

GRS 180

SECRET

SECRET

FROM PORT STANLEY 0121245Z JAN 1982  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 04 OF 12 JANUARY

DPP0619		
RECEIVED		
13 JAN 1982		
DESK OFFICER		
INDEX	PA	

POSSIBILITY OF A STRIKE.

1. IT IS RUMOURED THAT THE HOURLY PAID EMPLOYEES IN STANLEY INTEND TO CALL A STRIKE IF THEIR DEMAND FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THEIR ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AUTOMATIC QUARTERLY COST OF LIVING BONUS IS NOT MET. FIG CANNOT AFFORD TO CONCEDE THIS AS THE SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEGOTIATED LAST JUNE A FIFTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE AUTOMATIC QUARTERLY COST OF LIVING BONUS FOR CAMP EMPLOYEES AND TO CONTINUE TO GIVE IT TO STANLEY EMPLOYEES NOW WOULD MEAN RE-NEGOTIATING THE CAMP AGREEMENT, WHICH WITH THE PRESENT PRICE OF WOOL WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO REDUNDANCIES.

2. EMPLOYERS MEET THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' UNION AGAIN ON 14 JANUARY AND A STRIKE COULD BE CALLED FOR 15 JANUARY. IF THEY PLAY THEIR CARDS RIGHT, HOWEVER, THEY WILL DELAY STRIKE ACTION UNTIL THE CHARTER VESSEL ARRIVES TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH AND THEN BRING THE JETTY GANG OUT. IF JETTY GANG REFUSE TO WORK CHARTER VESSEL, I AM ADVISED THAT NO ISLANDER WOULD VOLUNTARILY TAKE THEIR PLACE. WE COULD THUS FACE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND I SHOULD EXPECT STRONG PRESSURE FROM FICO AND OTHERS TO USE ROYAL MARINES TO UNLOAD CARGO AND LOAD WOOL.

3. FINANCIAL SECRETARY TELLS ME THAT TWO PREVIOUS GOVERNORS HAVE GIVEN THE UNION ASSURANCES THAT MARINES WOULD NOT BE CALLED IN TO WORK CHARTER VESSEL IN THE EVENT OF A STRIKE BY THE JETTY GANG. I CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE OF THIS ON FILE, BUT TASKS IN DIRECTIVE TO OC NP8901 FROM CINCFLEET DO NOT INCLUDE SUCH A ROLE, BUT MERELY REFER TO SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE, IF SO REQUESTED. GRATEFUL FOR GUIDANCE.

HUNT

LIMITED  
S AM D  
OLA

MR DAY  
MR URE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

SECRET