

MISS STEPHENS

M.A.P.

Iona

The Archbishop of Canterbury handed the attached letter to the Prime Minister yesterday.

I see in a Press report today that Mr Hugh Fraser is trying to buy the island, with the intention of handing it over to the National Trust for Scotland. If this came about, I imagine that this would not be regarded as a sale of the island "for commercial or sectarian purposes" and that the Church Leaders would be content.

I am not sure whether the Government has in fact any powers in the matter, but may I pass this to you/Mr Sanders so that advice can be obtained quickly for the Prime Minister.

CVP.

24 May 1979

Lambeth Palace, SE1 7JU.

21st May, 1979.

To Mr Peterson
please for
advise.
mt.

My dear Prime Minister,

I have just returned from a meeting in Canada of the Anglican Consultative Council.

At that meeting great concern was expressed about the future of the Island of Iona, and the enclosed motion was passed unanimously. I promised to pass it on to you for your attention.

As the matter has about it an element of urgency, I am doing this immediately after my return. I think you will agree that even in the early days of your Premiership, when pressures on you must be very heavy, it merits your careful attention.

I hope you are much encouraged in your work.

With best wishes,
Yours very sincerely,

Donald Cantuar.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Private Member's Motion: The Right Hon. David W. Bleakley
(Ireland)

"That this Anglican Consultative Council, on behalf of the Member Churches of the Anglican Communion throughout the world, and in the belief that in this matter it speaks for other Christian Churches, expresses its very great concern at the possibility of the sale of the Island of Iona for commercial or sectarian purposes.

The Council urges the British Government to take action to ensure that the present character and use of the Island is not radically altered, and that its future is secured."