

CONFIDENTIAL

SG/28/1 C

SGA/FAU/1#18

D

(Formerly)

3/71

D/3/71

SG/28/1 C

REINDEER

ARCHIVE

25.1.86

9	Typ	11/2
4	AS	11/2
20/9	CS	11/2
23/4	AS	22/2
24/4	BLS	27/2
24/4	AS	27/3
24/4	DCS	25/3
HE	HE	
CS	22/11	24/3
BLS	5/2	25/4
BLS	15/12	25/4
DCS	14/12	21/11
BLS	6/1	DCS
DCS	7/1	25/11
CS	0/1	CS
HE	✓	DCS
CS	15/1	POX
HE	✓	
CS	24/1	
HE	✓	
CS	24/1	
DCS	1/2	
CS	5/2	
HE	✓	
CS	6/3	
CS	4/2	



YE <sup>(1)</sup>  
—  $\Pi_3$  will be seen from R48 again?

✓  
20/4

BU 6.12.73

BU 15.12.

BU 6/1/74

<sup>(2)</sup>  
C.S. I have seen no reply to R56.

DPH  
7.1.74

<sup>(3)</sup>  
~~YE~~ / How Mr S replied direct to you on  
R56?

<sup>(4)</sup>  
A/S / or at 'get' but he informed me verbally 8/1  
that he was against the idea.

A.S. for

BU  
1/2

✓

(5)

1. Perhaps Mr Morrison could rough out a draft EXCO memorandum on the possible introduction of reindeer into specially selected areas of the Falklands, such as New Island. I suspect that the Council will be unsympathetic because they fear the introduction of any new species is likely to upset the present ecology, and I can understand the reason for this. However, if the importation was confined to Islands well separated from the mainland such as New Island, I see very little risk, and experiment might be useful.

E G Lewis  
29 January 1974

*Handwritten:* A. Pullman / P. A. Morrison  
YE (6) 6 Jan  
Draft Exco memo s/c pl

1.2.74

See 27.2.74  
(Exco)

*Handwritten:* File submitted with Exco extract at p 60 pl.  
He might wish to write to Mr Davis James  
further to his letter at p 55?

22.3.74.

Pa

*Handwritten:* (63) Your urgent memo pl.

B.S., All goods are prohibited to be imported into the U.K. except under the authority of a licence granted by the Board of Trade. Such licence may be individual or general.  
Suggest the matter is taken up with B.O.T.

21.2.74.

Office of the Defence Attaché  
British Embassy  
Santiago, Chile  
c/o ECO  
King Charles Street  
London SW1

52

3.1.68/71

The Commander-in-Chief, Western Fleet  
Eastbury Park  
Northwood, Middlesex

22 April 1971

USS ENDURANCE - Programme for 1971-1972 season

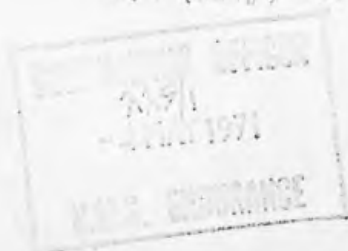
1. During visits of ENDURANCE to Punta Arenas, the Chilean authorities have always been very interested in accounts of the reindeer in South Georgia. During her visit to Puerto Williams last month, the Governor of the Cape said he felt that these animals should thrive in the climatic conditions of Southern Tierra del Fuego, where there is ample grazing for them. They could be of great value in supplementing the meat supply of the base and surrounding settlements; and he welcomed whether ENDURANCE might bring in a pair or two for breeding purposes from South Georgia during her next Antarctic Cruise.
2. The CO ENDURANCE would be very happy to do this if practicable, it would be an interesting experiment and a nice gesture which would I know go down very well with the Chilean naval and civil authorities. I therefore recommend that it is borne in mind for ENDURANCE's programme for next season. My Ambassador is in full agreement.

F O THATCHER  
Captain, Royal Navy

Copy to:

CO ENDURANCE

COO (NAVY) For DNO2



His Excellency  
Mr. E. G. Lewis, OBE



*With the compliments of*  
POLAR REGIONS SECTION

Latin America Department  
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH  
OFFICE

Dr. B. B. Roberts  
26 August, 1971

ROOM 330  
CORNWALL HOUSE STAMFORD STREET  
LONDON S.E.1.

Telephone 928 - 7511



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

Telephone 01-

J. C. Cox Esq.,  
Defence Secretariat 5  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall,  
S.W.1.

Your reference D/DS 5/19/7/71

Our reference ALZ 10/1

Date 26 August 1971

In Dr. Heap's absence I have been making enquiries about your letter of 16 August referring to Captain Bowden's letter of 2 August, with its request for permission for HMS Endurance to remove twelve reindeer from South Georgia for transfer to Isla Navarino, Chile.

The Governor is prepared to issue a licence for the removal of these twelve animals on the basis of advice from Dr. R.M. Laws, Head of the Life Sciences Division of the British Antarctic Survey which, as you know, is conducting biological research in South Georgia.

Dr. Laws recommends that these reindeer be captured on the peninsula between Cumberland East Bay and St. Andrews Bay, where the animals are most numerous and need culling. At the date of HMS Endurance's visit, most adult female reindeer may be expected to have young calves. Males of any age may be taken. It is desirable that only females without calves should be taken. If this is not possible, the calves should also be captured or they will starve.

It is not for us to judge the biological aspects of this introduction to Isla Navarino, and I hope it is clearly understood that this is a matter for the Chilean authorities. So far as we know, the South Georgia herd of reindeer is healthy, but the possible ecological consequences of introducing any animal can be serious when there has been no previous biological study. We have no information about what relevant Chilean import regulations may exist.

It may interest Captain Bowden to know that in about 1944 some 50 reindeer from Alaska were released by the Argentine Navy in the Ushuaia peninsula. In January 1961 an air and ground examination suggested that there were only about 10 reindeer left on the peninsula. In that year the naval authorities in Ushuaia thought that a number of reindeer had

/probably



probably swum across Beagle Channel to Isla Navarino (via the connecting chain of islets), while others may have retreated further inland to the north. It is therefore possible that there may already be some reindeer on Navarino.

I have sent a brief reply to Captain Bowden's letter of 2 August saying only that the Governor is prepared to grant a licence for the taking of twelve reindeer and that details of locality etc., will follow from you. The licence will no doubt be issued by the Magistrate at Grytviken on the arrival of HMS Endurance.

*B. B. Roberts*

B. B. Roberts

Copied to:

Sir Vivian Fuchs, BAS  
Dr. R.M. Laws, BAS

His Excellency the Governor  
of the Falkland Islands

The Defence Attaché,  
British Embassy, Santiago

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

WAP 15142—821 584578/790938 500 pds 12/68 Grp.782

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
To	Mr R NAPIER WEST POINT ISLAND			A/c H.O.

19 October 1971

FROM SECRETARY REINDER PLEASE SEND WRITTEN APPLICATION TO GOVERNOR ASAP

RECAIDS LYNDIA

*Rex Please put this on "Reinder"  
file Lynda 19/10.*

Time

Bu 86-11-71



**CONFIDENTIAL**

4

WF 2251/84.0

The Commander-in-Chief  
Western Fleet  
Northwood  
Middlesex HA6 3HP  
Northwood 26161 Ext: 7140

Ministry of Defence(Navy)  
(for DS5) (6)  
Commanding Officer  
HMS ENDURANCE

5 Aug 71

HMS ENDURANCE - PROPOSED PROGRAMME

Reference: A. ENDURANCE's 225/1 of 20 Jul 71

*See S/916*

1. The programme in the reference is approved assuming the concurrence of other authorities.
2. The Ministry of Defence(Navy) is requested to obtain the necessary diplomatic clearance, including the transfer of Reindeer from South Georgia. Professional advice has been received that ten animals are required, and it has been confirmed that ENDURANCE has the necessary suitable accommodation.
3. In order to feed these animals it will be necessary to purchase fodder (moss) to the approximate value of £100. Since this money cannot be provided from WF resources and because of the goodwill this particular exercise will generate, it is strongly recommended that the cost be met from Public Funds.

*I W Jamieson*  
I W Jamieson  
Rear Admiral  
for Commander-in-Chief

Enclosure: 1. ENDURANCE's 225/1 of 20 Jul 71 (to SNOWI only)

Copy to:

Deputy Under Secretary of State(Navy)  
(for DNOT) (2)  
(for DGST(N)) (2)  
(for DGST(N) - DFIT) (2)  
(for Defence Sales (Navy)) (4)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

5

Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships	(2)
Hydrographer of the Navy	
(London)	(2)
Hydrographer of the Navy	
(Taunton)	(2)
Commandant General Royal Marines	(2)
DPRORM Eastney	(2)
His Excellency the Governor of the	
Falkland Islands	(2)
Senior Naval Officer West Indies	
Colonial Secretary Falkland Islands	(2)
Commanding Officer NP 8901	(1)
Commanding Officer NP 8902	(1)
Defence Attache Santiago	(2)
British Naval Attache Buenos Aires	(2)
British Naval Attache Rio de Janeiro	(2)
British Naval Attache Lisbon	(1)
British Naval Attache Lima	(2)
Fleet Postal Depot	(2)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

~~Y.C.~~

I had not previously seen these papers.

2 It appears you already have agreed to issue a leave to Capt. Bowden to take 12 men from P. Georgia. Actual leave will be issued by Base Commander, P.G. Your wish to arrange for him to be so advised through BAS channels (which could include by letter by BAS vessel or by signal).

J  
6/10

M

Not seen,

I have no other papers on the in the document.  
Mr. A. Hall is in the picture

5/c Other papers, pl. J 5/c

6. Ch  
7/10

CONFIDENTIAL

7.  
R. B. Maber.

His Excellency The Governor.

Government House.

Port Stanley.

West Point Island.

Falkland Islands.

19th October 1971.

Dear Sir,

I would very much like to obtain a few Reindeer from South ~~Georgia~~ Georgia to have at West Point, one male and two females would be ideal, but of course I would be delighted with more if this were possible. I wondered if perhaps you would be kind enough to give permission for me to have them? also if B.A.S. "or Endurance" could bring them up from South Georgia?

I hope you will not mind me asking all this, which I know will involve a lot of work.

