

bcc: C D Powell Esq (No 10)

PS/Secretary of State for Defence

PS/Minister for Overseas Development Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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From the Secretary of State

Handwritten signature: D. Hunt

15 October 1984

Prime Minister

The matter was resolved as you instructed and before Rex Hunt's departure!

Dear Rex

Falklands: New Hospital

You discussed with Ministers here the requirements following the tragic hospital fire in Port Stanley on 10 April.

*CDP
15/X.*

I am now writing to let you know that the Government have taken the firm decision that the former King Edward Memorial Hospital should be replaced by a single, joint civilian/military hospital on the same site in Port Stanley. You will wish to pass on this news to the Islands Councils and to the Islanders as a whole.

Please also assure the Islanders that HMG intend that there should now be swift progress. The next step will be for the hospital architect, Mr Hitchcox of the DHSS, to return to Port Stanley to present his recommendations to the Falkland Islands Government, with a view to making an early start with work on the new hospital. The ODA are confident that Mr Hitchcox will be back with you in Port Stanley before the end of October.

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GEOFFREY HOWE

Geoffrey Howe

Sir Rex Hunt CMG

15 OCT 1984

