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Mr Anglin 5/12  
Mr Bishop  
Mr Davies  
5/12  
209  
Ms/12

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| INDEX                       | PA | Action Taken |
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PS

FAULKLAND ISLANDS: IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. As I told you on the telephone, Mr Ridley last night had a conversation in the House of Commons with Sir Nigel Fisher MP. The latter had been among the delegation from the London branch of the Falkland Islands Committee which had called on Mr Ridley yesterday morning. The meeting was most cordial, and it was clear that the Committee members were considering carefully, without emotion, the various ideas that Mr Ridley had put forward in the Islands during his visit.
2. Sir Nigel Fisher last night told Mr Ridley that the Committee had concluded that it would advise Islanders that they should ask Mr Ridley to explore the possibilities of leaseback in negotiations with Argentina. But according to Sir Nigel Fisher, the Committee would suggest that Islanders should seek concessions in return, namely unrestricted right of abode in the UK for Islanders, and some improved financial provisions (whether increased aid or assistance in access to capital was not clear). You will recall that OD had already discussed both of these points at its meeting yesterday.
3. This is good news. Sir Nigel Fisher also told Mr Ridley that Lord Shackleton is close to deciding in favour of exploring leaseback. Mr Ridley intends to invite him to call at the office, for a general discussion about his visit. If we could persuade him to come out in favour of negotiations on the basis of leaseback, it would have enormous influence both in the Falkland Islands and in the lobby here.

was Soopn  
on 8 December

4 December 1980

K D Temple  
PS/Mr Ridley

- cc: PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Day o.r.  
Mr Harding o.r.  
Mr Fearn