

16 July 1984

South Atlantic Fund

Thank you for your letter of 2 July to Tim Flesher about the South Atlantic Fund.

The Prime Minister has noted with satisfaction the view of the Trustees that they would probably wish to retain the bulk of the Fund for the complete five year term.

David Barclay

B.P. Neale, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.



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D/S of S/PS/10

2nd July 1984

Prime Minister (to)

To note. The South Atlantic fund
 is likely to be retained for the full
 5 year term. ✓

Dear Tim,

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In your letter of 1st December 1983 you asked for a note on how the Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund propose the money remaining in the Fund should be disposed of.

I enclose a note, approved by the Trustees, outlining the administration of the Fund over the period October 1983 to May 1984, and summarising their proposals for its future administration. You should also be aware that Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, Chairman of the Trustees, has sent a report on the continuing work of the Fund, drawing on the attached note, to its Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales.

Yours ever,
 Barry

(B P NEALE)

Timothy Flesher Esq

REPORT ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FUND FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

OCTOBER 1983 - MAY 1984

1. State of the Fund

a. Donations still continue to be received at a rate of about £1500 per month. Income also continues from profit and dividends on investments and from tax recovered from covenanted donations. Together these have added over £1M to the Fund.

b. Total donations are £15,080,829.

c. Some £13.5M has been distributed to date of which:

(1) Widows have received	£5,392,631.00
(2) Fianceses and illegitimate children have received	£146,801.00
(3) Next of Kin of single men have received	£351,678.00
(4) The injured have received	£5,876,461.00

(5) Service Benevolent Funds and other Charities have been given further substantial grants to meet needs such as the adaption of houses for the disabled, the purchase of special cars, educational trusts for children and travel costs of injured servicemen and their families.

d. After adding interest, dividends and profit from the sale of investments (£1.5M) some £3.2M remains in the Fund.

2. State of Work

a. Major assessments have been made of the needs of the widows of those killed, of all men who were injured in the conflict, and also of those who suffered subsequently in accidents directly related to the conflict.

b. Trustees are concerned to provide for future needs, particularly those arising from psychiatric disturbance which may not become evident for many years.

3. Specific Work

a. Education. In carrying out their assessment of the needs of widows the Trustees made particular allowance for children to receive Boarding Education should the parents so wish. A number of children are receiving free education at the expense of the Fund or other Funds specifically set up for that purpose eg. the Nore Trust. The Service Benevolent Funds are all prepared to assist with the education of fatherless children if the need arises and are able to draw upon further South Atlantic Fund money for that purpose.

b. Medical Equipment. Two pieces of medical equipment which would not normally have been provided by MOD have been purchased by the South Atlantic Fund. They are designed to assist in the diagnosis and rehabilitation of those who suffered cold related injuries which may affect them in later life.

4. The Future

The Trustees are content that they have met all the immediate and short term needs of those who suffered as a result of the conflict as well as longer term needs concerned with education, rehabilitation and housing. At a recent meeting with the Chairmen of the three main Service Benevolent Funds it was agreed that:

a. The South Atlantic Fund would remain open. The Trustees would assess the future of the fund every six months but would probably wish to retain the bulk of the Fund for

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the complete five year term of the Fund, against the possibility of a renewal of the conflict or some disaster - such as a minefield accident - caused directly as a result of the previous conflict, and with which they would wish to deal as heretofore.

b. The Benevolent Funds will take on responsibility for all future case work concerning those whose circumstances have already been assessed by the South Atlantic Fund and for all future needs that may arise, in particular psychiatric cases or a degradation of an injury of a man who has already received aid from the Fund.

c. The Trustees would make money available to the Benevolent Funds in advance to meet any needs that were seen to be arising.

5. Publicity

a. Sporadic questions concerning the Fund continue to be asked in the House, but interest appears to be centred more on matters which are the responsibility of the MOD or DHSS rather than the Fund.

b. There has been little comment about the Fund in the Press, although a recent article in the Times (16 June) again drew attention to the campaign of the parents of single men killed in the conflict.

6. Staff

Because of the great reduction in the workload the Staff of the South Atlantic Fund has now been reduced to a part time Secretary who is a retired officer and who is paid by the Fund.