

CC PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 March, 1984

Dear Richard,

Civil Commissioner: Port Stanley

A.J.C. 27/3

p.a.

We have, as you know, been considering when and how to replace Sir Rex Hunt as Civil Commissioner in the Falkland Islands. A number of names from a wide range of backgrounds have been put forward but we have yet to find someone who would be a clear fit.

Sir Geoffrey Howe has discussed with the Prime Minister what should be done, bearing in mind the considerable degree of public interest in the question, not least in the Falkland Islands themselves. It has been decided that it would be right in the circumstances to ask Sir Rex Hunt to stay on for another eighteen months, giving us time to identify a suitable successor who would arrive in about September 1985. We recognise that this solution to the present problem is not ideal but it seems the least bad of the alternative, given all the circumstances.

The Prime Minister told Parliament on 27 February that an announcement would be made when in the normal course of events the time came to replace the Civil Commissioner. Once Sir Rex Hunt has been told of the decision that he should stay on, we will make an announcement through our News Department, unless of course there are Parliamentary Questions to be answered in the meantime.

I am copying this to Mike McCulloch (ODA), Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and John Coles (No 10).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private SecretaryRichard Mottram Esq
Ministry of Defence

Argentina: Relats Pt. 36.

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