

S/104

S/104

FASTEN Envelope by gumming this Label across flap
OPEN by cutting Label instead of Envelope.



WOMEN'S EXPEDITION TO SOUTH GEORGIA

(All relative correspondence from 21.12.67)

(ALSO PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO HOPE BAY, 1973)

#65.0

W
25/6/68

AS/125/1

21st December, 1967

You have certainly put a great amount of effort into organizing your proposed expedition to South Georgia and I certainly recognize the keenness behind it all. However, I must warn you that in addition to obtaining permission to visit the island from the Governor, it will be necessary to find a means of getting there.

During the summer season I know of no ships, other than those of the British Antarctic Survey, which visit the island. I am afraid it would not be feasible for us to provide passages and support for your party because our own commitments would not allow this.

Before going any further with your idea, I think it would be wise to look into the costs of shipping the party to South Georgia.

MF

V.E. FUCHS

Mrs. M. Porter,
Craig-an-Darach,
Kingsale,
WATERFORD-SHIRE

*CS. Before Mrs Coleman goes, I should like with 1A.
back please as I wish to write to General Latcelles
and him pass to Coleman. Lk 29/2 SI 22h*

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

PATRON:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

10 QUEEN STREET, MAYFAIR,
LONDON W.1
Telephone: MAYFAIR 0091

8th February, 1968.

REPLY AT 8

*EB Now to you file
please*

Your Excellency.

Lk 4/3/68

May I thank you very much for all the advice which you so kindly gave me about Mrs. Mollie Porter's proposed expedition to South Georgia.

Mrs. Porter is one of 77 Churchill Fellows of 1968 who have just been chosen and whose names and projects are about to be released to the Press. It is very likely that her project will attract the attention of the Press, if only because it is so unusual. The Council of the Trust was particularly anxious that I should tell you of the project and make clear that its realisation was entirely dependent upon your permission, a factor which the Press may inadvertantly overlook. I think you know that it is Mrs. Porter's plan to lead the first all female expedition to the Antarctic area. There will be a total of 6 women of which only Mrs. Porter, the leader of the expedition, is a Churchill Fellow. The greater part of the financing of the expedition, should it take place, would be dependent on sources other than the Trust. Mrs. Porter's plan would basically consist of following the path of Shackleton across South Georgia and include the climbing of Mount Paget. She hoped to make this expedition during three months between November 1968 and January 1969.

In view of what you told me, I have written to her explaining the problems which face her expedition, and the sort of arrangements which would have to be made before you would feel it possible to give your approval.

2/.....

Trustees: The Earl of Cromer, M.B.E. (Chairman), The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Boyle, Bt., M.P., Mr. Anthony Montague Browne, C.B.E., D.F.C., Hon. Randolph S. Churchill, M.B.E.

Council: The Rt. Hon. The Viscount De L'Isle, V.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. (Chairman), The Countess Alexander of Tunis, G.B.E., Mr. David Barran, Mr. Anthony Montague Browne, C.B.E., D.F.C., The Lord Byers, O.B.E., Mr. Michael Cadbury, The Lord Cooper, Sir Trenchard Cox, C.B.E., Mr. William Deakin, D.S.O., Lady Parry-Williams, Mr. Francis Pemberton, The Lord Penney, K.B.E., F.R.S., Sir Richard Pim, K.B.E., The Lord Polwarth, Mr. Arthur Tiley.

Director General: Major General H. A. Lascelles, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

I thought you would like me to enclose a copy of my letter and I hope that I have reproduced your views accurately. I have also told the publicity agents of its contents so that the Press may be fully aware of the status of the proposal. I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Sugg for his information.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Ahaselles.

His Excellency Sir Cosmo Haskard, KCMG, MBE,
Governor of Falkland Islands.

Enclosure:

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

PATRON:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

10 QUEEN STREET, MAYFAIR,
LONDON W.1
Telephone: MAYFAIR 0091

8th February, 1968.

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th February.

I have now had a chance to talk to His Excellency the Governor of Falkland Islands on the telephone, as he happens to be in England at the moment. I am afraid that the outlook is not very promising. He spoke of the following problems :

- a. South Georgia is totally uninhabited except for a very small administrative point at King Edward Point. There are no means whatsoever available to the Governor to give any help to an expedition, which must therefore be adequately self-contained for both administrative support and safety. Safety is particularly important in view of the absence of any form of local help if things go wrong. The last expedition to visit South Georgia was a Joint Service Expedition in November 1964 led by Commander Malcolm K. Burley, RN. His party was chosen from 200 volunteers from the three services and carefully prepared for the conditions. The expedition had the support of H.M.S. Protector, which landed it at King Haaken Bay, whose helicopters established dumps of equipment where required, and which acted as a communications base and depot ship throughout the whole of the 3 months which the expedition spent in South Georgia. The party succeeded in following Shackleton's route and

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Director General: Major General H. A. Lascelles, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

climbed Mount Paget which is some 10,000 feet high. The party eventually reached Royal Bay where it re-embarked in H.M.S. Protector. This is undoubtedly the form of support which the Governor would consider essential to the mounting of any expedition in South Georgia, particularly so if it consisted of ladies.

- b. I think that he said that there is only one commercial ship which plies between Montevideo and the Falkland Islands. This has little or any capacity for ladies but would have no difficulty in taking 2 tons of stores. It is usually heavily booked up and difficult to get a passage. On arrival at the Falkland Islands there is no such thing as an hotel or inn and any travellers are dependent on the hospitality of the comparatively few people who live there. These two difficulties are probably surmountable provided the other much greater problems can be solved.
- c. The only ships which ever go to South Georgia from the Falkland Islands are H.M.S. Protector and R.M.S. Darwin. Their visits are very infrequent and their sole purpose in going there is to support the very small administrative post at Stanley Bay. Neither has any accommodation for ladies. R.M.S. Darwin could not act as a depot ship for your expedition. H.M.S. Protector could support an expedition and has done so; but this was a Joint Service Expedition which had the support of the Ministry of Defence. It must be virtually unthinkable that this naval ship could be placed for some three months or more in support on your expedition which has nothing to do with the services.

The Governor has no wish to prevent your expedition, but inevitably his permission would be needed before it could take place. In view of the extremely hazardous conditions in South Georgia and of the total lack of support in the island, his permission would not be lightly given.

These then are the problems and I only wish I could make useful suggestions as to how they could be solved. It does begin to look as if your expedition would have to be administratively self-contained from Montevideo onwards, and that this would mean chartering a ship which would give you the same sort of support as H.M.S. Protector. I do not suppose such a ship would have helicopters but it would have communications. There would still be the problem of making adequate arrangements to get help to you if you got into difficulties. The expense of laying on an expedition in this way would, as you say, be very great and I have no idea what figure to name. It may be that, for such a novel and daring project, a sponsor or sponsors could be found. I would imagine that the more people get to know of the idea, the more likely it is that sponsors would come forward. Perhaps, when your husband gets back, he may be able to produce other ideas. Meanwhile, I think it might be wise for you to see whether the hiring of a ship to give you self-contained administrative support and adequate safety is practical and how much money was needed. If you have not already done so, you may like to get in touch with Commander Burley. If so, please let me know and I will find out his address from the Ministry of Defence.

Finally, until it is possible to produce an expedition plan which is likely to meet the requirements of the Governor, I do not think any useful purpose would be served in putting the project to him.

Yours Sincerely
Anthony Lascelles

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mrs. M. Porter,
 Craig an Darach,
 Kingussie.

Enclosure:

2

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 12.2.68

Time: 0930

Received:

Time:

No. 34 Following for Hadkard. BBC news Churchill Trust
All Womens Expedition to South Georgia. Grateful you
indicate to organisers concerned we have not been approached
and as far as accommodation KEP is concerned there could be
much difficulty

Thompson

P/L : AA

21

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P2538 P4776/32/401381 500 11/66 R. Ward 843

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	STANLEY			12.2.68
To	BTAT ADMINOFF ZDH			SGA/c

Re 29 In case you heard BBC last night regarding all women antarctic team visiting SGeorgia we know nothing of this and have signalled ¹⁶⁷ Governor in London with request he investigates

Secretary

Time

Reply at 10.4

Pa.

4 ~~#8~~

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Administrative Officer, South Georgia

To Colonial Secretary, Stanley

Despatched . 13th February 19 68 *Time :* 1230

Received : 13th February 19 68 *Time :* 1100

No. 36 Many thanks your telegram 29 will be
interested to hear result

~~#8~~3
Adminoff

P/L : AA
Intld H.L.B.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Sir Cosmo Haskard London

To Acting Governor, Stanley

Despatched . 12th February 19 68 Time : 1435

Received : 19 Time :

AS/126/1 You may have heard radio reports about six ladies wishing climb Mount Paget. Action has been taken here to deter them from embarking on expedition because of hazardous nature of undertaking

Haskard

P/L : AA

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P2538 P4776/32/401381 500 11 66 R. Ward 843

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	STANLEY			15.2.68
To	ETAT ADMINOFF ZBH			SGA/C

No 31 Have received following signal from Haskard
in London stop Six ladies wishing climb Mount
Paget stop Action has been taken here to deter them
from embarking on expedition because of hazardous
nature of undertaking

Secretary

Time

AA

Acting Governor,
Port Stanley.

2402

D/22/59



With the compliments of

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S
EMBASSY

(J. F. Skelton)

plus copy of letter from Pitt &
Scott Ltd.

BRITISH EMBASSY

MONTEVIDEO

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(17/3)

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MONTEVIDEO.

23 February 1968.

LD
28h

Dear Mr. Archibald,

Thank you for your letter postmarked 14 February about Mrs. Porter's proposed expedition to South Georgia. When I first read of the expedition in the London newspapers I wondered how the party proposed to travel.

The only regular passenger service to that part of the world is provided by the Falkland Islands Company's ship, RMS Darwin, which operates a roughly monthly service between Montevideo and the Falkland Islands, and which once a year goes on to South Georgia. This year the round trip to South Georgia leaves Montevideo on 7 June and returns on 16 July. The ship's plans for 1969 have not been made.

The only other ships which from time to time leave this port for South Georgia are the vessels of the British Antarctic Survey en route from the United Kingdom, and it seems most unlikely that the charter of another suitable vessel could be arranged.

If Mrs. Porter has not already done so, I would strongly advise that she discusses her plans soon with the Commonwealth Office and perhaps also the Falkland Islands Company, 120 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

Yours sincerely,

(J. F. Skelton)
H. M. Vice-Consul

J. Archibald, Esq.,
Pitt and Scott Limited,
(Travel Department),
1/5 Dixon Street,
Glasgow, C.I.

COPY

PITT & SCOTT LTD
1/5 Dixon Street,
GLASGOW, C.1.

The British Embassy,
Montevideo
Uruguay.

Dear Sirs,

Mrs. M. Porter & Party (6 ladies)

Mrs. M. Porter, leader of the above party, has won a Sir Winston Churchill Fellowship to assist her in planning an expedition to South Georgia, Antarctic, and we should very much appreciate an information which you could provide concerning the names and addresses of shipping lines in Montevideo who operate infrequent sailings from Montevideo, or other South American Port to South Georgia, Antarctica.

Alternatively, any additional information concerning shipping lines who would be prepared to make Charter arrangements for this party from South America to South Georgia, Antarctica, and return would be appreciated.

For your information, our clients wish to arrive in South Georgia in October or November 1968; returning in late February or March, 1969.

Your kind co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
for PITT & SCOTT LIMITED

J. Archibald
Travel Department.

D/2/59

175
8

4 March 1968

1A.

Please accept my belated thanks for your very helpful letter of 8th February. I must apologise for failing to acknowledge it before I left London; I can only plead the excuse of having had a particularly full programme during my last few days.

Your letter of 8th February to Mrs Porter seems to have had the right effect, judging by such newspaper reports as I saw before leaving.

There are one or two small points in your letter to Mrs Porter which I might just mention in case they are raised by Mrs Porter or anyone else.

H.M.S. Protector's helicopters laid depots for the Combined Services Expedition in South Georgia before establishing the 10-man party at King Haakon Bay. Protector then went about other duties; she did not in fact stand by during the whole duration of the expedition. Protector returned in due time to collect the party from Royal Bay.

The commercial ship plying between the Falkland Islands and Montevideo is R.M.S. Darwin. Ladies are carried as in any ordinary passenger ship.

In addition to Protector and Darwin, the ships of the British Antarctic Survey visit South Georgia occasionally in the southern summer but you know the Survey's policy regarding carriage of non-Survey personnel.

The administrative post at South Georgia is at King Edward Point, not Stanley Bay.

Once again my thanks for your help in dealing with Mrs Porter. I admire her spirit but it is obvious that she had not fully appreciated all the implications of the project she wished to undertake.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr Sugg at the Commonwealth Office and to Sir Vivian Fuchs, to whom I took the liberty of sending photo copies of your two letters of 8th February.

Ch

Major General H.A. Lascelles, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

C.S. for your file.

Eventually General Lascelles' letter will come back from S.G. & can be placed on same file.

Ch

due

W/ 5/3

Ch

4/3

166
25/6/68

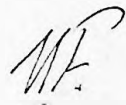
AS/126/1

8th April, 1968.

Thank you for sending the clear explanation of the situation about your proposed South Georgia Expedition. I know very well what nuisance value the press can be if they take something up before the organizers are ready.

Should your expedition finally take shape it would, as you say, certainly be sensible for the scientific proposals to be discussed with our various people so that there will be complementary activities rather than overlap.

Perhaps you would contact me again when your plans are further advanced. I will then put you in touch with appropriate people.



V.E. FUCHS

Mrs. M. Porter,
Craig-an-Darach,
Kingussie,
Inverness-shire

EB: 2 copies please. 14 12/6 183.10

British Women's Expedition to South Georgia

Copied to CS + AO 8/12/6

Tel. Kingussie 235

Craig-an-Darach

Kingussie

Inverness-shire

20th. May 1968

His Excellency, The Governor of the Falkland Islands,
Government House,
PORT STANLEY,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.



Your Excellency,

I am prompted to write to you at this time in order to prevent a recurrence of the situation which arose in early February 1968.

I have refrained from writing to you concerning the proposed expedition to South Georgia until our plans were at a stage where we could present them to you for your consideration; our plans though nearing the stage where they could be forwarded, are still as yet incomplete in detail, and we anticipate being able to present them to you by early July 1968.

The idea of the expedition was kept a very carefully guarded secret, in fact nine people only knew of it including Sir V.E. Fuchs, until the very premature and sudden announcement in the press directly following the Fellowships awards of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Had I received any notification of such an announcement I would certainly have made every effort to ensure that you were made aware of idea.

The members of the party are still unaware of all that has been written about the idea, but from the various reports which have come our way the whole matter seems to have been greatly exaggerated and distorted—an example follows: 'the team will haul their sledges over Mount Paget'

Our programme contains no such impossibility not any of the other mountaineering objectives named in the various articles. We are in full awareness of the tremendous problems which would accompany such undertakings and know that we could not consider including these items in our plans. Our party has altered in composition since the idea was first conceived, and it now includes a very high proportion of scientists, well-qualified in their respective fields of work. Their assistants are also well-fitted for the task of aiding them and of ensuring their safety and well-being.

The programme of scientific work will be of a high standard and the working areas will be confined to coastal stretches only. We are definitely not complacent about the very dangerous obstacles likely to be encountered even on the coastal areas. Because the aims of the expedition have changed the only likely mountaineering objectives (scientific programme allowing) would be small, minor peaks around the areas where we would be working. No prolonged journeys would be made inland.

