

SECRET AND PERSONAL

- 8 APR 1982

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Mr Wright

Thank you

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EXCLUSION ZONE AND SOUTH GEORGIA

1. I was most certainly aware that the 200 mile Exclusion Zone, as defined by Mr Nott in last night's debate, does not extend so far as to include the Island of South Georgia or indeed the South Sandwich Islands. This was certainly known to all the Legal Advisers involved in the discussion of the extent of the Exclusion Zone and must have been made clear to the MOD.
2. My assumption is that the extent of the Exclusion Zone, as defined last night, was conditioned by the fact that, until the Task Force nears the area, we would only have at most three submarines available to enforce what, even around the Falkland Islands themselves, is a very large sea area. An additional factor in not proclaiming an Exclusion Zone around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is no doubt the need to disguise our possible intentions.
3. I am in any event doubtful whether there will be a need to establish an Exclusion Zone around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Much will depend on the extent to which the Argentines seek over the next few days to re-inforce their presence on South Georgia. If the presence remains pretty minimal, the action to be taken by the Task Force when approaching South Georgia could be covered by special rules of engagement. Finally, I must in any event point out that we could not simply proclaim a 200 mile Exclusion Zone around South Georgia. Such a zone would extend into the Antarctic Treaty area. We must at all costs respect the Antarctic Treaty Area because of our obligations under the Antarctic Treaty

[Signature]
Ian Sinclair
Legal Adviser

8 April 1982

cc PS/PUS
Sir A Acland
Mr Gillmore

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