Yours sincerely,

*R B Maber*

*to Mr. / I approve. Will you please ask B. A. S.  
whether they can help.*

*R.B.M.  
21/10*

Reply at  
10

*A.C.S. P. check; & let me know whether  
B.A.S. can cope.  
27/10*



8.9  
A.C.S.

NAPIER'S PLANS FOR REINDEER

It has been pointed out to me that reindeer are pretty good, fairly long distance swimmers. I suppose Napier has taken this into account?

J.A.J.  
29.10.71

CS

I have discussed with Mr. Solis re tidal conditions in the Woddy Cut & find that there is a 8-10 knot tide race with a slack water period of no more than ten minutes. The distance across to the mainland of Roy Cove Camp is approximately 1/2 mile with almost vertical cliffs on either side. Thus any animal attempting the crossing would need to swim around to Hope Harbour & well up towards Stone Cove.

2 I am unable to find anything on the reindeer's swimming abilities.

J 31.71

H.C.S.

literately. Request you drop Napier a ltr.

2 Meanwhile we have got to discuss H.C.S.'s attitude on "Endurance" movement for which you need 6625 (must vol).

J 3/11

has  
attached  
§

O/c BAS (1)

Can you advise pl?

22.10.71

(2)

H.C.S.

To capture and tranship reindeer would mean some very special arrangements, eg sleep darts, transportation from point of capture to ship and special pens for journey to Stanley. The Survey is not at the moment geared for this.

2 H.M.S. Endurance has the task to capture a certain amount of reindeer and transport them to Tierra del Fuego. They must obviously have the first and last requirements and I would think that the transportation from site of capture to ship would be done by helicopter lift.

3 May I suggest that you firstly ask Endurance if they can help in this matter.

S. Clapp

E.C.J. Clapp, O.I/c.,  
B.A.S. Office, Stanley.

25.10.71

H.C.S.

(3)

"Endurance" is performing the task referred to in para. 2 above & could perhaps help. Suggest you consult with papers on "Endurance" reindeer; then we can reassess whether H.K. supports a request for "Endurance" to be asked to cooperate on Napier's project.

27/10

S/c

(4)

Can you refer me to the file relevant to 'Endurance' transferring reindeer to Navarino Is. pl?

P2 attach latest vol. 8, 0625  
[K11 - 11st material on that is 152  
copied into 10 vol. 0625]

A.C.S.

P2. see 5, -9, +10 in  
0625/25 attached.

29.10.71

8th November, 1971.

7.

Thank you for your letter of the 19th October regarding the possibility of your taking delivery of reindeer from South Georgia. This is to keep you advised on the subject and to say that at this time consideration is being given to your request but certain information will be necessary before a final reply can be given. At the moment we are by no means certain that 'Endurance' can accommodate your request but enquiries will be made. Meanwhile perhaps you could give me some details regarding your own plans. Can you say, for instance, on what part of the Island you would keep the reindeer and whether in your opinion there would be any risk of them escaping to the mainland? I understand that the distance across to the Woolly Gut is about half a mile but that the tide race through the channel is something in the region of eight to ten knots. There is, of course, always the risk that a strong swimming animal could accomplish this journey during the period of slack water, but looking at the map there would appear to be high cliffs on either side and an animal attempting such a crossing may need to swim around to Hope Harbour and well up towards Grave Cove before a landing could be achieved.

Not having any particular knowledge of the terrain in this area this may all sound quite ridiculous but you will realise that one must take

/whatever precautions

2. 7.  
"

whatever precautions necessary to ensure that the introduction of a new form of wildlife is carried out in such a manner that any risk of the animals spreading to other farming areas is kept at an absolute minimum. I will keep you informed from time to time.

(H. I. Bound)  
ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. R. B. Napier,  
West Point Island.

CB

Reply at- 13



CS.

Jan p2 (3)

for details of Endurance's movements see  
my margin note at p2 (2).

Have now written to Mr. Napier at p 4 & a reply  
is awaited. Meanwhile the subject will need to be  
referred to H.E.?

10.11.71

~~Yes, I agree~~ 10/11  
whole file.

I would not ordinarily contemplate putting to you  
the possibility of "Endurance" becoming involved in  
Napier's project were it not for the fact that  
"Endurance" is due to lift two reindeer from  
S. Georgia this year. In the circumstances you  
will agree to enquiries being made by request of  
Capt. Brooker whether he would be able, in principle,  
to cooperate in this project? He would need to  
make it clear that it's tentative. I think it's  
very marginal logistically.

10/11

A.C.S.

P. let me see draft telegram. 11/11

7  
13  
R.B. Napier.

West Point Island.

Falkland Islands.

12th November 1971

Assistant Colonial Secretary

Port Stanley.

Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

13-11

Thank you for your letter of 8th November Ref: D/3/71.

With regard to your request for more information regarding my request for Reindeer from South Georgia.

I was uncertain untill the Reindeer arrived as to just were I would put them, but proposed to leave them were they seemed most settled and happy, with ~~xxxxxxx~~ regard to the possibility of them swimming across the Woolly Gut, I would consider this almost impossible as you say there is a very strong tide race to contend with, it is true we have swam horses across but even with the aid of two strong rowers it is difficult to get a horse across, and I would think that for an animal to seize the very short period of slack water and make the crossing unaided would perhaps be a chance in a million. In any event I would not allow the animals to increase beyond the point of control.

I hope that I have explained myself clearly, if there is anything else you wish to know please let me know.

Thank you very much for all your help in this matter, and I do hope that it is not causing you all too much work.

Yours sincerely,

*R B Napier*

*Reply at 17*

*24*

14  
DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* ..... COLONIAL SECRETARY .....

*To* ..... OC HMS ENDURANCE .....

---

*Despatched :*      9th December                      19 71      *Time :* 1010

*Received :*    19              *Time :*

Have received request from Napier of West Point Island to obtain "a few reindeer from South Georgia, one male and two females would be ideal"

Am reluctant to press his request but as first step would welcome your views on practicability of combining such an exercise with the Puerto William's project

COLONIAL SECRETARY

PL: HT

Reply at 15

BW 2012 71

*file*  
DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From ..... OC ENDURANCE

To ..... COLONIAL SECRETARY

Despatched : 11th December 19 71 Time : 0606

Received : 11th December 19 71 Time :

102300Z Dec from GXRH to Colonial Secretary Falkland Islands.  
Unclassified. Reindeer for West Point. Regret quite impos-  
sible this year due shortage of housing on board during pas-  
sage. Delivery to West Point Island another lesser problem.

2. Request your veterinary surgeon be warned of need for visit  
on board during visit to check animals for foot and mouth  
certificate required

*14*  
O/C Agric. You should <sup>theoretically</sup> reply on my behalf  
(i.e. signing Colonial Secretary) that there is no veterinary  
surgeon in the colony. Also sp. if you wish.  
Then pass file to ACS for him to write to Mayhew i.c.w. para. 1 above  
17/12



# GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

**SENT**

WAP 15142-821 584578/790938 500 pds 12/68 Grp.782

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
				<b>18/12</b>

To

**C.O. ENDURANCE VET RADIO**

**YOUR~~set~~) 102300Z PARA 2 RECRET NO VETINARY SURGEON IN FALKLANDS**

**SECRETARY**

*KIV - 15*

Time

20th December 1971.

18

Thank you for your letter of 12th December regarding your request to obtain reindeer from South Georgia.

I am sorry I have been so long in replying but thought it best to wait until I could give you a firm reply. This I am now able to do but unfortunately the answer is not a happy one for in response to a tentative enquiry with the Captain of H.M.S. Endeavour I am advised that due to shortage of housing space on board Endeavour it will not be possible to bring the animals.

Perhaps we could discuss the subject some time when you are next in town.

(H. I. Bound)  
for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. R. B. Napier,  
West Point Island.

CB

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
NO. 16/71 HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 1971.

D/3/71

8. REINDEER

The Colonial Secretary informed Members that H.M.S. Endurance was expected in the Colony from South Georgia within the next two days and was carrying a number of reindeer which had been captured on the Dependency and were destined for Navarino Island, Chile. The scheme had been worked out by the Chilean authorities and the Royal Navy. Beyond giving permission for the capture of the animals the local government had not entered into the matter at all. Now, however, it appeared that a certificate by a veterinary officer was demanded by the Chilean authorities and in the circumstances of the Colony could not be given, the Commanding Officer therefore sought permission to off-load the animals in the Colony pending further negotiations with the Chilean authorities.

Council fully considered the matter, and agreed that the animals should remain on board H.M.S. Endurance and be taken by her to Navarino Island as originally planned, while in the meantime the Commanding Officer through the British Naval Attache in the British Embassy in Santiago could ascertain whether a general certificate of health given by the Officer-in-Charge of the Agricultural Department would meet the requirements of the Chilean authorities: if it would, then such a certificate should be issued.

*G. J. G. G.*  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

C.S.

18

I spoke with <sup>CC</sup> Endurance from Moody Brook this morning as I suspected the subject was resident.

2. The port authorities at Navarino are requiring a health certificate from a qualified veterinary officer to be effect that the animals are not suffering from Foot and Mouth disease. I explained to him that we had no such officer in the colony to which he commented that C.S. or Governor may be prepared to issue the cert. I said I thought this wd be most unlikely but perhaps a certificate signed by our O/C Agric saying that he had inspected the animals & that they appeared to be in good health & not suffering from F.M. Capt. B. is anxious to have the problem cleared with as little delay as possible & wd like to talk with you tomorrow at 10.30 am.

3. The animals (9 in all - 2 have been lost since leaving S.G.) are suffering from the sea voyage & he asks that it might be possible to rest them in West Point before proceeding to Navarino, if ~~the~~ necessary leave them there until the question of acceptance at Navarino is resolved.

4. I have discussed with Napier of West Point who confirms he wd. have no objection to the exercise but points out that he considers it wd. be extremely difficult to retrieve them alive.

21.12.71



A.C.S.

I fear that, much as we should like to help Cpt. Broden, there is not a great deal that it is within our power to do.

2. Our advisors consider that the landing of a fair number of reindeer on West Point Island involves risks from our industry as we have no veterinary advice. While it is thought the danger of foot- & -mouth is minimal the reindeer could have other infection — parasites in particular. They therefore consider
3. That "Endurance" should come here, as arranged, with the reindeer aboard & we can discuss the matter with Cpt. Broden during his visit to Stanley. And meanwhile
4. We request that, through his rapid & extensive communication channels he ascertain whether Chile would be prepared to accept a layman's certificate, signed by Dr. Agriculture, stating that the reindeer do not appear to be suffering from disease & referring to the advice at p. 2 in the fact so far as is known the herd has always been healthy & there has been no opportunity to import disease into S. Georgia from outside.

