SECRETARIAT

1093/C

(Formerly) 144/44

1093/C

THE LIVESTOCK AMENDMENT

ORDINANCE. 1949.

IMPORTATION OF ~~BULLS~~.
LIVESTOCK FROM SOUTH AMERICA

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER	
1093/D	Importation of ~~Bulls~~ Dogs
1093/E	" " Donkeys
1093/H	Sheep Diseases

Draft letter to Darwin Shipping Ltd. [p.73]

' As you are aware, m.v."AES" is shortly to call at Mar-del-Plata en-route to the Falkland Islands and may possibly not be familiar with our regulations restricting the importation of meat, poultry eggs etc. from South America. / If the Master has not been acquainted with our current regulations I should be grateful if you would advise him accordingly.

These are:
(as in bracketed portion of Dir. Agric's. minute to see p.72)

Quarantine Periods

Sheep.

From South America 90 days ~~60 days~~
regulation 15

Otherwise 28 days. Schedule C

Cattle 28 days. "

Horses 14 days "

Pigs 30 days "

Goats 30 days "

Dogs

From Countries ~~not rabies~~ free not known to be rabies free or from any country in South America — Schedule D 180 days

From the U.K. or rabies free countries if the ship has called ~~out~~ at South America or the necessary certificates cannot be given — Schedule D 90 days

If the ship has not called at South America or if the necessary certificates can be given — nil Schedule D

Other animals — 30 days Schedule C.

The periods of quarantine
are now arranged in the
ancient form.
Some appear under Schedule
C ~~or [illegible]~~ some under
Schedule D or some under regulation
15.
We should get out a list
of quarantine periods and it
should be kept at a convenient place
— the back of the file I think —
and produced whenever a question
is raised in the Co.
A.O. should carry a copy.
This is what it appears to be
but I should like A O to check
it.

PTO.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON 31st JULY, 1962.

1. Application for reduction of quarantine period.

An application from the Managers of Roy Cove, Chartres and Teal Inlet to release Bulls imported from Uruguay before the expiration of the 28 days' quarantine period provided under the Live Stock Regulations was disallowed. It was also asked whether it was wise to allow importation of stock from Uruguay at all and it was agreed that further enquiries should be made.

(Sgd.) H. L. Bound

Clerk of Executive Council.

FH
Copied TB

Original in 1093/II
folio 412a

2

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Wt P2809 5/61

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			31.7.62

To

etat PRODROME MONTEVIDEO HOA/c

Three bulls being imported by Darwin sailing 3rd stop I have granted permit to import but some doubt has now been expressed about wisdom of importing cattle from Uruguay stop Bulls on arrival will be quarantined for 28 days stop Please advise how much danger there is of introduction of foot and mouth disease through these animals stop Bulls are supplied by Eduardo Jones stop If appreciable danger exists and bulls have not left farm please use your discretion in delaying export on my behalf till decision is made before September voyage

See 3

Time

~~Colonial Secretary~~ ~~See 4/1~~

Officer Administering the Government

44
3

DECODE.

No. 23/19.

TELEGRAM.

From Brain, Montevideo.

To Governor, Stanley.

Despatched: 1st August, 1962 *Time:* 1227

Received: 2nd August, 1962 *Time:* 1500

PRIORITY.

Bulls are not being shipped until September sailing and will be accompanied by certificate of clean bill of health from Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture.

Brain

PL : TB

A.O. informed — [signature] 3.8.62.

I will 'phone Mr. Barton. Inform Agric. Officer. Telegraph to the purchasers. KIV for letter from Ambassador.

DM 2.8.62

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

95 4

Wt P2809 5/61

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			4.8.62

To

etat TM2 MANAGER ROY COVE MANAGER CHARTRES HOA/c

Bulls not being shipped Montevideo until September and will be accompanied by clean bill of health from Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture

Officer Administering the Government

Time RB/TB

49

~~416~~

1093/II O.i.C. Agric. Dept.

Papers returned, pl. (fs. 412 + 376 refer)

[signature] for C.S.

4. 8. 62

KIV - Letter from Mod. re. bulls

1093/II

~~419~~ 5

23rd August, 62.

Sir,

~~3~~ 2 I refer to my telegram of 31st July regarding the importation of Bulls from Uruguay. At present there is no special prohibition on the importation of animals from Uruguay but it appears that previously we have been advised that it would not be wise to import owing chiefly, I think, to the risk of introducing foot and mouth disease.

2. You will agree that the introduction of such a disease to our small isolated farming centre would be disastrous and I would appreciate any information you can offer regarding the risks taken when animals are purchased from Uruguay, and any advice as to whether importation should be prohibited in future.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

R.H.D. Manders

Officer Administering the Government

H.B.M. Ambassador,
Montevideo,
URUGUAY.

By 30. 8. 62.

HLB/LH

See ~~422~~ 6.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 15.

From Mr. Brain, Montevideo.

To Governor, Stanley.

Despatched : 3rd September, 19 62. *Time :* 1722

Received : 4th September, 19 62. *Time :* 1030

PRIORITY.

00903. Your letter 1093/II of August 23rd. Bulls we have further consulted Uruguayan authorities but can suggest no measures additional to those in your telegram of July 31st and my telegram No. 8 of August, 1st.

We are however writing to our Agricultural Attache in Buenos Aires and will let you know by September 19th if he has further advice.

Brain

P/L : LH

~~425~~
6a

DECODE.

No. 28.

TELEGRAM.

From Mr. Brain, Montevideo.

To Governor, Port Stanley.

Despatched: 18th September, *19* 62. *Time:* 1752

Received: 19th September, *19* 62. *Time:*

PRIORITY. IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Officer Administering the Government Falkland Islands telegram No. 10 of September 18th repeated for information to Colonial Office and Saving to Buenos Aires (for Agricultural Attache) my telegram No. 9 (not to Colonial Office) bulls, on veterinary advice Agricultural Attache considers importation an extremely bad risk they would not be allowed into United Kingdom.

2. If you wish nevertheless to take risk it is essential to keep them on arrival in properly supervised quarantine preferably with one or two local cattle as guinea pigs bulls were vaccinated here over three weeks ago and could be re-vaccinated before shipment Attache advises however that you first consult Colonial Office Veterinary Advisory Officer who will know of other precautions already taken from Jones letter 1511/62 of September 3rd to Mill.

3. Deadline for loading bulls is midday September 20th please advise by then whether shipment is to be cancelled.

Brain

Reply at ~~4/24~~ 10

P/L : LH

Copy A.O.

~~427~~
7

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 36.

From Mr. Brain, Montevideo.

To British Government, Secretary.

Despatched: 19th September, *19* 62. *Time:* 1242

Received: 20th September, *19* 62. *Time:* 1015

'PHONED. PRIORITY.

~~424~~ 6a 01119. Your telegram of September 19th. Action taken.

Brain

P/L : LH

KIV – ~~42~~

– (mail) – No mail 27.9.62.

now folios 415 & 416 of 1098/V

7a
~~428~~ 420 & 421 X

We request to be allowed to use a thrown dish [illegible] will be submitted to Council.

[illegible] seems likely to be [illegible].

A suggestion has been made that it would be better to arrange for a party to be sent out on a far side.

The strong depth experiment being conducted next March.

OR 29/4/62

~~426~~ 8

Hon. Col. Treasurer

Hon A.G. Barton CBE JP

I attach copies of telegrams exchanged in connection with the importation of Bulls from Montevideo. The Manager, Teal Inlet will be informed by 'phone.

Would you please confirm your agreement to the action taken.

