



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

To note.

1 July, 1982

A.J.C. $\frac{2}{7}$

Dear John,

BBC Radio Four Series on the Diplomatic Service

Brian Fall wrote to Michael Alexander on 8 June last year about a proposal by the BBC to do a series of three programmes on the Diplomatic Service. Michael wrote back on 9 June to confirm that the Prime Minister saw no objection to programmes of the kind envisaged. We agreed ground rules for the programmes in October last year with the BBC, and are committed to them. We understand the BBC now have it in mind to do the necessary interviews with Diplomatic Service officers later this year.

We have considered whether, in the light of the proposed enquiry into the Falklands dispute and the likely accompanying publicity, we should not reconsider our agreement but have concluded that it would be wrong to appear defensive and that to attempt to backtrack now would be likely to attract bad publicity. We would, however, make clear to the BBC that questions on the Falklands would be met simply with the answer that an enquiry is being held.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street