



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 August 1982

~~From The Minister of State~~

Tim Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1

JF
11/8.
Mr Pym's advice
(see x below) expected
by the end of August.

JF
13/8

Dear Tim,

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON

In your letter of 2 August, you noted that the Prime Minister had told Lord Shackleton that she was having considered without delay the possibility of establishing in London a Falkland Islands Government Office.

Port Stanley telno 128 of 30 July (copy attached) indicates that Councillors in the Falkland Islands would like to proceed with this and that the Government in Port Stanley has already given a certain amount of preliminary consideration to the subject. We have asked Mr Hunt for his views on some of the main issues raised and in particular on the question of urgency.

The proposal raises a number of questions, including the relationship of a FIG Office to a Falkland Islands Development Agency, if it is decided to establish one, as well as to the FCO. It is clear that a FIG Office would need to be funded by FCO. This could have implications for the representative offices of other British dependent territories.

To clarify these points, we are drawing up a blue-print of the responsibilities a FIG Office might have and how it might be organised. Mr Pym will let the Prime Minister have his views as soon as this available. In the meantime, as you know, we

/do



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do not believe that there is a need for immediate action of the kind Lord Shackleton suggested.

Yours ever,

S M J Lamport

S M J Lamport
Private Secretary to
Mr Hurd

GRS 220

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PORT STANLEY 301915Z JUL 82

TO ROUTINE FCO TELNO 128 OF 30 JULY

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON.

1. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED OFFICE SPACE OF 1,000 SQUARE FEET (FIVE ROOMS) IN LONDON FOR A TWO AND A HALF YEAR LEASE AT AN ALL INCLUSIVE FIGURE OF FOURTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS. COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP THIS OFFER AND HAVE ASKED ME TO APPROACH ADRIAN MONK TO RUN THE OFFICE. AS YOU KNOW, MONK WAS A SENIOR COUNCILLOR IN THESE ISLANDS FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AS GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER. HIS WIFE WISHES TO RETURN TO THE UK AND HE WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HER IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. I HAVE YET TO PERSUADE HIM TO TAKE THE POST AND HE MAY HAVE NO DESIRE TO LIVE IN LONDON OR TO COMMUTE.
2. WE ESTIMATE AN INITIAL BUDGET OF SEVENTY THOUSAND POUND FOR THE FIRST YEAR, REDUCING TO THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS IN NORMAL TIMES. THIS WILL BE A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT AND, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE OFFICE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SOME OF THE WORKLOAD AT PRESENT CARRIED BY YOUR FALKLAND ISLANDS UNIT, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD LOOK SYMPATHETICALLY INTO SOME FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM HMG TO SUPPORT THE OFFICE.

HUNT

FALKLANDS UNIT

S AM D

ODA

FINANCE D

NEWS D

MR GIFFARD

MR URE

[NOT ADVANCED]