7/22/12

20

Agricultural Department,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands,

.....27th December, 1971.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that we have this day viewed the eight reindeer on board H.M.S. "Endurance" and agree that they are in apparent good health and not obviously suffering from any disease.

So far as is known, the herd from which the animals were taken in South Georgia, is healthy and no importation of disease into that Dependency has been noted.



(Sgd) H.T.Luxton  
.....  
Officer in Charge,  
Agricultural Dept.

(Sgd) L.R.Anderson  
.....  
Foreman  
Agricultural Dept.

fa



HGF 7/11

Dear John

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London S.W.1

30 December 1971

A suggestion has been received from Mr D P James, MP that red deer should be introduced into the Falkland Islands to provide venison for a meat exporting industry which could replace the present export of wool. Copies of letters of 22, 26 16 and 21 December from Mr James are enclosed.

2 Since such a scheme would not be workable without the cooperation of the Falkland Islands Company, we passed the suggestion to them and copies of Mr Blake's letters of 22 and 24 December are enclosed. You will see that Mr Blake estimates that, even if the total acreage of the Company's farms was turned over to deer, the annual gross return would be £400,000 only which would be hardly sufficient to cover capital and recurrent costs of the refrigeration plant and ships, as well as normal running expense. The suggestion by Mr Blake that reindeer might be preferable to red deer seems a non-starter since there is no demand for reindeer meat while the popularity of venison is well established.

A 3 The results of the Company's further investigation into this proposal will be sent to you, but it seems likely that the large capital costs involved in plant and equipment may militate against the replacement of sheep by deer. You will see from Mr James' letter of 21 December, however, that he is interested in the possibility of taking over Douglas Station to run deer and cattle.

Yours ever

George

(G F Kinneer)

J A Jones, Esq., OBE  
Colonial Secretary,  
Falkland Islands

Y/E. G.F. 12/11 Will you please Mark, G.F. 12 Jan  
Very interesting. I hope that if this idea matures  
at all the veterinary aspects will not be overlooked. And there  
will undoubtedly be further need for amendments to the 100 years  
Old Limestone Ordinance.



From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.  
House of Commons

Telephone:  
CHILDE OKEFORD 388  
STD 0258-86 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET

Parliamentary Under-Secretary	
Recd. 17/12.	Ack.
To PDTD	
For reply by <i>Mr. Kershaw</i>	

16th December 1971

RECEIVED IF
REGISTRY No
20 DEC 1971
HGF 7/8

*Dear Tony,*

I have given a little further thought to my idea last night that Red Deer might do well in the Falkland Islands, since Scottish experience goes to show that they are far and away the best food converters of that type of grazing. More and more people in the Highlands now are removing their sheep and cattle stocks in order to intensify venison production and earn revenue from their sporting potential. Deer do very well in the southern hemisphere too. The Red Deer was originally an import into New Zealand and currently their exports of venison to Germany run at the rate of one million one hundred thousand pounds per annum.

If you were to take ~~the~~ one hundred and fifty thousand acre estate, which is at present causing you a headache, and assumed a stocking rate of one beast per twenty acres, that would give you a herd of 7,500 beasts, which might consist of 2,400 stags, 3,600 hinds and 1,500 assorted calves. Using the ~~annum~~ *culling* rate of 1 beast in 6 per annum to maintain a stable population, that would give you a return of 400 stags at £30 = £12,000 plus 600 hinds at £10 = £6,000, quite apart from any stalking fees you might be able to attract in years to come from tourists.

. . . /2



From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.

House of Commons

Telephone:  
CHILDE OKEFORD 388  
STD 0258-86 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET

- 2 -

This really might be a development worthy of your consideration since the Falkland Islands already have about the best snipe shooting in the world, about which nobody knows a thing ~~at present~~. The only trouble with the geese at present is that there are too many of them to make it worthy of the name of a sport.

*Your  
David*

*P.S. While there are no trees on the Falkland Is I don't think there would matter as the winters are much milder than in Scotland.*

Anthony Kershaw Esq., M.C., M.P.  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Whitehall, S.W.1.



From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.

House of Commons

Telephone:

CHILDE OKEFORD 388

STD 0256 36 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET

Parliamentary  
Under-Secretary

Recd. 29/12.

Ack.

To ASDOD

For reply by *W. Kershaw*

21st December 1971

*Dear Tony,*

By sheer chance I met someone over the weekend who was extremely interested in the 150,000 acres for sale in the Falkland Islands, and who, jointly with me, would be much attracted by introducing deer there and also running San Gertrude petrels (a breed with which I am not familiar but which do particularly well in the southern hemisphere).

I am wondering therefore if you could let me have particulars of this estate together with the price being asked.

Before one went in for any such project it would be necessary for all concerned to appreciate that this might well have the same ethnological impact as the introduction of the rabbit into Australia, therefore one could not possibly think of introducing deer without the explicit consent both of the F.I.C. and of all other landowners. I don't know whether the estate going is on the East Island or on the West Island, but I think, the Sound being only two and a half miles wide, one would have to envisage the likelihood, if deer were introduced to the one island, that it would only be a matter of time before they spread to the other. One would also naturally want an analysis of the herbage both on the estate in question and on the island in general. In my day there was a Doctor Hamilton, who I imagine is now dead, who was the Government naturalist for many years, so I have little doubt that the information is readily available.

... /2





From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.  
House of Commons

Telephone:  
CHILDE OKEFORD 388  
STD 0258-86 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET

- 2 -

If any such introduction were contemplated I think it would be only right that the full range of protective legislation covering closed seasons, ~~size of~~ weapons etc., should be enacted by the legislative council. It would also be necessary to know to what extent one might look for Government assistance in this project in view of the fact that it would be a fairly long term capital lock-up while the herd was breeding up, and that it would ultimately be of benefit to the entire economy and not merely to one particular estate.

It would presumably be necessary to bring at least one Falkland Islander home to Scotland for a year to learn about deer and their management, and it would undoubtedly be almost essential to have some local body such as the F.I.C. to act as managing agents in view of the fact that frequent managerial visits would be prohibitively expensive, at least in the first instance.

There is no earthly hurry about this one, but this is a perfectly serious, albeit tentative, enquiry which we would look at very closely indeed provided all the portents were favourable.

*Tom*  
*David*

Anthony Kershaw Esq., M.C., M.P.  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

*P.S. Sorry my tape recorder gave trouble*

F G Mitchell Esq  
Secretary  
Falkland Islands Co Ltd  
120 Pall Mall  
London S W 1

HGF 7/11

21 December 1971

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, a suggestion has been received that red deer should be imported into the Falkland Islands to provide venison which could be exported to other countries. In the Highlands many landowners are removing sheep and cattle stocks in favour of deer in order to intensify venison production and earn revenue from their sporting potential. Deer are said to do very well in the southern hemisphere and were originally an import into New Zealand which currently exports venison to Germany to the value of some £1,100,000 per annum.

We are told that a stocking rate of one beast per twenty acres would probably be found suitable and that an annual culling rate of one beast in six would maintain a stable population. The price obtained for a stag is quoted as £20 while a hind fetches £10.

For such a project to be viable, a large area of land would be necessary and this would of course entail the removal of sheep. I should be most interested to have your views on the possibilities of a project of this nature being implemented in the Falkland Islands.

*Ripley at 28*

(G F Kinnear)  
Atlantic and Indian  
Ocean Department

Copy to Mr J A Jones Stanley  
Falkland Islands.

27  
(4)

# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851)

REGISTERED 1902.

TELEPHONE: 01-930 6077/8/9

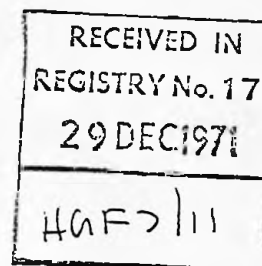
TELEGRAMS: "FLEETWING, LONDON, S.W.1."

120, PALL MALL,

LONDON, S.W.1.

22nd December 1971

G.F.Kinnear Esq.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Latin America and South Atlantic Dept.  
Whitehall  
London S.W.1



Dear Mr Kinnear

I am interested by the M.P.'s suggestion that the Falkland Islands might profitably switch to venison production. Substitution of deer for sheep even on the best land I think the following figures show to be quite impracticable:-

Total acreage of F.I. farms	2,900,000
Deer carrying capacity @ 1 per 20 acres	145,000
Cull rate at one in six p.a.	24,000
Gross return, delivered U.K., assuming	
1/3 stags 2/3 hinds	£400,000

This gross return could produce little profit after capital and recurrent costs of refrigeration plant and frozen shipment, added to which it might well be necessary to use helicopters in part for conveyance of carcasses to plant, as is done in New Zealand. Where would the taxes come from to pay for essential services?

On the other hand there are areas of the Falklands, including a large part of Douglas Station, which might be more profitably used for grazing deer than sheep. Mr I.G.Strange, an artist-naturalist resident in the Falklands, believes that reindeer would thrive on country virtually useless for sheep, and being small and tame by nature would not be difficult to fence. They are already established and thrive in South Georgia.

It would appear possibly worth while for an experiment to be made with a few reindeer, taking suitable precautions against their becoming an uncontrollable pest. There is a herd of reindeer in the Cairngorms in Scotland. I should be most grateful if you could find out from the Ministry of Agriculture whether their carcasses are of similar value to those of other deer.

Yours sincerely

# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851)

REGISTERED 1902.

TELEPHONE: 01-930 6077/8/9

TELEGRAMS: "FLEETWING. LONDON, S.W.1."

120, Pall Mall,

LONDON, S.W.1.

24th December 1971

G.F.Kinnear Esq.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Atlantic & Indian Ocean Dept.  
Whitehall  
London S.W.1

Dear Mr Kinnear

26

Thank you for your letter HGF 7/11 dated 21st December and addressed to Mr Mitchell. I commented on your telephoned information in my letter to you yesterday. Coincidentally I have just seen a Television programme on the Cairngorms herd of reindeer which reinforced my feeling that they might be the best kind of deer to establish in the Falklands, if in fact Mr Strange is correct in thinking they would find the food they need on the poorest type of sheep country. I have asked Mr Gilruth, one of our Directors who lives in Arbroath and has long personal experience of farming in the Falklands, to find out more about the Cairngorms herd.

