

GRS 400

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM PORT STANLEY 141215Z SEPT

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO 313 OF 14 SEPTEMBER

YOUR TEL NO 218: SHACKLETON REPORT

1. I MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OVER FIBS AT 1400Z ON 13 SEPTEMBER, AFTER READING OUT THE STATEMENT FROM NO 10 TO ACCOMPANY PUBLICATION OF THE SHACKLETON REPORT.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN A GREAT MEASURE OF INTEREST HERE IN THE UPDATE OF THE SHACKLETON REPORT AND, NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL READ IT CAREFULLY. AS THE STATEMENT FROM NO 10 DOWNING STREET SAID, THE REPORT REQUIRES VERY CAREFUL STUDY BOTH HERE AND IN BRITAIN BEFORE DECISIONS CAN BE MADE ON THE PROPOSALS. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE REPORT IS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THESE ISLANDS AND WE MUST BE SURE THAT WE GET IT RIGHT. SO THAT NOBODY IS LEFT OUT OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ORDERED THAT A FREE COPY OF THE REPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EACH HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD THROUGHOUT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY 400 COPIES IN THE INITIAL BATCH, BUT EXTRA COPIES ARE ON THEIR WAY AND THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE.

3. WITH THE HELP OF THE MILITARY, COPIES ARE AT THIS MOMENT BEING DISTRIBUTED TO EVERY SETTLEMENT IN CAMP, THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE TO SHARE COPIES UNTIL THE NEXT CONSIGNMENT IS RECEIVED. IN STANLEY, AS MANY COPIES AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PLACED AT THE POST OFFICE AND WE SHALL FOLLOW THE POLICY OF FIRST COME FIRST SERVED UNTIL STOCKS RUN OUT. COUNCILLORS WILL OF COURSE RECEIVE THEIR OWN COPIES, AS WILL SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY AND CABLE AND WIRELESS.

4. I HOPE THAT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL HOLD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE REPORT AT THEIR MEETING ON 21 SEPTEMBER, AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL PROPOSE AT THAT MEETING THAT A MEETING OF JOINT COUNCILS BE HELD TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OR END OF OCTOBER SO THAT THE PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF ISLANDERS CAN BE RELAYED TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE BY THE END OF THAT MONTH. THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR CRANLEY ONSLOW, TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FROM 3 TO 9 OCTOBER IS TIMELY IN THIS RESPECT AS HE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK WITH HIM SOME FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS OF YOUR REACTIONS TO THE REPORT.

5. TO THOSE OF YOU WHO READ LORD SHACKLETON'S ORIGINAL REPORT I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE UPDATE IS VERY MUCH SMALLER AND WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING LIKE SO LONG TO READ. THE MOST IMPORTANT SECTION IS THE ONE THAT CONTAINS THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEY ARE COMPRESSED INTO SEVEN PAGES.

6. I HOPE THAT ISLANDERS WILL SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A POSITIVE SAY IN THE FUTURE OF THESE ISLANDS - YOUR FUTURE - BECAUSE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO YOUR VIEWS. I HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THAT YOU WILL MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN THROUGH YOUR COUNCILLORS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I AM SURE THAT THE SHACKLETON REPORT POINTS US ALONG THE RIGHT ROAD. IT IS NOW UP TO US TO GET MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ALONG IT.

HUNT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

FCO

FID

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPIES TO

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