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OO CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY
GRS 170
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FM FCO 061530Z OCTOBER 82
TO IMMEDIATE CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY
TELEGRAM NUMBER 295 OF 6 OCT



## MPS' VISITS

- 1. MR NOTT HAS INVITED AN ALL-PARTY GROUP OF 10 MPS, HEADED BY MR ANTHONY BUCK, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY DEFENCE COMMITTEE, TO VISIT THE ISLANDS FROM 28 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER. WE ARE SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE OF THIS VISIT BUT IT HAS ONLY JUST BEEN REFERRED TO US. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP IS NOT YET KNOWN. THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ARRANGE THE PROGRAMME THOUGH YOU WILL WISH TO LIAISE WITH THEM ON A SUITABLE CIVIL CONTENT.
- 2. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEFENCE COMMITTEE ALSO WISH TO VISIT THE ISLANDS IN FEBRUARY 1983. THEIR PARTY COULD HAVE UP TO 14 MEMBERS, IE 11 MPS, A CLERK, AN ADVISER, AND AN MOD LIAISON OFFICER.
- 3. MOD HAVE ASKED US FOR URGENT DETAILS OF ANY CIVIL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR THESE AND ANY OTHER VIP VISITS.

  GRATEFUL ALSO FOR VIEWS ON DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAY ARISE ON THE TIMING OF THE SECOND VISIT GIVEN THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND THE REINFORCEMENT EXERCISE.

PYM

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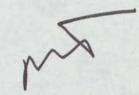
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FROM PORT STANLEY 081745Z OCT 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 377 OF 8 OCTOBER



YOUR TELNO 295: VIP VISITS

- 1. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE WERE NOT CONSULTED OVER THE VISIT OF THE ALL-PARTY GROUP FROM 28 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER, GIVEN THAT WE SHALL HAVE HAD TWO MINISTERIAL VISITS DURING OCTOBER. THE NUMBER OF MPS INVOLVED WILL MEAN THAT THE LOGISTICS OF TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE ISLANDS AND ACCOMMODATION WILL CAUSE A SEVERE STRAIN.
- 2. WE HAVE AGREED LOCALLY THAT THEY WILL BE FIELDED MAINLY
  BY THE MILITARY WHO WILL GIVE FULL BRIEFING ON THE PROGRESS
  OF THE AIRFIELD, MINE CLEARANCE AND SO ON. I SHALL BRIEF ON CIVIL
  MATTERS.
- 3. MR ONSLOW CONSIDERS IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO BRIEF THE PARTY ON THE SHACKLETON REPORT VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE. THEY LEAVE LONDON. FOR REASONS THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE, THIS WILL NEED TO BE HANDLED WITH CONSIDERABLE TACT.
- 4. AS FOR TIMING OF VISIT OF DEFENCE COMMITTEE, I UNDERSTAND
  THAT THE REINFORCEMENT EXERCISE IS LIKELY TO BE RE-SCHEDULED
  FOR LATER IN 1983 (BUT MOD WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE ON THIS)
  THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 20 TO
  26 FEBRUARY. 6 TO 12 FEBRUARY WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE MOST SUITABLE
  FROM CIVIL POINT OF VIEW.
- 5. ON THE GENERAL TOPIC OF VISITS BY VIPS AND JOURNALIST, S
  WHILST WE UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES YOU ARE UNDER TO FACILITATE
  SUCH VISITS, YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT IN A SMALL COMMUNITY
  SUCH AS THIS THERE ARE ONLY A DOZEN (AT MOST) CIVIL OFFICIALS
  TO WHOM THEY CAN USEFULLY TALK. ALL ARE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN
  RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE
  INTERUPTED BY CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITOS. HOWEVER WE SHALL CONTINUE
  TO DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE SUITABLE CIVIL CONTENT FOR PROGRAMMES
  FOR VISITORS IN THESE CATEGORIES, BUT IT IS ESSENTUAL THAT WE
  SHOULD BE CONSULTED WELL IN ADVANCE, IF ONLY TO ENSURE THAT BEDS
  ARE AVAILABLE. (SEE MIFT FOR DETAILS OF CIVIL ACCOMMODATION IN
  STANLEY).
- 6. GRATEFUL FOR NAMES ETC OF ALL-PARTY GROUP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

HUNT

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