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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

16 October 1989

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18/10

John

OD (89) 11: RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

In the Secretary of State's absence at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Mission in Kuala Lumpur, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 4 October.

I can confirm that briefing for our negotiators at Madrid contains clear instructions not to make any commitment which would constrain our freedom to authorise seismic survey work, when we and the Falkland Islands Government consider it appropriate.

I should however add that it would be for the Falkland Islands Government, rather than for HMG, to issue licences for such work. In the meantime I understand that your legal experts are in touch with ours at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the draft legislation which the FIG are preparing.

I am copying this letter to members of OD and to Sir Robin Butler.

John

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