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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 November 1981

*Dear Sir Peter*

Thank you for your letter of 6 November about HMS Endurance.

I am sorry you feel you have to disagree with the Government's decision. But I am afraid there is really nothing I can add to my earlier letter. The decision to pay off Endurance was a collective Government decision. It was not taken lightly. And, as I said in my last letter, it does not mean we have lost interest in the Falkland Islands, their Dependencies, or our stake in Antarctica. We are in no doubt about our sovereignty over the Islands, and we are determined to ensure their territorial integrity. That is demonstrated by the permanent Royal Marine Garrison we shall be maintaining there.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

Sir Peter Scott, CBE DSC

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