

Rothera (lat 67°34'S, long 68°08'W)

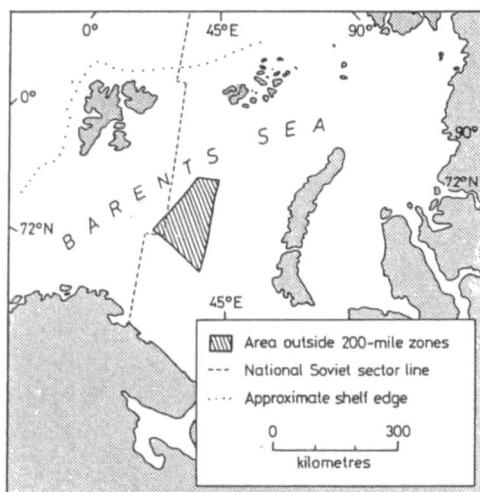
The station is situated in south-eastern Adelaide Island, and was established in 1976. It is named in association with the nearby Rothera Point, a name approved in 1960 after J. M. Rothera, of FIDS, who surveyed the area in 1957–58.

The new names Faraday, Halley and Rothera came into use on 15 August 1977, and the name Grytviken, as redefined, on 14 December 1977.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF

Madam, The map published in the last issue of *Polar Record* accompanying an article by Professor W. E. Butler on Soviet fishing limits (*Polar Record*, Vol 18, No 117) brings to light an important point about the Barents Sea continental shelf which I feel is worth emphasizing. As the map implies, and the sketch below shows, there is a considerable area in the central Barents Sea which lies more than 200 nautical miles from any land. I estimate this area to be over 55 000 square kilometres, or approximately the size of Scotland. This is, of course, continental shelf; the underlying rocks are largely sedimentary and potentially valuable, and the water is relatively shallow (much of it less than 300 m in depth).



The area in the central Barents Sea that lies more than 200 nautical miles from any land.

Most discussion of the extension of national divisions offshore for rights to fishing and sea-bed exploitation has assumed that a 200-mile zone would include all continental shelves and their associated minerals. Mineral exploitation of the oceans, such as the proposed dredging of manganese nodules in the Pacific, has been considered a different and as yet unresolved geo-political issue. The Barents shelf is, however, the only continental shelf with a significant area that would fall outside 200-mile 'national economic zones'. This factor will therefore serve to complicate further the political and legal discussions that are developing over this, the world's biggest, shelf.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. R. WRIGHT

6 February 1978