

ARGENTINA;
Rels

CONFIDENTIAL
FM PORT STANLEY
TO DESKBY 130900Z FCO
TELNO 179
OF 122200Z OCTOBER 89

FALKLAND ISLANDS: GENERAL ELECTION ON 11 OCTOBER 1989

SUMMARY

1. ORDERLY ELECTION WITH 87% TURNOUT. PRINCIPLE^{AL} ISSUES: NEED TO STAND FIRM AGAINST ARGENTINA, AGRICULTURAL GRANTS, FISHERY LICENCE ALLOCATION, EXPATRIATE AND FCO INFLUENCE IN THE ISLANDS, AND DOMESTIC ISSUES SUCH AS HOUSING, SCHOOLING AND ROADS. ON FISHERY, ELECTION RESULT MAY MEAN SOME CONTENTION AHEAD, ON AGRICULTURAL GRANTS PROBABLY NOT. COMMENTS ON COUNCILLORS.

DETAIL

2. PLEASE REFER TO BAYLIS' FAX ON RESULTS DATED 12 OCTOBER.

3. TURNOUT WAS 87% OVERALL: VOTING WAS CARRIED OUT QUIETLY AND EFFICIENTLY UNDER REX XROWNING, ACTING REGISTRAR. NEW LEGCO WILL HAVE ITS FIRST MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER FOR SWEARING/ AFFIRMATION OF COUNCILLORS AND THE ELECTION OF THREE OF THE EIGHT TO EXCO. THE FIRST EXCO MEETING OF THE NEW EXCO WILL BE ON 17 OCTOBER.

4. PRINCIPLE ISSUES. ARGENTINA. THE SINGLE MOST PROMINENT ELECTION ISSUE: NOT SURPRISINGLY CANDIDATES HAD TO BE CONVINCING ON IT. ALL DULY DELIVERED EXCEPT THE DESIRE THE RIGHT PARTY WHO, WHETHER INTENTIONALLY OR NOT, GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT TALKS ON CONSERVATION IN THE FISHERY WITH ARGENTINA WOULD BE A SOUND IDEA WITHOUT STRESSING THAT SUCH TALKS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE ISLANDS. ISLAND SUSPICIONS WERE PROBABLY FURTHER FUELLED BY THE FACT THAT ANN ROBERTSON, ONE OF THE THREE PARTY CANDIDATES, AND HER HUSBANDN HAVE ARGENTINE PAPERS, THOUGH BOTH ARE THOROUGHLY ISLAND IN OUTLOOK AND MANNER. PARTLY BECAUSE OF THIS SUSPECTED WEAKNESS OVER ARGENTINA AND PARTLY BECAUSE THEIR PARTY BROADCAST DID NOT COME OFF, THE DRP CANDIDATES WERE THE LOWEST SCORERS, APART FROM THE MAVERICK FRED CLARKE. LUXTON, NOT A POPULAR FIGURE, MADE A PARTICULARLY STRONG SPEECH AGAINST THE ISLANDS HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH ARGENTINA WHATSOEVER. HE TOPPED THE CAMP POLL.

5. AGRICULTURAL GRANTS. CAMP MEMBERS ARE LIKELY TO BE IN FAVOUR

TO GRANTS FOR ALL IF THIS ISSUE RESURFACES. I DO NOT SEE THERE BEING ENOUGH FEELING AGAINST AMONG STANLEY COUNCILLORS FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION TO BE CHANGED. I HOPE THIS, AND THE WHOLE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOREIGN COMPANIES, WILL MOVE TO THE SIDELINES.

