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Prime Minister

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Copy: M.P.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
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Telephone 01-213 5409

[Handwritten signature]

From the Minister

21 April 1982

Dear Mr Coles,

FALKLAND ISLANDS : ODA OFFICERS

The Prime Minister mentioned to Mr Marten this afternoon the question of whether the ODA-funded teachers who had left the Falkland Islands since the invasion had left of their own volition or had been ordered out.

... Sir Peter Preston has in fact minuted to the Secretary of State on this subject and I enclose a copy of that minute for your information.

Yours Sincerely

Pamela Hilton

(Pamela Hilton)
Private Secretary

[Handwritten signature]

John Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

cc PS/Secretary of State
Sir Peter Preston

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CONFIDENTIAL

1. PS/PUS
2. PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

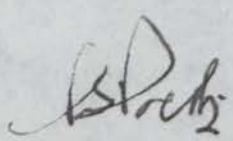
cc PS/Mr Marten ←
PS/Mr Onslow
Mr Hurrell o/r
Mr Hudson

FALKLAND ISLANDS: ODA OFFICERS

I understand that at a meeting of Ministers this morning the question arose of the number of ODA officers who had left the Falkland Islands since the invasion and what had induced them to do so. I attach a short note setting out what we know at this stage about those officers who have left.

2. As I understand it, the only officers who were required to leave by the Argentine authorities were the Chief Secretary (Mr Baker), the Chief of Police (Mr Lamb) and the Registrar-General (Mr Checkley). The others left of their own volition and no obstacles seem to have been placed in their way. I would emphasise that since the invasion ODA has had no contact at all with any of these people while they were in the Falklands. We have therefore had no opportunity to influence them one way or the other over their decision to leave.

3. Of those remaining there is a group of medical staff, including 2 doctors, 2 nurses and a dental officer; an air pilot and a meteorological forecaster; and 4 technicians, including a mechanical supervisor who is I think concerned with the water supply, a building superintendent, an electrician and a plumber. On the face of it these seem more likely to be useful than some of those who have left.


Peter Preston
21 April 1982



FALKLAND ISLANDS: ODA OFFICERS

The term "ODA Officers" covers both Technical Cooperation Officers (TCOs) who are under contract to, and fully funded by, HMG and officers recruited under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme (OSAS). The OSAS Officers are under contract to the Falkland Islands Government, which pays their local salary; HMG (ODA) pays these officers a supplement to their basic local salary and certain other allowances.

2. At the start of the Argentine occupation there was one TCO outside the Falklands (on a duty visit to Columbia) and one OSAS officer - a matron - on leave in Britain.

3. Since the occupation 20 officers have left the Islands and are either back in Britain or are in transit. These officers include the Chief Secretary, the Chief of Police, the Registrar General, the MET Forecaster, an Air pilot and 12 teachers (all 17 are OSAS officers) plus 3 TCOs.

4. There remain on the Islands 17 OSAS officers and 3 TCOs.