[signature] 19.9.62

I agree. [signature] 18.9.62.

I agree. [signature] 19.9.62.

By mail 26.9.62

425
9

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			19.9.62

To

TM2
MANAGER ROY COVE BY W/T HOA/c
MANAGER CHARTRES

Following received from British Ambassador Montevideo begins Bulls stop On veterinary advice Agricultural Attache considers importation an extremely bad risk they would not be allowed into United Kingdom stop newpara If you wish nevertheless to take risk it is essential to keep them on arrival in properly supervised quarantine preferably with one or two local cattle as guinea pigs bulls were vaccinated here over three weeks ago and could be re-vaccinated before shipment Attache advises however that you first consult Colonial Office Veterinary Advisory Officer who will know of other precautions already taken from Jones letter 1511/62 of September 3rd to Hill stop newpara Deadline for loading bulls is midday September 20th please advise by then whether shipment is to be cancelled ends stop newpara In view of this and on advice of resident Executive Council members I have reluctantly withdrawn permit to import and requested Ambassador to cancel shipment accordingly

Secretary

Copy to.

Time HLB/LH

~~424~~ 10

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Wt. P2809 5/61

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			19.9.62

To

etat PRIORITY IMMEDIATE PRODROME MONTEVIDEO HOA/c
(Conf. copy 'phoned 9.55 am 19th)

~~425~~ 6a Yourtel 18th September In view of advice Agricultural Attache have withdrawn permit to import bulls stop Grateful you cancel shipment immediately stop Please confirm action taken

Governor

Copy to AO

Time HLB/LH

Reply at ~~[illegible]~~ 7

BERTRAND & FELTON LTD.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
8 OCT 1962
FALKLAND ISLANDS

ROY COVE,

FALKLAND ISLANDS

432
12

October 8th 1962

The Hon.,
The Colonial Secretary.
STANLEY.

Sir,

9 I refer to your telegram of September relating to the withdrawal of official permission to import bulls from Uruguay.

It would appear that rather hasty action has been taken as a result of (to me) very insufficient and vague information from Montevideo.

We do not want to have foot-and-mouth disease in this Colony and I would certainly not wish to be an importer of any animal that brought the disease in, but the situation is not as dangerous as the Embassy expert seems to think. We know that there is foot-and -mouth in the Uruguay but so there is intermittently in the U.K. and on occasions in the U.K. the outbreak is heavy. Cattle can always be exported from the U.K. provided that there is no movement of stock from or through the infected area. Surely therefore these conditions could apply to export from Uruguay.

To the best of my knowledge Senor Jones (the seller of the Red Poll bulls) whose estancia is in the north of Uruguay, has his farm free from foot-and-mouth and always has been; in any case this is very easily checked. If this be so I can see no reason why the bulls could not travel direct from Senor Jones estancia by truck (disinfected if necessary) to the side of the "Darwin" in Montevideo.

Quarantine period in the U.K. is reckoned at 4 weeks; by which I mean that infected premises where there has been an outbreak of the disease are considered safe for re-stocking 4 weeks after thorough disinfection. Surely therefore these bulls on arrival could be housed in the Quarantine Station for 4 weeks (or 6 if safer) and then released after inspection.

I submit that too precipitate action has been taken locally on too insufficient information from Montevideo and I would request Government to obtain and produce to importers here something more definite than contained in your telegram and with a view to what I have written above re export from the U.K. from clean areas.

Foot-and-mouth disease travels in many ways other than on the infected animal. The Colony runs some risk in importing bacon from the Argentine and I should think similar risk in importing maize & pollard and oats which can easily be grown in an infected area and carry germs.

Birds are considered one of the chief sources of the disease entering U.K. from the Continent, and equally the feedstuffs I refer to above could carry infection. The likelihood I admit is small but the likelihood of carriage by animals handled properly from a clean area is no bigger.

Yours faithfully,

Sydney Miller

Manager.

Ack'd.
9.10.62.

13
433

See 20.

14
Note 428 for ex co
7a
12
BU 432 after ...

KIV – x/ at 428 7a to be submitted to Ex. Co.
Noted for Ex Co ... No ... 20/10/62
BU more 18.10.62

Y.E.,

1093/II 12 and 421 are for consideration. It is convenient first to dispose of 421. This is already on Ex. Co. Agenda. Mr. Barton and Mr. Gilruth approve of the shower method which has none of the disadvantages of the spray method. There is no need to amend the ordinance in view of the definition of 'dipping' as amended by 13 of 1959. We would not, I think want to go as far as to approve the shower dip in general in case some inferior type of shower was used. The one which Mr. Clement intends to use has been studied by Messrs. Barton and Gilruth (the description pamphlet) and his application can be approved.

As regards 12 this involves the question of what restriction (other than ordinary quarantine restrictions) we are to put on import of cattle from South America in general or Uruguay in particular. So far there is none. Government got a bull from Punta by the last Darwin to go there and A.O. had given permission for bulls to be imported from Monte for Chartres, Roy Cove and Teal Inlet. This only came up to Ex. Co. by chance - see 1. Mr. Gilruth mentioned at the meeting that at a previous meeting about 2 or 3 years ago Y.E. had said that we had been advised that it would by unwise to import cattle from Uruguay.
1093/II Subsequent history is at 413, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6a and of course 12. I do not think we need try to get out a memo on this but it is likely to be brought up anyhow and I think we could conveniently bring it up after Mr. Clement's shower. Members may have views and information; all I can suggest is to address S/S (in view of para 2 of 6a) and get advice on the whole question of importation from South America. We can reply to Mr. Miller further after the meeting.

DM
25.10.62

16

I WD. THINK IMPORTATION OF BULLS SHOULD HAVE A SEPARATE FILE WITH A CROSS REFERENCE IF NECESSARY.

EPA 25.10.62

Copied from b.c. of 1093/II

17. Y.E. I am sorry I forgot to bring the matter of the bulls up at [illegible] [illegible] meeting. I asked Mr Barton to-day and he said he could give no useful information and he did [illegible] think any other member would have be[illegible]
[illegible]

advice from the Ministry of Agriculture or Fisheries. (We would actually of course address the Colonial Office.)

I think this is the best thing to do.

X/ Shall I do so and tell Mr. Miller that we are seeking further advice

[initials]

7/11/62

18

[initials]

8.11.62

F. I. ref: 1093/C

C. O. ref:

19

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 19th November, 1962.

No. 176. SAVING. COLONY.

The question of importation of cattle from South America has recently been receiving my attention. At present there is no prohibition on this and animals would be allowed in on compliance with the ordinary quarantine conditions prescribed under the Livestock Ordinance and Regulations in Volumes I and II of Laws of the Falklands. Bulls have frequently been imported from Chile. Recently on an application in respect of the proposed importation of three bulls which were being supplied by Eduardo Jones in Uruguay and were to have been shipped on the 3rd of July, after some correspondence, the following telegram was received from the Embassy, Montevideo, on 18th of September -

6a

"Addressed to Officer Administering the Government Falkland Islands telegram No. 10 of September 18th repeated for information to Colonial Office and Saving to Buenos Aires (for Agricultural Attache) my telegram No. 9 (not to Colonial Office) bulls, on veterinary advice Agricultural Attache considers importation an extremely bad risk they would not be allowed into United Kingdom.

2. If you wish nevertheless to take risk it is essential to keep them on arrival in properly supervised quarantine preferably with one or two local cattle as guinea pigs bulls were vaccinated here over three weeks ago and could be re-vaccinated before shipment Attache advises however that you first consult Colonial Office Veterinary Advisory Officer who will know of other precautions already taken from Jones letter 1511/62 of September 3rd to Mill."

