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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

A J Cole Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

22 July 1982

Dear John,

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

The Chief Secretary has seen a copy of your letter of 13 July to Imogen Wilde and the attached record of the meeting the Prime Minister held on 12 July.

In OD Committee it was agreed that the right solution to this problem would be for the ABRC and NERC to reorder their scientific priorities so as to increase spending on the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). In this way the need to indicate the value the UK placed on the BAS could be met without any increase in public expenditure. This appears to be what Sir Hermann Bondi had in mind where your record refers to his formula for the Science Budget equalling $X + £5m$, with X unspecified.

Unfortunately the same paragraph also refers to Sir Hermann's suggestion that $£5m$ be added to the Science Budget. The Chief Secretary hopes this ambiguity can be cleared up and the Science Budget announced as consisting of $X + £5m$ for BAS but with no addition to the cash plans shortly to be decided in the Survey.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of yours.

*Yours sincerely
Terry Mathews*

T F MATHEWS
Private Secretary

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