6. FISHERY. NORMA EDWARDS, CAMP COUNCILLOR, WHOSE HUSBAND A RETIRED BRITISH NAVAL OFFICER, HAS AN INTEREST IN THE FISHERY, HAS ANNOUNCED HER INTENTION OF BRINGING IN LEGISLATION TO RETURN LICENCE ALLOCATION TO COUNCILLORS. SHE APPARENTLY WISHES TO DO THIS ON 16 OCTOBER, BUT THERE WILL NOT BE TIME PROCEDURALLY FOR IT. I HOPE THAT GIVEN TIME AND AN EXPLANATION FOR IT THE FULL THINKING BEHIND THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHE MAY BE AMENABLE TO CHANGE. IT IS UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH SUPPORT SHE WOULD GET: THERE IS CERTAINLY OPPOSITION TO HER VIEW AMONG SOME COUNCILLORS, BUT THIS ISSUE IS SEEN BY SOME AS ONE IN WHICH EXPATRIATES AND THE FCO ARE REMOVING POWER FROM COUNCILLORS (MY TELELETTER OF 4 OCTOBER TO DEW). IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE THE ISSUE JUDGED FULLY ACCORDING TO ITS MERIT. EXTENSION OF FICZ TO 200 MILES IS ROUTINELY DEMANDED BY MANY.

7. EXPATRIATES/FCO. AN UNWELCOME NOTE IN SEVERAL ELECTION SPEECHES WAS THE LINE TAKEN AGAINST EXPATRIATES WITH THE IMPLICATION BY LUXTON AND KILMARTIN PARTICULARLY, THAT COUNCILLORS HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY FOOLED BY EXPATRIATES AND THE ADMINISTRATION INTO PASSING LEGISLATION THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND. THIS IS NOT FLATTERING TO PREVIOUS COUNCILLORS. PART OF IT STEMS FROM SEAMOUNT. I PROPOSE TO ADDRESS NEW COUNCILLORS ON THIS ISSUE AT THE SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT PROCEDURE ARRANGED FOR 16 AND 1U OCTOBER TO TRY AND ENSURE A BALANCED ATTITUDE AND TO STRESS THE NEED TO AVOID ANY CONTRIVED THEM AND US SYNDROME. I SHALL ENCOURAGE COUNCILLORS TO HAVE REGULAR AND FREQUENT CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THIS WILL BE MUCH EASIER WITH THE NEW COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. I ALSO PROPOSE TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO CHAIR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES EG THE HOUSING COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL DEVOLVE RESPONSIBILITY TO COUNCILLORS IN A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT AREAS OF GOVERNMENT.

8. THERE WERE NO REAL SURPRISES IN THE VOTING APART FROM THE ELECTION OF KEVIN KILMARTIN HE IS NOT AN ISLANDER AND ALTHOUGH A CAMP CANDIDATE IS CONSIDERED TO RUN BLUFF COVE FARM BADLY. SOME OF HIS SUCCESS MAY BE DUE TO HIS REPRESENTATION AS A BARRISTER OF ISLANDERS IN COURT WHEN THEY HAVE BROKEN LAWS SUCH AS THOSE AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING WHICH ARE, WRONGLY, SOMETIMES SEEN TO

BE A PRODUCT OF THE EXPATRIATE MIND. HIS SPEECH WAS ONE OF THE LEAST IMPRESSIVE WITH ILL-CONSIDERED, POPULIST ATTACKS ON EX-PATRIATES AND THE FCO. I HAD EXPECTED WENDY TEGGART, WHO MADE A SPIRITED AND POPULAR ATTACK IN HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PRICES ASKED FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING TO BE ELECTED. JOHN CHEEK'S FAILURE IS UNSURPRISING. HE AND TEGGART LOST POPULARITY BY RESIGNING OVER THE AGRICULTURAL GRANTS ISSUE. HE IS NOT AN OUTGOING CHARACTER: HIS CONSIDERABLE FISHERY EARNINGS MAY HAVE BEEN HELD AGAINST HIM. MOST COUNCILLORS ARE BETWEEN 40 AND 55 YEARS OF AGE: YOUNGEST IS 27 (SHORT). PECK AND EDWARDS AND LUXTON HAVE SERVED IN LEGCO OR EXCO PREVIOUSLY BUT NOT IN THE LAST 4 OR 5 YEARS. ROWLANDS HAS LONG SERVED EX-OFFICIO AND SHOULD BE AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY. NONE HAVE MUCH INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

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