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GRS 331

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FM FCO 281710Z JULY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

TELEGRAM NUMBER PERSONAL 14 OF 28 JULY

*Read in full.*

1. TODAY'S 'GUARDIAN' CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY PAUL KEEL FROM STANLEY HEADED 'ISLANDERS AIR THEIR OLD RESENTMENTS'. THE GENERAL THEME IS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF ISLANDERS MISTRUST THE FIG AND RESENT THE HIGHER PAY OF OSAS WORKERS AND THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE LATTER LEFT THE ISLANDS DURING THE OCCUPATION. SOME QUOTES ARE:

'SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER MADE BITTER ATTACKS ON THE COLONY'S OSAS WORKERS, THE TEACHERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED STAFF SENT OUT ON CONTRACT FROM BRITAIN. THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE ISLANDERS' HOSTILITY IS THAT THEY EARN AROUND DOUBLE THE SALARY OF THE ISLANDERS THEY WORK WITH.'

'BUT ON MONDAY NIGHT THIS RESENTMENT WAS LINKED TO CRITICISM OF THEIR BEHAVIOUR DURING THE ARGENTINE OCCUPATION, WHEN MANY OSAS WORKERS RETURNED TO BRITAIN. 'IT MAKES ME SQUIRM TO SEE ALL THOSE OSAS PEOPLE RUN LIKE RATS AND EXPECT TO COME BACK AND TAKE UP THEIR HIGHLY PAID JOBS', SAID ONE MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN. 'THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WE AS FALKLANDERS HAVE GOT TO FIGHT AGAINST,' SHE SAID TO ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE.'

'MRS HULDA STEWART, AN ISLAND-BORN TEACHER, SAID THE CALIBRE OF HER COLLEAGUES HAD DECLINED SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF OSAS PEOPLE, WHOM SHE ACCUSED OF COMING TO THE FALKLANDS FOR THE MONEY. 'THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS IS SELF-EVIDENT IN THE WAY THAT THEY GOT OUT. THEY FLED, THERE IS NO OTHER WORD FOR IT, AND I SHARE THE CONTEMPT THE PARENTS HAVE FOR THEM,' SHE SAID.'

2. THIS IS A WORRYING REPORT. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT WE RAISED THIS POINT WITH YOU (OUR TELNO 12 AND YOUR TELNO 23). PUBLIITY OF THIS KIND COULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS HERE. IN ALL FAIRNESS, WE SHALL HAVE TO WARN ANY

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*/CANDIDATES*

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CANDIDATES WHO ASK US IF THERE IS LIKELY TO BE FEELING AGAINST THEM. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT IN DUE COURSE. IN THE MEANTIME, NO DOUBT YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

PYM

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