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FM FCO 070900Z JULY 82

TO PRIORITY CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 26 OF 7 JULY

INFO PRIORITY MOD (DS5)

BAS RETURN TO SOUTH GEORGIA

1. WITH BAS, NERC AND MOD WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE REACTIVATION OF THE BAS PRESENCE IN SOUTH GEORGIA.
2. BAS WANT TO REOCCUPY THEIR BIRD ISLAND STATION BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER SO AS NOT TO LOSE SCIENTIFIC CONTINUITY. DECISION ON COMPOSITION OF FOUR-MAN TEAM AWAITS DICK LAWS'S RETURN FROM LENINGRAD ON 12 JULY. MATTER HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF ONE DESIGNATED FOR THE BIRD ISLAND TEAM.
3. AS FOR GRYTVIKEN, BAS WANT TO SEND SOON THREE-MAN TEAM WITH EXPERTISE IN BUILDINGS, STORES AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT TO REPORT ON NEEDS. MOD LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSPORTING THESE SEVEN MEN ON SHIP DUE TO REACH GRYTVIKEN MID-AUGUST.
4. BIRD ISLAND EXPENDITURE WILL BE CARRIED ON NERC FUNDS. COULD YOU PLEASE CONFIRM THAT GRYTVIKEN TEAM CAN BE SUPPORTED UNDER 1 APRIL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NERC AND FID GOVERNMENT? FUNDING OF REHABILITATION OF GRYTVIKEN WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF TEAM'S REPORT.
5. SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEW AND THAT OF MILITARY COMMISSIONER, WE, BAS AND NERC THINK THAT UNTIL THE BAS PRESENCE AT GRYTVIKEN HAS BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED NEXT SEASON UNDER A SUITABLY QUALIFIED BASE COMMANDER, BAS PERSONNEL IN SOUTH GEORGIA SHOULD REMAIN ANSWERABLE TO YOU AND BAS THROUGH THE OFFICER COMMANDING IN SOUTH GEORGIA.

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