

BROOK HOUSE · PARK LANE  
LONDON W1Y 4DX  
Telephone: 01-408 2288

*M. Coles*

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from LORD BUXTON

*x3*  
2 September, 1982

*mt.*  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

Prime Minister

*I am in touch with the  
DES and will let you have  
a draft reply shortly.*

*Dear Prime Minister*

*A.T.C. 9  
A.*

Since I raised the subject of BAS with you in the first place, I thought you would not mind my writing. I am in regular touch with BAS activities and was talking to Dick Laws yesterday. I had heard previously that you mentioned extra funding for BAS, but I gathered yesterday that he had so far had no formal notification of this from officials.

Although I pressed him Dick Laws was not willing to divulge much, but I can see that in order to achieve increased activity in the 1983/4 Antarctic season, decisions for adequate extra expenditure this year and a firm indication for extra funding in future years, need to be taken in Whitehall now.

Because of the restricted seasonal aspects even minor delays now can lead to delays in implementation of a whole year. I gained the impression that following his talk with you about the build up of BAS activity he is becoming concerned that he might not be able to achieve this before 1984/5.

*11 The problem seems to be  
foot-dragging*

*Yours sincerely*

*Anthony Andrew*