When I first wrote to Sir V.E. Fuchs in December his reply pinpointed the tremendous problems which have confronted our expedition ever since. We realised from this moment on that we had to have a modest programme, that the entire expedition had to be self-supporting in every way from U.K. onwards, and this would certainly include a chartered ship to stay with us for the duration of the expedition, and that there was no point in contacting you in any way before we could present a plan which would comply with the kind of standard required before permission could ever be considered.

We are at the stage now where we are obtaining sponsors and soon after this I will forward a detailed outline of every aspect of the proposed expedition. This preliminary letter is sent to give you an introduction to our idea and prevent the press from committing a further discourtesy by making rash statements in articles if we are successful in our application for sponsorship.

I will do my utmost to ensure that when we do present our application to you for consideration, our plans will be designed to cover every eventuality and be well-within the modest limits of an all-female party, and I can only hope that you will be able to look-upon such an application favourably.

Thank you for your attention,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Mollie Porter

Mrs. Mollie Porter.

EB. 2 copies plain
12/6

~~12/6~~

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

FORMERLY FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

DIRECTOR: SIR VIVIAN FUCHS

30, GILLINGHAM STREET, S.W.1

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 3687-8-9

TELEGRAMS: POLASURVEY, LONDON-SWI

Copied to CS &
AO SG
12/6

AS/126/1

31st May, 1968.



Dear Governor,

Mrs Porter has sent me a copy of her letter to you dated 20th May, 1968. It seems that she is persisting with her planning and may indeed achieve the charter of a ship. Separately she has written to me saying that she quite understands the unsuitability of women appearing at a B.A.S. station which we expect King Edward Point to be by the time she gets going. She proposes, therefore, to be entirely self dependant and I presume have the ship wait upon her party.

It seems to me that this leaves her in the position of requiring only your permission to visit the island. I take it that her letter to you is tantamount to a request to be allowed to go ahead or she expects to get a refusal. If you make a decision at this stage I should be grateful to know what it is. I can see that it could be difficult to refuse if the supporting party is strong enough, but I must say I view the whole thing with some dubiety especially as I regard Mrs Porter as somewhat unstable inspite of her alleged climbing capability.

Yours sincerely
Vivian Fuchs

V.E. FUCHS

H.E. The Governor,
Government House,
Port Stanley,
The Falkland Islands,
SOUTH ATLANTIC

*C.S. for filing appropriately
at Secretariat please*

194¹⁴

*la S
11/7 11h*

IN CONFIDENCE

11
~~188185~~

Thank you for your letter AS/126/1 of 31st May about Mrs Porter and her plans for visiting South Georgia.

... You mentioned that she had sent you a copy of her letter dated 20th May and I now enclose a copy of my reply to her.

As you will see, the next move is with Mrs Porter who has to let me have details of her plans. She herself appreciates this.

If Mrs Porter's team is properly organised and fully supported, then there are less strong grounds on which to forbid it but, from Mrs Porter's letter, it would seem likely that her party would attempt to cover ground which has already been looked at and this is really a duplication of effort. If the sponsors are to get any value for their money, the proposed scientific programme should, I think, be submitted to you in the first place for your comments.

The alternative to an outright refusal of permission by me would seem to be either (a) to grant permission to a party which is fully supported and which comes up to a standard which you would regard as adequate or (b) to limit the party to a very much smaller expedition of, say, three people, limited to a short season and based at King Edward Point.

To take alternative (a), we would I think have to insist on support being provided by a properly equipped ship, self-sufficient as far as fuel supplies are concerned, since neither South Georgia nor the Falkland Islands hold sufficient reserves of fuel. The expedition ought to have a proper radio communication system linking the land party to the support ship. Local pilotage knowledge, which we can not supply, would be essential as the charts, with one exception, are poor. Even the Japanese found it impossible to work the sealing beaches without Norwegian navigators.

Support on these lines for the proposed expedition might well make it too expensive to undertake.

/.....

Sir Vivian Fuchs

Copy: Administrative Officer, South Georgia

~~C.S.~~

IN CONFIDENCE

If one considers alternative (b), three women could be accommodated at King Edward Point where a single house could be provided. They would however have to rely upon you for transport to and from South Georgia and would have to supply their own food. Their movements would be restricted to the area which can safely be visited from the Point. The duration of their stay would be limited to the period between the first and last call of one of your ships. There may not be a medical officer at the Point after April 1969.

Personally, I doubt whether the expedition will ever be undertaken but it is as well to consider the lines on which we would deal with Mrs Porter's next move, should she persist.

14

193/15

// July, 1968.

10
183

Thank you for your letter of 20th May which reached me on 12th June. As you know, mails to and from the Falklands are rather infrequent and tomorrow will be the first outward mail from here since your letter came.

I read your letter with interest and I note that you expect to have detailed plans ready by this month. I look forward to hearing from you further; at this stage you will not expect me to comment.

Incidentally between 25th July and 30th August there is no outward mail from here by R.M.S. Darwin. Thereafter mail opportunities become more frequent.

LA

Mrs M. Porter,
Craig-an-Darach,
Kingussie,
Inverness-shire.

Copy to Sir Vivian Fuchs

Kehulu

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

FORMERLY FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

DIRECTOR: SIR VIVIAN FUCHS

30, GILLINGHAM STREET, S.W.1

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 3687-8-9
TELEGRAMS: POLASURVEY, LONDON-SW1

*P.S.
Please make a copy
for A.O. & C.
28/8*

AS/126/1

25th July, 1968

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Governor,

Thank you for writing about Mrs. Porter and her project. I would certainly be prepared to comment on her scientific plans, but I think that the sponsors will be more interested in seeing a woman's expedition take place rather than in the actual productivity of it.

I would also comment on the practicality of the plans from a safety point of view if you wish it. On the other hand I do not consider that the Survey would be able to offer transport for even a small number of women, since we have not the passenger capacity. Also it is not desirable to have the complications of women at the station, especially if they are not a part of our own planned programme. Even if they were there would have to be very unusual reasons why we should depart from our all male policy; there are quite enough problems as it is.

I certainly agree that her operations could become very expensive and might fall down on that count. She seems to think that she has very strong financial support but I shall be interested to see what it might amount to.

*Yours sincerely
Bunny Fuchs*

V.E. FUCHS

H.E. The Governor,
Government House,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
SOUTH ATLANTIC.



C.S. please note & return to J.A.

** Mr Clements to see*

20/8

21/8

22/8

C O P Y

AS/126/1

10th October, 1968.

If the British Womens Expedition to South Georgia gets off the ground it is likely to have considerable newspaper coverage, but this might enhance the demand for a book.

I am not able to say whether the expedition will be a runner, as this will depend upon finance, and the agreement of the Governor of the Falkland Islands to it going there.

As I am establishing a scientific station on the islands in 1969, when the present government administrative station is closed, I personally, am not enthusiastic because there is always the possibility of demands being made on ourmen's time and material.

So far as scientific work is concerned, I cannot think that anything remarkable will be achieved in so short a time. Nevertheless, some useful studies could be made. You will realize that the island is completely mapped, and that we have already published a lot about the botany and geology; more is in the pipe line.

I think it is fair to say that this is a personal adventure for those taking part, together with an opportunity to make some short term studies in various branches of science. There are, of course, numerous unclimbed peaks, and it may be that the party hope to achieve some of these. If so, they will have to be patient, as the constant cloud cover and very rapid mist formation have frustrated others in the past. The highest point, Mount Paget (9000 ft.), was finally climbed by a party of Marines who were lifted to the high snow fields by helicopter!

V.E. FUCHS

Miss Miriam Rosenthal,
Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd.,
11, New Fetter Lane,
LONDON, E.C.4.



17
Rynettin,
KINCRAIG,
Taverness-shire,
Scotland.

1st. Jan 1969.

His Excellency, The Governor of the Falkland Is.,
Government House,
POSE CRANLEY,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.
Your Excellency.

*O/c. Grateful if you would give these
papers preliminary study - I shall
want to telegraph Director before I*

I enclose an application for permission from the *go to*
proposed British Women Expedition to ^{visit} South Georgia, 1969. *W.F. on*

I have tried to include such items, and information that will *Monday 3/2*
give an outline to the proposed programme, the members of the party, *LM*
the ways in which they hope to travel to South Georgia, and the *30/1*
ways in which they will care for their welfare and safety.

We have spent 2½ years studying the information available about
the Island, and during this time have been very fortunate to
receive the advice and assistance of most of the people who have
been on previous expeditions to the Island.

We are in no way complacent about the area chosen, and
are fully aware of the quite tremendous difficulties likely to be
encountered during the most modest ventures, but we have a considerable
amount of experience between us, of many parts of the World, from
Spitsbergen and Greenland to the Himalayas. It is also my serious
intention to include one more very strong mountaineer in the party.

We would like to sail from U.K. during early September 1969
and arrive home in U.K. by 1st. March 1970, this would allow us
approximately 4 months on the island. The length of time might have
to be curtailed if the charter fee proved without our funds, but
the minimum time would be 3 months, so that a fairly effective field
programme could be followed.

4
involves most of the time being spent on the field programmes,
neither of which involves any very adventurous journeys or
climbing, but would nevertheless be serious, since the coast is
as dangerous as parts of the inland areas. The mountaineering
would be confined to good weather spells, as and when suitable
time, risks, and prevailing conditions allowed.

I realise that the information enclosed is a little
sparse, this is mainly because of the problem of mailing letters such
a distance, and I will be pleased to provide any further details
as necessary.

I can only say now that I hope you will be able to consider
this application, I would welcome any suggestions concerning any
aspect of the proposal, and would underline the fact that we
wish to remain absolutely independent of any outsiders at all,
including the instance of rescue, and have the knowledge and ability
to care for ourselves in the most hostile environment, with
safety first and foremost in all of our minds.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Mollie Porter

Mrs. Mollie Porter

P.S. Could I have the letter from Captain Krey, together with the
photograph of the ship back when it is finished with please.

PROGRAMME.

The proposed programme is in THREE parts:-

1. Glaciology (details on separate sheets)
With associated surveying & geomorphology
2. Zoology / Ornithology (details on separate sheets)
3. General mountaineering (details below)
4. Very small programme of meteorology (involving daily meteorological observations).

GENERAL MOUNTAINEERING PROGRAMME.

The most experienced members of the party will, only when conditions allow, and this includes personal fitness, weather, prevailing and forthcoming conditions, state of the snow, access and degree of difficulty of the nearby peaks etc..) attempt to climb coastal peaks. It is not the intention of the party to attempt any protracted journeys inland or to attempt any mountains which are not obviously within the capabilities of the members of the party. The mountaineers will not attempt peaks at the expense of the safety of the field workers, there will always be at least 2 members of the mountaineering party with the field workers.

We are only too well-aware of the likely conditions on South Georgia, and know from our own experience exactly what these conditions can mean.

BIRD ISLAND.

It is hoped that the party on Bird Island may be able to use the base hut established by Dr. W. N. Tickell.

NOTE ON THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY.

The enclosed details are to give an outline to each member of the party. It is intended to extend the number to 9-10. If Dr. MacInnes decides to join the party it makes the final total 10, as we will be including an additional strong mountaineer.

The ratio of mountaineers to scientists will be:-

Mountaineers	Field Assistants with experience of mountaineering	Scientists
M. Porter		
B. Spark	R. Lloyd Lagsten	V. Haynes
K. Dilworth	C. McNeill	S. Fogden.
P. Wood <i>RESERVE</i>	S. Vensables	
C. MacInnes?		
Another.		

All the members of the party are known, personally to at least one other member of the party. All are known to, and most are personal acquaintances of, the leader. Several have been on previous expeditions together, to Norway, the Atlas, Alps, Taurus, Himalayas etc..

NOLIE PORTER

LEADER

30 years old. Married.

13 years experience in mountaineering.

Holds professional Mountain Guides Certificates issued by the British Mountaineering Council and Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs to Professional Guides, for summer and winter guiding in the Cairngorm Mountains, N. Scotland (One of 7 people in the U.K. to gain the Winter Certificate for Guiding)

Full-time member of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team. Member of the Committee, and member of the Sub-Committee for training of team members.

Lady member of the Scottish Mountain Leadership Certificate Board.

Qualified teacher - geography and Physical Education.

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society since 1960.

Member of expedition to N.W. Spitsbergen 1960.

(29 first ascents and 300 miles of man-hauling sledges)

Leader-British Girls Exploration Society Expedition to Lyngen, N. Norway. (The first all-girl expedition to Arctic Norway) Supported by Royal Geog. Society. Covered 90 miles through mountains plus scientific programme. Climbed in the French, and Austrian Alps-several times.

Climbed in Norway, travelled through from Tromsø to Oslo; six visits to Norway, summer and winter.

Guest of the Norwegian Red Cross Society-Survival Course-Finse, 1967

(Held in very bad weather in early February 1967, Course included snow holing, glacier work, rescue techniques, etc.. and we always travelled on skis)

Sole woman instructor at the National Recreation Centre-Glenmore Lodge since 1961. Instructed in snow/ice climbing, survival techniques,

including all aspects of rescue work, snow holing, and various other methods of improvised bivouacking, mountain rescue specialist courses, rock climbing, etc..

Have spent dozens of nights high on the Cairngorm Plateau in snow holes, and other improvised shelters.

One of 2 women who made the first traverse of the marathon Fellsman hike, Yorkshire, involving 55 miles, and 13 Fells, within 24 hours.

My time, a record was 23 hrs, 20 minutes.

climbed very extensively throughout Britain, summer and winter
Made several first ascents of the major artificial routes in Yorkshire,
on Kilnsey Crag, Malham Cove, and Goredale.

Member of the Pinnacle Club, and one time member of the Cave & Crag
Club.

Spent a year living at 2,500' in a Shieling, as an employee of the
National Trust for Scotland. The conditions at this dwelling were
sub-arctic with winds up to 140 m.p.h., constant 29.3. knots for
3 months at a time; and snow throughout the entire winter.

Live permanently in the Cairngorm mountains since 1961, going into
the mountains, summer and winter every week, and on occasions for
months at a time (3 months once every day).

Have skied in Britain and Norway, both slalom and cross-country.
Hold Bronze medallion for Life Saving.

Hold Red Cross First Aid Certificate.

Extensive experience of leading casualties in the Mountain Rescue
Post which I manned for a year (at the Shieling).

Received Fellowship of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust last
year to lead the Expedition to South Georgia.

BARBARA SPARK.MOUNTAINEER.

33years old. single.

Lecturer in Outdoor Pursuits-University of Bangor,N.Wales.

Lady Member-Mountain Leadership Board.(English)

Full-time mountaineering instructor at National Recreation Centre in N.Wales(Plas-y-Brenin) for 3 years.

10 years experience mountaineering.

Climbed extensively through Britain,especially North Wales.

Member of the 1961 Womens Kulu Expedition-Himalaya.A 2-women venture.

Member 1962 British Womens Jagdula Expedition-Nepal.

Climbed in Atlas Mountains 1963

Climbed in Cantabrian Mountain 1966.

Climbed Atlas Mountains 1965

Climbed Taurus Mountains 1967

Crossed Finnmark-Arctic Norway Summer 1968

Climbed Sunmore Alps Norway 1968.

ALL THESE TRIPS HAVE BEEN WITH OTHER WOMENT

Climbed regularly in winter in Scottish Highlands, often L/C young people.

