



Argentina

CONFIDENTIAL

NBPA7

Phw's 29/2

PRIME MINISTER

I have seen Peter Carrington's minute (No. PM/80/13) to you of 22 February proposing that contact should be made with the Argentinians in the near future to suggest a meeting with a view to resuming talks about the future of the Falkland Islands.

This all seems very sensible and I certainly have no objection. I hope, however, that as the negotiations with the Argentinians develop our team will bear in mind the point I made in my minute to you of 22 September, to which I again drew attention in my letter to Peter of 5 February, following the meeting of OD on 29 January, namely that they should not lose sight of the importance of retaining if at all possible access for the UK to any oil or gas which might be found in Falkland Islands waters if and when further exploration takes place.

I am copying this letter to members of OD, to the Attorney General and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

J/A

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

28 FEBRUARY 1980