

GRS 198
CONFIDENTIAL

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TELELETTER
FROM P R FEARN, SOUTH AMERICA DEPT
ALW 040/325/12 5 DECEMBER 1980
FOLLOWING FOR H M AMBASSADOR, BUENOS AIRES
CC THE GOVERNOR, PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM THE RETRACT REPORTS THAT MR RIDLEY WAS GIVEN SOMETHING OF A ROUGH RIDE WHEN HE MADE HIS STATEMENT TO THE COMMONS ABOUT HIS VISIT. FEELINGS RAN HIGH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE, DESPITE THE CLEAR ASSURANCES THAT THE ISLANDERS' WISHES WERE PARAMOUNT AND THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING SUBJECTED TO ANY PRESSURE WHATSOEVER.
2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT, WHEN YOU (AS WELL AS JOHN CHICK AND RICHARD GOZNEY) VISIT THE ISLANDS THIS MONTH, NO APPEARANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN OF GUIDING OR PRESSURISING THE ISLANDERS ON THEIR EVENTUAL REACTION TO LEASE-BACK OR OTHER PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONTEXT I SEE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF YOUR VISITS AS BEING RESPONSIVE: IF ASKED, TO DESCRIBE THE POSITION AS SEEN FROM BUENOS AIRES OBJECTIVELY BUT WITHOUT PAINTING TOO BLACK A PICTURE E.G. ON ARGENTINE REACTIONS IF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE BLOCKED. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT NO-ONE CAN CLAIM THAT THE ISLANDERS ARE BEING STEERED TO ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR LINE OF ACTION.

SIGNED P R FEARN