



FILE

cc: PC

20

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR GOODALL
CABINET OFFICE

BRITISH POLICY IN ANTARCTICA: MINERALS

The Prime Minister would be grateful for some clarification of the last sentence of paragraph 8 of your minute of 6 April. You state that third world countries could become non-consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty with the right to participate commercially in activities in the region. Mrs. Thatcher has asked how that right would be defined and what it would embrace. Would it, for example, give to companies from third world countries the right to exploit mineral resources in parts of Antarctica to which we lay claim? How precisely would the right be defined?

ALCOLES

10 April, 1984