Taken part in many rescues in the mountains,mainly N.Wales.

Is a competent skier, and holds the advanced Mountain Rescue First Aid certificate.

Holds Bronze medallion-life saving.

Dr.C.Evans,member of the Mount Everest Team 1953, is willing to act as a referee for Miss Spark.

His address is:- University of Bangor,
Bangor,
Caerns,
N.Wales.

FAT WOOD, B.D.S., MOUNTAINEER. RESERVE

35 years. Single.

Dental Surgeon.

Had 14 years experience mountaineering, in all parts of Britain.

Has climbed very extensively through Britain.

Has had ten guideless season in all District of the Alps.

Most of the ascents have been made with other women.

Member of the 1962 British Womens Jagdula Expedition to Himalayas.

1963 Crossed Finnmark, Arctic Norway

1963 Climbed Lofoten, N. Norway.

1963 Climbed Sannare Alps, Norway.

1965. Atlas Mountains, Africa.

1966. Cantabrian Mountain.

1967 Taurus Mountains

Was led climb up to Very Severe in Gt. Britain.

Can ski, and swim competently.

Is a very keen ornithologist.

VALERIE HAYNES, M.A. GLACIOLOGIST.

27 years. single.

Lecturer-University of Strathclyde (I/C Geomorphology in Department of Geography).

Summary of her experience as follows:-

Field work.

1. Cambridge Honours Degree Geography (Final year 'physiography' Option)
2. University lecturer I/c Geomorphology-teaches field work techniques.
3. Final stages of preparation for Ph.D. for University of Cambridge which is on glacial erosion, and has involved field work in several areas of the Scottish Highlands, the Jotunheim, Norway 1963,
4. Attended 3 glaciological field courses Swiss Alps 1961, 1965 and 67
5. 1962-Vegetational and geomorphological study in recently deglaciated area Langjokull, Iceland.
6. 1961-Svertisen, Norway. Glaciology, surveying and meteorology.
7. 1968-Humber West Greenland Expedition-Aberdeen University.

DETAILS OF EXPEDITIONS at home and abroad:-

1. 2 months Svartisen Ice cap Norway. (Aim-Study of flow of the Gerdalsisen for a then research student of the University of Cambridge, W.H. Theakstone).
2. 3 months-Central Iceland. Hagavath (Aim-preparation of own part III dissertation for Cambridge degree-geography).
3. 2 months 1964 Jotunheim, Norway. Some climbing, some glacial geomorphology.

Several years experience of mountaineering, throughout Britain and several seasons in Swiss Alps, Norway, Iceland and Greenland.

A strong swimmer, with aqua-lung experience.

A reasonable skier, to stem christiani standard.

Application supported by numbers listed on the foot of her field programme.

Resecca Lloydlangston-

Field Assistant.

26 years Single.

8 years mountaineering experience.

Climbed extensively throughout Britain. Completed a number of very strenuous expeditions through the Scottish Highlands in winter.

One of 2 women (other was M. Porter) who did the first complete traverse of the Fellisallen Pike, R marathon over 55 miles and 13 Fells in under 24 hours continuous walking.

Possess quite exceptional strength for a woman, both in stamina, and ability to lift heavy weights.

A once teacher of physical education, now full-time instructor for the West Riding Education Committee, in Mountaineering.

A full-member of the Upper Wharfedale Fell/Cave Rescue Association. Attended Survival course Glenmore Lodge, 1965.

Attended Survival Symposium 1967

Member British Girls Exploration Society Expedition-Iynggen, Arctic Norway 1966.

Assistant leader various winter survival/mountaineering courses for British Girls Exploration Society in Cairngorms, during winter.

Attended a Norwegian cross-country tour, on skis during the winter of 1967. Covered up to 20 miles per day on skis, with sledges.

The journeys involved crossing glaciers.

Climbed in Swiss and Austrian Alps.

Holds the St. John's Certificate for 1st Aid.

Can swim to high standard. Holds Bronze medallion-life saving.

Instructors award of merit / Instructors certificate - Royal Life Saving Soc
Personal Survival Ward-Gold. A.S.A. Advanced teachers certificate.

Strong caver.

Competent skier, cross country and slalom.

Competent canoe. Represented Britain in Holland and Belgium.

CAROL MCNEILL. FIELD ASSISTANT.

25 years.

6 years mountaineering experience.

Fulltime mountaineering instructor for Edinburgh Education Committee e.

Attended survival course-Cairngorms 1966. Involving snow-holing,
improvised techniques, rescue etc..

British Womens Orinteering Champion.

Represented Britain in World Championships-Orinteering. ?

Skied in Norway, Austria, and Scotland.

(Up to Parallels)

Award of Merit-Royal Life Saving Society.

Gold Award, personal survival. (A.S.A.)

Can swim over 1 mile.

Member National Hospital Voluntary Reserve.

Holds Red Cross Ist. Aid Certificate.

Attended Outward Bound Course 1963.

Holds Mountain Leadership Certificate.

Member British Girls Exploration Society Expedition-Arctic Norway 1966.

Did the first complete traverse of Pennine Way in Winter conditions
involving 250 miles, with another member of expedition (R. Lloyd Langsten).
Has extensive experience of climbing, snow-holing, mountain rescue
etc.. throughout Britain, summer and winter.

Very keen botanist, and zoologist.

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

At present we have the possibility of having two qualified doctors with us on the expedition. The details of the younger one are given here, but we may also have Dr. Catherine MacInnes, Wife of Hamish MacInnes, R.F.M. She has exceptional experience of rescue work on Ben Nevis, and Glencoe, as she accompanies her husband on most rescues. She has climbed very extensively over a large number of years throughout Britain and the Alps, with her husband mainly.

The other medical officer is:-

SARAH VENABLES M.B.Ch.B.

Age 25 years. Single.

A competent climber, leading up to Very Severe rock climbing. Has experience of mountaineering over 7 years, but has been hill walking for much longer period. This experience extends over summer/winter. Several seasons in the Alps-Austria, and Stubai, Chamonix (France). A fair swimmer, and a little skiing. Has experience of mountain rescue work, and has attended various courses for specialised training in mountain rescue first aid.

Kathryn Dilworth. MOUNTAINEER. /Assistant surveyor.

24 years old.

Instructor-Mountaineering.

6 years experience mountaineering throughout Britain, with various climbing expeditions and holidays abroad.

Holds Honours degree in Mathematics.

Has climbed throughout Britain, summer and winter.

Member of 2-man expedition to the Ala-Dag, Turkey 1967.

Crossed Finnmark, N. Norway 1968-all-female party.

Climbed in Lofotene, N. Norway-All-female party 1968

Climbed Gannare Alps, Norway 1968

Climbed Daubaine Alps

" Chamonix

" Switzerland (Zermatte)

" Austria.

Had had four season in the Alps.

Attended a course on mountaineering and glacier work in the

Daubaine, organised by the U.N.C.M.

Instructor at the National Recreation Centre-Glenmore Lodge over varying periods for 3 years. Instructed courses on Survival techniques,

specialised rescue techniques, rock and snow/ice climbing, etc..

Can swim 1 mile.

Holds bronze medallion life saving.

Can ski to stem christi standard.

Holds Red Cross 1st Aid Certificate.

Studying Surveying techniques in preparation for the expedition.

SUSAN FODDEN

ZOOLOGIST/ORNITHOLOGIST.

24 years.

Working at Seal Research Unit, of the Fisheries Laboratory in Suffolk.

Has been one time secretary of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford.

Her experience abroad includes the following:-

1965 Warden of Cape Clear Bird Observatory, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork.

Member of the Cape Clear Bird Observatory Council and Editorial Comm.

1965. Expedition to Middle-East to study raptor migration through S.E. Turkey in particular.

1963 and 1964. Ornithological journeys to Yugoslavia.

1968. Journey to Austria.

1965 Field expeditions to all parts of Britain.

1966 Field expeditions again in British Isles:

1967 Santa Cruz, California. (University of California)

1968 Overland to Iran. Expedition to study ornithology and ecology of various habitats, with study being carried out by a member of Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran.

Field work experience includes the following:-

Survey of breeding bird population-Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, Eire

Study of autumn raptor migration-S.E. Turkey

Behavioural observations-Gray Seals-Hebrides and Orkney

Populations status survey-seals. Isles of Scilly and Cornwall

Populations census Fimmipeds-Ano Nuevo Island, California, U.S.A.

Behavioural observations-Northern elephant seals-Ano Nuevo Island

Population census-griffons-Ano Nuevo Island, California.

Strong swimmer, with considerable experience of handling inflatable fibre glass dinghies, in all conditions off the coast of Britain.

Her application is supported by:-

Dr. H. A. Cole, Director,
Fisheries Laboratory, (Ministry of Agriculture)
Lowestoft.

Mr. W. W. Bonner,
Head,
Seals Research Unit,
Fisheries Laboratory
Lowestoft,
Suffolk.

PROVISIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

FORTUNA BAY, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER.

A. Elephant seal studies.

1. Pup census at three day intervals of the whole colony in Fortuna Bay as a basis to a population study. Daily counts of all animals in study area.

2. Behavioural observations on mother/young relations--observations concentrating on this aspect of breeding behaviour have already been carried out on the grey seal Halichoerus grypus and Northern elephant seal Mirounga angustirostris. The work that has already been done on these species will be repeated for comparison with the Southern elephant seal Mirounga leonina. The results of the earlier work have indicated what aspects ^{this} ~~of~~ field need more detailed study so that the programme for this section of the biological work will include observations on the following:-

1. The establishment of the bond between the cow and pup which enables them to recognise each other.

11. How a cow or pup will identify its partner after they have been separated.

111. Suckling behaviour i.e. establish whether or not the cow or pup solicits suckling; whether or not a pup always suckles from the same cow; conditions under which suckling takes place; length of time spent suckling and whether there is any change in this as the pup grows older.

1v. If suckling between unrelated animals occurs attempt to determine what conditions break down the bond between the mother and pup.

v. All interactions between cows and pups in the group i.e. strange pups as well as a cow's own offspring.

vi. Attempt to determine to what extent the behaviour of bulls disturbs the activities of a group of cows or pups.

vii. Behaviour

Behaviour between a dominant bull and cow in relation to the age of the cow's pup.

VIII. Behaviour between dominant and subordinate bulls in relation to the stage reached in the season.

3. A study of the physical conditions of the environment which may affect the behaviour of a group of elephant seals. A comparative study of the ^{differences between} ~~habitat groups~~ habitats chosen by different groups of elephant seals.

4. Record vocalisations, in particular of the cows and pups, of animals under defined conditions. It is thought that calling is what establishes a recognition bond between a cow and its offspring.

Recordings of adults and young immediately after the birth of a pup immediately prior to and during suckling and whether a mother and her pup get separated, would help to establish whether or not this is so. This type of work will be carried out on the grey seal in the Hebrides this autumn so any difficulties concerning techniques with recording in the field should be overcome.

5. Observations on sand flippering of elephant seals. It is not yet been established what provokes sand flippering; observations of the conditions under which it takes place could be carried out.

6. Collection of blood samples. Genetic differences between different populations of the same species can be demonstrated using electrophoretic techniques on the serum or haemoglobin of an animal. A study of the protein types in the blood of grey or common seals is currently being carried out. It would be possible to carry out a similar project on elephant seals as blood can be collected from live pups and possibly also adults.

7. If filming equipment is available slow-motion film could be shot of the different forms of locomotion used by the different age groups of seals.

This could be analysed and a detailed description made on return to 8, England. 3. The Elephant seals of Macquarie Island are infested with the sucking louse, Lepidocanthirus macrorhini. Those of South Georgia were not infested with the louse when W.F. Bomber was there. Pups should be examined to determine whether or not these lice have yet reached South Georgia.

B. Avifauna.

Carry out a general census of all the breeding populations of birds in the area. This would probably involve the following species:-

Gentoo Penguins, King Penguins (Very small colony), Dominican Gulls, Bonxies, South Georgia Terns, Prions, Diving Petrels (present only if there is sufficiently small rat population not to have got into the petrel burrows), Shearwaters, Giant Petrels, Shearwaters, and Sooty Albatrosses.

c. Rats.

A population study of the rats in Fortuna Bay (and elsewhere) could be made in conjunction with other studies. It would involve regular trapping and preservation of stomach contents, reproductive systems and skulls, and also the collection of faeces. This would give information on the size of the population, what it is eating, the pregnancy rate and the general physiological state of the animals.

BIRD ISLAND. NOVEMBER.

A. Fur Seals.

1. Behavioural observations: concentrating on the topics outlined for the Northern elephant seal, with changes and adaptations where the habits of the different species require it.

2. Census: a count of the island's population of pups in order to see what changes, if any, have taken place since they were last counted.

This would involve counts at 2-3 day intervals. It would also be valuable to attempt to make this census of the total population by leaving Bird Island for a few days (probably three) and searching for pups at Elschul, Undine, Johan Harbour, Anvil Stack and Willis Island.

3. Tagged animals: it would be very useful to be able to locate any of the animals which were tagged by Messrs. Bonner and Vaughan, and which are still present.

B. Black-browed and Grey-headed Mollymauks.

Between 1958 and 1964 ca. 53,500 birds were ringed, most of which were young albatrosses and mollymauks. By 1969 the first of these should be nesting. To determine this and the proportion of breeding birds of known age the following information will need to be collected:-

1. Number of nests with eggs.
2. Number of incubating adults with rings.
3. Ringing details.

These counts would need to be done in December or early January before the end of brooding.

Fur seal and mollymauk work could be completed by early January. However if it were possible for a party to remain on the island for a longer period of time than this the following projects could also be attempted.

c. Wandering Albatross.

1. Collect the same information on nests and eggs as described for mollymauks.

2. Dr. W.N.J. Tickell carried out his experiment in one particular study area in 1962-63. Recounts of nests and eggs in this area (Cony Ridge) are required in order to be able to compare the results with those predicted.

d. General Survey of breeding population of birds present on the island.

E. Replacement of worn rings on age-marked birds.

~~OTHER~~ AREAS.

If Bird Island was left until the end of December/January census work could be carried out on ~~Antarctica~~ other birds in the area in which it was necessary to work (i.e. with reference to preferences of other members of the party). It would be particularly interesting to attempt any or some of the following:-

1. A study of the colony of chinstrap penguins at Cooper Bay.
2. Establish the presence of Grey-backed Storm Petrel-Moltke Harbour
3. Locate and count nesting Giant Petrels.
4. There is evidence that two sympatric species of diving petrel (pelecanoides (Urinatrix) exul and P. georgicus) occur in South Georgia and a study of their breeding biology could prove valuable.

PROPOSED FIELD PROGRAMME IN GLACIOLOGY AND ICE MARGINAL
GEOMORPHOLOGY IN SOUTH GEORGIA.

By Valerie M. Haynes. M.A. (Cantab.)

1. AREA ENVISAGED FOR STUDY:-

The work will be carried out from suitable landing points south of Cumberland Bay. Possible locations include Royal Bay, Cooper Bay, St. Andrew's Bay and Iris Bay.

The exact number of locations to be studied eventually must obviously remain flexible, as local conditions and weather can never be judged beforehand, and can cause considerable changes in any research programme, in the field stage. The amount of detail found in the surveys will also influence the area finally covered.

2. The programme has three main aims, which are inter-related:-

1. To carry out an initial accurate survey of selected glacier margins. It is hoped that this will be consistent with the comprehensive programme for world wide integrated glaciological research as envisaged for the International Hydrological Decade. The surveys will be conducted in the future to show up the pattern of glacier variation in the area.

