

Reg 9

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NOTE FOR FILE

AW 040/325/2		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
24 SEP 1980		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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LORD BUXTON'S CALL ON MR RIDLEY 23 SEPTEMBER 1980

1. Lord Buxton was making a documentary on the Falklands probably for showing in early 1981. He wanted to sound out Mr Ridley so as to ensure that the approach adopted was constructive and helpful. Having visited the Islands he could not see any solution to the sovereignty problem. He thought that a solution to the problem might founder because it was unacceptable to the Islanders. Mr Ridley pointed out that no solution would be put forward unless it had the agreement of the Islanders.

2. Lord Buxton touched on:

(i) the new Nationality Act. How would it affect Islanders? Mr Ridley assured him that 90% of Islanders had the right of abode in the UK. This right would be unaffected by the new Nationality Act. Those Islanders who did not could be admitted into the UK at the discretion of the Home Secretary.

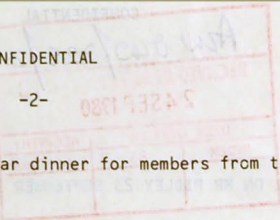
(ii) Fishing Limits. Lord Buxton was concerned that the Russians and Poles were extensively fishing in waters around the Falklands but there were no British fishing interests. Mr Ridley explained that the British fishing industry had nearer fishing grounds to exploit and had shown little interest in Falkland waters. A 200 mile limit was kept under review.

(iii) Tourism. Lord Buxton thought that potential here was high. He thought there was more scope than the limited operations envisaged by Julian Fitter. With his connections he would probably assist the establishment of a tourist industry in the Islands. Mr Ridley confirmed that his aim continued to be to search for a solution to the political problem. A solution would unlock the economic potential of the Islands.

3. Lord Buxton thought that Islanders should be brought into closer contact with events outside the Islands through television. He might be able to persuade the IBA to provide the software (eg, video-tapes) provided that the sets and equipment were provided. We undertook to let him have a copy of the ODA study on video-cassettes for the Islands.

4. Mr Ridley thought that there were many mis conceptions about the Falkland Islands in the UK. He referred to the informal dinners he had been giving for

Hand to Mrs Posen she will contact her B above



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to explain the facts.

MPs. He suggested a similar dinner for members from the Lords.

Lord Buxton welcomed this.

5. Lord Buxton promised to let us see the text of the documentary before it was finalised.

4/9

WITH



BROOK HOUSE · PARK LANE  
LONDON W1Y 4DX  
Telephone 01 408 2288

*Handwritten notes:*  
by [unclear]  
by [unclear]  
by [unclear]

*b. note*  
*[Signature]*

2 September 1980

The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP  
Minister of State  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
London, SW1

*Try to fix a date  
to meet re*

*Dear Nicholas*

*cc SA [unclear]  
[unclear] 5/9*

I wonder whether you could manage lunch one day, or a talk in the late afternoon or evening fairly soon? I am very anxious to express my views to you about the Falklands question, so that you will be aware of them in advance if any public expression. Apart from my interest when the subject arises in Parliament, we are making documentaries about the Falklands and hope that our objectives are entirely constructive and helpful. I have also had discussions with some Argentinians.

I am more or less available for the rest of the Autumn, and shall not be going abroad until I visit Argentina and the Falklands towards the end of the shooting season (late January)

- 1) *Dr Heap* <sup>11/11</sup> <sub>10/11</sub> *[Signature]*
- 2) *Mr Davies*

*Lord B. now calling on 23/9.*

*[Signature]*

*Buxton*

*530  
23/9*

*10/9 [unclear]*