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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ  
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The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary  
Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AL

24 May 1988

Dear Geoffrey,

CR  
24/5

**ALTERNATIVE CIVILIAN PRESENCE ON SOUTH GEORGIA**

Thank you for your <sup>at F&C</sup> minute of 12 May.

I note that you have now requested the agreement of the Commissioner for South Georgia to put in hand the fisheries study. I am content to proceed on the lines you suggest with regard to consideration of the proposals for a seismic and minerals and hydrocarbons licensing regime. As you say there are a number of factors to be taken into account, but I think we should consider establishing a licensing regime for the exploration and exploitation of minerals and hydrocarbons for both South Georgia and the Falklands at the same time. The precise timing and method of work can be decided once the Antarctic negotiations have been concluded.

I am sending copies of this letter to other members of OD(FAF), the Secretary of State for Education and Science and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours  
Cecil  
Parkinson

CECIL PARKINSON

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