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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

CDP  
145

OD (FAF) (88)2: Alternative Civilian presence on  
South Georgia

1. Thank you for your letter of 29 April. I am grateful for your agreement and that of other colleagues to the proposals in my paper of 7 April. I have requested the agreement of the Commissioner for South Georgia to the fisheries study being put in hand.

2. I note your interest in a study of the prospects for licensing a mineral and hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation regime on South Georgia and for a seismic survey regime. I believe the first priority should be to look at the state of the fishery. But this need not preclude our going on to look at the points you raise at a later stage. Nearer that time, as with the Falklands, we shall need to look at all relevant factors, including our exchange with the Argentines via the Americans on fisheries and progress on the Antarctic minerals negotiations, which we hope will conclude on 2 June.

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

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
12 May 1988

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