2. If importation of bulls from South America is to be prohibited or to be the subject of special restrictions our regulation will require amendment. On the other hand the necessity for such restrictions has been queried in some quarters.

3. I should therefore be grateful for advice as to whether there is danger of introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease or other diseases from Montevideo or other ports in South America, especially Punta Arenas in Chile, and if so whether such danger can be avoided by special precautions or whether importation should be totally prohibited.

GOVERNOR

RHDM/FH

KIV X on opposite page

1093/C. 20

21 November, 62.

Sir,

12 I am directed to refer to your letter of the 8th October, 1962, and to inform you that the whole question of importation of cattle from South America is receiving consideration and that further advice is being obtained on the matter to enable a decision to be made on future policy.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

S. Miller, Esq., J.P.,
ROY COVE.

HDM/IM.

BU ~~15.7.63~~ (R 19)
BU ~~10.2.63~~
30 3 63

No mail
JH
12.2.63

21

BUF

Our Ref. FST. 104/352/01

Your Ref. 1093/C

S A V I N G

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies

To the Officer Administering the Government of,

FALKLAND ISLANDS (COLONY)

Date 30 January, 1963.

No. 6 Saving

19 Your savingram No. 176 of the 19th November.

Importation of Cattle from South America

Animal Health Adviser comments that:-

"As sheep are susceptible to foot and mouth disease I would prohibit importation of livestock into the Falkland Islands from any country where this disease exists.

Even if cattle from a disease free country cost more initially it would be cheaper in the long run to purchase there and to avoid altogether the risk of introduction of this disease. Britain has a well organised veterinary service to deal with the disease if it is introduced, the Falkland Islands have none at all and people who query restrictions usually have vested interests.

My advice is total prohibition except from disease free countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and U.S.A.) are all disease free."

2. Should you require further advice you may wish to write to the Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre, Caixa Postal 589, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Dr. W.M. Henderson). He is completely familiar with the position with regard to this disease in South America.

SECER.

22.

G. E.

We might I think discuss in Ex Co in the first instance. I am not sure whether they suggest us including sheep as well

23

and whether they mean that U.K. should be excluded. Ex Co members will I think be able to help us.

[initials] 22/2/63

24

HCS

Yes. Rams have been imported from Punta regularly, I think.

[initials] 27.2.63

[initials]

25

Prohibit bulls etc at once, not Rams

25

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 1/63 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON THE 6TH 7TH & 8TH MARCH, 1963

1093/C 19. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Council advised that further advice should be sought from the Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease centre Rio de Janeiro with regard to the risk of introducing this infection when importing live stock from Uruguay and Chile. Meanwhile the automatic acceptance of applications to import from South America should be withheld and each application submitted to the Colonial Secretary for individual consideration.

Clerk of Executive Council

LH

1093/C

12th, March, 63.

To: Officer-in-Charge,
Agricultural Department,
STANLEY.

From: The Colonial Secretary,

Importation of Live Stock from South America

I am directed to inform you that until further notice no applications for permission to import live stock from South America should be granted without reference to me.

(Sgd) ~~H. L. Bound.~~

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

HLB/FH

1093/C.

12th March, 63.

Sir,

The importation of live stock from South America with its attendant risk of introducing Foot and Mouth disease and other serious infections has been under consideration for some time. In view of recent advice and pending further elucidation it has been decided that no importation of live stock from South America should take place without special permission being granted.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ~~H.L.~~ Bound

~~for~~ COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Secretary,
Sheep Owners' Association,
STANLEY.

RHDM/IM

1093/C

28

15th March, 63.

Sir,

I am directed to address you on the question of importation of cattle and live stock from South America to the Falkland Islands. It has long been the practice to import rams from Chile via Punta Arenas into this country to improve the stock of sheep on which of course the economy of this Colony entirely depends. It has also been found necessary on many occasions to import horses from Chile via Punta Arenas. Stud bulls have also been imported from Punta Arenas by Government, the last occasion being 1962. In July 1962 there was a proposal on the part of some Farmers to import bulls from Montevideo, and as some doubt was expressed as to the wisdom of such a step, in view of the danger of introduction of foot and mouth disease, the advice of the Ambassador in Montevideo was sought and eventually permission to import the bulls was refused. In order that the best possible advice should be obtained with a view to deciding what policy should be adopted in future the Secretary of State for the Colonies was addressed and he has written as follows:-

21

"Importation of Cattle from South America

Animal Health Advisor comments that:-

"As sheep are susceptible to foot and mouth disease I would prohibit importation of live stock into the Falkland Islands from any country where this disease exists.

Even if cattle from a disease free country cost more initially it would be cheaper in the long run to purchase there and to avoid altogether the risk of introduction/this disease. Britain has a well organised veterinary service to deal with the disease if it is introduced, the Falkland Islands have none at all and people who query restrictions usually have vested interests.

/of

My advice is total prohibition except from disease free countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA) are all disease free."

2. Should you require further advice you may wish to write to the Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre, Caixa Postal 589, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Dr. W. M. Henderson). He is completely familiar with the position with regard to this disease in South America."

2. It would/.......

Dr. W. M. Henderson,
Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre,
Caixa Postal 589,
Rio de Janeiro,
BRAZIL.

Reply at 37 - 38

RHDM/FH

2. It would appear that the advice of the Animal Health Advisor to the Secretary of State is that no live stock of any kind should be imported into this Colony in future except from Australia, New Zealand, Canada or USA. Such a prohibition could not fail to affect the economy of the country adversely. On the other hand it would appear to be undesirable to run any risks of introducing an outbreak of foot and mouth disease into the Falklands. I should therefore be very grateful for your advice on this subject particularly in respect of the importation of (a) sheep (b) horses (c) bulls.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) R.H.D.Manders.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

KIV 25A

Hon C.S.

F.I.C. Office enquires if we have accepted the a/c for expenses incurred in See 32/ Montevideo i.c.w. the handling of Bulls in Montevideo

31

[signature] 23.3.63

This was produced at ExCo weeks ago I think H.E. handed it to H.C.T. & said we would have to pay. Or is it still with you? I am sure we must pay.

[initials] 25/3/63.

32

Hon C.T.

The a/c is not with me. Can you say if it has been accepted for pay't. pl?

[signature] 15.3.63

33

H.C.S.,

We are awaiting a meeting of SFC for the funds to be voted. I can put up a special warrant if the matter is urgent.

L.G.

25.3.63

34

FC infd. that matter will be ~~[illegible]~~ considered at next SFC in time.

[signature] 28.3.63

BU SFC 1.6.63. [K/U 5 pl] [initials]

35

BERTRAND & FELTON, LTD.

ROY COVE,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

COLONIAL SECRETARY
13 APR 1963
FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Hon.,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

April 9th 1963.

Sir,

12, 20

I refer to my letter of October 8th and your reply of Nov.2nd in respect of importation of stud cattle from South America.

Some considerable time has now elapsed and I would be glad to learn how far the matter has progressed as this farm is wanting to obtain a pedigree Red Poll bull and those that were available in Uruguay in August 1962 may not be available for very much longer.

Yours faithfully,

Sydney Miller

Manager.

Pl draft reply

Ack'd
13.4.63.

Reply at 36.

See 49

1093/C

36

19. April, 63.

Sir,

35 I am directed to refer to your letter of 9th April, regarding the importation of stud cattle from South America and to inform you that the question of importing live stock from South America, with its attendant risks of introducing foot and mouth disease, was referred to the Colonial Office for advice, and on their advice I have now addressed the Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre, Rio, and am awaiting a further reply.

