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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 July, 1982

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Dear Sir Vivian,

Thank you for your letter about recent events in the South Atlantic and the invitation you have received from the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile to a conference at a Chilean station in the Antarctic.

I am grateful for your kind remarks about our handling of the Falklands crisis. I particularly value such comments from you who for so long have been actively involved in the Falklands and the Antarctic. May I, for my part, say how impressed I have been with the manner in which British Antarctic Survey personnel, particularly in South Georgia, conducted themselves in some very difficult times. They did everything that could be expected of them.

I see no political objection to your acceptance of the Chilean invitation. I am sure it is in the country's interests that you should go. As you are well aware, we support the Antarctic Treaty system and the legal position on our sovereignty over British Antarctic Territory is satisfactorily protected by the provisions of the Treaty.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Vivian Fuchs

RM.