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29 April 1982

Thank you for your letter of 21 April. I am very pleased that you have found our discussions with Editors useful. I hope to continue with them at intervals with another next week.

2. We here are very well aware of the crucial role that radio plays and that, although TV has its own virtues, they cannot replace the immediacy of radio. I am also conscious of the wide audience who listen to the radio - at home and abroad. You mentioned in particular the TV only interview with Lieutenant Mills last week. You may not know that we originally planned for Lieutenant Mills to give four interviews, two the the TV companies and one each to BBC Radio and IRN. Lieutenant Mills had had no sleep for three days and understandably was finding the going pretty rough. On arrival in the UK he had not only to complete his debriefing but also to give an exhausting press briefing to defence correspondents. He asked to be excused the four interviews we had set up and we settled that he should do two of them only. We tried to do our best with this in getting the sound recordings made available to radio from the TV coverage. There was no more or less to it than what I have said.

3. I know this is not an easy situation for anyone. We have to ensure, of course, that nothing we say affects the operational role of the Task Force and that we must mean, I am afraid, that we do not have the usual flow of information and live interviews which otherwise we would of course be pleased to lay on. We are doing our best however and will continue to do so.

FRANK COOPER