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from LORD BUXTON

2 December 1980

The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, AMICE
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AL

McKenzie
McGowan
McDermott
7/12
12/12

Dear Nicholas

Thank you very much for having me to lunch. I was very grateful to be present, and I do think that you are probably the first Minister to see even a glimmer of a solution.

Also many thanks for bringing Cindy's letter. You might like to read her final paragraph:

" Nicholas Ridley has 3 proposals for the F.I. The first one was dropped immediately as totally unacceptable, that is the joint sovereignty issue. The next is a long lease, like Hong Kong, but the Islanders want a very long lease, more than 100 years. Some of them think this is possible, the stubborn ones aren't interested. The final one is to struggle on as they are and wait and see. Poor Mr. Ridley is having a tough time with these Islanders. Most of them are so stubborn and short-sighted, they seem incapable of thinking about the future. They are only interested in today. "

With renewed thanks and best wishes to you both,

[Handwritten signature]

Amy