

*cc PC*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

FOREIGN SECRETARY

OD(FAF) (88) 2: ALTERNATIVE CIVILIAN PRESENCE ON SOUTH GEORGIA

I have read with interest this memorandum and the paper by officials. I have also seen George Younger's letter of 19 April. *attached*

I am content for the proposed analysis of existing data on fisheries around South Georgia to go ahead, with the cost being charged to the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands budget, and I agree that there is no need for a prior discussion.

I note what you say in your memorandum about the continuation of the military garrison. However, I also note George Younger's very clear view that the function of the garrison is limited to maintaining the sovereignty claim - something which would more properly be performed by a civilian presence. Once the fisheries study has been completed, and officials are in a position to appraise properly the options for a civilian presence, I hope therefore that we can consider the costs and benefits of these options alongside those of the military presence.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, to other members of OD(FAF), the Secretary of State for Education and Science and to Sir Robin Butler.

A handwritten signature, likely of the Foreign Secretary, in dark ink.

[NL]

25 April 1988

ARGENTINA - Relations PT 42

