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Private Secretary
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Mr Hall

P.S. Mr. Ridley
[Handwritten initials]

FALKLAND ISLANDS: DESPATCH BY THE GOVERNOR ON THE MINISTER OF STATE'S VISIT.

ALW 02611		
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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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1. I submit Mr Parker's despatch on Mr Ridley's visit to the Islands. This brings out the Islanders' appreciation of a Ministerial visit so soon after the election (para 3); their satisfaction on hearing the Minister's assurance that no changes will be introduced that are not acceptable to them (para 4); the increased willingness of the Islanders, as a result of the visit, to contemplate an early compromise settlement of the dispute which would enable them to maintain their British way of life (para 5); and the greater mood of optimism in the Islands (para 7).

2. These are positive and welcome developments and offer an opportunity for pressing ahead, with Islander support, with the negotiations. I am submitting separately on this. Of course, a solution will still not be easily reached; the Islanders, though more optimistic, are still apprehensive about their future (para 7) and retain all their old suspicions and dislike of the Argentines. The extent to which Councillors will be able in the months ahead to play a positive role in leading Island opinion still remains to be seen; in the past they have not always been as helpful or as effective as we had hoped. But Mr Ridley has clearly managed to bring them to face some of the harsher aspects of their situation and the Governor writes encouragingly of "sensible and less emotionally motivated attitudes" (para 7).

Bours

J B Ure
South America Department

16 August 1979

A successful visit.

J Hall 16/8/79

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORT STANLEY

026/1

7 August 1979

The Right Honourable
The Lord Carrington KCMG MC
etc etc etcACW 026/1
14 SEP 1979

Sir

THE MINISTER OF STATE'S VISIT TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS:
20-26 JULY 1979

1. For the record, I enclose a copy of the programme undertaken by the Minister and Mrs Ridley, accompanied by the Minister's Private Secretary, Mr K D Temple, during their familiarisation tour of the Islands.
2. In spite of some very uncertain weather, the party arrived at Stanley Airport slightly ahead of time, in a cold and blustery rainstorm, and managed to complete the planned tour of outlying settlements by sea-plane, dodging some heavy snow squalls on the way round. In between, the Islands produced some hours of their sunniest winter weather, and one or two glorious sunsets - and sunrises! Unfortunately (or fortunately for those of us enjoying Mr and Mrs Ridley's company) bad weather on the mainland delayed their departure for one day, but I understand the subsequent programme of visits elsewhere on the Continent was more or less retrieved with the help of the Argentine Air Force in providing a special flight from Comodoro Rivadavia.
3. In planning to get the most advantage from the Minister's presence, and to accommodate as many as possible of those various groups and individuals in Stanley and the settlements

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who were pressing to have the opportunity to meet him, it was perhaps not realised how arduous the programme would turn out to be. Both Mr and Mrs Ridley, however, undertook it all in good spirit and their willingness to mingle and talk freely wherever they went was very much appreciated. Although there was initially some inevitable apprehension about what the Minister might have to say, as the tour progressed, the frankness of his approach, and the warmth with which it was welcomed, made the visit the undoubted success it was.

4. All in all, the Minister met the greater part of the population of Stanley, and all the people at three major settlements; Mr Temple separately visited a fourth.

Mr Ridley's farewell broadcast message, in which he firmly repeated the assurance that nothing will be done in the attempt to reach a settlement with the Argentines which will not be acceptable to the people of the Islands, was listened to with careful attention, and satisfaction, by everyone.

5. Mr Temple has drafted an excellent record of the discussions which took place with Councillors, and separate telegrams have summarised both Mr Ridley's and my initial impressions and conclusions. The main points are, I think, that the Islanders are now much more prepared than they were for an early compromise settlement of the dispute with the Argentines, which, while facing up to the realities both of their situation and that of Britain, would enable them to pursue

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their lives in their own way, as British subjects under their own democratic Government, to realise the benefits of the development of their own economy and, under some form of co-operation with Argentina which does not diminish their autonomy, to exploit the resources potentially available around them. In his discussions Mr Ridley identified the main constraints upon an expanded future as the dispute itself, the lack of access to capital finance and credit, and the availability of manpower. He privately added a fourth: the dominant position of the Falkland Islands Company in the Colony's agriculture, and its virtual monopoly of all commercial activities, where its weak performance, under the present ownership, exercises a stultifying influence on development.

