



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans GCB CBE
Chairman
South Atlantic Fund
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall

23 November 1982

Dear Sir David,

I recently met some amputees who received their injuries in the Falklands campaign. Generally speaking the servicemen are satisfied with the attention and help they are receiving but they have one grievance.

They are extremely anxious as to their position under the South Atlantic Fund. No information as to what is likely to happen is being given to them. Meanwhile they are having to incur personal expenditure as a result of their injuries; eg the purchase of larger trousers and shoes because of artificial limbs, the installation of telephones where these were not previously necessary.

I did mention to them that it was possibly difficult for the Trustees of the Fund to make any announcement until the overall needs of those who had suffered had been ascertained. However this would not seem to preclude the Trustees from taking the initiative in making initial payments now, even of relatively modest sums, to meet the kind of personal expenditure I have indicated, without a formal application from the serviceman. I understand that you have been supplied with a complete list of all those injured and the extent of their injuries.

I promised them that I would write to see if anything could be done.

Yours sincerely
Hugh Rossi

HUGH ROSSI

P.S. You may have noted that in yesterday's debate in the House of Commons, David Tompkins, a former Secretary of State of this Dept., referred to the problem and suggested an immediate £2000 "on account".