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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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MO 5/21

19th May 1982

Dear Willie,

h.a.
MR 24/5

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING
WITH MR MULDOON

I understand from John Holmes that Mr Muldoon, during his meeting with Mr Pym, mentioned that New Zealand has it in mind to offer us a frigate should hostilities break out round the Falklands.

The Ministry of Defence had earlier sent to you a Line-to-Take against the possibility of such an offer in the context of the handover of HMS BACCHANTE. In view of conversations this morning I am attaching an updated and more positive line.

Yours,

(J E RIDLEY) (MISS)

W F S Rickett Esq

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Line to Take (defensive)

1. Grateful for this generous offer, which typifies strong support given by New Zealand to HMG throughout the present crisis.
2. Falklands operation obviously absorbing much of the Royal Navy's front line strength.
3. Will ask Ministry of Defence to look into this as quickly as possible and to take it up further with your High Commission in London.