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Mr Harding
PS

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| ALW 040/325/12 | | |
| RECEIVED SOUTH AMERICA DEPT. 18 | | |
| 26 NOV 1980 | | |
| DESK OFFICER | | REGISTRY |
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cc
PS/LPS
PS/Mr Ridley
PS/PUS
Mr Day

FALKLAND ISLANDS: CABINET

1. As requested, I submit for the Secretary of State's box this evening a note on Mr Ridley's discussions in the Falkland Islands for use in Cabinet on 27 November.

G A Duggan
South America Dept.

26 November 1980

FAULKLAND ISLANDS: MR RIDLEY'S VISIT

POINTS TO MAKE

NICHOLAS RIDLEY IN ISLANDS AS AGREED

1. Half-way through his visit. Has had two meetings with Councillors: a third scheduled before departure.

FIRST REACTIONS FROM ISLANDERS MIXED

2. Councillors seem to accept need for negotiations on sovereignty but no clear preference yet for leaseback solution.

COUNCILLORS' FINAL ANSWER MAY BE DELAYED

3. Reluctant to give one before Mr Ridley departs on 29 November.

FOLLOWING TIMES REPORT MUCH PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

4. Councillors urged Mr Ridley to set out the issues publicly and he spoke with number of local bodies, on the radio and at a public meeting. In reply to questions we are stressing that we shall do nothing not accepted by the Islanders or by Parliament

FULL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT AFTER MR RIDLEY'S RETURN

5. Important to explain fully our position and demonstrate that our consultation of Islanders was no formality.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Mr Ridley is visiting the Islands, as agreed by OD, between 22 and 29 November to consult Island Councillors on the position we should adopt in future negotiations with the Argentines. He will be seeking to persuade them in particular of the virtues of a solution based on leaseback (see Steering Brief).
- Flag A
2. We have received a first report from Port Stanley after Mr Ridley's two initial meetings with Island Councillors. Their reaction was predictably non-committal. We had hoped for a firm reaction from Councillors before Mr Ridley's departure but this now seems less likely.
- Flag B
3. The general line of the discussions has now become public knowledge (today's Times) following Mr Ridley's meetings with a number of local bodies, including the local branch of the Falkland Islands Committee.
- Flag C