Acc 37 2. In the circumstances it is regretted that all applications to import cattle from South America must await the outcome of this enquiry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(R.H.D. Manders)

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

BU 1 6.63 (58) (34)

S. Miller, Esq., J.P.,
ROY COVE.

HLB/LH

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER*
CAIXA POSTAL 589 - RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A-267/63
AMRO-77

CABLE ADDRESS: PANAFTOSA

29 March 1963

The Colonial Scretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

28-29 Thank you for your letter nº 1093/C of 15 March on the question of importing sheep, horses and bulls.

The advice that you have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies is very sound but we believe that some qualifications can be made.

For example, the list of countries free of foot-and-mouth disease is rather restricted. To this list can be added Mexico, the countries of Central America, Panama and the territories and islands of the Caribbean, in this hemisphere alon

The southern areas of Argentina and Chile merit special attention. Althoug it is not possible to make a categorical declaration that the region of Patagonia is free of foot-and-mouth disease, there has been no evidence of the disease south of about the 48th. parallel. Outbreaks have, however, occurred in the Prc vince of Aysen, Chile, and in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina. Furthermore, there appears to be movement of cattle without adequate sanitary control from these areas to the south. Some risk would, therefore, be encurred by importing cattle and sheep from Punta Arenas but this risk is relatively small and, as you have demonstrated, there may be no untoward results.

The situation in the island of Tierra del Fuego is much more promising. It is the general opinion that the island is free of foot-and-mouth disease. In connexion with the export of frozen lamb from the frigorifico in Rio Grande, a survey is at this moment being conducted in the island under the supervision of this Center to determine the exact status of the sheep and cattle population with reference to foot-and-mouth disease.

If the results of this survey confirm the general belief that the island is free you can be advised to import sheep from there. I understand that the quality is sufficiently good to justify importation. Although there are cattle on the island, the quality is probably inferior to what you would require.

./...

To summarize the situation with regard to the three species we recommend:

Sheep: No importation from South America except from Tierra del Fuego provided the results of the present survey are favourable. (We shall inform you when they are obtained.)

Cattle: No importation from South America.

Horses: Horses, not being susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, do not present a problem as the risk of survival of the virus if accidentally contaminated is sufficiently small to be disregarded. The importation of horses, therefore, from Punta Arenas can be continued.

We wish to point out that our advice is restricted to our knowledge of foot-and-mouth disease. It may be advisable to note that blue tongue and scrapy of sheep and certain tick-borne diseases of cattle are present in some countries free of foot-and-mouth disease.

Please do not hesitate to consult us again should you wish further information.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. M. Henderson

Wm. M. Henderson
Director

K.V. Bell 26

39

G.G. 37 & 38 for information.

I still don't know when we are to set our bulls ✓ but we can discuss in Ex Co

[illegible] 21/4/62

40

[illegible] 22.5.63

[illegible]

? [illegible] for [illegible] Co [illegible]

BW Ex Co 30.5.63

41

We should find out [illegible] [illegible]
of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible]
[illegible] & if necessary [illegible] our regulations

meanwhile we could get from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Station [illegible] adjoining the Straits of Magellan
[illegible] we should also write to [illegible] [illegible] & also
again to Buenos Aires.

(South of ~~[illegible]~~ GALLEGOS river is safe).

42

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 2/63 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON THE 28TH 29TH 30TH & 31ST MAY, 1963

1093/C 18. IMPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Pending receipt of further information Council advised that the importation of sheep, ~~cattle and horses~~ from South America be restricted to that area of the Argentine and Chile lying South of Rio Gallegos. The importation of cattle should be altogether prohibited.

Clerk of the Council

LH

1093/H

143

5th June, 63.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Government has recently had under consideration the question of importation of live stock from South America with its attendant risk of introducing disease.

2. There are two diseases which this Government is specially considering at the present time. The first is foot-and-mouth disease. The second is a disease which is said to have reached Patagonia lately and was first described as 'itchmite' but is now reported to be in fact resistant scab.

21 37 3. Advice on the problem of foot-and-mouth disease has been sought from the Animal Health Adviser in England and the Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centre in Rio de Janeiro. The advice of the former is as follows 'As sheep are susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease I would prohibit importation of live stock into the Falkland Islands from any country where this disease exists. My advice is total prohibition except from disease free countries'. He suggested however that we should also consult the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centre and the advice of the latter is as follows -

> 'Sheep: No importation from South America except from Tierra del Fuego provided the results of the present survey are favourable. (We shall inform you when they are obtained).
>
> Cattle: No importation from South America.
>
> Horses: Horses, not being susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, do not present a problem as the risk of survival of the virus if accidentally contaminated is sufficiently small to be disregarded. The importation of horses, therefore, from Punta Arenas can be continued.'

They also pointed out that their advice is restricted to their knowledge of foot-and-mouth disease and said that it may be desirable to note that blue tongue and scrapy of sheep and certain tick-borne diseases of cattle are present in some countries free of foot-and-mouth disease.

10 in 1093/H 4. As regards itchmite or resistant scab the following questions were put to the Crown Agents on 5th April, 1963 -

1. Whether itchmite or any similar disease actually occurs in Patagonia.

2. If so what exactly the disease is.

3. Whether there is any preparation which they would recommend to be applied to any sheep which might be imported from Patagonia to this Colony during the quarantine period to prevent all danger of such disease developing amongst the animals in quarantine and spreading to other animals when the quarantine period was over.

They have noted our queries and promised a further reply in due course. As a result it is now proposed to limit the importation of sheep and cattle in South America to the region south of Rio Gallegos.

5. Current/........

Copy to 1093/C ✓

53 + 54.

Reply at ~~26-37~~ in 1093/H

J.L. Blake, Esq.,
Estancia Condor,
Territorio Santa Cruz,
ARGENTINA.

RHDM/IM.

44 ~~45~~ ~~45~~

5. Current reports suggest the presence of itchmite in southern South America although it seems doubtful if the infection has spread as far south as Rio Gallegos.

6. It has been suggested that with your experience in this part and Chile and Argentine, you might be good enough to consider the problem and let this Government have your comments particularly with regard to risks that might subsequently arise from permitting live stock to be imported from this area. In particular Government would welcome your advice on the following points:-

i. Would you agree with Government's opinion that is is reasonably safe to import sheep from south of Rio Gallegos and from nowhere else in South America?

ii. From where would you suggest that bulls could be imported?

iii. What precautions would you suggest against itchmite or resistant scab?

iv. Do you consider that there are any other diseases of animals for which special precautions are advisable other than the usual quarantine of animals.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

RHDM/IM.

1098/H.

45

MEMORANDUM

From

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY LTD.,
DARWIN.

3rd. June. 1963.

To The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

Dear Sir,

In Stanley last week nobody knew the incubation period of FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - I checked in my various publications when I returned to Darwin and the answer is 12 hours to 12 days.
It is a contagious and eruptive fever due to a specific filterable virus of which there are four types of variants.
All animals may suffer from the disease but cattle, sheep and pigs are especially liable. Human beings may also become infected.
Treatment is not permitted in the United Kingdom. Confirmation of the existance of Foot and Mouth Disease on any farm means immediate slaughter of all cattle, sheep and pigs and the closing of the farm by Government order for six to eight weeks. Government pays the stock owner the market value of the animals destroyed.

This, briefly, is the information you were seeking.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Ack'd
JH.
7.6.63.

46

1093/C.

46

12th June, 63.

