



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS

I have written to you separately about a telephone call which I received from Mr Needham this afternoon and which related to the reimbursement of passages for Falkland Islanders who wished to leave.

I should record that he also told me that he had received information to the effect that the Argentines on the Falkland Islands had yesterday invited ten of the inhabitants to meet "representatives of the new administration". They had then been asked to join a new local council. Two had declined to do so but the others had agreed.

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From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1982

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE
WHO WISH TO LEAVE

As I told John Slatcher on the telephone this afternoon, Mr Needham of the Falkland Islands Company rang today to state that, on the basis of messages he had received from the Falkland Islands, there was confusion as to whether the Government would pay for the passages of those who wished to leave or simply lend them the necessary money. He had taken it upon himself to inform the Islanders through his representative that if HMG did not reimburse the passages, he would arrange for the expenses to be met in one way or another.

I told Mr Needham that I would arrange for an FCO official to explain the details of our arrangements to him and John Slatcher kindly undertook to do this.

It is the Prime Minister's view that the Government should reimburse passages to Falkland Islanders who wish to leave the Islands temporarily. I understood from Mr Slatcher that this was in effect the intention but it would be helpful if I could have a note on that point to place before the Prime Minister.

B/F

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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