, Paul Channon and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
5 June 1986

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Defense of the Falklands?  
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