Sir,

#45 I am directed to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 3rd June, 1963. I think the question was raised as to whether our period of quarantine was adequate for Foot and Mouth Disease and since it is 28 days for cattle and 30 days for pigs and goats it would appear that the period is adequate although it is not of course suggested that this fact alone would justify the lack of other precautions.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R.H.D. Manders

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Honourable,
T.A. Gilruth, J.P.,
STANLEY.

RHDM/IM.

KIV 42

G. E.

47

I am very sorry that I let through the Ex Co minutes with a mistake — vide 42.

The words "cattle or horses" should be omitted and we should add a sentence "the importation of cattle should be altogether prohibited."

I consulted Mr Harding who agreed.

✓ May I now send out an amendment?

[illegible] 24/6/63

48

[illegible]
25.6.63.

1093/C

49

5th July, 63.

Sir,

35 I am directed to refer to your letter of the 9th April, 1963, regarding the importation of stud cattle from Uruguay and to inform you that enquiries are still being made regarding the risks attached to importing live stock generally from South America.

2. Pending the receipt of full information it has been decided to take the precaution of restricting the importation of sheep from the area south of Rio Gallegos and to prohibit the importation of cattle from South America completely.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ~~H. L.~~ Bound

for COLONIAL SECRETARY.

S. Miller, Esq., J.P.,
STANLEY.

HLB/IM.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Ref: 1093/C

4th July, 1963.

Sir,

It is regretted that the ruling regarding the importation of live stock from South America has been wrongly quoted in the Minutes of Executive Council held on 28th - 31st May, 1963.

42

2. Page 4 item 18 should therefore be amended by deleting the words "cattle and horses" and adding "The importation of cattle should be altogether prohibited".

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Clerk of the Council.

To: All Executive Council Members.

HLB/LH

51

Mr C.T.

32/33. Can you say if this account has now been settled pl?

[signature] 8.7.63

52

H.C.S.

Paid on P.V. 373 of 29/6/63.

L.G.
10.7.63

B/U 15.9.63 (R 43)

The reply to 43 is in somewhere?

✓ See 26+27 in 1093/H. attached

Pl. have it copied to this file. [signature]

COPY   Original in 1093/H

53

THE PATAGONIAN SHEEP FARMING COMPANY (1908) LTD.

16 Coleman Street,
LONDON, E.C.2.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

17th April, 1963.

Dear Sir,

43 - 44

I received yesterday your letter dated 5th June, 1963, having been forwarded from Condor to me in England, where I am now on leave.

Itch-Mite (also known as False Scab, Resistant Scab and (in Patagonia) as Australian Scab). Itch-mite was first described as an affection differing from the common scab in Australia, where most of the work has been done. It is caused by a mite, Psoregates Ovis, which is much smaller than the Sarcoptic or Psoroptic mites and very difficult to detect. It has been fully described, and as I am unable to do so now as I have not the information by me, I suggest you apply to the Australian authorities as as far as I know the disease is not known in this country. Suffice it to say that it causes scab-like symptoms with consequent loss of condition.

Unfortunately not much is known about the life cycle, and it is extremely difficult to find mites, even on sheep known to be suffering from the disease. As much as 50 skin scrapings have sometimes been taken off a single animal, which had been artificially infested, before a single mite was found. It seems to bury itself very deep in the skin at times, but not at others.

This of course makes control extremely difficult. Diagnosis by the farmer is practically impossible, and neither chlorinated hydrocarbons (Gammexane, BHC, Dieldrin etc) nor the newer organic phosphorated compounds so far in use (Diazinon, Nankor, Asuntol etc.) have any effect. Claims from very new compounds in this class have been made, but as far as I know insufficient field work has been done on them to be certain. Control in Australia is done almost exclusively with arsenical dips or with polysulphides (lime and sulphur). These are said to be effective, but their use is of course a retro-grade step as far as other parasites (e.g. Keds) are concerned, and also they detract from the appearance of the wool.

There does however seem to be some indication that the mite prefers warmer climates and denser-woolled sheep. In patagonia it has spread from the Province of Buenos Aires down as far as San Julian, and there it seems to stop. While the odd case has been found in Corriedales near San Julian, this also coincides with the southward limit of Merinos and certainly as far as I know there has been no further spread south over at least two years. It would appear, therefore, that your proposed measures of allowing imports of sheep from south of the Gallegos River would be safe enough.

Foot and Mouth disease. While it is, I suppose, technically possible for F. & M. to exist in Patagonia since it is geographically contiguous with the northern provinces where this disease exists, in point of fact it does not. If it did, taking into account the enormous numbers of sheep run, we would know all about it. Cattle are hardly run at all in the central part, except in the Andean foot-hills, but are run in considerable numbers south of the Coyle River. F. & M. has been diagnosed in Rio Gallegos; this occurred about 20 years ago in a dairy herd near the town, one case among a number of cows brought down from Buenos Aires. This herd is now non-existent, and there has never been any suggestion of F. & M. among range cattle.

5+

As a farmer, personally I would be quite happy to allow imports of cattle also from Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia south of the Gallegos River. It is quite ridiculous to prohibit imports from the a/m island. However I realise this may not be good enough for the veterinary authorities.

Sources of Bulls. In any case I do not see why you need to consider imports from South America at all; only British Breeds are used in the Islands so surely the best source is from the United Kingdom?

****

I hope to have answered all your questions. Regarding para 6(iv) I do not know of any others; blue tongue does not exist in Argentina and the most stringent regulations prevail regarding imports from the African continent; I have never heard of scrapie in South America but it is a curious disease.

Finally I must state most definitely that I can only speak within my knowledge of Southern Argentina and to some extent of Chile; I am not prepared to make any recommendations which might be applied to Uruguay, or any other S.A. country.

If there is any further way in which I can assist I shall be most happy to do so. I shall be returning to Condor in September. However should you wish to do so, I recommend sending your letter via the Consulate in Uruguay or Punta Arenas, or a business firm in Montevideo; your letter reached me intact but it is usually risky to send letters posted and franked in the Falkland Islands through the Argentine mails.

Yours faithfully

(Sgd.) J.L. Blake

55

EXTRACT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 4/63 HELD ON THE 20TH, 21ST & 22ND NOVEMBER, 1963.

IMPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Having received advice from various sources both in the United Kingdom and South America, Council confirmed their opinion that the importation of sheep from South America should be restricted to the area lying south of Rio Gallegos and that the importation of cattle from South America should be altogether prohibited.

Clerk of the Executive Council

O/c Agric
to note, please.
L.G.
13.12.63

H.C.S.
Noted thank you
G.B.S.
5/3/64
PA

IM

56

ROSS HOUSE
PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS

Oct. 6th, 1970.

<u>Importation of Sheep ex Uruguay.</u>

Sir,

One or two farms have made preparations to import some top stud sheep from Uruguay, but today I learn that in 1963 Legislation was enacted to prevent this importation from South America, except south of Rio Gallegos in Patagonia.

As preparations have gone some way towards selection of these sheep by Mr Robin Pitaluga on <u>20th October</u> on his way back to the Colony, I would be very grateful if Executive Council could meet briefly to say yea or nay about repealing this regulation. Sheep very rarely get Foot & Mouth disease, because of which this regulation was made; in addition the veterinary authorities in Uruguay have offered to ~~to~~ do any vaccination we may require against this disease.

Furthermore I should perhaps point out that quite unwittingly several farms have already been breaking this regulation as all pedigree importations which have been coming over the last 7 years from Australasia, have come by air and therefore literally 'through' Uruguay from aiport to lighter in the harbour.

