

Aw 040 / 325 / 12

REC...VEN		
26 NOV 1980		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
RESTRICTED		

34

GRS 70
 RESTRICTED
 DESKBY 261430Z
 FM PORT STANLEY 261315Z NOV 80
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 181 OF 26 NOVEMBER
 INFO BUENOS AIRES

TOP COPY

MIPT. 33
 FOR APS/MR RIDLEY, FROM TEMPLE.

1. LOCAL FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE IS TELEXING LONDON COMMITTEE WITH THEIR VERSION . IN LIGHT OF FROW'S TELECON LAST WEEK, PLEASE SEEK TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH LONDON COMMITTEE EARLY AFTER OUR RETURN.
2. MR RIDLEY ALSO CONSIDERS THAT THE PARTY REPEAT PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO BE BRIEFED AT ANEARLY DATE. PLEASE APPROACH PETER BOTTOMLY MP, WHO IS SECRETARY, ON THIS IDEA.

HUNT
 LIMITED
 SAMD
 PS
 PS/LPS
 PS/MRRIDLEY

MR DAY
 MR HARDING

RESTRICTED

Aw 040/325/12

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 18
26 NOV 1980

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

CONFIDENTIAL

33

TOP COPY

GRS 430
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 261430Z
FM PORT STANLEY 261228Z NOV 80
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 OF 26 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MR RIDLEY'S VISIT.

- MR RIDLEY HAD TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH ISLAND COUNCILLORS ON 24 AND 25 NOVEMBER AND SET OUT POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING OPTIONS (JOINT ADMINISTRATION, SOVEREIGNTY FREEZE OR LEASEBACK). HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT SEEKING AT THIS STAGE AGREEMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR SOLUTION: ONLY TO CONSULT AND AGREE ON WHICH IDEAS SHOULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE HOPED THAT ISLANDERS WOULD BE REPRESENTED AS AT NEW YORK. NO EVENTUAL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE REACHED WITHOUT THEIR FURTHER ENDORSEMENT.
- INITIAL RESPONSE OF COUNCILLORS HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY MIXED. THEY DO NOT CONTEST THE NEED FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY. SOME APPEAR PREPARED TO SEE TALKS ON LEASEBACK SEMI COLON OTHERS PREFER THAT A POSSIBLE FREEZE LINKED WITH FISH/OIL COOPERATION SHOULD BE EXPLORED FIRST OR EXCLUSIVELY. NO SUPPORT FOR JOINT ADMINISTRATION. THEY MADE CLEAR HOWEVER THAT THEY CANNOT REACH A FIRM POSITION BEFORE MR RIDLEY'S DEPARTURE AND NEED MORE TIME TO THINK AND CONSULT LOCAL VIEWS. HE WILL HAVE A FURTHER MEETING WITH COUNCILLORS ON 29 NOVEMBER. BUT THEY HAVE TENTATIVELY PROPOSED THAT A RESPONSE SHOULD BE AGREED BY JOINT COUNCIL BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
- AT SAME TIME THEY PREFERRED THAT MR RIDLEY SHOULD, DURING HIS VISIT, GO PUBLIC AND SET OUT THE ISSUES TO ISLANDERS. MR RIDLEY HAS SINCE SPOKEN WITH A NUMBER OF LOCAL BODIES, INCLUDING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE (SEE MIFT): GIVEN AN INTERVIEW ON FALKLAND ISLANDS RADIO AND ADDRESSED A WELL ATTENDED PUBLIC MEETING. HE WILL BE VISITING OUTLYING SETTLEMENTS OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

/4. IT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4. IT IS TOO SOON TO TRY TO ASSESS PUBLIC (AS OPPOSED TO COUNCILLORS) FEELINGS. COMMENT HAS CONCENTRATED ON LEASEBACK. AGAINST THE INEVITABLE CAUTION AND SUSPICION, THERE IS A CLEAR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE IDEA CAREFULLY BEFORE REACHING CONCLUSIONS. MR RIDLEY'S VIEW AT THIS STAGE IS THAT MATTERS ARE GOING AS WELL AS COULD BE REASONABLY EXPECTED.

5. ARGENTINE PRESS (CLARIN AND LA NACION) WERE PRESENT AT PUBLIC MEETING AND WILL BE REPORTING BACK. H.M. AMBASSADOR BUENOS AIRES MAY WISH TO FOREWARN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. YOUR TELNO 119. ^{News Dept} AGREED DEFENSIVE PRESS LINE REMAINS VALID, ALTHOUGH FIRST SENTENCE OF YOUR PARA 2(1)(-A) MAY NOW SEEM MISLEADING. NEWS DEPARTMENT MIGHT SAY, AS APPROPRIATE, THAT MR RIDLEY HAS BEEN CONSULTING THE ISLANDERS ON POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING OPTIONS (PARA 1 ABOVE). GIVEN THE VARIETY OF AUDIENCES TO WHICH MR RIDLEY IS SPEAKING, THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE A NUMBER OF GARBLED REPORTS FEEDING BACK, SUCH AS UN POINT IN PARA 1 OF YOUR TUR. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH ON A COMMON-SENSE BASIS IN THE LIGHT OF BRIEFS FOR THE VISIT.

7. MIPT.

HUNT

LIMITED
S AM D
NEWS D
ES & SD
MAED
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/PUS
MR DAY
MR HARDING

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
FAULKLAND ISLANDS

CONFIDENTIAL