6. On two other matters about which the Islanders feel keenly - the continuance of aid and nationality - Mr Ridley explained the difficulties the British Government would face in an attempt to meet in full what Islanders felt to be their special needs, but promised to discuss them with his Ministerial colleagues so that, as regards aid, on-going projects would continue, and any future projects of a reasonable nature would be sympathetically considered within the limits which now have to be imposed on Britain's overall aid programme, and that as regards full British nationality, or more especially the right of entry into Britain, some possible administrative arrangement could be explored which might meet the Islanders' particular case. For their part, the Islands' Councillors agreed to admit a number of Vietnamese refugees as their

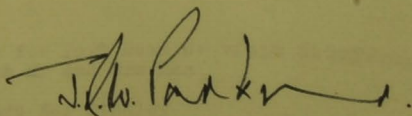
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contribution to the international relief effort in the resettlement of these unfortunate people.

7. The fact that Mr Ridley's visit could be arranged so soon after he had assumed his new responsibilities, and that it took place in so understanding and amicable a spirit, has been widely appreciated here. It undoubtedly helped focus people's minds more sharply on their needs and essential objectives, and while it has not left the Islanders in a mood of ebullient certainty their problems can easily be overcome, and their deep-seated worries about their future still remain, there is now a greater mood of optimism. They will be hard to convince about any solution which appears to conflict with what they traditionally understand by the concept of sovereignty; but more have come to realise that by adopting sensible and less emotionally motivated attitudes in support of the Minister's effort to reach a constructive settlement with the Argentines, a better and more secure existence could be achieved for themselves and for their children. If it fails, as the Minister warned them it might, we will all be in for a difficult time.

8. I am sending a copy of this record to HM Representative at Buenos Aires.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant



VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF STATE AND MRS NICHOLAS RIDLEY
ACCOMPANIED BY MR K D TEMPLE
20-26 JULY 1979

Friday 20 July

- 1110 Arrive at Stanley Airport: met by His Excellency the Governor, Mrs Parker and Councillors and wives
- 1300 Luncheon at Government House with Chief Secretary and Mrs Baker
- 1630 Discussion with the Financial Secretary, Mr Harold Rowlands, at Government House
- 1900-2030 Reception at Government House

Saturday 21 July

- *0930 Meeting with Executive and Legislative Councillors in the Council Chamber at Government House
- *1045 Coffee break in the Governor's Office
- *1300 Buffet luncheon with Councillors
- *1500 Tour of Stanley including visits to principal aid projects (Grasslands Trials Unit, Ashworth Dairy, School Hostel, Darwin-Stanley Road and MV "Monsunen")
- 1800-1930 Public Reception at the Town Hall (open invitation)
- 2000 Government House Dinner

Sunday 22 July

- 0915 Depart Stanley for visit to Goose Green/Darwin; visit Settlement School and luncheon with Mr and Mrs Hardcastle
- 1400 Depart Darwin for Hill Cove for overnight stay with Mr and Mrs Blake

Monday 23 July

- 1000 Depart Hill Cove for Port Howard: visit Settlement and luncheon with Mr and Mrs Lee
- 1430 Depart Port Howard for Stanley
- 1500 Arrive Stanley
- *1645 Discussions with delegation of Falkland Islands Civil Servants Association at the Rose Hotel

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- *1730-1830 Meet the Executive Committee of the Falkland Islands General Employees Union at Union Headquarters
- 1945 Farmers Week reception given by the Acting Stanley Manager of the Falkland Islands Company
- 2100 Dinner given by the Chief Secretary at the Upland Goose Hotel

Tuesday 24 July

- 0900 Depart Stanley for Green Patch Farm) }
 1115 Depart Green Patch for Stanley } Mr K D Temple
- 1130 Depart seaplane hangar for short visit to the Royal Marine Detachment at Moody Brook Camp
- *1430 Discussion with members of the Sheepowners' Association in the Court and Council Chamber at the Town Hall
- *1630-1730 Tea with 'young Islanders' group at Stanley Social Club
- 1830 Farmers Week reception given by Grasslands Trials Unit
- 1930-2100 Discussion with members of the Falkland Islands Committee
 Supper at Government House
- 2300-2400 Falkland Islands Committee Dance at Town Hall

Wednesday 25 July

- 0930 Round-up meeting with Executive and Legislative Councillors in the Council Chamber at Government House
- 1100 Recording of Farewell Broadcast
- 1450 Scheduled departure from Stanley Airport: prevented by bad weather

Thursday 26 July

- 1115 Departure from Stanley Airport

MRS RIDLEY'S SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME

Saturday 21 July

- 0930 Visit Home Industries Ltd
- 1030 Morning coffee given by Mrs Jean Morrison (wife of the Deputy Chief Secretary) to meet wives of Heads of Departments etc
- 1230 Luncheon given by Mrs Connie Baker (wife of the Chief Secretary) to meet Councillors' wives
- 1430 Visit to King Edward Memorial Hospital

Monday 23 July

- 1600-1700 Tea at Government House to meet members of the Corona Society, Red Cross Society and Encounter Group

Tuesday 24 July

- 0930 "Doctors Call" at R/T Station
- 1430-1600 Visit to Junior and Senior Schools