

Aw 040/325/2

RESTRICTED

See Flight Mr. Jones
See Team 9/12/80
212

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DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

I agree. But how Shackleton seems unwilling to rise to his bait and we can hardly press him to do so.

Mr Harding

- cc
- PS
- PS/LPS
- PS/Mr Ridley
- PS/PUS
- Mr Day
- News Dept.

Mr. Jones
P. M. Ridley

I agree. Paula 9/12

Subject to the views of News

Dept., I should have thought that it would be very helpful if Lt. Shackleton were to write to the Times.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: CALL ON THE MINISTER OF STATE BY LORD SHACKLETON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER AT 5.00 P.M.

1. Lord Shackleton called at his own request on Mr Ridley on 8 December to discuss the present position on the Falkland Islands.
2. Lord Shackleton commended the Government's initiative in consulting Islanders on possible negotiating options. He was critical of the House of Commons reaction to Mr Ridley's parliamentary statement. He himself saw merit in exploring the leaseback proposal. He had also understood from Sir Nigel Fisher that the Falkland Islands Committee took a positive view. (He later mentioned that Air Commodore Frow, the Director General of the Falkland Islands Office, also strongly supported the leaseback proposal and would be putting a paper to the Committee.)
3. Lord Shackleton was particularly interested to know whether there was any evidence that the leaseback proposal might in turn be acceptable to the Argentines, if the Islanders endorsed it. On this Mr Ridley commented only that we had inevitably tried to make some calculations on the Argentine reactions; it was not possible to say what their position would be but they were clearly anxious to find a possible basis for solving the dispute and a leaseback arrangement might meet their aspirations.
4. Lord Shackleton wished to know whether there was anything he could do to help. He did not himself think that writing to The Times, for example, would appear very convincing. But it was left that he would use his influence, both here and where possible in the Islands, to promote a serious and positive consideration of the leaseback idea.

P. R. Fearn

P R Fearn
South America Dept.

8 December 1980