



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 July 1986

*Dear Charles,*Falkland Islands Fisheries

Please refer to your letter of 27 June <sup>A 40</sup> with which you enclosed a letter from the Lords Buxton and Shackleton to the Prime Minister on this subject. I enclose a draft reply.

Following the despatch of the letter to the Prime Minister, Lord Shackleton had an opportunity to discuss Falklands fisheries over lunch with Sir Geoffrey Howe, who was able to tell him that we had been aware of the Argentine/Soviet negotiations for some time and had more than once intervened with the Russians.

Lords Buxton and Shackleton have used the news about the Argentine/Soviet negotiations as a peg on which to present their policy recommendations on fish. These are not new. Both peers have had the opportunity of discussing them with members of the Government more than once. The point about the Argentine/Soviet negotiations having been dealt with, Sir Geoffrey Howe sees no need to enter into the substance of the detailed proposals on fisheries policy.

Since first hearing last November about the possibility of an Argentine/Soviet fisheries agreement, we have spoken several times both at official and ministerial level to the Russians, in London and Moscow. The last word from Mr Zamyatin to Sir Geoffrey Howe was that our interests would be taken into account in the negotiations with the Argentines. This is the furthest the Russians have come in our direction. Mr Shevardnadze's visit later this month will present a further opportunity of registering our concern with the Russians.

Following

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the visit last month of a Russian fisheries Minister to Buenos Aires, Press reports there claim that a fisheries Agreement will be concluded during Alfonsin's visit to Moscow in October but the latest (3 July) Press reports from Buenos Aires are that the Russians and the Argentines have initialled a fisheries agreement. We are making urgent enquiries in Moscow about the truth of these reports.

*Yours ever*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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DSR 11 (revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

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FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
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- Restricted
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TO:

Copies to:

The Lord Buxton of Alsa MC DL  
House of Lords

*TO idm*

SUBJECT:

*Handwritten scribble*

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

The Rt Hon Lord Shackleton  
KG OBE  
House of Lords

CAVEAT .....

I am writing to thank you and ~~Eddie~~ <sup>Lord</sup> Shackleton for your letter of 26 June in which you expressed concern about the implications for our interests of a fisheries agreement between the Soviet Union and Argentina.

I understand that ~~Eddie~~ <sup>Lord</sup> Shackleton and <sup>Sir</sup> ~~Geoffrey~~ <sup>Howe</sup> have already had a word about this. He will, no doubt, have confirmed to you that we have been aware of these negotiations for some time and have more than once left the Russians in no doubt about the risks for Anglo/Soviet relations that an agreement with the Argentines <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ did not take full account of our rights would pose.

Mr Shevardnadze's visit later this month will give us another opportunity of getting our views across to the Russians at <sup>the highest</sup> ~~a~~ senior level.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

As you say, agreement between the Russians and the Argentines could have destabilising effects, not the least of which could be to place obstacles in the way of reaching agreement on a multilateral basis. The Argentine attack, resulting in loss of life, on a Taiwanese vessel at the end of May, underlines both the delicate nature of the present situation and the need for agreed arrangements to deal with the fishery. We hope that this incident will help to convince all the nations involved of the logic of proceeding on a cooperative basis to establish a multilateral conservation and management regime while underlining at the same time the perils of the confrontational approach.

I have read the note enclosed with your letter and am sending it to <sup>Sir</sup> Geoffrey Howe who will, I am sure, read it with interest.

GH