2. To gain knowledge of glacial and isostatic processes and their results. South Georgia is an example of a fairly heavily glacierised area with a relatively simple ice history (i.e. it is an independent island unlikely to have been covered by ice-sheets from the Antarctic continent), and yet apparently has had many recent glacial fluctuations in different directions. (See J. Mercer 1967 'Glaciers of the Antarctic' Folio 7. Am. Geog. Soc.)

This should contribute to the understanding of similar problems elsewhere, in particular the islands of Western Scotland and Scandinavia.

5. It is hoped that the work will contribute to the fuller understanding of the geomorphology and recent glacial and isostatic history of the Antarctic area itself. In particular the results should provide an interesting comparison with the work done by Dr. C. Chapperton in the Stonnness and Cumberland Bay areas of South Georgia during the last field season, by J. Smith in parts of East coast of South Georgia during the I.G.Y., and by Drs. D.E. Sugden and B.C. John in the South Shetlands. These workers were researching under the auspices of B.A.S.

INTRODUCTION: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GLACIOLOGICAL AND RELATED STUDIES.

1. The importance of glaciers to Hydrology.

Glaciers are important sources of water in many areas of the world. Taking the world as a whole the bulk of the streamflow used by man comes from mountainous areas of high precipitation in glacial or near glacial environments. Three quarters of the world's reserves of fresh water are in the form of snow and ice. Many countries have a great deal of capital ~~invested~~ invested in engineering works using glacial water. Thus an understanding of and ability to predict glacier fluctuations is very necessary. It is not enough to study glaciers only in the settled areas of the world, as they exist in a vast spectrum of climatic and topographical environments. The extent of glaciers depends on a comparatively delicate balance between accumulation and wastage of snow and ice. This in turn is controlled, after a time lag, by the many inter-related elements which go to make up the local climate of an area. Glacier response to different climatic elements may be very different and so must be studied in as many situations as possible. To this end, the Snow and Ice Commission of the International Geophysical Union, are making investigations of as many different types of glaciers as possible during the current Hydrological Decade. A North-South chain of Arctic to Equatorial glacierised areas has been chosen running from Alaska through North and South America to Antarctica, together with two east-west chains to include Continental to Maritime types. Scientists in the countries involved are responsible for the investigations of their own glaciers. South Georgia is one of the areas on the north-south chain of glaciers and Britain is of course responsible for this island.

2. The critical state of many glaciers regarding the pattern of their fluctuations during the next few decades.

Some of the world's glaciers appear to be in a 'hinge line' position between the retreat of the last half of the century and a possible future advance. Although their tongues are continuing to retreat, many glaciers seem to be accumulating an excess of snow in their upper portions. Sub-Antarctic glaciers may be able to give useful information relevant to this question as they may be susceptible even to slight climatic changes.

Obviously it would be invaluable to be able to understand and predict the likelihood of glacial fluctuations as a response to recent measurable climatic fluctuations. Increases of ice cover during the 18th. and 19th centuries covered villages and productive land with ice, and decreases in ice cover this century have sometimes led to flooding.

3. Glacial fluctuations affect world sea-level.

It is not known at present whether the large continental ice sheet of Antarctica is expanding or contracting in size.

Studies have been so few in relation to the vast areas involved that estimates by different workers have been extremely varied.

Long term changes in ice masses of such magnitude will affect world sea-level. Even small sea-level changes, if continued over a long period, could be significant in low lying coastal areas, especially areas below sea-level, like parts of the Netherlands and the British Fens. Obviously work on sea-level changes as related to glacial fluctuations may be of value in this problem.

DETAILED PROGRAMME AND APPLICATION OF THE ABOVE ARGUMENTS TO
SOUTH GEORGIA.

1. Accurate survey of position and character of glacier margins.

The deficiencies in our knowledge, even of an inventory nature, of the world's glaciers has been pinpointed by the institution of the International Hydrological Decade. Thus it is stated by the Snow and Ice Commission of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology that obtaining as comprehensive a view as possible of the state of the world's glaciers is in itself a worthwhile objective for the I.D.H.A. reliable picture is needed of the state and trend of glaciation throughout the world; and for this surveys are needed of as many different types of glaciers as possible in widely different areas. One of the least known and possibly most significant glaciological zones seems to be the Sub-Antarctic Islands. Not only are they amongst the least investigated groups of glaciers, but they might reasonably be expected to be very susceptible even to slight climatic changes. They may, therefore, be amongst the first to show the effects of climatic trends, and so investigations of the variations of ~~snow-and-ice-cover~~ these glaciers from time to time are likely to be interesting and may be significant for what is to follow in areas of the world where glaciers are of economic importance. In any case any increase in our knowledge of the variations of snow and ice cover and how these are related to climate and topography over the earth's surface is likely to have great impact, as snow and ice are the ultimate source of a great part of the world's water supply.

South Georgia seems a particularly promising area in which to investigate glacier margins and their variations. The glaciers are comparatively little known. The little historical information which is available does suggest a very variable history with both recent retreats and advances of different glaciers at different periods (1882

In addition a collection of photographs showing the extent of and characteristics of as many glaciers as possible will be made for the purposes of future comparison.

2. Mapping and interpretation of ice-margin features associated with the glaciers surveyed.

a) Forms of glacial and fluvioglacial erosion and deposition.

b) Raised marine features.

It is planned to survey and map the altitudes and characteristics of raised marine platforms and beaches in association with the related forms of glacial deposition and erosion. A search will be made for datable organic material (shells and peat) associated with the deposits. From this, attempts will be made to unravel the sequence of past glacial fluctuations and associated sea-level movements. Assessments of these events especially on an organised and detailed basis are still relatively rare in the Antarctic zone. (Extensive observations in several Antarctic Islands and in Graham Land were made by Holtedahl in 1927-28, but apart from Sugden and John's recent work in the South Shetlands there is little detailed information on altitudes of platforms, their relationships to ice limits and even less on dated material.) It is evident that there are vast, virtually untapped possibilities for geomorphological research in Antarctica - 'In the past little interest has been taken in the sea level fluctuations of the Scotia Arc and Graham Land, and all too few observations have been made in the field' (Adie 1964 'geological History', in ed. Priestley, Adie and Robin 'Antarctic Research'). Knowledge of these should help in the analysis of world-wide sea level changes.

In South Georgia at least four series of moraines have been recorded, one thought to be 19th. century, and the three remainder tentatively assigned to the Wurm (The last major world wide ice age). There is also some evidence for an older, even more extensive

glaciation, but this needs further investigations. Work by J. Smith quoted in Robin and Adie 'Antarctic Research'. This is especially the case since more recent work (Clapperton as yet unpublished) disputes this view of the glacial sequence.

Most of the observations have been made in the Grøttvikken and surrounding areas. The research programme outlined here will investigate much less known areas. In addition the present state of knowledge, gleaned from scattered observations of glaciers margins suggests a very variable history of recent glacier fluctuations.

Obviously a more complete picture is necessary. 'A thorough knowledge of the fluctuations of the smaller glaciers of the Antarctic may eventually help to resolve some of the questions associated with the glacial history of the Antarctic (Mercer 1967 'Glaciers of the Antarctic' Maps Folio 7, Am. Geog. Soc.). Geomorphological work should be able to contribute to such investigations.

A side effect of such investigations in an area of quite heavy glacierisation, where the action of glaciers and changes in sea-level are closely juxtaposed, should be to further our understanding of the landforms developed on the coastal margins of Pleistocene glaciers in such areas as the Scottish Highlands, (Processes such as low level corrie formation and the interplay of the sea and the glaciers during the ice retreat and advance should be well displayed.)

3. General Geomorphology.

Attention will be paid to the general geomorphology of the areas studied. South Georgia is an area of corrie and valley glaciation today, some at very low levels. As such it forms a very interesting area to compare with Britain during certain stages of the Ice Age. Information on present day modification of the features of glacial and marine origin will also be sought.

Feasibility of the programme.

The two major aspects of the field programme (glacier margin and ice-free ground surveys) can be co-ordinated very well as they both concentrate on the ice margins and ice marginal ground. They also involve work mainly at low altitudes and so will be as little hampered by the inclement weather as is possible in such a stormy climatic zone.

It is also a programme which will be greatly aided by the availability of a ship to allow investigations at intervals along a coast which is difficult to traverse on land. A chartered vessel is to be at our disposal during the period in the field. The foregoing programme has been prepared after discussions with a number of scientists who have worked in the glaciological and geomorphological field in the Antarctic area. Close contact is being maintained with Dr. C. Clapperton and Dr. D. Sugden who have found similar research programmes to be successful and productive—Dr. Clapperton in the Grytviken and Stromness area of South Georgia and Dr. Sugden in the South Shetlands.

This programme is to be organised by Miss V. M. Haynes, M.A. (Cantab), at present Assistant Lecturer in charge of Geomorphology in the Geography Department of the University of Strathclyde. She is in the final stages of preparation of a Ph.D. thesis for the University of Cambridge on the relationship of glacial erosion processes and rock type in the development of glaciated landforms. She has several years' experience of glaciological and geomorphological work in a variety of areas—the Swiss Alps, Iceland, Arctic and Central Norway, and Greenland. In the summer of 1968 Miss Haynes was invited to take part in a three month expedition to the SØNDRE STRØMFJORD area of West Greenland. The expedition was organised by Dr. D. E. Sugden and was supported by many bodies such as the Royal Society, the Carnegie

Trust, The Royal Geographical Society, The Everest Foundation
and N.A.T.O. This expedition has been excellent experience for the
rather similar field programme planned for South Georgia. The expedition
was very successful and has produced many interesting results in
the glacial and isostatic history of this part of Greenland.

People willing to act as referees for Miss Haynes' Scientific work.

Dr. C. W. H. Swinbank,
Scott Polar Research Institute,
Lensfield Road,
CAMBRIDGE.

(A member of B.A.S.)

Professor J. A. Steers.
(Emeritus Professor of Geography in the University of Cambridge)
3, Thornton Close,
Cambridge.

B. W. Sparks, M.A.,
Jesus College,
Cambridge.

(Supervisor for Miss Haynes' doctoral research project)

Mrs. J. M. Grove, M.A., Ph.D.,
Girton College,
CAMBRIDGE.

(Director of studies in Geography, Girton College, Cambridge, where
Miss Haynes obtained her first degree. A glaciologist of considerable
experience, especially in the Swiss Alps and Norway.)

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR SAFETY AND RESCUE.

The chartered vessel will be standing-off at most times, near one or both parties, except when the whole party is in one area together.

The ship has a sick bay where a patient could be accommodated, and the ship could, if necessary evacuate the patient(s) together with one of the 2 medical officers(if we have 2) to the nearest port suited to handle the patients needs.

In the field everyone will be competent to cope with the terrain(technical competence in mountaineering, navigation etc..) Everyone will receive extensive training and /or revision of the latest survival and rescue techniques, including improvisation to a high standard. Several members of the party including the leader are always up to date on every new development within the fields of rescue, first aid, survival and mountaineering, as they instruct these subjects to a high standard in the National Recreation Centres. Several members of the party are highly experienced in practical rescue work, both crag rescue, and glacier work(crevasses etc..) It is intended to provide the following specialised equipment in addition to the usual 1st.class mountaineering equipment:-

A portable hut, possibly fibreglass with some form of cable for stability in high wind. This will be erected as a base hut on each bay visited in case local winds prevent the ship coming in in case of need for extra shelter. It will be used as a office in any other instance. The TWTC will be tested mountain tents, with sewn-in groundsheets, etc.. in addition to the normal pyramid-type Antarctic tents for 2-3man. Each party will have sufficient pyramid tents for everyone to be able to use them if necessary.

The latest specialised rescue equipment will be taken in case of crevasse and avalanche rescue. Special probes for avalanches, cords, flares, jumars clamps, hieblers, prussikers, and everyone will be fully competent to handle improvised techniques such as pulley systems etc.. using normal climbing equipment. Dead men will be taken at all times where any snow slopes are encountered.

All members of the party will carry full alpine bivouac equipment at all time.

The 'day' sacks' will be made-up to include items such as spare high protein/energy content food (glucose etc.), bivouac gear, including a Edarsky sack, duvet, duvet trousers, spare clothing, flares, radio appropriate mountaineering equipment depending upon the nature of the terrain likely to be encountered. Wherever possible reconnaissance trips will be made by the most competent members available at that time. Careful attention will be paid to adjuate lighting, the latest illuminating flares, and high-powered batteries will be used, and we will have a rescue box at a know place, containing various essential items for rescue. Things such as the Norwegian Helper sled will be carried by each field party. This sled can be erected in about 10 minutes, and provides a perfect hauling sledge, rigid enough to cope with a spinal injury. It has been used with ordinary touring skis to make dog-hauling sleds in Norway. The Item consists of a canvas deck, with tie-offs, handles, for towing, and various clamps for attaching the deck to any kind of skis. The result is a first-class sledge. There are many other ways in which stretchers can be improvised using climbing ropes and slings.

Because of difficulty with ordinary radio transmission in mountain areas sometimes, everyone will learn morse code. We will attempt to keep a radio contact with the ship at all times and have regular calls. Several of the members of the party have experience of radio as we use them extensively in mountain rescue work, and cave rescue. The likely type of radio will be Pye Bantam or similar, which we use.

Other survival items to be included are snow saws and shovels for snow-holing. Everyone in the party will be snow-holing etc.. during this winter, in the Cairngorms and possibly in Norway.

TRAINING.

The most experienced members of the party will be instructing on a training course to be held in either the Cairngorms or Norway this winter. The programme will include the following: Crevasse rescue, mountain safety, use of certain specialised equipment, camping and safe movement on snow and ice, sledge-hauling, ski-ing, (including hauling with skis) radio, general mountain craft, navigation in bad conditions, such as 'white-outs', blizzards, at night, etc.. Several nights will be spent out in snow holes, igloos and other forms of improvised shelter.

Only equipment which has been tried and tested will be taken, we will not accept items which are vital to our well-being, if they are still in the experimental stage. This applies to all mountaineering equipment (ropes, slings, ice axes, crampons, karabiners, all form of rope clamps, pitons, ice screws, dead man, snow pegs, crash hats sledges, tents, sleeping bags, rucksack, boots, other personal items of clothing etc.). Obviously manufacturers like to have items of equipment tested under the most severe conditions, but we will only accept such items where there is no chance of any resultant casualty. Items such as goggles need careful selection, since there are very few types which are efficient and effective. New items of rescue equipment will include the space blankets, for use in case of severe chilling (suspected hypothermia).

A rigid safety code will be drafted to include such items as a list of equipment which MUST be taken out wherever the party is going, no matter how easy the terrain, no-one must travel in parties of less than three of which at least one should be one of the best mountaineers. The standard safety number for travel across glaciers is two parties of two (as a four).

With the knowledge in the party, the equipment, and the medical officer(s), plus the ship it is fair to state that we could effect a most difficult rescue in absolute safety, and with speed, on rock, snow, steep ground, or on the snow fields. Everyone is a competent swimmer, and most hold life saving certificates which would enable us to assist anyone who fell out of a landing craft. We are considering the use of neoprene wet-suits, for the time when we are unloading items from the small prams. The wet-suits are used by divers etc. and would eliminate any chance of death from falling into icy water. They are close-fitting and can be worn underneath normal clothing.

One member of the party is a qualified aqua-lung diver, with her own equipment.

RESERVES OF RATIONS AND EQUIPMENT.