I have heard something of the exploitation of red deer in New Zealand from one of our farm managers, recently engaged from there, who has done a lot of shooting of deer from helicopters for an exporting firm. They are of course a pest in New Zealand and extremely difficult to fence. The New Zealand Government is said to be under pressure to permit farming of deer but to be reluctant to do so for obvious reasons.

We shall make further enquiries on this subject in this country and in the Falklands and let you know what transpires.

Yours sincerely



W. H. Blake  
Executive Director

HGF 7/2



*With the compliments of*  
ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN  
DEPARTMENT

As promised in letter  
HGF 7/2 4-1-72

12/1 6-1-72

*G.K. Connects with HGF 7/2 of 4/1/72  
also in the box.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London, S.W.1.

*OVER*

*P/21*

Admiral James.

James was here, I believe as  
ADC to the Governor, for a short period  
either during or after the '39-45 war. J  
8/12/11





29

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

3 January, 1972

In Tony Kershaw's absence overseas I am answering your further letter of 21 December about the proposal to introduce deer into the Falkland Islands.

The sheep farm in the Falkland Islands which you mention is probably Douglas Station which is owned by Mr. Harland Greenshields. It is situated in East Falkland and has an area of about 130,000 acres. The Station carries 20,000 sheep and is in good shape, the farm buildings and equipment being well maintained. I do not know what the asking price for the property may be but I understand that Knight, Frank and Rutley have been acting for the owner and they would doubtless be able to give you full details.

In regard to herbage in the Falklands, we expect soon to receive copies of a report on investigations carried out by a team of agriculturalists under British technical assistance, and I will arrange to send a copy of this to you as soon as it is available since it will probably provide the information that you require.

While there is a small market for venison in Europe at the present time, I should perhaps

/explain



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explain that from the very preliminary enquiries which we have had made it seems (given the capital and recurrent costs of a refrigeration plant and frozen shipment which would be necessary) that the sort of meat production scheme which you have in mind is unlikely to prove an economic proposition. However, you will no doubt wish to go into the economics of the proposal more thoroughly yourself, and I suggest therefore that you might find it worthwhile to contact Mr. W. W. Blake, Executive Director of the Falkland Islands Company in the first instance. His telephone number is 01-930-6077.

Tony Kershaw will of course be writing again when we have heard from the Governor.

Anthony Royle

David James Esq., M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
London,  
S.W.1.



**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
London SW1

Telephone 01-

J A Jones Esq OBE  
Colonial Secretary  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

Your reference

Our reference

NCF 7/12

Date

4 January 1972

Dear John,

Please refer to my letter of 30 December about the suggestion from Mr James MP that red deer should be introduced into the Falkland Islands.

2 This matter was among those raised with Mr Kershaw during his meeting with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association after the return of Messrs Luce and Conlan from their visit to the Falklands. Mr Kershaw has now asked the following three questions following his meeting with the CPA.

- 11 HK interests are prepared to invest heavily. Yes.  
They will not purchase Douglas Station.  
Impossible to buy if we want tourism. We already have ample wildlife attractions.
- (1) Whether any commercial deep sea fishing is possible in the Falklands.
  - (2) Whether the Falkland Islands Government might purchase land; Douglas Station is at present for sale.
  - (3) Whether the importation of red deer into the Falklands for stalking would assist tourism. In a few years time it will be possible to fly to Stanley from North America in a very short time and Mr Kershaw feels that being able to stalk deer would bring a considerable number of tourists to the Falklands.

3 I shall be grateful for your comments on these suggestions and also for your views on the suggestion that red deer should be introduced to provide venison for a meat exporting industry referred to in my letter under reference. In this connection Mr Theophilus the agro-economist provided under technical assistance may be able to assist you with his views.

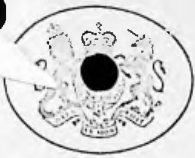
4 I enclose copy of Mr Kershaw's reply to Mr James' letter of 16 December and will send you a copy of his reply to Mr James' letter of 21 December when this is received.

Yours ever

George.

(C F Kinnear)

Reply at 33



32 *72*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

22 December 1971

*From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

Many thanks for your interesting letter of 16 December about the possibilities of introducing Red Deer into the Falklands.

I am asking the Governor (who is a New Zealander himself) to consider the idea. We have also mentioned it to the Falkland Islands Company, who, as you know, are the biggest landowners there, and I will write to you again when I have their views.

Anthony Kershaw

David James Esq MBE DSC MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1

17th January 1972

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Will you please refer to your letter reference HGF 7/2 of the 4th January and to earlier correspondence about the suggestion from Mr. James, M.P. that red deer might be introduced into the Falkland Islands. The following are our views on the questions put in paragraph 2 of your letter.

1. From the activities of the Russian Research Vessels fishing in these waters there is no doubt that there are fish around the Islands but the varieties appear to be limited and there is some doubt as to whether they are in quantities sufficient to make an enterprise commercially attractive. You are no doubt aware that some years ago a certain amount of practical research on the distribution of fish around these Islands and in the waters lying between the Falklands and the mainland was carried out by our scientists and in our view a great deal more would have to be done before taking a decision to invest risk capital. I would suggest that it would be worth while obtaining the views of Sir Vivien Fuchs on this subject as he has been in touch from time to time with the British Trawlers Association in an attempt to interest them in the prospects.
2. The Falkland Islands Government does not intend to purchase Douglas Station for a research station or for any other purpose but if the Station was abandoned the Government might have to take certain action to ensure that all the livestock was under control so that the flocks on the neighbouring farms were not placed at risk by the spread of ked and other diseases.
3. The/ ...

G. P. Minnear, Esq., O.B.E.,  
S.A. & I.O. Dept.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
LONDON SW1A 2AH.

B.K. for C.L. to see at end April. J 17/1

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24

3. The whole idea of importing red deer into the Islands is an interesting one but obviously the introduction of a new species is likely to upset the present balance of wild life on the Islands and would have to be looked at very carefully indeed. The red deer imported into New Zealand were and are still to a certain extent a pest which thrive in the mountainous heavily wooded country of the south western part of the South Islands but even from these sanctuaries they can do tremendous damage to farms when they are driven down by snow on to the river valleys. In the opinion of the Governor if red deer were introduced, for example into Douglas Station, it would be impossible to stop them spreading throughout the whole of the East Falklands and no doubt in time they would make the passage across into West Falkland. The Governor has seen red deer clearing six foot fences in New Zealand with graceful ease and does not believe it would be possible to control them in the Islands.
  
4. As far as the potential tourist traffic is concerned we consider we are aiming for a highly specialised market, i.e. those tourists interested in bird watching and wild life generally which in themselves form an almost unmatched tourist attraction. However we have an open mind at this stage on the whole suggestion but consider it would be advisable to obtain the views of Dr. Laws of the British Antarctic Survey who has great experience in dealing with the wild life in the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies.

J. A. Jones  
Colonial Secretary

by 28.6.72.

35  
25

Office of the Defence Attaché  
British Embassy  
Santiago, Chile  
c/o FCO  
King Charles St  
London SW1A 2AH

O.L.79/72

The Commander-in-Chief Fleet  
Eastbury Park  
Northwood  
Middlesex

HMS ENDURANCE  
c/o BEFO (Ships)

28 March 1972

OPERATION REINDEER

References: A. Governor Falkland Islands 191815Z Jan  
B. Defat Santiago's Telno 1 of 28 Jan 72 to  
Governor Falkland Islands

1. The enclosures are forwarded for interest.
2. Paragraph 2 of Enclosure 1 shows that there is little truth in the story quoted in Reference A.
3. All Chilean Naval Officers and others to whom I have spoken who have heard about this venture are most interested in the possibility of establishing a breeding herd of reindeer on Navarino Island and consider the assistance given by HMS ENDURANCE is yet another outstanding example of the close and valuable ties between the two Navies.

FREDERIC N BUCKLER  
Captain Royal Navy

Copies to:

Ministry of Defence  
FCO  
The Governor Falkland Islands ✓

Enclosures:

1. Translation of Chilean Naval Chief of Staff's letter
2. Translation of Política de Implantación de Renos.



I. PLAN FOR STOCKING IN 1966

Since 1965, the use of the Agricultural and Stockbreeding Service has been interested in advancing a plan to develop, along the Western channel, a region for agricultural and stockbreeding purposes. This plan is the subject of the present report.

POLICY FOR STOCKING THE BEAGLE

DISTRICT WITH REINDEER

- I. REINDEER PLAN OF 1966.
- II. REINDEER OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.
- III. REINDEER PLAN - 1971.
- IV. CONCLUSIONS.

CONTENTS

Plan for Reindeer 1966: Francisco ULLOA Venezuela . Fishing Expert, 9th Zone of the Agricultural and Stockbreeding Service at Punta Arenas, May 1970.

Characteristics of Reindeer of the Southern Hemisphere : Information obtained onboard HES ENDURANCE at Puerto Williams. C.J.IIIa.Z.N. 31.Dec.1971.

In the Southern Hemisphere, reindeer is native to Alaska and Greenland and has been introduced to various regions of Europe and Asia. In the Southern Hemisphere, reindeer is native to Alaska and Greenland and has been introduced to various regions of Europe and Asia. This information justifies carrying out an organized plan for stocking the Province of Magellan with reindeer. The only question against this project and one which will always be asked, is whether the introduction of this species would be the cause of an eventual ecological imbalance in the environment. It is felt that the change or damage to surroundings would be minimal or very slow since the reindeer has been introduced in a very off-icious or precise, and on the other hand the young quality of indigenous vegetation in the region has been taken into account, and it is assumed that the reindeer would adapt to the feeding habits, and damage would be of no economic significance.

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## I. PLAN FOR REINDEER IN 1966

Since 1966, the 9th Zone of the Agricultural and Stockbreeding Service has been interested in advancing a plan to import reindeer, with the intention of eventually stocking areas along the South Western channels of the province of Magellan with this valuable animal, a region which is chiefly 'tundra' and entirely unsuitable for agricultural development, graded as Class VIII, and only appropriate for wild life.

The region is comprised principally of a vast collection of islands and hilly archipelagoes South of the Straits of Magellan which, on account of topographical characteristics and unsuitability for agriculture, has remained almost uninhabited since its discovery. The region embraces more than 2000 hectares, which are at present, a complete loss to the economy of the country. This gave rise to the idea of attempting to condition reindeer to the region, as a means of incorporating this vast area into the economy of that region and the country. The reindeer was chosen as being an animal of vigorous climates, living and breeding in the Arctic Circle, Scandinavian countries, Russia, Alaska, Greenland and the climatic conditions and mossy vegetation very similar to that found in the channels or fjords of Chilean Patagonia.

