



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 January 1983

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G O B T R M

Paul Munnister  
PM

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Dear John,

Falkland Islands: Education

Thank you for your letter of 13 January. I enclose a note on the education system and our aid to it.

You refer to expressions of concern about a shortage of qualified teachers. It may be that some local people are unaware of the impending arrival of seven more. This is the final batch of people recruited on behalf of the Islands' Government last autumn. In view of the accommodation shortage, the Civil Commissioner asked that they should not travel until the school year was about to start.

There remains a shortage of travelling teachers. These have traditionally been unqualified and the salaries offered reflect this. The Civil Commissioner wants to find people who will work on those salaries without supplementation. We are seeking to help. One possibility is that potential immigrants would have their fares met by ODA if they went to take up a one-year teaching contract whilst assessing the prospects for permanent settlement. VSO and similar societies are also being approached, although the British Volunteer Programme has not covered the Falklands for some years.

Why? They should be qualified. Their work is even more difficult than that of regular teachers and your eye

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

than that of regular teachers and



## EDUCATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

### 1. PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS

#### Primary

There is a primary school in Port Stanley, which is apparently functioning well despite some sharing of premises.

Outside Stanley, primary education is conducted in individual settlements with support from the camp education unit in the capital. Larger settlements engage their own teacher, whilst smaller ones rely primarily on a travelling teacher in support of part-time work by a resident. The camp education unit is well-staffed and equipped, but the travelling teacher system has an acute staff shortage at present. Efforts are in hand to recruit five such teachers for 1983. Such teachers have traditionally been unqualified, and the teaching unions in the UK have opposed involvement by HMG in their recruitment.

#### Secondary

Secondary education used to be divided between a government school in Stanley and a Falkland Islands Company boarding school at Darwin. Several years ago plans were made to centralise in Stanley. This involved building a boarding hostel, and temporary arrangements were made to use Stanley House while the hostel was under construction. The hostel building had not been satisfactorily completed at the time of the invasion. It is now serving as HQ, BFFI. Stanley House has therefore been leased for the 1983 school year. It is being refurbished and the accommodation will be extended by the use of mobile homes in the grounds. The existing secondary school provides very cramped quarters for the present number of pupils.


A small number of pupils come to school in England for 'A' level courses.

### 2. FUTURE NEEDS

At the primary level, there has been dissatisfaction with the travelling teacher system for some years. For 1983, there is no option but to operate on the traditional basis. During the year, there will be a further review leading to decisions on future arrangements. There are differing views among education staff locally about the best way forward.

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At the secondary level, the first priority is to make permanent hostel arrangements. The hostel building may never be accepted for this purpose by the Falkland Islands Government, as there are powerful memories of controversy over design, finishing, and inadequate contractors - the original contractor, linked to the Falkland Islands Company, went into liquidation. FIC then took over the work direct, but performed poorly. The contractual dispute might have gone to law, but ministers concluded that a settlement was desirable at the time when bigger issues had to be pursued with FIC following Lord Shackleton's updated report.

Once plans have been agreed on permanent hostel arrangements, the possibility of rebuilding the secondary school on a larger site will have to be considered.

An ODA education adviser is to visit the Islands in March, to discuss requirements for 1984 and beyond. He will consider in particular the future of camp education, and the question of premises for both teaching and boarding in Stanley at secondary level.

### 3. EXISTING AID FOR EDUCATION

In Port Stanley about 20 teaching and senior staff posts are filled under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme (OSAS). They are recruited by ODA for the Falkland Islands Government, who pay local salaries; ODA tops these up to UK levels, and meets various expenses including passages. Seven such teachers - some as replacements and some for new posts - travel to the Islands in February for the start of the new school year. ODA is also helping the Falkland Islands Government to find new travelling teachers for 1983. They will be employed on local salaries, but passage costs will be met from rehabilitation funds. ODA has funded equipment for the camp education unit in Port Stanley, and also finances sixth form education in the UK for selected pupils. Training awards are also made for further education in the UK. The building of the school hostel was an aid-financed project, and future hostel arrangements will almost certainly involve aid - whether the present building is finally used or other arrangements are made. (One possibility is to extend the housing contractor's accommodation block, and some design work has already been done on this.)



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 January 1983

FALKLAND ISLANDS: EDUCATION

Thank you for your letter of 25 January and its enclosure, which the Prime Minister has seen.

Mrs. Thatcher notes that travelling teachers have traditionally been unqualified but is inclined to question this practice. She believes that the work of the travelling teachers is even more difficult than that of regular teachers and that there are thus strong arguments for them being qualified as well. I note that the ODA education adviser is to visit the Islands in March and that he will consider in particular the future of camp education. I think the Prime Minister would be grateful to know what are the possibilities for moving over to a system of qualified teachers for camp education. Could you kindly let me have a further comment.

BF ||  
9/2/83.

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

B



Prime Minister



if you agree I shall say Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
 that you would like to see London SW1A 2AH  
 the report of the ODA Education  
 Adviser who is to visit the islands 9 February 1983  
 in April - before that report is  
 discussed with the Falkland Islands  
 Government. Agree?

A.F.C. 19  
 Yes [initials]

Dear John,

Falkland Islands: Education

Thank you for your letter of 31 January recording the Prime Minister's concern about the continuing use of unqualified teachers for the travelling posts within the Islands' camp education structure. As our original note on education said, there are differing views on the future of camp education. Over a number of years, ODA education advisers have recommended changes, including the use of qualified teachers. However, the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has resisted this change. As the Councils have not been prepared to approve salaries appropriate to qualified teachers for these posts, we have been unable to make any progress.

As the Prime Minister will realise, it is important to get the education system functioning in some form for the 1983 academic year. As she may be aware from her own visit, many parents regard this as a critical factor in their judgement about whether to maintain their commitment to the Islands. In the time available, the only realistic option is to aim to operate the pre-invasion system with whatever resources are available. In the course of the year, improvements can be planned for 1984 and beyond. In helping FIG to find travelling teachers for 1983, ODA is approaching both qualified and unqualified individuals who have expressed an interest in working or living in the Islands. However, as FIG does not want to use supplemented staff in these posts, qualified teachers are only likely to take them up on a quasi-volunteer basis.

/The ODA



The ODA education adviser who is to visit the Islands in March is new to the Falklands and will therefore be taking a fresh look at the education system. He will be starting from the proposition that there is no substitute for qualified and experienced professionals. There also seems to be some prospect that the Islanders will now be more receptive to some modernisation of the education system. If it would be helpful, we can report to you further when the adviser's recommendations are available, but before we discuss the next steps with FIG in the light of his report.

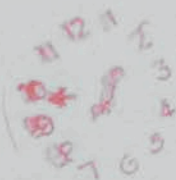
*Yours ever*  
*J E Holmes*

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Private Secretary

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 February, 1983

Falkland Islands: Education

Thank you for your letter of 9 February. The Prime Minister would, as you suggest, like to see the recommendations made by the ODA Education Adviser, following his visit to the Falkland Islands in March and before you discuss the next steps with the Falkland Islands Government.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January, 1983

Falkland Islands: Education

During her visit to the Falkland Islands the Prime Minister saw something of the education system, both in Port Stanley and in Camp.

She was informed that there was a shortage of fully trained teachers and there did indeed appear to be some criticism of the Falkland Islands Government on this matter. I should be grateful for a note about the position. I think it would be helpful if you could also include a note on current Overseas Development assistance to the Falkland Islands in the education field.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office