The party will carry a sufficient amount of reserve rations at all times, there will be a dump at every new base created. In addition we will ensure that there is sufficient supply of reserve fuel (paraffin) and various items of equipment (e.g. tents, sleeping bags, ice axes, crampons, clothing etc..) so that should a large amount of equipment be lost, either during unloading from the ship, down a crevasse, in an avalanche, or burnt, etc..) there will be sufficient food, clothing, and equipment to ensure the 100% safety and well-being of the party.

SUPPORT.

Various members of the party have obtained the names of distinguished people who would be willing to provide references for individuals.

We have not ventured to seek the support of a patron, because it appeared presumptuous to do so before we had presented our formal application for permission to visit South Georgia.

We already have the promise of financial support from various sources press, industry etc.. and the leader has received a Fellowship of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust towards her personal expenses. In addition we hope to receive the support of the following:-

Royal Geographical Society
Scottish Geographical Society
Carnegie Trust
Mount Everest Foundation

Miss Haynes will be making application to the Royal Society.

We are not presenting formal application for support to any body before we have received the result of our application for permission to visit the island.

The matter of organising the necessary finances rests mainly with the authors agents David Higham Associates Ltd., of London, W.1.

Research carried out during the 2½ years preparations.

The following people and Societies have been consulted during the course of evolving a programme of work for the expedition:-

Commander M.K. Burley, M.B.E. Leader Combined Services Expedition

Squadron Leader A. Back-Deputy Leader "

Mr. N. Selvesen, of Leith Harbour, now Perthshire.

Mr. D. Carse-Leader South Georgia Surveys.

Dr. W.N.I. Tickell

Mr. J. Cunningham, member South Georgia Surveys.

Mr. G. Sutton-Leader-South Georgia Expedition.

Dr. C.W. Swinthinbank.

Dr. D. Sugden

Dr. C. Clapperton

Sir V.E. Fuchs

Royal Geographical Society

Scott Polar Research Institute

~~Frank Peel~~

Captain F. White


Sir R.

Dr. Adie.

In addition many dozens of scientific papers, journals, and books have been read, and members of the party have contacted many other people too numerous to receive mention.

TRANSPORT.

It is the intention of the expedition to charter a Norwegian ship for the entire duration of the expedition from U.K. home to U.K. I have submitted the details of the ship to Captain Freddie White, an Elder Brother of Trinity House, and former master of the DARWIN and FITZROY, In his detailed reply Captain White offered several items of advice concerning small details, but he said that from the information supplied the ship was small, but suitable for the task. The crew will definitely include at least two officers who have previous knowledge of South Georgia, with the whaling stations. There are no specific details about these two men at the time of writing, but I will forward any further details as required, as soon as they become available. It is our intention to obtain a further first-hand word on the ship, but the captain is known personally to Mr. George Sutton, leader of the British South Georgia Expedition in the 1950's.

The Owner is Captain S. Krey, of Lonkann-in Versteraaalen. We have not signed a final charter, because we are seeking the advice of a competent ship broker first, and will not take such a step until such time as approval has been granted or refused. 

The ship is 3,473 tons. The following is a summary of Captain F. White's comments on the information which was available:--

1. The vessel is small, but not unduly so, and although the draft is heavy for her size this would only produce lively motion. He did not seem concerned about any ice strengthening, as there is little ice around South Georgia.
2. The cargo capacity of 4,200 cubic feet is in one hold, with a small access hatch, which would need to be taken into account when crating items. The space available is sufficient for the needs of the party.
3. He stressed that there should be good anchors and cables to cope with the very severe local winds which arise.
4. Fuel figures give an effective maximum range of 3,900 miles. This appears adequate, but he stressed that careful planning would be advisable on the outward journey, and during the subsequent operations around South Georgia. He gave the names of the nearest bunkers, and advised me to enquire about the possibility of local bunkers in S.G.

for diesel fuel.

5. Fresh water capacity is small, but further tanks could be installed to remedy this. This is only important during the journey from U.K.
6. Main engine and generators must be satisfactory as they have been proved during the service of the ship already.
7. The accommodation seems adequate. He stressed that heating should be adequate and efficient.
8. We have to install good radio equipment, he stressed the difficulty that can be experienced at times due to the presence of high land. I have already asked the captain about radio, as we need one which can relay messages to Port Stanley direct, in case the station on South Georgia ~~becomes~~ is not available.
9. Lifeboat accommodation appears satisfactory. He said the addition of 2 liferafts was excellent. He recommended a 'sea Rover' type of craft for quick landing of personnel and the boat on the foredeck could be used for the landing of equipment etc..
10. He advised me to check to ensure that insurance and manning of the ship is within the compliance of a recognised maritime law. He considered, from the accommodation plan that there was sufficient manning of the ship.
11. He said that generally speaking, on paper the vessel would appear suitable for our purpose. He completed his comments by listing a number of considerations, which would not be relevant unless we received permission to visit South Georgia, so I will not list them here.

NOTE ON THE CHARTER CONTRACT.

I will have the charter contract drawn-up by a very reliable Ship Broker, and will seek the advice of someone like Captain F. White beforehand. I will ensure that the contract includes strong wording concerning the activities of the members of the crew whilst the parties are on-shore. Items I think of immediately are as follows:-

1. The entering of any of the buildings on any of the whaling stns.
2. The killing of any wild life whatsoever on or very close to the island(seals, birds, reindeer etc..)
3. Consumption of alcohol by the members of the crew.

I will also ensure that the terms of the contract include 1st. class insurance, absolute compliance with reliable maritime law, sufficient protection in case of mechanical break-down, a guarantee that the members of the crew (officers i.e.) include at least TWO men who know the coast of South Georgia well (preferably Captain and 1 other.)

I will arrange for a reliable person to view the ship first hand before entering into any final contract.

C O P Y

Lonkan in Vesteraalen, Norway, October 29th, 1968.

Dear Mrs Porter,

In accordance with your letter of October 15th, I am sending you some information about the ship, crew and so on. Please find enclosed a plan of the ships lay-out, which I have tried to translate to English the most important. You do not need to return the plan.

In connection with your questions, I have the following answers:

- A) The ship is twenty years old - exactly, but she has been rebuilt once. Her length is 35,4 metres or 115' 09". Beam 6,7 metres or 21' 08". Draft 4,5 metres or 14' 06". Her gross tonnage is 347,3 and net 200,9.
- B) About the accommodation you have to conclude with enclosed plan of the ship. Shortly mentioned - she has a passenger certificate of 134. From the plan you will find 11 passengers cabins on lower tween deck, which give room for 21 persons. On the stated main deck you may find two other passenger's cabins two passengers' saloons and passengers' diningroom. I might mention that these two passenger saloons are planned to be converted to passengers' cabins and one bathroom. On the upper tween deck or stormdeck you find no. 3rd big passengers' saloon or day-room, wardrobe, a nice big hospital room, toilets, officers' cabins etc. Also I can mention that the ship has heating - combined with air pipes in the whole accommodation on board.
- C) The ship is equipped with a small radio-telephone, which will be supplied with a short-wave radio station. This new radio will also make it possible to send messages from South Georgia to Port Stanley. The ship has a good "Decca 212 Radar Set, and also an "Echo-sounder" of the good type "Robertson".
- D) The ship has her Insurance Class in "Den Norske Skipsskontroll", i.e., (The Norwegian Shipcontrol), which is a well known and strict class-institution.
- E) The main engine is an "Atlas Polar Diesel" - type M 46 I - on 450 B.H.P. and 515 I.H.P. at 300 R/M. This gives the ship a speed of 10,5 knots. She has also two pieces Auxiliary Engines which transact 2 pieces 22 KW. generators - for the electrical power on board. Total fuel consumption per day is around 2 tons. Bunkers capacity 31 tons, and fresh water capacity 16,2 tons, except spare tanks which will be installed.
- F) It is a little too early to give any description or detailed information about the officers and crew, but as I have mentioned before - I have on hand two certificated officers who know S. Georgia from whale expeditions. The chief engineer is a well qualified man, with good experience and certificated.
- G) For the time being I may also mention that a good and seaworthy boat will be carried on fore-deck - for use under landing of expedition members at South Georgia. From enclosed plan you will find three lifeboats for 34 persons. Including these boats - I have on board 2 pieces liferafts, each for 15 persons, 156 lifebelts and 4 pc. life-buoys.

I do hope you find this ship suitable and good enough to make the planned expedition voyage. One thing is for sure - she is bigger, more comfortable and has more Life Saving Equipment than any Sealer.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Sture Krey, Captain.

Y/E

17

This is no bunch of girls off on a jolly!!!!!!

The details of experience are most impressive and and by far outweigh any of our G/A mountaineers. past or present

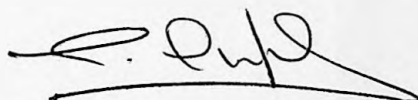
The arrangements made for living, safety, rescue and survival if they adhere to them, are more than adequate and prove the high degree of knowledge in this particular field quoted in the experience details.

They have the sensible arrangement of a support ship permanently in the area. This is both tactically and psychologically sound, the latter to the onlookers as well

Regarding programmes. I am always wary of these private programmes, often included to justify the basic aim climbing, but I would think from their list of contacts that there would be no great clash of interests.

I can see no reason why they should not granted the necessary permission. I feel there may be some blocking purely on the grounds that the members are of the "weaker sex"!!!!!!!

What on earth is orinteeering? *From Greek word OROS = a mountain - apparently it is a combination of map reading + rambling!* *EW 31/1*



E.C.J. Clapp. O.I/c.
British Antarctic Survey, Stanley.

31st January. 1969

ECJC/JØ

Cs. grateful your early views. with Knipovich in harbour we may need to find word to go S.A.

Yc.

It seems a better & safer proposition than it first seemed. I am sure I cannot say more

EW 31/1

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P2538 P4776/32/401381 500 11/66 R. Ward 843

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	STANLEY			1.2.69
To	ETAT ADMINOFF ZBH			SGA/C

No 15 Letter on Porter expedition sent to you per hand
 Captain Petukhov
 Thompson

Time

AA

Rg

3rd February

69.

0/1.C

To: British Antarctic Survey,

From: Colonial Secretary

STANLEY.

I shall be grateful if you will pass the following message over your RTT link.

"Director/Governor.

Mrs Porter in letter dated 1st January applies for permission to take womens expedition to South Georgia between October 1969 and February 1970. States expedition would wish to remain absolutely independent of any outsiders at all including rescue.

2. I have sent all papers to Coleman for comment and expect them back by Perla Dan when I will signal you further.

3. In view of British Antarctic Survey assumption of management King Edward Point in November I shall wish to concert my reply with you. Meanwhile I am merely acknowledging Mrs Porter's letter."

(W. H. THOMPSON)
COLONIAL SECRETARY

AA.

Copies: 2402
H.E.

235
22

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P1677 P4416 8/64

FOR SECRETARIAT FILES.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	R		04.10.02	4.2.69

To
FM STANLEY OFFICE
TO LONDON HQ

17
X/199/69 DIRECTOR/GOVERNOR. MRS PORTER IN LETTER DATED 1ST JANUARY APPEALS FOR PERMISSION TO TAKE WOMENS EXPEDITION TO SOUTH GEORGIA BETWEEN OCTOBER 1969 AND FEBRUARY 1970. STATES EXPEDITION WOULD WISH TO REMAIN ABSOLUTELY INDEPENDENT OF ANY OUTSIDERS AT ALL INCLUDING RESCUE.

2. I HAVE SENT ALL PAPERS TO COLEMAN FOR COMMENT AND EXPECT THEM BACK BY PERLA DAN WHEN I WILL SIGNAL YOU FURTHER.

3. IN VIEW OF BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT KING EDWARD POINT IN NOVEMBER I SHALL WISH TO CONCERT MY REPLY WITH YOU. MEANWHILE I AM MERELY ACKNOWLEDGING MRS PORTER'S LETTER.=

CH/-

Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

P2538 P4776/32/401381 500 11/66 R. Ward 843

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed In at

Date

STANLEY

4.2.69

To

LEF PORTER RYNETTIN KINCRAIG SCOTLAND

SGA/C

17
Your letter first January acknowledged and passed South
Georgia for comment stop Hope reply mail leaving Stanley
21st February 26

Governor

Time

AA

Mr Stoman -

might we please discuss
at 11.30 am on Monday
17th?

15/2/69



ZCZCFFFFFFF

220/69 Z 0955Z 6/2/69

FROM LONDON HQ
TO STANLEY OFFICE

AS/126/2 X/199/69 GOVERNOR/DIRECTOR AM NOT IMPRESSED BY
PERSONALITY MRS PORTER AND REMAIN ALLERGIC TO PROJECT. IF YOU
DECIDE TO GRANT PERMISSION BAS CANNOT AVOID LIABILITY FOR
ASSISTANCE IF CALLED FOR WHATEVER SHE SAYS AND WILL DO SO IN CASE
OF REAL NEED.

VEFXSAP

FFFFF

MEMO

S.G. No.....

C.S. No.....

From:—

5th February.....1969.

Yic.
441 S
W1
14/2
THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
SOUTH GEORGIA.

To:—
The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Mrs. Porter's Expedition

17
Reference the attached particulars supplied by Mrs. Porter in connection with her proposed expedition to South Georgia I would comment as follows :-

Personnel

All appear to be very competent and have experience which I would say far exceeds the average BAS young man who comes to man the bases, therefore fully capable to look after themselves. Mrs. Porter seems to have worked exceedingly hard at her home work and from her comments very much alive to all difficulties. However, she has planned to minimize difficulties and dangers and seems equally competent to deal with them should they arise.

Programme

Here again she shows a sensible approach and not the 'glory at all costs attitude'. The scientific programme appears ambitious but this is to be commended. Those engaged seem well qualified and I think should produce some interesting results.

Ship

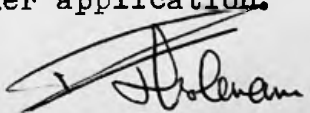
This has been described as apparently adequate in all respects for the work required. I would, however, comment that it would seem a wise precaution that the ship bunkers in Stanley so that she may have full use of her maximum range after leaving that port. Should the ship for any reason need bunkers from South Georgia, then this is a matter for BAS who will then be in occupation.

Bird Island

The hut at Bird Island I have not been able to inspect as I have had no vessels placed at my disposal to do so. I would like to inspect this hut before commenting further. As I remember, it was part of the agreement with Tickell that when he left it was to become the property of the Falkland Islands Government, in which case permission to use it would rest with His Excellency.

Conclusion

This seems to be a well found expedition with serious intent. I think Mrs. Porter is to be commended for her detailed study and forethought in planning. I see no reason why she should not be granted permission to bring her expedition to South Georgia. I support her application.


ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

20 February, 1969.

S. 26h

17
Thank you for your letter dated 1st January making application for permission for the proposed British Women's Expedition to visit South Georgia in 1969.

You will have received my telegram of 4th February acknowledging your letter.

The information which you sent has been carefully studied, both here and in South Georgia, and your initiative is much admired. I was glad to read that you certainly do not underestimate the difficulties of your proposed venture and, undoubtedly, the steps which you are hoping to take to secure the safety of your party are extremely prudent. I must admit, however, to one very serious doubt which concerns your "wish to remain absolutely independent of any outsiders at all, including the instance of rescue". I acknowledge that the members of your party would have the ability to care for themselves in a hostile environment, with safety first and foremost in their minds but, accidents do occur due to natural causes quite outside the control of human beings. Your expedition would undoubtedly receive publicity in the press and I fear that, despite your wish to avoid dependence on other people for rescue, assistance would have to be provided from other sources in South Georgia even though you say you do not want it. It would be difficult for me to grant permission at this stage when I well know that we have not, in South Georgia, the means to succour you if you, or your supporting vessel, were in difficulties.