There was an earlier attempt to acclimatizing reindeer to Magellan when in 1955 Senor Pedro Krussel, a cattle farmer in the region brought in nine male and female animals by sea from Lapponia, Sweden. Unfortunately this effort failed because of insufficient support on the part of authorities who did not appreciate the economic significance that reindeer could have for this province, a thing which also happened during the last century in Alaska when reindeer were brought from Siberia. Without support from the State and with insufficient care and protection the small herd fell victim to persecution and ill-treatment by the inhabitants of Punta Arenas, eight of the nine dying from cruelty shortly after arrival.

In the Northern Hemisphere, bringing reindeer to Alaska and Greenland has had very good results, in regions of sparse natural vegetation, which have been important to the economy.

This information justifies carrying out an organized plan for stocking the Province of Magellan with reindeer. Undoubtedly the only question against this project and one which will always be mooted, is whether the introduction of this species could be the cause of an eventual ecological unbalance in its surroundings: it is felt that the change or damage to surroundings would be minimal or very slow in on the one hand reindeer feed almost entirely off lichens or grasses, and on the other hand the poor quality of indigenous vegetation in the region has been taken into account, and it is assumed that the animal would adapt its feeding habits, and damage would be of no economic significance.

A similar situation would not arise of reindeer competing with fauna native to the region, since animal life on shore is so limited, that the possibility of physical strife would probably not occur. To fully appreciate this, it must be borne in mind that reindeer would be introduced solely and exclusively into the Southwestern Channels, where the characteristics of the tundra prevail, where flora and fauna is poor and where it is felt that only animals such as reindeer can survive. With regard to this, it is interesting to know the opinions on the project given by the Danish ecologist and forestry expert Georg Schlatsel, who visited Punta Arenas and the Beagle Channel by sea during the '60s. After seeing the region where the reindeer would be settled this expert said amongst other things "that he did not believe it was fair to include the reindeer, an animal very choosy in his feeding habits - amongst the species of deer which do damage", expressing disagreement with the theory that the settlement of reindeer in Magellan would be dangerous on account of the ecological disturbance it could bring about, and stressing the success there has been in introducing reindeer into Greenland for example. He also compares the introduction of this species with indigenous trees in the middle South of Chile asking what harm has been caused by the introduction of conifers and eucalyptus which now cover approximately 400,000 hectares of the countryside, and even if harm has been made, how does this equate with the enormous economic benefits which have accrued from these plantations.

The importance of the reindeer in the most northerly populated regions of the Northern hemisphere, especially in Scandinavian countries, is quite significant; in Lapponia, the original home of the reindeer, until recent decades, the inhabitants have supported themselves almost entirely from the reindeer getting milk, meat, clothing and using them as beasts of burden; similarly this animal has benefitted other indigenous communities on the Arctic region where it has been settled.

The Lapland reindeer is a ruminant mammal of the deer family, and both strong and massive. He can stand a metre 80 cms in height and is up to 2 meters long. Their horns, which both male and female shed each year, can grow as long as 60 cms. They have large cloven hooves allowing them to walk equally well on damp soft marsh or snow and frosty ground. It can withstand rigorous climates like the Arctic and is one of the few mammals living in that region. He is very frugal and selective in his feeding habits, surviving mostly on moss and vegetation, which is important, when considering the belt of 'tundra' in the Magellan province, where the vegetation is similar to near-Arctic or Arctic regions. The reindeer is gregarious, running in herds of 30 or 40 females to one male, producing young each year.

Their horns have been the motive of a craft for handles for knives, clothes hangers etc. Another good use to which they can be put, providing there are no other animals available for the purpose, is for drawing sleighs..

Once in Magellan, the herd, on completion of quarantine would be sent for a trial period to places which could be in the archipelago of Isla Hoste or Isla Gordon, South of the Beagle Channel lat 56° South Long 69° West. They could be left in the care and protection of the Navy, who patrol this region constantly from their naval base at Puerto Williams.

The Islands of Hoste and Gordon, covering an area of more than 250,000 hectares are made up of fiscal holdings and the land is graded as "C", they are uninhabited, are not national parkland, nor forestry reserves.

After completing a number of tests on one of the islands or at a specified point, they would be kept under observation so as to gauge their adaptability to surroundings, and with special attention to feeding habits, reproduction, migration, possible damage to vegetation, as well as their progress and mortality. Later and only after a suitable period under observation, which could last from two, to three or more years a decision could be made about continuing with the project, which if acceptable, would mean the importation of further herds for breeding reindeer herds on a large scale within the territory set aside for the purpose.

The project would be controlled by the agricultural and stockbreeding service, which through experts would provide the necessary expertise, and also contract a foreign expert for the purpose.

## II. REINDEER OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Reindeer were brought to South Georgia by Senor C A Larsen who released 11 animals in Ocean Harbour in 1909.

They were 9 cows and 2 bulls. Nineteen years later this herd totalled 400-500 animals other than about 120-200 which had been shot. Although there is no exact census today it is estimated there are over 4000 on the Barf Peninsula.

In December 1971 a team from HMS ENDURANCE took a count of approximately 700 reindeer near Cape George within a range of about one square mile.

Two other attempts were made within the first 25 years of the century in implanting reindeer at other points of South Georgia, but with less success.

Classification. The male reindeer is known as the bull the females as the cow and their young as calves.

Size and Characteristics. As distinct from other breeds of reindeer both sexes have horns. They differ in two characteristics. Firstly they are very resistant and can survive with little food and shelter.

Secondly, they can be domesticated, not only for their meat, hide horns and milk, but are also suitable as beasts of burden. Reindeer are smaller than one imagines. Their height to their shoulder is approximately 110 cms. and from nose to tail they measure approximately 200 cms. They weigh 150 kilos. They are intelligent and agile, with a sharp sense of vision, smell and hearing.

Breeding. Calves are born in the South during November and early December. (The Bonner Report says they are born in November but the team from HMS ENDURANCE observed that calves are born in December.

Mating season is in mid-March and it is believed that some of the cows born only 4 or 5 months before this may also become pregnant.

Development. Reindeer, and other animals of the species, shed their horns and grow new ones each year. Reindeer in the South shed their horns in August when the new horns start to grow they are covered with hide and soft hair (and while they are in this tender stage, they are known as velvety). This stage ends to the bulls in March and later for the cows.

Food. Reindeer of South Georgia, differed from those of the North, inasmuch as they feed principally on phanerogramic plants, chiefly Tussac grasses, and according to a majority of statistics, they have eaten little or no lickers over these years. Nevertheless, the ENDURANCE team found that the reindeer were feeding off Islandic moss and a certain mixture of moss and Tussac grass. It is believed that the grass should contain sufficient salt, though it is wise to provide salt for them to lick. It has been proved that an adult reindeer drinks about 1.5 gallons of water each day (approx. 5.7 litres).

### III. PROJECT FOR REINDEER DURING 1971

On the 30th December 1971, 6 reindeer, the survivors of an original herd of 12, a present from the British Navy to the Chilean Navy, arrived at South Georgia, onboard HMS ENDURANCE.

On arrival they were examined by the Director of the XVI Zone of the Agricultural and Stockbreeding Service, Dr Donald Makinnon Yung, who found no symptoms of infectious disease. He took 7 samples for intestinal parasites which were analysed at the laboratories of the Society of Agriculture and Stockbreeding in Punta Arenas.

The first laboratory tests showed a considerable degree of parasites for which they are undergoing treatment before being taken to their final destination.

Of the animals which arrived, three were fully grown females and three were animals of a month old. The condition of the only male was below par, suffering from stress after the journey.

Unfortunately, after examination he died.

After treatment against parasites, they will be taken to an enclosure of six hectares, specially prepared with fences 2 meters high so as to become acclimatized to their new surroundings.

This enclosure is situated near Puerto Róbal.

It is necessary to obtain two bulls as soon as possible so that in March the adult cows may be covered and thus start the plan for breeding reindeer.

A policy should be adopted which allows for new herds to be brought in each year so that numbers increase and the species is not allowed to degenerate from crossing the original animals.

#### IV CONCLUSIONS

1. The policy of introducing reindeer into the Southern hemisphere should be kept up with the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture, Corfo and the Directorate of Forestry and State Frontiers, as a further Plan for Navarino.
2. The conditioning of reindeer to the Southern hemisphere, which in future could be known as "Beagle Reindeers" will begin in Navarino (Puerto Williams) and after two years they will be released to wild life in the interior of the island and then start populating the Islands of Hoste and Gordon.
3. The advantages that this project offer are the following:
  - a. Direct use of the reindeer for meat, milk, hides, skins, horns etc with the possibility of establishing in the area local industries from these materials, such as tanning, shoe making, clothing, arts and crafts etc.
  - b. The development and growth of regional tourism as a consequence of the attraction of reindeer in the Southern channels.
  - c. The charge for hunting rights, having previously established the numbers to be killed and the period to be considered as 'out of season'.
  - d. Taking advantage of extensive regions which at present are totally lost to the economy of the country.
  - e. Reserves which can be inhabited and strategic in the event of armed conflict.

TRANSLATION

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF'S OFFICE

Official Letter No. 4470/1

Santiago

Defence Attaché  
British Embassy  
Santiago

(Dear Captain Buckler),

As you know, HMS ENDURANCE, took a small herd of reindeer to Puerto Williams Isla Navarino at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, through force majeure only females reached their destination. Of the three males, two died in transit, and the third on arrival. The Chilean Navy understands and is most appreciative of the effort made by the Royal Navy in "Operation Reindeer" if it may be described as such, and they would like to convey their gratitude to the Admiralty.

Some weeks after the completion of "Operation Reindeer" you expressed your concern to the Chief of Staff about certain articles which had appeared in the British Press, to the effect that farmers on the Island of Navarino were not in agreement with introducing reindeer into the region; and that this could injure the good image which the Royal Navy should and does have. I should like to say that, quite to the contrary, the arrival of these animals at Navarino has been welcome. The Chilean Navy who care for a large part of that Island have worked out a project for the settlement of reindeer, a copy of which is attached. As you can see from its reading there is a genuine interest in stocking the region with these animals and we have applied to other Ministries in an attempt to obtain another two males during this season. I should like you to assure the British Naval Authorities that 'Operation Reindeer', undertaken by HMS ENDURANCE was most welcome.

