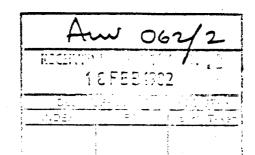


FCS/82/26

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE



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4

HMS Endurance

an approach to OD for new money to keep the ship going.

1. In your minute (MO 26/9/2) of 3 February, you confirmed your inability to keep HMS Endurance in service on the defence budget. You also sought my view on the scope for

- 2. I remain concerned at the strength of public and Parliamentary opposition to HMS Endurance's withdrawal and at the consequences for our position on the Falklands. I would not therefore wish to rule out an approach to OD for additional finance. It would however seem best to take a firmer view on this after the next round of Anglo-Argentine talks on the Falklands on 26-27 February, when we shall have a clearer picture of Argentine intentions and of the defence implications. I will consult you again in due course.
- 3. One outstanding matter on HMS Endurance is the need to inform the Brazilians soon of our inability to sell the ship to them. I understand that Peter Blaker intends to discuss this shortly with Richard Luce.

An Chisa

Mr Swath

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office 17 February 1982