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FM PORT STANLEY 031735Z DECEMBER 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO [SIO]
TELEGRAM NUMBER 185 OF 3 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES

Aw 940/325/12

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INDEX	PA	Action Taken

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS: MR RIDLEY'S VISIT.

1. I SPOKE ON LOCAL RADIO ON 2 DECEMBER TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM OF PUBLIC DEBATE GENERATED BY MR RIDLEY'S VISIT (TEXT BY AIRMAIL). WATTS ALSO INTERVIEWED THE FOUR ELECTED COUNCILLORS WHO LIVE IN STANLEY. TWO (GOSS AND BOWLES) WERE AGAINST EXPLORING THE LEASEBACK IDEA; TWC (WALLACE AND EVANS) UNDECIDED. FURTHER RADIO DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED WITH COUNCILLORS, SHEEP OWNERS' ASSOCIATION AND FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
2. BYE-ELECTION IN WEST FALKLAND WILL BE HELD ON 2 JANUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, EVANS WILL VISIT ALL SETTLEMENTS THERE. MILLER IS BUSY ON HIS FARM AT PRESENT BUT WILL TRAVEL OVER XMAS PERIOD. GROWCOTT AND I WILL VISIT MAJOR SETTLEMENTS NOT VISITED BY MR RIDLEY. I SHALL ALSO GO TO GOOSE GREEN AGAIN.
3. WALLACE HAS PLANNED A SERIES OF OPEN MEETINGS IN THE TOWN HALL AND BOWLES AND GOSS ARE HOLDING SURGERIES IN THEIR HOUSES. I HAVE OFFERED MEETINGS WITH ALL ORGANISATIONS IN STANLEY.
4. IT IS STILL TOO SOON TO JUDGE ISLANDER REACTIONS BUT COMMENTS TO DATE INDICATE THAT MANY ARE CONSIDERING SERIOUSLY ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE ISLANDS' FUTURE, INCLUDING A LEASE-BACK ARRANGEMENT.

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- PS/MR RIDLEY
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- SIR E YOUDE
- MR DAY
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