



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 July 1982

Prime Minister has seen.

A.S.C. ²⁵/₇

Dear Sir,

ADL ²⁵/₇

Falkland Islands: Rehabilitation

p-a.

My letter of 16 July covered a situation report on the programme of rehabilitation. The Prime Minister has asked for this to be updated at two-week intervals or as necessary.

I enclose a note giving details of progress on rehabilitation work, compiled with contributions from the Ministry of Defence.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Offices of all members of OD(FAF) and to PS/Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

REHABILITATION BY THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES

Housing

1. Detailed specifications for the 27 prefabricated houses requested by the Falkland Islands Government are in preparation and will be forwarded to a short list of selected suppliers by the end of the month. They will be asked to tender for a turnkey project for the manufacture and construction of all the houses. It is hoped that the housing can be manufactured and shipped by October and that construction will be underway by December. ODA and the Crown Agents are pursuing immediate supplies of mobile homes, some of which we hope to ship in early August.

Building Materials

2. The bulk of the building materials requested by the Civil Commissioner on 5 July were shipped by MOD chartered vessel which sailed on 24 July. The remainder will follow as soon as possible.

3. We await the Civil Commissioner's further requests for materials.

Reinforcement of Falkland Islands Government

4. The special ODA Falklands Recruitment Unit are recruiting for 40 posts, an increase of 5 on the original request. They have advertised the 'artisan' posts on the list through Job Centres, and encouraged TV, Radio and press coverage of the whole recruitment process, provoking an avalanche of enquiries. There are now being sifted and interviews arranged. All of the 40 posts will be filled in the short term, notice to current employers permitting. 15 personnel have already been chosen, and travel arrangements will be made as fast as possible.

Replacement of aircraft for Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS)

5. A submission on this question has been put to FCO Ministers. We are pursuing the various options for delivery of immediate replacement aircraft (shipping, flying to the Falklands, leasing in Chile etc).

Compensation

6. Urgent interdepartmental consultation is being pursued on the details of a compensation scheme. Claim officers will arrive in Port Stanley in early August to evaluate claims collected by the Civil Commissioner.

Stanley Airport

7. The Ministry of Defence's paper on the proposals for a permanent replacement airport is to be discussed at OD(FAF) on 28 July.

Civil Air and Sea Links

8. Our Embassies in Santiago, Montevideo and Brasilia have been consulted on the timing of approaches to their governments of the possibility of sea and air links with the Falklands. On the basis of their advice they have been instructed to make soundings on sea services.

Fuel

9. The Civil Commissioner's request for 1,000 tons of solid fuel to replace peat stocks was received on 8 July. The order has been placed, bagging of the fuel is underway, and the first consignment of fuel will be shipped on 9 August.

10. On 18 July the Civil Commissioner requested supplies of kerosene and propane gas for domestic use. These have been ordered and will be shipped with the first consignment of solid fuel.

Replacement equipment for Stanley Power Station

11. Spares and replacement equipment for Stanley Power Station requested by the Civil Commissioner on 4 July have been delivered or are now being flown to Stanley.

ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARMED FORCES

12. The Royal Engineers are concentrating efforts on dealing with unexploded ordnance, with limited clearance of mines. Other minefields are being identified, recorded and marked. In addition to RE assistance to PWD in repairing water supply installations,

service water trailers are being used to boost the supply. Military generators are supporting the Port Stanley supply with others in various settlements. The Army has been helping to repair overhead lines.