

IN CONFIDENCE

Jeli

Dr Heap o.r.
Polar Regions Section

cc: Mr Hattersley-Smith
Mr Beamish

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THATCHER PENINSULAR

SAD 041/1
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY
- 1 MAY 1991

1. There has been an unwelcomed development on this question. When I was at the SWAG meeting in the House of Lords on 22 April Lord Buxton said that he and Lord Shackleton were opposed to the idea. The reason was that they felt Mrs Thatcher had no direct connection with South Georgia; it had been the custom for places in South Georgia to be named after explorers, scientists and others who had spent time on the Island. (That is why Lord Buxton's daughter has apparently had a glacier named after her?)
2. Lord Buxton went on that it would make more sense for Mrs Thatcher to have a place named after her in the Falkland Islands where she had a stronger political connection and which she had actually visited.
3. Miss Sukey Cameron (FIGO) who was present took that point. I do not know whether she will be enquiring about the possibilities on the Falkland Islands but you can readily see that we are now in a somewhat embarrassing position. I suppose the key lies in the hands of Sir Vivian Fuchs whose attitude at the APC Meeting in May will be crucial.
4. Do you wish me to pursue this with Ms Cameron to ascertain whether, quickly, we might find some where in the Falklands?

25 April 1991

LAST PAPER

M S Baker Bates

M S BAKER BATES

IN CONFIDENCE

Dr Heap
Polar Regions

cc: Dr Hattersley-Smith

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THATCHER PENINSULAR

1. Sir Clive Bosson called me on 4 April to ask about the present state of play. It transpired that he had met Mrs Thatcher who had said that she was delighted that a peninsular would be named after her in South Georgia. Sir Clive claimed that was the first he had heard of a peninsular, as opposed to a mountain.
2. I drew on your useful recent minute to explain the present position. I said that there would be a meeting of the Antarctic Place Names Committee in May and that after that the Thatcher Peninsular's name would appear in a gazetteer to be published towards the end of the year. Sir Clive was glad to hear that.
3. When the APC has met, could you please let me know and I shall telephone him to assure him that the i has been dotted and the t crossed on this issue? I did not mention the political issue raised by Lord Shackleton with you - nor did Sir Clive. But he had been speaking to Lord Shackleton whom he described as "frail" and I was able to assure him that the APC's decision on this matter did not depend upon the good health of Lord Shackleton.

5 April 1991

M S Baker Bates
M S BAKER BATES

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19 MAR 1991		
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DIST ?

1. YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT SIR CLIVE BOSSOM (EX MP AND ONE TIME PPS TO MRS THATCHER) HAS PROPOSED THAT THE SECONDARY SUMMIT OF MOUNT PAGET (SOUTH GEORGIA) BE NAMED AFTER MRS THATCHER. DR HATTERSLEY-SMITH AND I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THIS PROPOSAL AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT ACHIEVE GENERAL RECOGNITION, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO NAME SUCH A MINOR FEATURE AFTER A PRIME MINISTER WHO HAD SUCH A MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF SOUTH GEORGIA.
2. WE HAVE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT A SUITABLE FEATURE WOULD BE THE SO FAR UNNAMED PENINSULA ON WHICH STANDS GRITVIKEN, WHICH DIVIDES EAST AND WEST CUMBERLAND BAYS. SIR V FUCHS NEEDS TO CONSULT MRS THATCHER SOON. SIR V FUCHS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF APC AGREE. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONCURRENCE.

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THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, O.M., F.R.S., M.P.		
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THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, O.M., F.R.S., M.P.



20 February 1991

Dear Dr Hattersley-Smith

I am writing on behalf of Mrs Thatcher to thank you for your letter of 1 February concerning the proposed application of the place-name Thatcher Peninsula in South Georgia.

Mrs Thatcher has asked me to say that she is simply thrilled with this lovely idea, and certainly consents to the use of her name in this way.

Z si
Andy Bearpark

ANDY BEARPARK

Dr. G. Hattersley-Smith
Secretary
Antarctic Place-names Committee
Polar Regions Section