I would therefore request a very quick decision from the Council as a xxxx yes or no to Maclean & Stapledon is necessary within ten days or so.

Yours faithfully,

The Hon.,
The Colonial Secretary.
STANLEY.

reply 57

1093/C

57

6th October 70.

Dear Sir,

56

I refer to your letter of today's date and our recent conversation regarding the importation of sheep from Uruguay.

2. The ruling you refer to was made by Executive Council on the 20th November 1963 and the following minute was recorded.

> "Having received advice from various sources both in the United Kingdom and South America, Council confirmed their opinion that the importation of sheep from South America should be restricted to the area lying south of Rio Gallegos and that the importation of cattle from South America should be altogether prohibited."

3. As we agreed, an application to reverse this decision would obviously need careful consideration involving further advice from outside sources, thus you will appreciate that an early decision could not be expected.

Yours faithfully,

(H. L. Bound)
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Honourable,
S. Miller, J.P.,
STANLEY.

AC.

58

Copy from file 2103/11

1093/C

W.r.t. 11 the question does, of course raise serious considerations of policy. If there is now no application on the floor there is no need for the question to appeat formally on the agenda: but a letter should be written to Mr. R. H. Ewart, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Attache at the Argentine, asking for his advice on the problem since a renewed request must be expected for such importations to be allowed into the Colony. If we are able to say that this has been done before the matter is raised orally in Exco. so much the better.

14/10/70

JB

1093/C

59

14th October 70.

Dear Sir,

The question of importing live stock, particularly pedigree stud sheep from Uruguay, has recently been raised and I am to enquire if you would be good enough to advise whether you consider such action could result in the risk of introducting Foot and Mouth or other diseases and if so whether the danger could be avoided by special precautions being taken.

2. In 1962, as a result of similar enquiries and advice from various sources, it was agreed that the risk was extremely high and for this reason an order was made prohibiting the importation of sheep from that area of South America lying north of Rio Gallegos and the importation of cattle from any part of South America. This order remains in force today.

3. As you can imagine, the cost of importing animals from such countries as Australia and New Zealand is particularly high and if suitable animals can be obtained from the River Plate area or perhaps Patagonia or Southern Chile without risk of introducing disease, it would offer a useful contribution to the economy of our sheep farming industry. However we would not wish to take any undue risk and I await your advice with interest.

Yours faithfully,

(L. C. Gleadell)
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Reply 62

Mr R. H. Ewart, M.R.C.V.S.,
Veterinary Attaché,
British Embassy,
Buenos Aires.

AC. C.S.

Thank you.

2 May ACS be asked to have this file available at the Executive Council Meeting on 27 October when, so I understand, Mr Miller will raise this matter?

[signature] 15/10

BW Xco 24.10.70

99 60

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 28th, 29th and 30th OCTOBER 1970

0168 26. IMPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Reference was made to the possibility of withdrawing the current restriction on importation of livestock from South America. Council was informed that advice would be sought from the veterinary attache of the British Embassy in Buenos Aires on the subject. In due course this and any other advice it proved possible to obtain would be placed at Council's disposal.

CLERK OF COUNCILS

fileptc.
1093/C

~~60~~
61

18th November 70

I hope you will excuse me writing to you with one of our problems so many months after completing your visit, but we would particularly like your advice on a subject which has been discussed many times over the past years and, in fact, has been legislated for. It concerns the importation of livestock from South America and the associated risk of introducing animal disease to the Colony which, as you know, has little or no facilities to combat any serious outbreak.

In 1963 it was agreed that due to the risk of the introduction of foot and mouth disease the importation of sheep from South America should be restricted to the area lying South of Rio Gallegos and that the importation of cattle from any part of South America be completely prohibited.

There is now a move towards importing stud sheep from the River Plate area on the grounds of "economy" and we are of course reluctant to take any risks, particularly when it is known that foot and mouth disease is prevalent in this area. We are of course seeking advice from the Veterinary Attache of the British Embassy in Buenos Aires, but with your ~~local~~ knowledge of local conditions in the Islands we would appreciate your own views on this subject.

See 68

C. T. McCrea, Esq.,
Seven Stars,
Sutton,
Thirsk,
Yorkshire.

By mail 15.12.7.

62

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

2 December, 1970.

Dear Gleadell,

59

Thank you for your letter of 14th October. I am sorry events prevented us from having a prolonged discussion about the subject while you were in Argentina.

In all importations of animals there is a risk and it should only be indulged in if it would bring benefit to the Islands' livestock economy as a whole and not if it will only benefit one farmer or a small number of farmers. Additionally, because there is a risk, a sufficient number of animals should be brought in at one time to provide sufficient genetic material for say four to five years without further importation and so prevent it becoming an annual request or event. Due to the position of foot-and-mouth disease (F.M.D.) in Uruguay and the River Plate area of Argentina, you should continue your prohibition of importation from these areas. The subject should only be considered, even theoretically, from southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and the Province of Magallanes in Chile.

The risk of F.M.D. could be almost completely screened out by a strict 28 day quarantine in Argentina followed by a similar period, preferably in the port area in a building, on arrival in the Falkland Islands but there are other infections of sheep which are not easy to eliminate and these are:

Epidymitis (Brucella ovis infection)
Caseous lymphadenitis
Contagious pustular dermatitis
Leptospirosis

After completion of the first quarantine period the animals would require to be transported by the most direct route possible to the Islands. To go north to Buenos Aires and Montevideo for transhipment would be far too risky and would nullify the precautions already taken.

For the exclusion of epidymitis and leptospirosis blood tests would be necessary before entering into quarantine in Argentina and the tests would need to be repeated during the quarantine period in the Islands. There are no laboratories in the south equipped for the carrying out of these tests and the

L.C.Gleadell, Esq.,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.-

63

samples would have to go to Buenos Aires. The question of re-testing in the Islands would be more difficult and while it is possible that the Argentines would accept blood samples and tissue material from the Falkland Islands it is preferable that the repeat tests are judged elsewhere. I would not advise samples to go to Uruguay for testing as I have a very poor opinion of the efficiency of the general disease investigation laboratory in that country. The alternative would be to send samples to Britain for testing and special arrangements would need to be made over this. While the animals were in quarantine in Port Stanley they should be under the observation of a veterinarian. If any animal showed signs of a vesicular disease, that is a disease clinically suspected as F.M.D. then all must be killed without waiting for confirmatory laboratory tests. If any reacted to any of the tests they should be killed immediately and all carcases disposed of by cremation. Quarantine would need to be prolonged by at least a further 28 days with repetition of the tests in such an event and similar action if further animals failed the retests.

The area of Patagonia has been declared by Argentina to be free of foot-and-mouth disease infection after a serious outbreak in the north of the Province of Chubut in July 1970, which was dealt with vigorously by slaughter and payment of compensation. For the importation of rams the safest place would be the Island of Tierra del Fuego but there was an out-break of foot-and-mouth disease on the Chilean side of the Island in March of this year. The sixty or so farms on the Argentine side of the Island could easily provide a sufficient choice of sheep living under reasonably comparable conditions to those of the Islands. I would be doubtful if you would wish to import cattle from this area. It is not predominantly a cattle zone and the quality of animals is not as high as in the rest of Argentina. Different but not less difficult veterinary conditions would apply to cattle.

Alternatively and theoretically, the question of importation from Chile could be considered but this is an area with which I am much less familiar and in which communication between Santiago de Chile, where the laboratories are and the southern Province of Magallanes, is quite difficult. There was a series of outbreaks of F.M.D. near Punta Arenas in January 1970 attributed to the clandestine introduction of meat from the north of Chile. The disease was efficiently quelled by the slaughter of 1483 animals, affected and in-contacts, with payment of compensation to the owners.

