

CONFIDENTIAL

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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'

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GRS 295
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FROM PORT STANLEY 081745Z OCT 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 377 OF 8 OCTOBER

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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 FIELDLED 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 JOURNALISTS, 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 INTERRUPTED BY CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITORS. HOWEVER WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE SUITABLE CIVIL CONTENT FOR PROGRAMMES FOR VISITORS IN THESE CATEGORIES, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL 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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