You are probably aware that, as from November this year, the British Antarctic Survey will be taking over the duties hitherto performed at King Edward Point by the Administrative Officer and, since the dates you are contemplating for your expedition will coincide with the establishment of the Survey's base at King Edward Point, I have thought it right to refer your application to Sir Vivian Fuchs for his advice.

With one exception, I am retaining here the extremely interesting papers which you have sent me. Perhaps you may wish to send copies to Sir Vivian. The exception I have mentioned refers to Captain Krey's letter of 29th October 1968, together with a photograph of his ship as you specifically asked that these should be returned and they are now enclosed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Vivian Fuchs.

CA

Mrs Mollie Porter.

Copies to Sir Vivian Fuchs

A. St.J. Sugg, Esq., C.M.G.

AO South Georgia

O i/c B.A.S. Stanley.

FROM GOVERNOR

TO DIRECTOR

AS/126/2.

W1
26/2

Have discussed with Sloman and am now fully aware of problems that you experienced with this individual. In view of this information I can have little confidence in person concerned. By this mail I have written letter which is bound to cause renewed reference to you. Copy being sent to you.

In the event of person concerned standing down and someone more acceptable taking charge I would be obliged to reconsider and would probably have to give permission.

Yk. 240 tons from our stocks is
too much, but the Admiralty
might agree to supply.

S.I.

14/3

ZCZC

FFFF

461/69 R 1300Z 14/3/69

FROM LONDON HQ
TO COLONIAL SECRETARY

AS/126/1 HAVE SEEN DETAILS OF VESSEL MRS PORTER HOPES TO
CHARTER FOR EXPEDITION TO SOUTH GEORGIA. IT USES TWO TONS
PER DAY WITH TOTAL BUNKER CAPACITY OF ONLY 31 TONS.
SHE INTENDS TO SPEND 4 MONTHS ON ISLAND WITH SHIP
STANDING BY WHICH WILL MEAN THAT SHE WILL NEED ABOUT 240
TONS OF FUEL. THE SHIP WITH A TOTAL ENDURANCE OF ONLY
15 DAYS WILL BE LOOKING FOR FUEL FREQUENTLY AT PLACES
NEARER THAN THE SOUTH AMERICAN MAINLAND. I AM PROPOSING
TO WRITE TO HER WARNING THAT B.A.S. CANNOT LET HER HAVE
FUEL FROM OUR STOCKS IN SOUTH GEORGIA OR IN STANLEY.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME ALSO TO WARN HER THAT SUPPLIES ARE NOT
LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FROM GOVERNMENT STOCKS IN STANLEY?
GIPPS.

REPLY AT 30.

DRG/PCSW

FFFF

C.S. please speak on telephone
on 19/3

28 ~~30~~

REPLY TO 28

O i/c

Please pass the following to London:-

X/.../69 AS/126/1

"Colonial Secretary having consulted Governor considers Colony would be chary of depleting rather limited stocks fuel oil and suggests Punta Arenas best source supply."

March 1969

NNNN

29

YCZC ATSO018 GWV358 TT091

FLLY CO GBGW 006

AVIEMORE 6 18 1655



GOVERNOR PORTSTANLEYFALKLANDISLANDS

²⁶
ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT LETTER

PORTER

2/4/69

AS/126/1

6th March, 1969

(26)

By now you will have received the Governor's letter dated 20th February, from which it seems that he expects the British Antarctic Survey to provide the backing which he requires you to have. Our position is that in 1969/70 we shall only be operating the charter ship and the RRS JOHN BISCOE; the SHACKLETON will not be going south. Since the PERLA DAN costs about £1,000 per day, it is out of the question for us to delay her for any reason. In any case it happens that we are planning to use her to land a new aircraft in the Antarctic Peninsula area, and then sail her direct to Halley Bay, possibly calling at Signy Island but not South Georgia.

The BISCOE will be changing over the personnel at South Georgia about the beginning of December and after that she will be committed to other tasks a long way from your area. With only one ship available throughout the season it is impossible for me to accept responsibility for her being at call. This position will remain in future years, as we shall not again have more than two ships in the Antarctic at one time.

From all this you will see that I cannot undertake to provide the planned succour which the Governor requires before he will grant permission for your expedition. Our own problems will be enhanced by the loss of one ship, and the remaining one may well be held for long periods in the ice, as has happened in the past. I am sorry to say that it is not possible to accept an additional responsibility on top of our own complex programme.

V.E.F.

V. E. FUCHSMrs. M. Porter.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

31

From M PORTER

To GOVERNOR FALKLAND ISLANDS

Despatched : 28th April 19 69 Time : 1035

Received : 28th April 19 69 Time : 1100

Lascelles

Would you consider additional support from Navy adequate should this be available General Lascelles making enquiries concerning possibilities in event of postponement due to lack of time left for completion of preparations would you consider possibility granting permission for next summer programme and plans would remain similar your comments concerning future prospects would be much appreciated thank you for your attention

M Porter

P 'L : AA

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

PI677 P4416 8/64

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	R	291545Z		29.4.69

To

FM STANLEY OFFICE

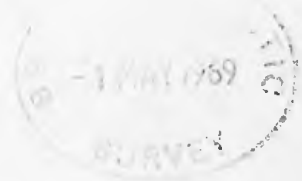
TO LONDON HQ

X/656/69 FOR FUCHS FROM GOVERNOR MRS MOLLIE PORTER HAS TELEGRAPHED QUOTE WOULD YOU CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM NAVY ADEQUATE SHOULD THIS BE AVAILABLE GENERAL LASCELLES MAKING ENQUIRIES CONCERNING POSSIBILITIES IN EVENT OF POSTPONEMENT DUE TO LACK OF TIME LEFT FOR COMPLETION OF PREPARATIONS WOULD YOU CONSIDER POSSIBILITY GRANTING PERMISSION FOR NEXT SUMMER PROGRAMME AND PLANS WOULD REMAIN SIMILAR YOUR COMMENTS CONCERNING FUTURE PROSPECTS WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION M. PORTER UNQUOTE STOP GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONTACT LASCELLES OF WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST 10 QUEEN STREET LONDON W. 1. AND LET ME HAVE MATERIAL FOR REPLY TO MRS PORTER.

Time

34

W
8/1



W
722/69 R 1244Z 2/5/69

FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/126/4 X/656/69 GOVERNOR/FUCHS GEN LASCELLS HAS APPROACHED
NAVY RE RESCUE OPERATION IF NEEDED. NO ANSWER RECEIVED BUT HE WILL
INFORM ME. I HAVE NOT YET SEEN BUCHANAN BUT WILL DISCUSS WITH HIM.
SOMETIME AGO I WROTE TO HYDROGRAPHER WARNING OF THIS POSS REQUEST
AND INDICATING YOUR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM. HAVE WARNED PORTER NOT TO
EXPECT FUEL FROM FI OR BAS. PROPOSED SHIP IS MV SIGNALHORN WHICH
MUST BE WELL OVER 30 YEARS OLD. CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT YOUR
AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF FUEL PROBLEM (WOULD
YOU AGREE TO SHIP BEING ABSENT AT INTERVALS TO COLLECT IT IN SOUTH
AMERICA?), TO MOD (NAVY) AGREEING TO ENDURANCE UNDERTAKING RESCUE IF
NECESSARY AND TO RGS APPROVAL OF EXPEDITION. LASCELLS SAID HE
PRESUMED EXPEDITION WOULD NOT GO IF THE FIRST TWO OF THESE FACTORS
WERE NOT RESOLVED.

VEF/AM

3d

1000

O i/c

Would you please pass following to London Office:-

X/..../69 AS/126/4 Fuchs/Governor

I have replied to Porter quote my agreement would necessarily depend first on satisfactory solution fuel problem secondly Ministry Defence Navy agreeing Endurance undertaking rescue if necessary and thirdly Royal Geographical Society approval of expedition stop Planning for future would be subject same stipulations unquote stop I think we would have to concede that support ship would visit South America for fuel and we would require land party during such periods to exercise particular restraint in undertaking activity distant from base.

PS. On file please
LM
17/5-

37



FFFFF

793/69 R 1600Z 14/5/69

FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/126/4 GOVERNOR/FUCHS FOR INFO. MRS PORTER STATES HER
ALTERNATIVE SHIPS ARE BJARKOY AND SIGNALHORN AND BOTH OWNERS
HAVE OFFERED INSTAL SUFFICIENT TANKAGE FOR HER PROGRAMME.
NO QUANTITIES STATED. NAVY INDICATE WOULD ALWAYS HELP IN CASE
OF DISTRESS BUT SHIP MIGHT BE 1000 MI DISTANCE AND PROBABLY
NOT CLOSER THAN 600 MILES. THEY ALSO STATE ENDURANCE'S
IMPORTANT WORK SHOULD ONLY BE INTERRUPTED IN REAL EMERGENCY.
RGS SEEMS UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT AND I SHALL KNOW AND REPORT
ON 19TH MAY.

VEF/SAP

FFFFF

38



WY R
838/69 R 1537Z 22/5/69

FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/126/4 GOVERNOR/FUCHS I HAVE TODAY RECEIVED A COPY OF
THE RGS LETTER TO MRS PORTER STATING THAT THE COMMITTEE QUOTE
FIND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SOCIETY SHOULD
SUPPORT YOUR EXPEDITION UNQUOTE.

VEF/AM

39
29 May, 1969.

By bag through the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, I am sending you the usual copy of my address to Legislative Council at our recent budget meeting.

Most of the contents are rather parochial but you may find one or two items of interest in it.

Many thanks for your signal AS/126/4 of 22nd May informing me that the committee of the Royal Geographical Society finds itself unable to recommend that the Society should support Mrs Porter's expedition.

I hope that we have now heard the end of the story; a hunch indicates to me that perhaps we have not.

W
..
Sir Vivian Fuchs



(HGF 17/5)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London S.W.1



10 June, 1969.

ls
4/7/69

Dear Sir Cosmo -

You sent me a copy of your letter of 20 February addressed to Mrs. Mollie Porter about her proposed expedition to South Georgia. But it is not clear to me whether you received a copy of Sir Vivian's letter of 6 March, and I now enclose a copy of this.

Recently the H.O.D. sent me copies of correspondence between Major General Lascelles of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and a Captain Martin of the Navy, and I thought you might like to have copies of these so that you will know that Mrs. Porter is still apparently intent on going to South Georgia.

I should have sent these letters to you earlier but I had rather expected to have had something further about it here.

Yours faithfully,
A. St. J. Sugg

(A. St. J. Sugg)

Sir Cosmo Haskard, K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,
Government House,
Fort Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*P.S. Place in file + show in Jones
phase
ls 04/ '69*

206/tj. 40A
2 E/i
WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

PATRON:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

10 QUEEN STREET MAYFAIR
LONDON W.1
W1X 7PD
Telephone: MAYFAIR (01-629) 0091

7th May, 1969.

Dear Captain Martin

1/e/ii
May I thank you very much for your letter about Mrs. Porter. It is indeed generous of the Admiralty to consider going to the rescue of Mrs. Porter if she fell into distress amounting to a real emergency, and I am sure that she would not wish to be the cause of disturbing the important work of HMS Endurance. I have sent a copy both to Mrs. Porter and Sir Vivien Fuchs. I believe the problem may be that Mrs. Porter's ship, which I think is called the Signal Horn, may have too short an endurance to stand by Mrs. Porter's expedition continuously. If this is so, the ship would have to return to South America, perhaps Montevideo, for oil which it could not obtain either in South Georgia or the Falkland Islands. Mrs. Porter's expedition would be uncovered during refuelling periods. I am sure that both Sir Vivien and the Governor are anxious to avoid the risk of disruption of the programme of HMS Endurance and of many other activities that would be inevitable if Mrs. Porter ran into trouble when her own ship was away refuelling. If it were a men's expedition they would be left to sweat it out. As it is a women's expedition they would all have to rush to the rescue. The age of chivalry still lives in the South Atlantic.

Yours Sincerely
Anthony Lascelles
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Captain T.L. Martin, Royal Navy.

Trustees: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cromer, M.B.E. (Chairman), The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Boyle, Bt., M.P., Mr. Anthony Montague Browne, C.B.E., D.F.C., Mr. Winston S. Churchill, Sir Leslie Rowan, K.C.B., C.V.O.

Council: The Rt. Hon. The Viscount De L'Isle, V.C., K.O., G.C.M.O., O.C.V.O., (Chairman), The Countess Alexander of Tunis, O.B.E., Mr. David Barran, Mr. Anthony Montague Browne, C.B.E., D.F.C., The Lord Byers, O.B.E., Mr. Michael Cadbury, The Lord Cooper, J.P., Mr. Colin Cowdrey, Sir Trenchard Cox, C.B.E., Mr. William Deakin, D.S.O., The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey de Freitas, K.C.M.G., M.P., Miss Margaret Jonathan, Lady Parry-Williams, Mr. Francis Pemberton, The Lord Penney, K.B.E., F.R.S., Sir Richard Pim, K.B.E., The Lord Polwarth, Sir Richard Powell, O.C.B. K.B.E., C.M.O., Mr. Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.O., Mr. Arthur Tiley.

Director General: Major General H. A. Lascelles, C.D., C.B.E., D.S.O.

408
2E/11

T.O. 308/206/7/69

5th May 1969

Major General H.A. Lascollon, C.B., C.D.E., D.S.O.
Director General
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
20 Queen Street Mayfair
London W.1.

e/111

Thank you for your letter of 21st April concerning the British Women's Expedition to South Georgia in 1969/70. I am afraid that the only help we can offer is a simple statement that the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol Ship HMS ENDURANCE (which carries two helicopters) will be in the Falkland Islands/Antarctic area in the period November/December 1969 to late March 1970. Her programme in this area is not yet firm (but it does not at present include a visit to S. Georgia) and is, in any case, always subject to last minute changes.

Any HM Ship will always respond to a call for help if it is possible to do so. However, ENDURANCE's task could take her up to 1000 nls from S. Georgia, and probably never closer than 600. It is thus unlikely that the ship would, in fact, be in a position to provide assistance quickly. I am sure you will appreciate that only in a real emergency should her important Antarctic work be disturbed.

Having said all this, we will of course tell ENDURANCE about the expedition as soon as agreement for this party has been obtained from the Governor, Falkland Islands.

T. L. MARTIN

PACN/vb

Hayley
DS

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

PATRON:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

400
② E/11
19 QUEEN STREET MAYFAIR,
LONDON W.1
W1K 7PD
Telephone: MAYFAIR (31-62) 0311

21st. April 1969

I think Admiral Brian Brayne Nichole mentioned to you the problems of a projected first All Womens expedition to South Georgia under the leadership of Mrs. Nellie Porter, who was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for the purpose.

He told me that you had very kindly said that I might get in touch with you in case the Royal Navy were possibly able to assist. I have now got the outline plan of her expedition, which I am enclosing. Originally she had hoped to start last September but then there were difficulties over transportation and in getting permission from the Governor of the Falkland Islands. She postponed the expedition for a year during which she seems to have solved the transportation problem. It remains to get the agreement of the Governor, who has some misgivings.

