



MR CALYPS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27.5.82.

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the Falkland Islands Government's representation in London.

I am sorry that you should feel that no action has been taken on that part of your and Michael Shersby's report which recommended that a Falkland Islands Government Office should be set up in London. In fact, as soon as the Government received a copy of your report (during your meeting with Richard Luce on 9 March) the idea was referred to the Governor in Port Stanley. In his reply, sent just before the Argentine invasion, the Governor's view, endorsed by Councillors, was that the Falkland Islands Government had no funds available to establish such an office. While it is the case that some of the larger dependent territories, such as Hong Kong and Bermuda, maintain offices in London financed from their own budgets, this is not the case for the smaller dependencies who rely on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to look after their interests in London. If we were to finance an office for one dependent territory the others would almost certainly demand equal treatment.

Both the Governor and the Chief Secretary have an office in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and are readily accessible on 01-233-3760 or 01-233-4639. Mr. Hunt has a secretary, Mrs. Wells, on 01-233-3573. I can assure you that Mr. Hunt enjoys the same facilities within the Office as any other senior member of H.M. Diplomatic Service. He is in regular contact with individual Islanders and interested groups in the UK; but, if you

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know of any who have been unable to get in touch with him, please do give them these details.

We hope that the present crisis will soon be resolved and that those Islanders now in the UK will be able to return to their homes and jobs on the Islands. We will then need to consider again, with the Falkland Islands Government, taking into account the new circumstances, how the Falkland Islands Government should be represented in London.

Finally, I should like to say that I am in full agreement with you on the excellent and energetic work of the Falkland Islands Office over the last seven weeks. They have performed an invaluable service.

Eric Ogden, Esq., M.P.