64

Incidentally, the Chileans in their efforts to keep free of foot-and-mouth disease the Province of Magallanes and their own side of the Island of Tierra del Fuego, only allow the importation of sheep and cattle from Australia, New Zealand and the United States. None must come from the rest of Chile or Argentina. This is based on good grounds and experience and perhaps their prudence in this might recommend itself to you.

To sum up, there are advantages in a lowered cost of transport in importation from say Tierra del Fuego and it would be relatively cheap for the purchasers to go and see the flocks for themselves. On the other hand, the veterinary service in Patagonia is very thin on the ground. The incidence of diseases other than foot-and-mouth disease is not well known and the laboratories are not accustomed to routine tests for the diseases which I have mentioned. In Australia and New Zealand the veterinary service is well used for many years to this type of safeguard and have very good laboratories. I am certain, however, that the Argentine Government veterinary service would give assistance both in control of quarantine in Tierra del Fuego, taking of samples and the testing of them but quarantine to be effective must be rigid, with exclusion of visitors and all details must be firmly and completely carried out. From observation of the quarantine station at Buenos Aires, I consider that the correct viewpoint is absent. It would therefore seem that, while the idea of importation from Tierra del Fuego should not be discarded lightly, the various imponderables will weigh more heavily than the costs of transportation from Australia, and taking into consideration the difficulties, the importation from Tierra del Fuego in itself would be neither cheap nor easy to arrange at this state of communications.

Please let me know what you decide and if necessary we would go into the subject in much more detail.

Yours sincerely,

R.H. Ewart

R.H. Ewart
Veterinary Attaché

65

Issued today
[handwritten] 7.1.71

CONFIDENTIAL
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

INF No. 2/71

IMPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Memorandum by the Colonial Secretary

The following is an extract of a letter received from Mr. R.H. Ewart, Veterinary Attache, British Embassy, Buenos Aires. It is in reply to a letter enquiring into the risk, if any, of importing livestock from Uruguay, and dated 2nd December 1970.

" In all importations of animals there is a risk and it should only be indulged in if it would bring benefit to the Islands' livestock economy as a whole and not if it will only benefit one farmer or a small number of farmers. Additionally, because there is a risk, a sufficient number of animals should be brought in at one time to provide sufficient genetic material for say four to five years without further importation and so prevent it becoming an annual request or event. Due to the position of foot-and-mouth disease (F.M.D.) in Uruguay and the River Plate area of Argentina, you should continue your prohibition of importation from these areas. The subject should only be considered, even theoretically, from southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and the Province of Magallanes in Chile.

"The risk of F.M.D. could be almost completely screened out by a strict 28 day quarantine in Argentina followed by a similar period, preferably in the port area in a building, on arrival in the Falkland Islands but there are other infections of sheep which are not easy to eliminate and these are:

Epidymitis (Brucella ovis infection)
Caseous lymphadenitis
Contageous pustular dermatitis
Leptospirosis

"After completion of the first quarantine period the animals would require to be transported by the most direct route possible to the Islands. To go north to Buenos Aires and Montevideo for transhipment would be far too risky and would nullify the precautions already taken.

"For the exclusion of epidymitis and leptospirosis blood tests would be necessary before entering into quarantine in Argentina and the tests would need to be repeated during the quarantine period in the Islands. There are no laboratories in the south equipped for the carrying out of these tests and the samples would have to go to Buenos Aires. The question of re-testing in the Islands would be more difficult and while it is possible that the Argentines would accept blood samples and tissue material from the Falkland Islands it is preferable that the repeat tests are judged elsewhere. The alternative would be to send samples to Britain for testing and special arrangements would need to be made over this. While the animals were in quarantine in Port Stanley they should be under the observation of a veterinarian. If any animal showed signs of a vesicular disease, that is a disease clinically suspected as F.M.D. then all must be killed without waiting for confirmatory laboratory tests. If any reacted to any of the tests they should be killed immediately and all carcases disposed of by cremation. Quarantine would need to be prolonged

/by

Copy filed 0797/T.
- Foot + Mouth Disease

by at least a further 28 days with repetition of the tests in such an event and similar action if further animals failed the retests.

"The area of Patagonia has been declared by Argentina to be free of foot-and-mouth disease infection after a serious outbreak in the north of the Province of Chubut in July 1970, which was dealt with vigorously by slaughter and payment of compensation. For the importation of rams the safest place would be the Island of Tierra del Fuego but there was an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the Chilean side of the Island in March of this year. The sixty or so farms on the Argentine side of the Island could easily provide a sufficient choice of sheep living under reasonably comparable conditions to those of the Islands. I would be doubtful if you would wish to import cattle from this area. It is not predominantly a cattle zone and the quality of animals is not as high as in the rest of Argentina. Different but not less difficult veterinary conditions would apply to cattle.

"Alternatively and theoretically, the question of importation from Chile could be considered but this is an area with which I am much less familiar and in which communication between Santiago de Chile, where the laboratories are and the southern Province of Magallanes, is quite difficult. There was a series of outbreaks of F.M.D. near Punta Arenas in January 1970 attributed to the clandestine introduction of meat from the north of Chile. The disease was efficiently quelled by the slaughter of 1483 animals, affected and in-contacts, with payment of compensation to the owners.

"Incidentally, the Chileans in their efforts to keep free of foot-and-mouth disease the Province of Magallanes and their own side of the Island of Tierra del Fuego, only allow the importation of sheep and cattle from Australia, New Zealand and the United States. None must come from the rest of Chile or Argentina. This is based on good grounds and experience and perhaps their prudence in this might recommend itself to you.

"To sum up, there are advantages in a lowered cost of transport in importation from say Tierra del Fuego and it would be relatively cheap for the purchasers to go and see the flocks for themselves. On the other hand, the veterinary service in Patagonia is very thin on the ground. The incidence of diseases other than foot-and-mouth disease is not well known and the laboratories are not accustomed to routine tests for the diseases which I have mentioned. In Australia and New Zealand the veterinary service is well used for many years to this type of safeguard and have very good laboratories. I am certain, however, that the Argentine Government veterinary service would give assistance both in control of quarantine in Tierra del Fuego, taking of samples and the testing of them but quarantine to be effective must be rigid, with exclusion of visitors and all details must be firmly and completely carried out. It would therefore seem that, while the idea of importation from Tierra del Fuego should not be discarded lightly, the various imponderables will weigh more heavily than the costs of transportation from Australia, and taking into consideration the difficulties, the importation from Tierra del Fuego in itself would be neither cheap nor easy to arrange at this state of communications.

"Please let me know what you decide and if necessary we would go into the subject in much more detail."

L. Gleadell

(L. C. Gleadell)
Ag. Colonial Secretary

File ref: 1093/C
4th January, 1971
JB

Ref: 0797/T

1093/III

67

22nd March, 1971.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

One of the recommendations made in the report of the five-man Agricultural Advisory Team which, sponsored by the British Government through technical assistance, spent seven months in the colony in 1969/1970, is for the Falkland Islands Government to ensure that it is informed immediately of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in areas of South America from where there is any traffic to the Colony.

Currently, the South American countries concerned can be taken to be Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. It will be appreciated if arrangements can be concerted by the three embassies, through the Veterinary Attache, Buenos Aires, for priority telegraphic notification to be sent to the Colonial Secretary, Stanley, of any outbreak of the disease in either of the three countries concerned.