Mrs. Porter will have Press sponsorship, probably from 'The People' and so will get quite a lot of publicity. When her expedition was first announced, there was a great deal of publicity throughout the press. The Governor feels that if anything goes wrong, the searchlights will be turned on him and he will be invited to march to the rescue. This he cannot do as he has no ships, aircraft or helicopters. He therefore feels that the expedition must be acceptably self-sufficient so that he won't be asked to attempt the impossible.

.... 2

Trinity Trust, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 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There is a small party permanently on South Georgia who I think are part of the Antarctic Survey under Sir Vivian Fuchs. This small party could do nothing to help. I believe that Sir Vivian is not particularly enthusiastic about women being allowed to disturb the peace of the Antarctic! I think I may be right in believing that between lat. October 1969 and lat. February 1970 the Royal Navy might have a survey ship (I think it used to be Protector) stationed in South Atlantic waters and possibly in the area of South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. If it was conceivable that this ship might be persuaded to go to the rescue of the expedition, if it met with severe trouble, the misgivings of the Governor would be greatly eased. Of course, it is no part of the ship's task to do jobs of this sort, particularly for women, but I hope you will not mind my asking in case their local ops were willing to make an exception. I cannot see that the Royal Navy would gain anything apart from publicity and having made possible an original venture by British women.

If you think that there is no question of help from the ship, would you please be kind enough to return Mrs. Porter's plans to me. If you would like to know more I can call upon you any time, or, if you prefer it, arrange for Mrs. Porter to visit you.

DIRECTOR GENERAL.

PS
Please file &
show to Mr Jones.
ls 24/7

ls
1/7/69



1062/69 R 1355Z 1/7/69

FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS 126/4 GOVERNOR FUCHS GENERAL LASCELLES PHONED SAYING
MRS PORTER HAS WITHDRAWN FROM FELLOWSHIP THEREFORE CHURCHILL TRUST
NO LONGER CONCERNED. HE REPORTED THAT SHE WAS STILL HOPING TO
RAISE MONEY WITH VIEW TO GOING NEXT YEAR. HE DOES NOT THINK SHE
HAS MUCH CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

VEF/AM

Gen. M.A.A.
M/2577

PS H BU on file
in 21/10

42



Rynettin,
KINCRAIG,
By Kingussie,
Inverness-shire.

25 July 1969

Sir Cosmo Haskard
Governor,
Falkland Islands,
PORT STANLEY,
South Atlantic.

*Copied to Sir Vivian Fuchs
& O/C Stanley on
29/1/70*

Your Excellency,

After careful consideration it has been
decided to postpone the proposed expedition to South Georgia
until the southern summer of 1970/71.

There are obvious weaknesses and loose ends
which need careful attention before our plans can receive
the support and approval which is required, and rather than
attempt to rush things for this summer we feel it is
prudent to spend the extra time, which our postponement will
give.

I will present a renewed application during
the early part of 1970 and hope that this will contain
the information required before we may venture to South Georgia.

I would like to take this opportunity of
thanking you very much for your attention through this year,
and for the letters and cables which we have received.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M. Porter.

(Mrs) M. Porter.

To open cut here
Sender's name and address: Mrs. M. Porter

Rynettin, KINCRAIG,

By Kingussie,

Inverness-shire, Scotland.

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

The 'APSLEY' Air Letter

A John Dickinson Product

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/1Z

← Second fold here →



JUL 9

The Governor,

Government House,

PORT STANLEY,

Falkland Islands,

South Atlantic.



43

W
23/1

0116/70 R 0948Z 22/1/70
FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/126/4 HIGHCOMA/FUCHS HAVE TODAY SEEN ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE
ENTITLED BRITISH WOMEN'S EXPEDITION SOUTH GEORGIA 1970/71. ISSUED
BY MOLLIE PORTER IT STATES EXPEDITION WILL SAIL FROM UK IN SEPTEMBER
1970. I HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION AS PERHAPS BEST LEFT ALONE AND
PRESUME YOU HAVE HEARD NO MORE. NO APPLICATION HAS YET BEEN MADE
TO RGS BUT IT MAY COME TO THEM AGAIN.
VEF/BEC

See (44)

REPERF ON

REPERF ON

REPERF ON

CS to see

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

44

WAP 15142-821 504579/790938 500 pds 12/68 Grp.792

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To	FM STANLEY TO LONDON HQ	(43)		24/1/70
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X/987/70 AS/126/4 FUCHS/HIGHCOMA

I HAVE HEARD NOTHING SINCE MRS PORTER WROTE ON 25 JULY 1969 SAYING QUOTE (42)
THERE ARE OBVIOUS WEAKNESSES AND LOOSE ENDS WHICH NEED CAREFUL ATTENTION
BEFORE OUR PLANS CAN RECEIVE THE SUPPORT AND APPROVAL WHICH IS REQUIRED
UNQUOTE AND ENDING QUOTE I WILL PRESENT RENEWED APPLICATION DURING EARLY
PART OF 1970 UNQUOTE. I AGREE NO ACTION NECESSARY AT PRESENT.

Copies of (42) sent to Sir V. Fuchs & O/C Stanley
on 29/1/70

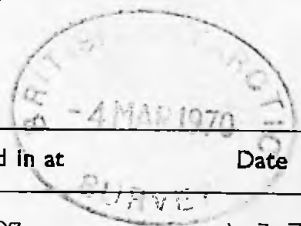
Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

RECEIVED

P1676 P4416 8/64



Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
0285/70	R		1600Z	4.3.70

To FM LONDON HQ
TO STANLEY OFFICE
FOR DIRECTOR

AS/126/4 MRS. PORTER APPEARED BEFORE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY 3RD.
SUPPORT REFUSED CHIEFLY ON GROUNDS THAT WHAT LITTLE SCIENCE SHE COULD ACHIEVE
COULD AND PROBABLY WOULD BE DONE BY SURVEY IN NEAR FUTURE. COMMITTEE ALSO
VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT VESSEL BUT THIS NOT MAIN REASON FOR REJECTION=

DRG/PCSW

RCVD PARTY IN GTC - MB=

HE For info and

his files.

✓ 7/7/3

CS please note and
return to PS for filing.

on 16/3/70

Time

NR 367 IMMEDIATE 181334Z

FROM STANLEY

TO LONDON HQ

X/779/72. FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER QUOTE-
REQUEST FOR LANDING PERMISSION HOPE BAY ANTARCTICA

4 WEEKS DURATION 15TH JANUARY TO 18TH FEBRUARY 1973

PARTY LEADER MRS MOLLIE PORTER MOUNTAINEER PROFESSIONAL

MOUNTAIN GUIDE RESCUE TEAM LEADER IN CAIRNGORM 15 YEARS

EXPERIENCE INCLUDING EXPEDITION TO PERU AND SPITSBERGEN

DEPUTY LEADER DOCTOR VALERIA HAYNES

GLACIOLOGIST UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EXPEDITION TO GREENLAND

ICELAND AND SCANDINAVIA MEDICAL OFFICER DOCTOR CATHERINE MACINNES

EXPERIENCED MOUNTAINEER AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE EXPERT FIELD ASSISTANT

MISS T HUGGETT INSTRUCTOR OUTDOOR PURSUITS AQUALUNG DIVER

MOUNTAINEER EXPEDITION TO ARCTIC AIMS NO SERIOUS MOUNTAINEERING

OR EXPLORATION GEOMORPHOLOGY ON LOCAL ICEFREE

COASTAL GROUND PHYSIOLOGY UNIQUE STUDY

ON EFFECTS OF LOCAL ADVERSE CONDITIONS ON THE PARTY AS PART

OF LARGER APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECT TRANSPORT LINDBLADEXPLORER

FINANCE PAYING FOR OURSELVES SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT TO BE TO BAS STANDARD 2 INTERIM VISITS BY

LINDBLADEXPLORER PERSONAL SURVIVAL EXPERIENCE AT HIGHEST

LEVEL PARTY WILL CAMP AND BE ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT SUPPLY

WISE ADDITIONAL FULL DETAILS OF PARTY FROM THE FILE ON

PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO SOUTH GEORGIA 1967 AM WILLING TO

TELEPHONE YOU IF NECESSARY

MOLLIE PORTER PHONE NUMBER KINGUSSIE 308 UNQUOTE

GRATEFUL YOUR COMMENTS

ECJC/KH

12 14.12



L/1649/72 R 1604Z 19/12/72
FROM LONDON HQ
TO STANLEY

AS/126/4 X/779/72 CLEARLY I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO REFUSE THIS
WOMEN'S EXPEDITION TO HOPE BAY. BAS IS NOT ASKED TO HELP :
NEVERTHELESS ANY PARTY AND ESPECIALLY A FEMALE ONE PLACES AN ONUS ON
US IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. I AM THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO SEE THEM GO
ESPECIALLY AS I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT PORTER'S OWN STEADINESS IN TIMES OF
STRESS.

I SUGGEST THAT BEFORE AGREEMENT IS GIVEN HIGHCOMA ENQUIRES FROM
LINDBLAD WHAT UNDERTAKINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HE WILL ACCEPT.
ALSO AS THEY WOULD BE SIDE BY SIDE WITH ARGENTINES IT IS PROBABLY
COURTEOUS IF THEY ARE NOTIFIED EITHER THROUGH FCO OR EMBASSY. BUT I
WOULD LIKE IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE ARGENTINES THAT BAS HAS NO
CONNECTIONS WITH THIS EXPEDITION.

VEF/LC

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

STAT PRIORITE PRODRONE LONDON SW1

a/c H.O.

Telno 390 of 21 December info Buenos Aires.

EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTIC

1. As High Commissioner I have been asked to grant landing permission at Hope Bay for a women's expedition of four led by Mrs Mollie Porter. All members are experienced mountaineers will be self contained and be landed and picked up by Lindblad Explorer. Duration of visit 15 January to 18 February 1973.
2. It would be difficult for me to refuse permission but I am first checking with Lindblad to find out what undertakings he has given.
3. In view of proximity of Argentine base grateful if as matter of courtesy Argentine authorities could be informed making it clear that BAS has no connections with expedition.

LEWIS

Time

ZCZC ATS929 GWZ195 PF277

FKLY CO GBGW 024

KINGUSSIE 24 21 1405

GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

PORTSTANLEY

DUE TO PRESSURE OF TIME FOR COMPLETING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD
APPRECIATE EARLY DECISION CONCERNING LANDING PERMISSION

PORTER EASTLODGE BALAVIL KINGUSSIE INVERNESSSHIRE

NNNN

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

PORTER EASTLOUGH BALAVIL KINGUSSIE INVERNESSHIRE

~~a/s H.O.~~

PERMISSION GRANTED TO LAND AT HOPE BAY ANTARCTICA FOR PERIOD REQUESTED. UNDER TERMS OF ANTARCTIC TREATY IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO NOTIFY POLAR REGIONS SECTION OF FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF YOUR PLANS. BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION.

LEWIS HIGH COMMISSIONER

Time

RESTRICTED

fm FCO 221810Z

to Priority Falkland Islands telno 281 of 22 December info Buenos Aires.

Your telno 390: ANTARCTIC

1. We hope that you will feel able to withhold your permission for this party to land at Hope Bay for the following reasons:
 - a. Even if Lindblad says he will guarantee removal of the girls in an emergency, the exercise of rescuing them from wherever they may be in the Hope Bay area would inevitably fall to the Argentine station.
 - b. The history of recent rescues of British personnel by the Argentines makes it imperative that we take whatever steps we can to avoid risk of further rescues.
 - c. At such short notice it is not possible to resolve the problems of visitors to the Antarctic Treaty area who are not sponsored by governments. These problems were the subject of much discussion at the recent consultative meeting at Wellington. This type of adventure was considered to be a matter of particular concern.
 - d. The party of girls is not sponsored by any government authority and Sir Vivian Fuchs wishes it to be clearly understood that BAS has no connection with them.
 - e. Although their competence and equipment is likely to be up to necessary standards it has not been possible to confirm this.
 - f. These girls appear to fall within the scope of Antarctic Treaty recommendations IV-27. We would be reluctant to approach the Argentines at such short notice to ask for the conditions upon which they would accept this party, especially when the matter of controlling this type of private expedition is currently under treaty discussion.

ZCZC ATS992 GWZ437 PF183

FKLY CO GBGW 030

KINGUSSIE 30 22 1129

GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

PORTSTANLEY

RECEIVED WITH MANY THANKS YOUR CABLE GRANTING

PERMISSION FOR PARTY TO LAND AT HOPEBAY

WILL SEND ALL DETAILS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

THANK YOU AGAIN

M PORTER

R. G.
22/12

NNNN

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE
FALKLAND ISLANDS

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE
FALKLAND ISLANDS

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

PORTER EASTLODGE BALAVIL KINGUSSIE INVERNESSHIRE

a/c H.O

I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT YOUR PROPOSED TYPE OF EXPEDITION IS CURRENTLY UNDER ANTARCTIC TREATY DISCUSSION AND THEREFORE IN VIEW OF THE SHORT NOTICE ~~BY~~ IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSULT ALL THOSE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. I REGRET THEREFORE THAT MY EARLIER PERMISSION TO LAND AT HOPE BAY WILL HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN. I AM VERY SORRY ABOUT THIS.

LEWIS HIGH COMMISSIONER

Time

CONFIDENTIAL 271345Z

to Immediate FCO unnumbered telegram of 27 December info
Routine Buenos Aires.

Your telno 390: ANTARCTIC

1. In view of your reasons particularly 1(c) I have
reversed earlier decision to allow party to land. I regret
any inconvenience that this may cause.

FCO please pass.

RESTRICTED

fm FCO telno 5 of 4 January to Falkland Islands info Buenos Aires.

Your tel unnumbered of 27 December: ANTARCTIC

1. Mrs Porter phoned Roberts 28 December about reversal of permission for landing. Latter explained reasons referring to discussions in Wellington and emphasised that the difficulties were political and had nothing to do with competence of her party. Though naturally disappointed she accepted explanation with good grace.

RESTRICTED



Polar Regions Section
Latin America Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

Telephone 01-

His Excellency
Mr E G Lewis OBE
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

Your reference

Our reference ALZ 22/1

Date 17 January 1973

Dear High Commissioner,

PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO HOPE BAY

... Would you please refer to our telegram number 5 of 4 January in which we reported that Mrs Porter had accepted the reasons which led us to advise you to refuse her permission to land at Hope Bay. Unfortunately it is clear from her letter to me of 4 January (copy enclosed) that someone has been stimulating her to have another crack at us in the belief that our objection to her party is based on a "small flimsy point".

... It is, of course, regretted here that we have had to take this negative line with Mrs Porter but we felt it would be irresponsible of us to dodge the issue and put the onus for decision on the Argentines. The arguments which led us to oppose her party and which we would be prepared to use in public, if Mrs Porter forces us to disclose them, are those in my reply to her of 16 January (copy enclosed). But, in addition, it weighed with us that Sir Vivian Fuchs was reluctant to see the party go, had doubts about Mrs Porter's steadiness and wanted it clearly understood by the Argentines that BAS had no connections with them.