Yours etc.

(Sgd) PABLO E WEBER M  
REAR ADMIRAL  
CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

*J.G. Thank you / E.G. 2/5*  
*You may be interested to see from p. 25*  
*2.5.72*

*6th/1st*  
*Why is the letter not to be put in the file?*  
*A.C. Be have filed 2.5.72*  
*Ag. C.S. Reopened R. 2.5.72*  
*2/5*  
*2.5.72*



ROUTINE

CONFIDENTIAL

Following from Defence Attache Santiago addressed to  
HMS Endurance 191800Z repeated for information to MOD Navy,  
CinC Fleet, HODFI.

1. Have been told verbally that Chilean ship Piloto Parado will  
be available for rendezvous with Endurance 141000Z December 1972  
Cumberland Bay South Georgia staying 3 days if necessary for  
transfer of reindeer. Co-operation of Royal Navy in this  
operation would be much appreciated.

2. Official letter <sup>and</sup>.... request for diplomatic clearance  
in hand by Chilean Navy.

6.11/18.11/

Reindeer File A

ACS

F.S.I.

the Chilean want more  
of our reindeer!

29/7

CS

I imagine this will be finished direct with MOD + the  
Chilean authorities + that no action is required by us except  
to b.u. to KIV

11/28/7

BU 1/12/72

6.11/18.11/ I am dealing with the m. by M.  
J. M.

6.11/18.11/ 8.11/18.11/ 8.11/18.11/

59/28/1  
RESTRICTED



Office of the Defence Attaché  
British Embassy  
Santiago, Chile  
c/o FCO  
King Charles St  
London SW1

O.L.439/72

Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW1

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles St  
London SW1

25 August 1972

#### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE - REINDEER

References: A. My O.L.410/72 dated 4 August '72  
B. MODUK Navy's 161620Z Aug

1. The enclosed request for assistance from the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs is forwarded for consideration.
2. With reference to Para 2 of Reference B the phrase quoted from the letter by the Chilean Naval Chief of Staff was amended as forwarded in the enclosure to Reference A because the Chilean Naval authorities agreed that no "offer" had in fact been made. The enclosure to Reference A therefore replaced the original letter of the same date and number which was forwarded to HMS ENDURANCE for information only.
3. The Naval authorities in Santiago appreciate and accept that any comment on assistance so far made by HMS ENDURANCE is only tentative and that no action can be taken without MOD and FCO approval.
4. Neither the Chilean Naval authorities nor the British Embassy have been aware of any adverse comment on ecological/conservation grounds other than that reported by the Governor of the Falkland Islands in his signal DTG 191815Z January which was answered by Santiago's Telno 1 of 28 January to HEGFI, MOD and FCO only and Enclosure No.2 to letter No.79/72 dated 28 March 1972. However, at the suggestion of the FCO Chancery are checking to make quite sure that there is no objection on this score. They are likely to telegraph the result.
5. A large part of Navarino Island is owned and governed by the Chilean Navy. The majority of the remainder is administered by CORA (Corporación de Reforma Agraria). No objection to the introduction of reindeer is foreseen by the Chilean authorities who, indeed, welcome the project as a means of producing additional food in the region.
6. The Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chilean Navy are particularly interested in completing this joint operation

RESTRICTED

which so nearly achieved success last year. Assuming that there is no objection on ecological/conservation grounds, we would reckon that Anglo/Chilean relations would be enhanced by any assistance that the Royal Navy can afford to this effect.

7. My Ambassador has seen this letter and agrees.

*Frederic H. Buckler*  
FREDERIC H. BUCKLER  
Captain Royal Navy

Enclosure:

Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs letter  
N°24855 dated 23 August 1972 - Translation  
(Original to PCO only)

Copies to:

His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands  
CinC Fleet  
HMS ENDURANCE

DRI - DAE N° 24855

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores saluda muy atentamente a la Embajada de Su Majestad Británica y tiene el honor de poner en su conocimiento lo siguiente :

El año pasado, con la valiosa ayuda de la Armada Británica , el HMS Endurance dejó en Puerto Williams algunos renos que trajo de las islas Georgias del Sur. Desgraciadamente los machos murieron y fue imposible iniciar la crianza de estos animales en la isla Navarino.

La Armada Nacional está interesada en proseguir con los intentos de implantar renos en dicha isla. Ha alistado un pequeño corral para mantenerlos durante el período de aclimatación en Puerto Williams y contará con el apoyo del veterinario local para el cuidado de los animales, tanto al arribo del buque que los traiga como durante el primer período de crianza.

Por esta razón, el Ministerio solicita al Gobierno de S.M. Británica nuevamente la ayuda de la Armada Real, para coger algunos ejemplares de renos. En caso que ello fuese posible, el transporte de la Armada Nacional " Pilote PARDO" podría recalar en Bahía Cumberland, Islas Georgias del Sur, entre el 14 y el 17 de diciembre próximo, para encontrarse en dicho puerto con el buque de la Marina Británica que le colaboraría en la captura de los ejemplares antes mencionados.

De concretarse esta operación, solicita también al Gobierno de S. M. Británica la autorización correspondiente para que el Transporte "PILOTO PARDO" pueda recalar a las Islas Georgias del Sur en las fechas ya señaladas.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar a la Embajada de Su Majestad Británica las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.

*F. Cisterna*

Santiago, 23 AGO. 1972

TRANSLATION

REPUBLIC OF CHILE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DRI - DAE N°24855

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs present their compliments to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy and have the honour to inform them of the following:

Last year, with the valuable assistance of the Royal Navy, HMS ENDURANCE disembarked in Puerto Williams some reindeer which the ship had transported from the South Georgia Islands. Unfortunately, the bulls died and it was not possible to start breeding these animals on Naverino Island.

The Chilean Navy is interested in continuing with the attempts to introduce reindeer on this island. The Chilean Navy has prepared a small enclosure to keep them during the acclimatisation period in Puerto Williams and will have the support of the local veterinary surgeon for the care of the animals on the arrival of the ship that brings them and during the first period of breeding.

For this reason the Ministry request Her Majesty's Government for the assistance once again of the Royal Navy in capturing some reindeer specimens. If this were possible, the Chilean Navy transport PILOTO FARO could put into the anchorage at Cumberland Bay, South Georgia Islands, between 14 and 17 December next, to meet at that port ~~[sic]~~ with the ship of the Royal Navy which would help in the capture of the aforementioned specimens.

In order to facilitate this operation, the Ministry also request from Her Majesty's Government the corresponding authority to enable the transport PILOTO FARO to put into the anchorage in the South Georgia Islands on the aforementioned dates.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy the assurances of their highest and most distinguished consideration.

Santiago, 23 August 1972

CONFIDENTIAL 161540Z

to Immediate Falkland Islands telno 47 of 16 February.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION: REINDEER

1. David James (N Dorset Cons) is to ask what progress has been made over the proposal to introduce reindeer into the Falkland Islands from South Georgia.
2. Subject your views we propose to answer "none".
3. In answer to possible supplementaries we propose bring out following points:-
  - a. Reindeer destructive and could spread rapidly.
  - b. Introduction of this new species could upset balance of wild life.
  - c. The difficulties of transport and preparation would militate against a viable venison export industry.
  - d. Reindeer are not an attractive quarry for stalkers as they are comparatively tame.
4. Grateful for reply by close of play Monday 19 February.

CONFIDENTIAL 191405Z

Deskby 191700Z

to Immediate FCC telno 57 of 19 February

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION: REINDEER: Your telno 47

1. I agree with proposed answer.

2. In regard to possible supplementaries you will no doubt wish to take into account that David James also suggested red deer might be imported into Islands (our letter D3/71 of 17 January/1972 in reply to your letter HGF 7/2 of 4 January 1972 refers).



*6.05/16/4*

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
London SW1

Telephone 01-

His Excellency  
Mr E G Lewis CMG OBE  
Governor and Commander in Chief  
Falkland Islands

Your reference

Our reference HWF 7/9

Date 10 April 1973

*Dear Governor,*

## REINDEER ETC

1. I enclose a copy of a letter sent to Mr Amery by Mr Richard Webb and a copy of the reply sent on the Minister's behalf.

2. I think you will find the correspondence interesting. Webb, as you probably know, was employed by BAS as a botanist, but he was not an easy customer and they had to terminate his contract prematurely.

*Yours ever*  
*DGF*

D G F Hall  
West Indian & Atlantic Department



Excuse my place.

19. HOPE STREET

RECEIVED HALESOWEN.

LIBRARY NO. 41

28 MAR 1973

15. 3. 73.

HWF 7/9

Dear Mr. Amery,

as a botanist who has just completed research in Antarctica, I was very interested to hear on the radio of your plans for South Georgian reindeer to be imported to the Falkland Islands. as you know, some of these animals have already been taken to Chile with limited success. The distribution and numbers of S. Georgian reindeer are currently being studied by Mr. Mike Payne who will be working on his results at the British Antarctic Survey zoology labo at Monkswood near Huntingdon when he returns in May. They are overgrazing large areas of S. Georgian vegetation so that alien plants invade the grazed areas, the plant communities change & the type localities for many species are eaten out.

Many studies of the Falkland Island grasslands have shown them to be seriously impoverished due to sheep grazing. Tussock grass, *Poa flabellata*, has been severely restricted by grazing and is now conserved as the Falklands most nutritious grass, in the areas where it occurs.

Past efforts to improve the Falklands economic situation, when applied to agriculture, have always ended in failure due to the powerful lobby of the sheep farmers who see their livelihood threatened. In this respect I urge you to read Ian Strange's book "The Falkland Islands" which will also reveal Britain's indifferent attitude from the colonies' beginnings to the present day. The islands once supported the world's finest herds of beef cattle, until they were slaughtered by sealers. A remnant herd still survives and is a valuable genetic resource. It may be more relevant to aid the colony in this direction.

May I suggest that as South Georgia is one of the Falkland Islands Dependencies that revenue earned there would contribute to the economy of the Falklands themselves, as the sale of whaling licences used to. In this respect it may be better to crop the reindeer herds directly on South Georgia, using either a shore plant or a refrigerated ship during the season. This could be combined with the controlled harvesting of the fur seal stocks which have now built up to large numbers.

