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GRS 185
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FM PORT STANLEY 111700Z DEC 80
TO ROUTINE FCO
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INFO BUENOS AIRES

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YOUR TELNO 129: FALKLAND ISLANDS

MR RIDLEY'S VISIT.

1. SPRUCE, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE, SHOWED ME TELEX FROM FROW STATING THAT THE LONDON FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMITTEE WERE IN FAVOUR OF THE LEASEBACK ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED THAT IT WAS FOR A MINIMUM OF 99 YEARS AND THAT IT INCLUDED RIGHTS TO EXPLOIT OIL AND FISHERIES RESOURCES IN A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.
2. SPRUCE SAID HIS COMMITTEE WOULD BE MEETING THIS WEEK-END TO CONSIDER THE TELEX BUT PRESENT LINE-UP WAS TWO FOR THE LEASEBACK OPTION AND EIGHT AGAINST.
3. OF THE COUNCILLORS, MONK HAS STATED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN CAMP THAT HE IS IN FAVOUR OF THE FREEZE OPTION AND TOTALLY OPPOSED TO LEASEBACK. OTHER COUNCILLORS REMAIN INDECISIVE.
4. CANDIDATES FOR THE WEST FALKLAND BYE-ELECTION ARE PETER ROBERTSON (PORT STEPHENS) AND TIM BLAKE (HILL COVE). FORMER IS STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF LEASEBACK: LATTER IS IN FAVOUR OF TALKS BUT UNDECIDED BETWEEN FREEZE AND LEASEBACK.
5. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT THAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THEY HAVE SOUNDED OUT ARE AGAINST LEASEBACK.

HUNT

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S.A.T. 2
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PS
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PS/MR RIDLEY
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M3AY
M HARDING

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
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