The discussions at Wellington about non-governmental visitors to the Treaty Area made it clear that there is a growing muddle about how to deal with these adventurers. The sort of thing which is causing increasing irritation is when citizens of one country ask the government of another country to give them help in the Antarctic. A recent example involves a British Army corporal who wrote to the New Zealand Antarctic Division asking them to provide all the necessary food and equipment, sledge dogs and training in driving them so that he could make a lone dash to the South Pole. The difficulty was that his request was supported by the Colonel of his Regiment and the New Zealand authorities assumed that since the request came officially, we must know about it. We had heard nothing. It was clear at Wellington that the way out of this sort of embarrassment would be that no request for help

/or

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or any facilities, e.g. permission to visit stations, would be entertained by national expeditions until the request had been approved by the relevant authorities in the country from which the request had been made. Such a development would be closely in line with our own view that Antarctic Treaty countries should take action in relation to their own nationals wherever they may be, or want to go, in the Treaty Area.

Under these circumstances it would have been wrong for us to ask the Argentines for their agreement to the visit to Hope Bay by this party when Sir Vivian had specifically not approved then and when there was no time for us to find out more about the party in order to put a properly supported case for the Argentines to consider.

Brian Roberts, who is temporarily laid up in hospital, has asked me to let you know that he is sorry not to have written to you personally about this.

Yours sincerely

John Heap

J. A. Heap

Encs: 2

RESTRICTED

Heard 216 AL222/1
O.P.A. 2.1.17
16/1

East Lodge
Balavil
By Kingussie
Inverness-shire

4 January 1973

Dr. J. Heap,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Polar Regions,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Dr. Heap,

As you may or may not know during the latter part of December 1972 I applied-for and was successful in gaining permission from the Governor of the Falkland Islands for leading a small private scientific expedition to be based at Hope Bay in Grahamland for a few weeks duration in February 1973. Some days later I received a second telegram from the Governor telling me that due to recent discussions held between countries involved in the Antarctic Treaty private expeditions such as ours were being considered, and it would not be possible for him to contact and 'consult all those governments concerned in view of the short notice', therefore he had to withdraw his permission.

I have since taken the matter up with at least two senior people closely involved in Antarctic affairs. From my investigations I gather that the reasons for withdrawing permission for the expedition to take place are political and not concerned with the ability etc.. of my party.

As you may know since I was awarded a fellowship of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in 1967 I have been trying to visit Antarctica with a small private party of women scientists. In the early stages we were faced with pretty enormous problems, mainly concerned with the chartering of a vessel to take and support us while we were working on South Georgia. The financial burden of such a charter proved too great so other alternatives were sought. A member of B.A.E. staff was among those who recommended that we ask Lindblad's, the travel organisation in New York, to assist us. This year, in December, I was told that four passages were available for us at an extremely low rate to sail to Grahamland (Hope Bay), leaving U.K. January 8th., returning 20th. February 1973.

I immediately sent details to the Governor of the Falklands and a few days later he sent me a cable giving permission for our party to visit Hope Bay. Because of lack of time we immediately organised our flights to Buenos Aires, and then Ushuaia, hotels in Buenos Aires, food, equipment, etc.. and most difficult of all, particularly since term had finished leave of absence from important posts. One member of the party is a G.P. and has arranged a locum at £70 per week, another is a university lecturer and received special leave from her university (who presumably considered the expedition well worthwhile for her to have agreed to leave of absence at such short notice) a further one cancelled her skiing holiday in Austria and lost £100 and booked stand-ins for herself in her post with an education authority. You can imagine the dismay when we received the second telegram from the Governor telling us that through insufficient time he was unable to secure the necessary approval of other nations. Surely he was aware of this problem when he gave us permission to go, and if the question of private parties is under discussion why is the position not as before until new rulings come into force? In any case I understand that the conditions in the Antarctic Treaty are not law but held in trust like a gentlemen's agreement, and the Lindblad Explorer does not abide by rules under the treaty, though I am certain she does not violate the wishes of Antarctic Treaty Countries. This is obvious by the quotations from the treaty which appear in Lindblad brochure for the Antarctic tours.

I can arrange for our party to leave in February so if it is a question of time really and not prejudice then those Nations required to be notified of our visit can be notified. I realise that time is running out and that the people who need to be consulted are widely scattered but in this day and age with 'phone, cable, telex etc.. it is not difficult to communicate quickly, even to the other end of the world. After all I managed to obtain permission from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and have been communicating regularly with New York over the festive period.

It is not too emphatic of me to say that I am bitterly disappointed and angry this time, I have suffered quite a few defeats before but none so cruel, humiliating or unjustified as this one. If it is just, as I have been told, a small flimsy point that is stopping us from visiting Antarctic then I appeal to you to

Consider our case and attempt to resolve the difficulty.

I enclose some details of qualifications of our party, together with a brief outline of our plans for Hope Bay. You will see from the notes that our party is better qualified than most men taken to work on B.A.S. Bases and if we were men we would be welcomed by them to work in the Antarctic. It is particularly upsetting for me because I have helped to train a number of notable expeditions including the team who visited Elephant Island (survival course - Glenmore Lodge) and many other forces expedition-groups. It seems my expertise is good enough to pass-on to others and I am sound enough to lead the most difficult rescues in U.K. (the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team leader) but not safe enough to be trusted with a party of three equally good women on a small patch of ice-free ground in Antarctica for a month. I certainly do not intend to minimise the difficulties and dangers that exist even at sea-level on ice-free terrain in as hostile a place as Hope Bay but it seems so unfair that we should still be prevented from going there, and everyone assures me that this time it is not the safety or competence of the party that is in question but a small insignificant point of discussion concerned with the Antarctic Treaty. Whether this is true or not will remain to be seen.

I am going to protest in the strongest possible way this time if I do not achieve a satisfactory outcome to my plans. I think the time has long since passed for the kind of restraint that we have consistently shown. Obviously this is not furthering our plans at all. I certainly do not wish to involve myself or the members of the party in undignified 'womens lib' style action. I do not approve of that kind of reactionary behaviour but I do intend to make my complaint heard in as many important places as I can possibly find.

You will be concerned with the strong line of my letter but I would ask you to bear in mind that we have been trampled under foot by prejudice for some years now, we are not going to allow a life time's ambition to be removed without turning every stone in an attempt to achieve a just decision concerning the permission question.

Thank you very much indeed for your attention,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Mollie Porter

(Mrs) Mollie Porter.

MEMBERS OF THE PARTY

1) LEADER Mollie Porter

- (a) Professional mountain guide (certificates for Cairngorms issued by British Mountaineering Council after stringent tests, for winter and summer)
- (b) Leader Cairngorm mountain rescue team (Only woman leader in U.K.)
- (c) Fellow R.G.S. since 1959
- (d) Instructor Glenmore Lodge since 1961 - all courses including many survival, rescue
- (e) Instructed expedition members of parties going to Greenland, Iceland and Elephant Island (Combined forces recent trip)
- (f) guest on survival course - Norway 1968 - Norwegian Red Cross Society.
- (g) Expeditions to Spitsbergen 1960. 300 miles sledging, 22 first ascents, surveying, geology Peru, 1971. Ascended 4 peaks over 17,500' - 1st. ascents. All female party Arctic Norway, Lyngene 1966. Led party of schoolgirls. Scientific Canary Islands, Alps, Norway six times.
Several of these expeditions received approval and grants from R.G.S. and Mount Everest Foundation.

(2) DEPUTY LEADER Dr. Valerie Haynes.

- (a) Graduate University of Cambridge
- (b) Lecturer University of Strathclyde
- (c) Deputy leader University of Aberdeen expedition to Greenland 1970.
Done field work in Iceland, Alps, Scottish Highlands, Norway.
Has full support of senior scientific staff connected with work in Antarctica

(3) MEDICAL OFFICER Dr. Catherine MacInnes

Experience second to none in field of mountain rescue, mainly on Ben Nevis and GlenCoe
Undertaking programme of physiology connected with stress effect on human, which could have considerable affect on safety in mountains in the future.

(4) Field Assistant Tess Huggesit

- (a) Full-time member staff of Outdoor Pursuits centre (W. Riding of Yorks)
- (b) Experience in cave and mountain rescue.
- (c) Experienced aqua-lung diver

PROGRAMME (very briefly)

- (1) Glaciology. Study of ice-free ground on coast, possibly visit to a nunatak but no serious days or journeys into mountains or on glaciers.
- (2) Physiology. Study of effect of adverse weather conditions on the party.
- (3) Usual study of wildlife, mainly recording species seen.

923-7511

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH
OFFICE
Cornwall House
Stamford Street
London SE1 9NS

Mrs Mollie Porter
East Lodge
Balavil
By Kingussie
Inverness-shire
Scotland

ALZ 22/1

16 January 1973

Thank you for your letter of 4 January - it reached me on the 12th - which I read with great sympathy. I understand the very difficult position in which you find yourself but, and here I am speaking personally, I do not really think you should be all that surprised. You have in effect attempted to organise an Antarctic expedition in one month, without consulting the British Antarctic Survey or any other government department concerned until the last moment. We fully understand that this was due to the fact that you only received Lindblad's special offer at the beginning of December. Time to complete the sort of arrangements which would have been necessary for us to make for your expedition has been of the essence of the problem and, as Dr Roberts told you when you telephoned, this could not be done in the five working days that were available to us. It is inadvisable to impose deadlines on foreign governments for their replies - in these circumstances, they tend, quite naturally, to respond negatively.

In case this does not make sense to you I should tell you that in accordance with an Antarctic Treaty Recommendation we would have had to ask the Argentine government for the conditions upon which they would have accepted a visit by your party to Hope Bay where they have a station; the Argentine government would have had to decide in principle whether they wished to accept your party at their station and to state the conditions by which they would expect you to abide; we would have had to put these conditions to you and ask for your assurance, to be transmitted to the Argentine authorities, that you would abide by their conditions. Only then would the Argentine authorities have been in a position to grant the permission for your party to go. I think you will agree that there was not time to complete these complicated exchanges before you flew to Buenos Aires. If we had embarked upon them there was a risk that you could have arrived in Buenos Aires, or the Antarctic, only to find that the Argentines did not want you to land. Such an outcome would have been embarrassing for us and very annoying to you to say the least. Our experience of working the Recommendation

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mentioned above is that the process takes months rather than days to complete.

You are quite right in thinking that the reasons for the refusal for you to land at Hope Bay are political and not concerned with the capabilities of your party. That is precisely what, with great regret, Dr Roberts had to tell you over the telephone. You may have been told that our reason for stopping you was "a small flimsy point", to which I can only answer that this opinion is not at all correct.

There are in fact two political points which we had to bear in mind. The first concerns our general relations with Argentina in the Antarctic context. As you will know sovereignty over the Antarctic Peninsula is disputed between Argentina, Chile and the United Kingdom and, until the Antarctic Treaty came into force in 1961, the claims were actively contested.

The main object of the Antarctic Treaty is to enable national scientific expeditions to co-operate in order to make the best of their investigations. In order to make this feasible without continuous political bickering, the Treaty put the question of Antarctic sovereignty into cold storage for the period that the Treaty is in force. This does not mean we should act in disregard of Argentine susceptibilities. What it does mean is that we expect, both from them and ourselves, that we shall arrange our relations with punctilious regard to the agreements that have been made under the Antarctic Treaty.

The second point is that private expeditions to the Antarctic have so increased in numbers recently that they are causing considerable concern to the government expeditions which are expected to help them when they get into trouble (as a number of them have). As a consequence the whole question of non-governmental visitors to the Antarctic Treaty Area including tourists, private scientific expeditions and adventurers, is under discussion in the Antarctic Treaty forum. Having been considerably inconvenienced by non-governmental visitors ourselves we have suggested to our Treaty partners, and they have agreed, that we should work towards an agreement under the Treaty aimed at ensuring that: (i) the provisions of the Treaty are respected by these visitors and (ii) such visitors are well equipped, experienced and as little likely as it is possible to judge to divert from their proper function government expeditions for search and rescue operations. I am sure you will appreciate that we do not want to prejudice the progress of these discussions by any action which calls upon one of the Treaty partners to make special concessions on our behalf.

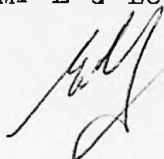
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You appeal to me to reconsider your case to see if you can go to the Antarctic in February. For the reasons given above, taken together, I am sorry to have to repeat that we are unable to advise the High Commissioner to give you the necessary permission this season.

The important thing from your point of view is that we have not said that you may not take a party to the Antarctic in the future. All we ask is that next time you should give us ample prior warning - at least six months or longer if you can - of your intentions including a detailed description of your scientific programmes which, in accordance with the Treaty we shall have to pass on to other Treaty governments before 30 October of the season in which you intend to go to the Antarctic. We must hope that the international arrangements will then be more favourable.

J. A. Heap

His Excellency
Mr E G Lewis OBE



With the compliments of

POLAR REGIONS SECTION
Latin America Department
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Reference my letter to you
of 17 January 1973, (ALZ 22/1)

Dr J A Heap
30 January 1973

ROOM 330
CORNWALL HOUSE, STAMFORD STREET
LONDON SE1 9NS
Telephone 928-7511

cc. Dr. J. Heap.



23rd January 1973

Mrs. Mollie Porter,
East Lodge,
Balavil,
by Kingussie.
Inverness-shire.

Mrs. Mollie Porter,

Unfortunately, I did not meet Dr. Valerie Haynes when I visited Glasgow. It was extremely foggy and she may not have got to the lecture. However, I have been sufficiently concerned by your 'crie de coeur' to make further enquiries and, though I am sorry to say I have nothing encouraging to report, I am satisfied that there is no question of prejudice of the kind you perhaps feared in the refusal of permission. I may say that, apart from speaking to a number of people who I found to be personally sympathetic to the expedition, I rang Dr. Brian Roberts in his nursing home and had a long talk with him, and I have since seen the letter that Dr. Heap wrote to you. I am very much afraid, in the light of all the facts, that had I been in their position myself I would have had to take the same decision. It simply is not on, with the complex political situation that exists, to expect to get permission at short notice. After all, it is not so very long ago since shots were being exchanged with the Argentines and, although I gather relations are now pretty good, there are all sorts of problems and it is really quite a complicated situation, as Dr. Heap explained to you. I would add that I have had experience myself of getting permission in less sensitive areas - the Canadian Arctic and Greenland - and even there it was by no means easy to get the necessary permits, least of all at short notice.

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I realise it must be maddening to you,
having been offered reduced passages very late, and not
being able to make use of them, and I, like others -
particularly Dr. Roberts - are sad that we have not been
able to help.

Yours truly
R. H. S.

SHACKLETON

7.4.4.
5/2

East Lodge
Balavil
By Kingussie
Inverness-shire

2nd. February 1973

Dr. J. Heap,
Polar Regions Section,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London, S.W. 1.

Dear Dr. Heap,

May I thank you very much indeed for your long and most interesting letter concerning our application for permission to visit Antarctica.

Although there are one or two minor points which I do not entirely accept I fully realise the main problems concerned with our recent application, and I am ready to admit that, through ignorance of the difficulties concerned with such a late application, particularly to Argentinian Territory, we were asking the impossible.

We are keen as ever to undertake a small scientific programme in the Antarctic, and because there is no provision made for women to work there under normal Governmental supervision we must again present a private expedition. We fully realise the reasons why women are not acceptable for work on British Bases, Sir Vivian Fuchs explained the problems to us some years ago. However my party includes scientists of considerable ability who wish to work in that part of the world to improve their own, and in some instances, other peoples understanding of their particular study, and the only way to achieve this ambition is for us to finance and organise ourselves completely.

When we present our next plan we will ensure that sufficient time is given for the necessary negotiations to be undertaken.

Thank you very much again for your interest and assistance,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mollie Porter.

(Mrs) Mollie Porter