Mr. Payne is also doing research on the fur seals. The recently abandoned whaling station at Grytviken and Seith would provide ideal foci for such a small industry. Further revenue could even be supplied from limited tourism. The tourist ship Lindblad Explorer already calls at Grytviken and climbing or deer stalking tours could be arranged.

Perhaps the greatest boost to the Falklands economy could come from fishing.

I recently wrote to the Foreign and Commonwealth office expressing concern over Britain's attitude to the Icelandic fisheries.

I mentioned that the waters of the South Atlantic and the Scotia Sea were one of the world's richest untapped fishing grounds.

The Russians are now beginning to exploit these stocks and we would be very

foolish not to follow their lead. Again South Georgia offers excellent harbours and recently abandoned facilities. Our fishing industry should take this opportunity, as it had the chance to six years ago, to the benefit of Britain and the Falkland Islands.

Further information on the effects of reindeer grazing on the South Georgian vegetation can be had from Dr's D.C. LINSAY and R.I.L. SMITH at;

B.A.S. Botanical Section,

Winterbourne Research Gardens,

University of Birmingham,

BIRMINGHAM 15.

I firmly believe that our colony in the South Atlantic has a strong economic future if Britain's hitherto indifferent attitude changes. I wish your ideas every success. Yours sincerely,

Richard Webb Esq.









## REINDEER IN SCOTLAND

Looking across Rothiemurchus Forest to the Cairngorms from Aviemore railway bridge on a cold morning in April, 1947, I was instantly reminded of reindeer pastures. Later travel in the Highlands showed that many species of ground, rock and tree lichens which are elsewhere the chief reindeer food were plentiful here and of little use to other animals. Red deer and domestic livestock were grazing on plants and grass less important to reindeer. Finally I heard that according to the Orkneyinga saga red deer and reindeer were hunted together, in Caithness, by the Jarls of Orkney about eight hundred years ago.

In 1952 I brought some of my Swedish mountain reindeer to Scotland as an experiment, to see if they could live and breed. Official difficulties were overcome mainly through the influence of the Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom, Cambridge, an advisory and research body founded in 1949, and the Reindeer Company Limited was formed to finance the project and registered in Edinburgh. The first consignment was released in June, after quarantine, on 300 acres kindly let by Colonel J. P. Grant, M.B.E., of Rothiemurchus. The Company had erected two miles of six-foot fencing to ensure the isolation which the authorities required. More reindeer followed, some of forest type, and in 1961 a few from southern Norway.



From 1953 the Forestry Commission allowed the herd to graze on a 70-acre plantation, and the lack of noticeable damage by reindeer to the conifers was demonstrated there. Pasture was extended by the North Conservancy in 1954 to 5,000 acres of higher ground in the Glenmore Forest Park, from the Commission's deer fence to the summits of Cairn Gorm and Cairn Lochain. By then the animals were permitted to graze freely, like hill sheep, although there are fenced enclosures. The Department of Agriculture for Scotland recognised at the end of 1956 that the project had grown beyond the experimental stage. Reindeer-breeding could take its place among local forms of livestock rearing.

The growing herd settled down in its Highland pastureland. "Sarek", the wise, mysterious reindeer ox born on Mt Sarek's slopes in northern Sweden, had come with me on the first journey by road and rail to Narvik and across the North Sea to the Clyde. He led the Scottish herd for twelve years. When our reindeer stray they usually turn back of their own accord, guided by a strong homing instinct and the attraction of mineral licks. Most calves are born in May and June. Reindeer are friendly, or evasive, except in the October rutting season. A bull may then behave in a threatening way.

One man could look after a large herd alone for much of the year, if there were no outside interference. In Lapland dogs always help with the herding, but at Glenmore the animals are controlled by a voice they know, or by tit-bits of a special food they have learned to like. The most tractable reindeer wear a bell, around which others tend to collect. In the arctic many herds come down for shelter in the winter, whereas at Glenmore they often move upwards to drier ground.

The first arrivals suffered from insects while fenced in and several were lost after fly-strike on a few hot summer days. An insect repellent suited to reindeer was finally selected, in consultation with a chemical firm, and a

system of spraying worked out which has been successful since 1955.

Dogs, claimed by their owners to be "under control", are sometimes as serious a menace to reindeer as to other livestock. A strict rule to keep dogs on a lead would go far towards ensuring the security of the herd.

Why have reindeer in Scotland? They are useful in many ways. The meat is delicious, because the animal is bred for meat and can be slaughtered at the right time. In 1951-1952 about 400 tons of reindeer meat sold quickly in London. When available at Glenmore today, by order, it fetches a good price. Clothing made of the skin or well-tanned hide is worn even in temperate climates. Reindeer skins, simply stretched and dried, make warm groundsheets and are often bought as floor rugs in Britain. Reindeer hair has been imported into Britain for expensive dress materials. Antlers are carved for crafts. Trained reindeer oxen can pull goods or people on sleds, or carry packs, and children may ride them, too. Research into the composition of the cream-like reindeer milk, the digestion, skin, antlers, breeding and other research topics have been aided by the Reindeer Company's archives and the headquarters at Reindeer House.

Herds brought to new areas in the last century have done well. The Alaskan introduction is the best known example. South Georgia, in the antarctic, has benefited by about 4,000 head, descended from eleven Norwegian reindeer. In Canada thousands have pastured near the mouth of the Mackenzie River, and tame herds are increasing, for instance in Greenland. Nor need reindeer be far north. In south Norway there are fine herds on the same latitude as the Orkney Islands.

We hope to maintain this adapted, accessible herd in the Cairngorms, with its traits from the Swedish mountain and woodland reindeer and the south Norwegian type. By the summer of 1970 the herd consisted of over 80 animals bred in Scotland, in spite of steady culling for



meat, live sales, and research. Many represent the third generation here. In the first years growth was slow; the four weeks' quarantine in cramped quarters, in urban air, is hard on far-ranging animals. Scandinavian reindeer are well known as healthy stock and all those I brought in had Swedish or Norwegian veterinary certificates before embarking.

The great advantage in keeping reindeer is that they find their own basic food, even under snow, and require no shelter.

MIKEL UTSI

*Managing Director, Reindeer Company Ltd.  
Technical Adviser, Reindeer Council of the U.K.*

## VISITS TO THE REINDEER

Accompanied visits to the unique herd are arranged when possible. A guide usually leaves Reindeer House, Glenmore, for the hill at 10.45 a.m. Inquiries should be addressed to M. N. P. Utsi, Reindeer Company Ltd., Aviemore, Inverness-shire. Dogs should always be on a lead if they cannot be left behind.

## INFORMATION

Information about the Scottish herd and reindeer-breeding generally may be obtained from Dr. E. J. Lindgren, M.A., Honorary Secretary, Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom, Newton Hill, Harston, Cambridge.

---

*Fifth Edition, October 1970*

*Price 1s*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

6 April 1973

Dear Mr. Webb,

Mr Amery has asked me to reply to your letter of 15 March as at present he is abroad.

I am afraid that you misunderstood the radio report on his statement in answer to a question in Parliament about the introduction of reindeer into the Falkland Islands. Her Majesty's Government has no plans to this end, but the Falkland Islands Company have been looking into the possibility. However I am advised that the evidence of the destructive habits of reindeer in South Georgia is one of the main reasons why the Company have given up the idea of introducing them into the Falkland Islands.

Your suggestion that the reindeer herds should be cropped on South Georgia itself, and that this exercise should be combined with the culling of fur seal is an interesting one which may merit further consideration when all the facts and figures are available. Mr Payne's report on the reindeer distribution and numbers will be helpful, and I

/am ...

Richard Webb Esq BSc  
19 Hope Street  
Halesowen  
Worcestershire



am advised that British Antarctic Survey scientists are keeping a close watch on the numbers as well as the breeding habits of the fur seals. The seal herd now apparently numbers about 140,000; this is a significant increase over previous years, but is still regarded as too low for commercial culling.

You also mentioned the possibility of resuscitating the beef industry in the Falkland Islands. As you know the present system of farming is based entirely on wool production, which is enjoying a very good market. You will therefore appreciate that, so long as the Islands' economy continues to benefit from the high wool prices, it would be difficult to encourage the development of an industry such as beef production which would compete with sheep for the available pasture.

I entirely agree with your comments on the rich fishing grounds in the Southern Ocean. British trawler owners have been showing interest, but there are many administrative and financial problems to be overcome in the deployment of even a part of our fishing fleet, not least the additional capital investment that would be necessary. Nevertheless I hope that these difficulties can be overcome in due course.

I can assure you that Britain's attitude to the Falkland Islands is not one of indifference. United Kingdom financial

/aid ...



aid is now at a rate of £300 per head of population per year - one of the highest rates of country aid in the British aid programme.

I am arranging for a copy of your letter to be sent to the Governor of the Falkland Islands because he will be interested to have your views on the natural resources potential of South Georgia and of its possible tourist attraction.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Ivor J Rawlinson,*

I J Rawlinson

Private Secretary to the  
Minister of State

UNCLASSIFIED

SG/28/1C

23 April 1973

D G F Hall Esq MBE  
West Indian & Atlantic  
Department  
FCC, London SW1

Thank you for your letter HMF 7/9 of  
10 April about reindeer and other  
aspects of the natural resources available  
in South Georgia; the reply sent on  
behalf of the Minister sets out the position  
admirably.

E G LEWIS

B/W H/m/ 54  
10/11/11  
From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.

Telephone:  
CHILDE OKEFORD 388  
STD 0258-86 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET DT11 8EB

8th November 1973.

Dear Mr Lewis,

It was a very real pleasure to meet you over lunch back in September and to hear news once again of the Falkland Islands. I would love to get out again one day and will have to try sometime to fix myself up with a parliamentary trip.

I wrote to Mikel Utsi, the Lap married to a Swedish-American (Mrs E.J. Lindgren, MA) who was responsible for introducing reindeer to the Cairngorms in Scotland. I enclose his reply, from which you will see he would be more than willing to come out to advise on this project, which he is eminently qualified to do.

You will note that he would like to be accompanied, but this doesn't mean that he couldn't travel out on his own, but that he recently had a coronary and therefore would like someone to accompany him whenever he goes out to look at anything.

Please let me know if ever I can be of further assistance.