R. A. Whitney, Esq., O.B.E.,
British Embassy,
Buenos Aires.

c.c.: British Embassy,
Santiago and Montevideo.

AG

S/C Copies for Foot-+-Mouth file; 1760/A (or B, or whichever is appropriate); + for Livestock Ordinance file.
22/3

Mail for this.

Your Ref: 1093/C

West House.
THIRSK. Yorkshire.
15.1.71

68

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Dear Mr Bound

Thank you for your letter dated the 18 November bearing a post mark which looks like 1 December. With this extraordinary delay I imagine you will by now have sought and received advice from the Veterinary Attaché in Buenos Aires. You ask for my personal views on relaxing importations from South America.

I would certainly advise against importing sheep from places near any area where foot and mouth disease occurs regularly. In general I agree with the 1963 legislation mentioned in your second paragraph. However, the large area ruled out completely could be modified. Whilst we were in the Punta Arenas area we gathered that it was very rare for outbreaks to occur anywhere near there. The south of that Province remains fairly clear. Because of the distance, and other factors, it should remain this way. This was also the view of Dr Donald MacKinnon, an Anglo-Chilean Veterinary Surgeon working for S.A.G. (the Chilean department of agricultural advisers). He was our guide on a tour of 6 farms all to the north of Punta Arenas. The northernmost farm was Cerro Castillo, north of Natales. We saw very useful looking registered Corriedales, particularly at Cerro Negro, where artificial insemination was being used.

I think a safe and reasonable relaxation of the law would be to permit importations (via Punta Arenas only) of veterinary inspected sheep from any part of Chilean Magallanes. Of course, up-to-the minute intelligence from our own people at B.A. as to the local position regarding foot and mouth disease in both Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia would be essential; it would also be wise to insist on a signed declaration from the owners that there had been no foot and mouth disease on or near their farm for the 60 days preceding the movement of the sheep.

I am glad to hear that the hydatid programme is progressing well.

Kind regards to all my friends in your office.

Yours sincerely

C T McCrea (Tony)

C T McCREA

S/C this will be needed if the question of importing stock from S.A. is raised again 7/5/71

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

C T McCrea Esq

Seven Stars

Sutton

Thirsk

Yorkshire

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE;
IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD HERE

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BRITISH EMBASSY

BUENOS AIRES

14 December 1971

J A Jones Esq OBE
Port Stanley

Dear John,

TRADE IN LIVESTOCK BETWEEN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ARGENTINA

1. You will have noted from the copy of the minutes of the meeting which Elwyn Owens had with the MFA during his visit here (now copied to Miss Rycroft for ease of reference) that Owens raised the possibility of farmers in Tierra del Fuego purchasing livestock from the Falklands. In the context of a trade in livestock between the Islands and the mainland our Veterinary Attaché has made a number of comments which I think will be of interest to you. For the most part these apply to trade from the Argentine to the Falklands: but even though this may not seem as likely as exports to the Argentine itself Steele's points will need to be borne in mind, for example in relation to Argentine ships or aircraft making calls at Port Stanley. You will also notice paragraph 3a of the Veterinary Attache's minute under reference. This refers to susceptible species, and would not prevent bringing in a stallion for the Turf Club, though certain conditions should be attached to this particular importation.

70-1

Yours ever,

Richard.

Reply at 73

R D Lavers

Copied to:-

Miss C Rycroft
Latin America Dept
FCO

Reference.. 10

H/E — Wd better, if V.A. agrees, send a copy under covering letter to F.C.O. & Hagfi.

COUNSELLOR — We should do so. 8/XI

H of C

C S

1. In theory there is little danger in the exportation of livestock from the Islands to Tierra del Fuego and the Argentines themselves have legislation to prevent the introduction of FMD to the latter. A disease risk could occur, however, in the use of a ship which may previously have carried animals from the north of the Argentine without subsequently having been satisfactorily cleansed or disinfected. Some system of inspection and certification of cleansing and disinfection of the ship should be required and all feeding stuffs and bedding should derive from the Islands.

2. But the prospect of trade in livestock from the Falklands to Tierra del Fuego and the question of importing animal foods as mentioned in paragraph 3 are only two aspects of a situation which may emerge as air and sea communications develop. I refer to the risk of importation of animal disease to the Islands from the Argentine mainland.

3. There are a number of diseases mentioned in the SELSA epidemiological bulletins as occurring on the mainland and there are probably many more diseases, of which no records are kept, that might find their way to the Islands if live animals or live birds are transported there. The three most serious diseases of livestock likely to be transferred by importation to the Falklands of carcases or meat of animals or birds are foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and Newcastle disease. The viruses may be transported either by meat imported for consumption, in swill from ships or aircraft or in feeding stuffs and bedding (hay and straw). If their introduction is to be prevented the following controls seem to be essential:

[margin: We have orders vs. this]

(a) Total prohibition of importation of live animals and live birds excepting possibly under specially controlled quarantine conditions.

(b) Poultry carcases to be landed only if they are cooked.

(c) Landing of meat of animals susceptible to FMD only to be permitted if boneless and glandless or fully cooked.

(d) Total prohibition of importation of pork or pork products.

[margin: eg. the stallion for the Turf Club. O/c Agric. to specify which of these measures we already take.]

/ (e)

71

(e) Control of disposal of swill from ships and aircraft.

(f) Prohibition of importation of hay and straw from the mainland.

4. It is difficult to judge how much traffic in disease transporting material is likely to build up as a result of opening of communications but as there are no veterinary services in the Falklands disease could spread extensively before the Islanders might suspect its existence.

Can be written? We should.

5. I should like to be kept in touch with developments regarding the live sheep trade and I am prepared at any time to discuss with the Islanders essential disease prevention precautions.

R L Steele

7 December 1971

0 i/c Agriculture 72

69-71

The attached documentation refers to the dangers to which we can expect to be increasingly exposed as communications between ourselves and the mainland increase. The Veterinary Adviser in B.A. embassy considers the three most serious diseases of livestock likely to be transferred by the importation to the Islands of carcasses or meat of animals or birds are:

(a) foot and mouth disease;

(b) swine fever;

(c) Newcastle disease

and in para 3(a) - (f) the V.A. suggests certain essential control measures. I shall be glad if you will let me know as soon as possible which of these measures are already in force here. Writing from memory I am pretty sure that some of them are embodied in Proclamations which have been made over the last few years but it is important to know precisely how far they go to meet the V.A's desiderata.

2. I have for some while thought that the time was already overdue for a visit to be made to the colony by one of the veterinary staff of the embassy and I think it could be very useful for Mr. Steele, if he could be spared from his duties in the embassy, to pay us a two- to 4-weeks visit. With the amphibious air service about to begin this should be possible. I shall be glad of your views upon this suggestion.

3. There is some urgency about this matter as I wish to bring it to H.E's attention as soon as I have had a reply from you.

J.A.J.
17.12.71

C.S.

We have legislation etc. prohibiting the following importations:

(a) Uncooked meat and unboned cured meat of any description.
(Proclamation No.3. of 1968.)

(b) All fowles etc., eggs and carcasses
(Proclamation Nos. 4 and 5 of 1971)

(c) All cattle from South America

(d) All sheep from South America north of Rio Gallegos
(Ex.Co. Minutes - Meeting No.4. of 1963)

(e) Straw, hay and fodder.
(Live Stock Regs.11.)

2. I whole-heartedly agree that a visit of a veterinary official would be most advantageous.

3. Horses are not susceptible to FMD but would of course be subject to quarantine.

20/12