

Disused on 22/3

11/3/82  
32

Mr Ure  
PS/Mr Luce  
PS

Aw 062/2

*I have taken a copy for Mr Ure, who to read it over the weekend.*

DESK OFFICER		REPLY
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*J. J. ...*  
19/3

FALKLAND ISLANDS: HMS ENDURANCE

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A 1. In my submission of 18 March, I said that I would be recommending that the Secretary of State should minute the Defence Secretary seeking his agreement on a contingency basis to maintaining HMS Endurance on station in the area of the Falkland Islands for the time being. The Secretary of State's intention to do so is also reflected in the draft minute, which I have separately recommended he should send to the Prime Minister on contingency planning. I submit a draft.

2. Present plans are for HMS Endurance to leave the area for the UK in mid-April, having rotated the Marine garrison in the last week of March and having made two official calls to Argentine ports in the first half of April.

3. The draft minute to Mr Nott reminds him of the Secretary of State's intention to raise in OD the broader question of HMS Endurance's future.

*P. R. Fearn*

P R Fearn  
South America Dept

19 March 1982

cc PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
Mr Giffard  
Head of Defence Dept  
Finance Dept  
SED

*I agree: to withdraw HMS Endurance at this moment would both be imprudent and look strange.*

19/3. *J. J. ...*