

GRS 295  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM PORT STANLEY 081745Z OCT 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 377 OF 8 OCTOBER

CONFIDENTIAL

YOUR TELNO 295: VIP VISITS

1. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE WERE NOT CONSULTED OVER THE VISIT OF THE ALL-PARTY GROUP FROM 28 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER, GIVEN THAT WE SHALL HAVE HAD TWO MINISTERIAL VISITS DURING OCTOBER. THE NUMBER OF MPS INVOLVED WILL MEAN THAT THE LOGISTICS OF TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE ISLANDS AND ACCOMMODATION WILL CAUSE A SEVERE STRAIN.
2. WE HAVE AGREED LOCALLY THAT THEY WILL BE FIELDLED MAINLY BY THE MILITARY WHO WILL GIVE FULL BRIEFING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE AIRFIELD, MINE CLEARANCE AND SO ON. I SHALL BRIEF ON CIVIL MATTERS.
3. MR ONSLOW CONSIDERS IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO BRIEF THE PARTY ON THE SHACKLETON REPORT VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE THEY LEAVE LONDON. FOR REASONS THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE, THIS WILL NEED TO BE HANDLED WITH CONSIDERABLE TACT.
4. AS FOR TIMING OF VISIT OF DEFENCE COMMITTEE, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE REINFORCEMENT EXERCISE IS LIKELY TO BE RE-SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN 1983 (BUT MOD WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE ON THIS) THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 20 TO 26 FEBRUARY. 6 TO 12 FEBRUARY WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE MOST SUITABLE FROM CIVIL POINT OF VIEW.
5. ON THE GENERAL TOPIC OF VISITS BY VIPS AND JOURNALISTS, WHILST WE UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES YOU ARE UNDER TO FACILITATE SUCH VISITS, YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT IN A SMALL COMMUNITY SUCH AS THIS THERE ARE ONLY A DOZEN (AT MOST) CIVIL OFFICIALS TO WHOM THEY CAN USEFULLY TALK. ALL ARE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE INTERRUPTED BY CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITORS. HOWEVER WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE SUITABLE CIVIL CONTENT FOR PROGRAMMES FOR VISITORS IN THESE CATEGORIES, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD BE CONSULTED WELL IN ADVANCE, IF ONLY TO ENSURE THAT BEDS ARE AVAILABLE. (SEE MIFT FOR DETAILS OF CIVIL ACCOMMODATION IN STANLEY).
6. GRATEFUL FOR NAMES ETC OF ALL-PARTY GROUP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

HUNT

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