

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr J Goulden,
Head of News Dept, FCO
Mr S Davy,
Shackleton Unit, MPO
Miss T Rolleston
Parliamentary Unit

1. Mr Mawer
2. MR FLESHER

Mr Fletcher
has spoke
HERE 25.8.
Mr Butler:
Could we
have a word.

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25/8.

FALKLAND ISLANDS ECONOMIC STUDY 1982

I had a meeting yesterday with Simon Davy (Shackleton Unit) to discuss press and publication arrangements in respect of Lord Shackleton's Report. Teresa Rolleston was also present.

Publication Date

I understand Ministers will decide publication date when they meet on 6 September but there are a number of logistical and other points which they should be aware of.

Mr Davy is fairly confident that publication copies will be available from 7 September. He is in touch with MoD about sending copies to the Falklands so that the Report can be available there simultaneously with publication in London. The RAF will probably have to drop the copies from an aircraft. The earliest they could get copies to the Civil Commissioner would be Thursday, 9 September, but this presumes perfect weather conditions and absolutely no hitches. It would be safer to allow some leeway.

Lord Shackleton intends to give a Press Conference when his Report is published. He will not be available on Friday 10 September.

In view of the above, we have concluded that Monday, 13 September, would be the most suitable day for publication.

On that day, or whichever date is decided, the No 10 Parliamentary Unit would lay the Report before the Lords and the Commons at 11 am. Publication would be 11.30 am at which time Lord Shackleton could begin his Press Conference.

Press Conference

Lord Shackleton's intention in giving a Press Conference is to present his Report and to speak as the leader of the independent team that produced it. He would not speak for the Government.

After some discussion we agreed that the Government Press Centre would probably be the most suitable venue (we also considered No 12, the FCO and the Foreign Press Association).

Lord Shackleton would probably handle the Press Conference himself flanked by two or three of his team. The No 10 Press Office would make all the arrangements including inviting the Press but would otherwise leave Lord Shackleton to manage the occasion.

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Further Action

Could we please discuss this and in particular any briefing or advice that should be put to Ministers.

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PRESS OFFICE

25 August 1982