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30 March, 1983 CP22

From the Private Secretary

British Policy in Antarctica: Minerals

The Prime Minister has seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 28 March.

Subject to the views of the other recipients of Mr. Pym's minute, she agrees that our delegation to the Canberra meeting in April should continue to work within the framework of the negotiating aims agreed in OD (82) 51 and that they should explore with other delegations whether the New Zealand Chairman's proposals could form the starting point for further negotiations. But she considers that any agreement given by our delegation that the Chairman's proposals could indeed constitute the starting point for further negotiations should be ad referendum to Ministers.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD, the Secretaries of State for Education and Science, Industry and the Environment and the Head of the CPRS.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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