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cc PC



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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MO 3/15L

19th July 1988

CDP 20/7r.

Dear Charles,

FALKLANDS FISHERIES, ARGENTINA AND THE US

The Defence Secretary has seen the Foreign Secretary's minute to the Prime Minister dated 15th July on this subject, and your response of 17th July.

Mr Younger too is content with the proposed reply to Secretary Shultz and the response to the Argentine non-paper, although it does seem possible that the Argentines will be no less reluctant to give assurances to Shultz than they have been to provide written undertakings to us. We agree, therefore, that it is important to impress on the Americans that we see this as a make or break issue.

3. On a point in paragraph 10 of the Foreign Secretary's minute (which does not however affect the thrust of the argument), while Mr Younger agrees that an expanded FICZ might pose problems of enforcement for the civil authorities in the Falklands, he is less sure that there would necessarily be a military problem (unless of course the overstretch of civilian resources led to calls for military involvement in policing the Zone).

4. I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

John Colston

(J COLSTON)
Private Secretary

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