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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 August 1986

~~BSK~~ I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Lord Shackleton about Falkland Island fisheries. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 August 1986

I am writing on behalf of the
Prime Minister to thank you for
your letter of 31 July.

This is receiving attention and
you will be sent a reply as soon as
possible.

CHARLES POWELL

The Rt. Hon. Lord Shackleton, K.G., O.B.E.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Shackleton, KG., PC., OBE.,
Enserch House, 8 St. James's Square,
London SW1Y 4JU
01.930.1752
01.930.8697



cc Sir P C ✓ 3/8

House of Lords

31st July, 1986

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1

Dear Prime Minister pls.

I believe that Aubrey Buxton has written to you on a different aspect of the South Atlantic, and so I am writing in response to your letter of 9th July following exchanges in the House of Lords this week on fishery rights.

We are so concerned by recent developments that we feel bound to express our deep anxiety now that it looks, as we predicted, that the Argentines and Soviets are already far down the road towards reaching a fishing agreement. A similar situation applies to Japan. If this is really true we have to ask, can we seriously afford not to react as a matter of urgency before the issue is finally settled? Quite apart from renewed pressure on the Soviet Union, what obstacles are there to declaring fishing limits, at least up to the boundary of the protection zone?

In reply to questions in the House of Lords on Tuesday (H of L Hansard - 29th July - Col. 716-719) it was made clear that the Government are still relying on achieving a multi-lateral solution. But, however desirable that may be, larger events are unquestionably now taking over. Indeed, the nature of the agreement with the Soviet Union would seem, unless they can be persuaded to think again, to threaten the whole stability of the region.

Argentina is also seeking energetically to persuade other countries such as South Korea to sign an agreement, and any such agreement between those countries would imply that they had recognised the Argentine claim to the 200 miles around the Falklands, where we have not yet even declared fishing limits ourselves.

Perhaps worse than that, an agreement on fishing would inevitably lead to the prospect of the Soviets having maritime bases and facilities on the Argentine mainland.

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House of Lords

31st July, 1986

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

We feel bound to draw your personal attention to these deeply worrying, even threatening developments affecting the Falkland Islands and indeed the whole south-west Atlantic region. We fear that we may be heading for a very critical situation and must ask, therefore, should not urgent action be taken without delay?

yours sincerely
Aldie Shingleton

SHACKLETON

cc: The Lord Buxton of Alsa, M.C., D.L.,
Brook House,
113 Park Lane,
London W1Y 4DX

Relatives: ARGENTINA

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