H.E. Ernest Gordon Lewis, Esq.  
CMG, OBE

Governor  
Government House  
Port Stanley  
Falkland Islands

715  
David James

THE REINDEER COMPANY LIMITED

Directors

W. BROTHERSTON, S.S.C., N.P.  
Col N. A. C. CROFT, D.S.O., O.B.E.  
Dr E. J. LINDGREN, M.A.  
M. N. P. UTSL (Managing Director)

Secretary

Dr E. J. LINDGREN, M.A.

Administrative Office

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REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND

NUMBER 20739

Registered Office

22 RUTLAND SQUARE  
EDINBURGH  
BROTHERSTON & BEE, S.S.C.  
Registrars

from Reindeer House  
Glenmore, Aviemore. 26/8/73

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19/8

Reindeer project to the Falkland Island

I would be glad to go out a visit to F.I. ~~to~~ to find out if it is suitable for reindeer, but could not go before 1974. Then I am not nowadays anymore very keen to be by myself alone in the wilderness so I would ask to have another person with me either from here or have a reliable one on my arrival.

The rutting for our Cairngorm herd is now in end for this season and we are getting new strain of reindeer by the new Finnish-Russian bull KIVI from Whipsnade Zoo last year.

David James VIRE  
DSC, M.P.

Best wishes Michael

55  
21st November, 1973

Many thanks for your letter of the 8th November and it was a great pleasure for me to have lunch with you in London and to discuss Falkland Islands affairs and the possibility of the introduction of reindeer into the Islands.

I am consulting our experts on the subject and in due course I will let you know what we think of the possibilities.

Once again, very many thanks and I hope you will find it possible to come and see us one of these days: your visit would be most welcome.

E.G. Lewis

David James, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.  
Malabar House,  
Childe Okeford,  
near Blandford,  
Dorset DT11 8EB



21st November, 1973

Dear Ian,

When I was at home on leave I had lunch with David James, M.P. who has for years been advocating the introduction of reindeer into the Falklands: I have staunchly resisted this on the grounds that it might interfere with our already distorted ecology.

2. He has now written to me saying that he has spoken to Mikel Utsi a Lap married to a Swedish-American (Mrs E.J. Lindgren, MA) who was responsible for introducing reindeer to the Cairngorms in Scotland where they have flourished exceedingly well. Utsi has replied saying that he would be willing, if appointed under Technical Assistance Terms, to come out some time in 1974 and look at the possibilities here.

3. I would be grateful for your views on this suggestion although I must be frank with you and say that I am not very enthusiastic.

Yours ever,

E.G. Lewis

I.J. Strange, Esq.,  
New Island.

51  
SG/28/1 c

14 January 1974

I J Strange Esq  
STANLEY

Dear Ian

Although we touched on the subject briefly when we last met, it would be a help for me to have a reply to my letter of 21 November about the possible introduction of reindeer into the Falklands.

I hope all has gone well at New Island.

Yours ever

E G Lewis

B/W  
14 Jan

Stanley,  
Ballland Islands.

16th January, 1974

His Excellency the Governor  
Government House  
Stanley.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of the 14th January referring to the earlier one on the subject of introducing reindeer into the Balllands.

I must apologise for the delay in replying, but to be honest your letter was laid aside in the hope that I could obtain more information on the subject which has yet to materialize.

As you know, I did at one time advocate the possible introduction of reindeer to the Islands; in fact the suggestion was again made in my book. My thoughts on the introduction were originally made when there was a great deal of discussion on various ways in which the Islands' grasslands could be improved to support meat production. This I considered in the light of what had been done for the Islands' grasslands a doubtful project - that is, at least on a large scale. If we were to turn to some forms of meat production, was it not a more realistic possibility to find some meat producing animal which could utilize the existing pastures, especially those of a coarse nature, which sheep were less prone to graze.

Semi-domesticated or wild animals are generally better adapted to this type of utilization, and I made enquiries on some types of deer, musk-ox and reindeer. The latter seemed the obvious choice, from the little information I was able to gather at that time.

///

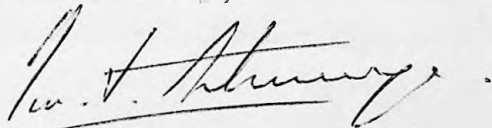
The introduction of any alien species I would agree is a move which could possibly bring the Islands further problems. Looking back to a time when I was responsible for looking after an alien species here in the Falklands, I can cold at the thought of the possibility of that particular species having got out of control. This however I feel is the point: if we can be satisfied that a trial could be run with reindeer in the Islands and be controlled, by an expert, I feel we might look further into the possibilities.

I am certainly very strongly opposed to any scheme where a group of reindeer might be released to "get on with it", but an initial trial with a small group in semi captivity might give us a long-term outlook of the project without danger.

If the scheme reached the practical trial stage, it might be that New Island could assist in some small way - this we would consider rather than risk any trial getting out of hand on the main islands.

In closing, I must make it clear that I know very little about reindeer, and in principle I am generally opposed to the introduction of alien species; but as the Islands' economy is already based on an alien species, I do wonder if this economy might not be improved with little further damage to our ecology.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian J. Strange', written in a cursive style.

Ian J. Strange

57

# CONFIDENTIAL

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

No. 1/74

### Introduction of Reindeer

Mr. David James, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P. who is known in the Falklands, has interested himself in the introduction of reindeer to the Colony and has been in correspondence with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

2. The ability of reindeer to adapt to conditions in the southern hemisphere has been demonstrated as 9 cows and 2 bulls were released in South Georgia in 1909; this herd has grown to a considerable size.

3. Swedish mountain reindeer were introduced to Scotland in 1952 as a controlled experiment in which the reindeer were enclosed in two miles of six foot fencing to ensure their initial isolation.

4. Reindeer in their native habitat of Scandinavia used to make a significant contribution to the livelihood of the population by providing milk, meat, clothing, and they were used as beasts of burden. Reindeer can stand a rigorous climate and survive with the minimum of shelter. It is said that they should thrive on country virtually useless for sheep.

5. The addition of reindeer to our wild life would be an added tourist attraction. The introduction of an alien species of animal does however carry with it some degree of danger of creating an ecological imbalance and this would have to be carefully watched.

6. A naturalist with close knowledge of the Falklands has expressed the opinion that any experiment should be under the control of an expert, with the animals in semi-captivity on a small island which would enable the reindeer to be carefully watched rather than placing them on one of the main islands.

7. Mr. David James has corresponded with Mr. Mikel Utsi, a Lap who was responsible for the introduction of reindeer to the Cairngorms in Scotland. Mr. Utsi who is Managing Director of the Reindeer Company Limited and Technical Adviser to the Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom has indicated his willingness to visit the Falklands to investigate the possibility of introducing reindeer and to advise on the project.

8. The advice of Honourable Members is sought on the advisability of introducing reindeer into specially selected areas of the Falkland Islands such as perhaps New Island where they would be under control.

Secretariat,  
Stanley.

11th February 1974.

HT.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2/74 HELD  
ON THURSDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 1974

60

SG/28/1 C      7.    INTRODUCTION OF REINDEER INTO THE COLONY (Memo 1/74)

A suggestion that reindeer should be introduced into the Colony was fully discussed.

Council advised against the introduction of the animals.

*B. Gouin*  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

SG/28/1 C

26 March 1974

David James Esq MBE DSC MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON SW1

Dear Mr James

I am writing about the talk we had while I was on leave on the possible introduction of reindeer into the Falkland Islands. This subject was fully discussed at a recent meeting of the Executive Council and I am afraid the advice of all members was strongly against such a move.

This is not surprising as everyone here to a lesser or greater extent is connected with the fortunes of the sheepfarming industry and understandably they are not prepared to take the risk, however small, of creating an ecological imbalance.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for all the interest you have taken in this matter: maybe if the price of wool drops from its present high level, the farmers will have second thoughts.

Yours ever

E G Lewis

62

From: DAVID JAMES, M.B.E., D.S.C., M.P.

*6.4.22/4*

Telephone:  
CHILDE OKEFORD 388  
STD 0258-86 388

MALABAR HOUSE,  
CHILDE OKEFORD,  
NEAR BLANDFORD,  
DORSET DT11 8EB

9th April, 1974.

*Dear Mr Lewis,*

Thank you very much for letting me know that the Executive Council are opposed to the introduction of reindeer to the Falkland Islands. I am glad none the less to have put the idea forward as it can always remain available for further consideration.

I also greatly enjoyed the opportunity of meeting you and so much hope that I arrange to re-visit the Falkland Isles one day.

*75*  
*David*

His Excellency Mr. E.G. Lewis CMG, OBE



L/2993/74  
FM LONDON HQ  
TO STANLEY

R

1222Z

15/11/74



INFO SOUTH GEORGIA

AS/107/7. FOR CHIEF SECRETARY. A NUMBER OF REINDEER HAS BEEN COLLECTED AT SOUTH GEORGIA UNDER PERMIT FOR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME ON POPULATION ECOLOGY OF SPECIES THERE. SEVERAL BASE MEMBERS HAVE ACQUIRED SKINS AND WISH TO TAKE THEM HOME. NUMBER OF CURED SKINS INVOLVED IS TWELVE (12). GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONFIRM THIS IS IN ORDER.

RML/LT



GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

64

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			25.11.74.
To				
ETAT MARBOT LONDON WC1.			(H.O. Account)	

Grateful learn whether any restrictions on importing into United Kingdom cured reindeer skins also what documentation required if importation permitted stop Please inform British Antarctic Survey 30 Gillingham Street London SW1 also

SECRETARY FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

65

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			25/11/74

To

LONDON HQ COPY INFO SOUTH GEORGIA

L/2993/74 Your 107/7 information being sought Board of Trade will inform soonest stop  
I have no objection

SECRETARY

Note. Above telegram despatched through BAS Office.

Time

R1725X9/72 50m

M/2993/74.  
X/0823/74 } refer.

For C.S. Files. (6)



L/3086/74 R 1209Z 27/11/74

FROM LONDON HQ  
TO STANLEY

AS/103/74 FOR ECCC SOMEONE IN PSY SENT SEAGRAM DTI ASKING IF  
ANY IMPORT DUTY ON REINDEER SKINS. ANSWER FROM DTI IS NO IF  
CURED. ASSUME SOUTH GEORGIA ASKING???

BJP/AH

DSC

Improbation of London Streets to UK

DTI advise no objection of assets.

27/11

Registry

Let me have the file pl so I  
can see what this is about

DSC

Dealt with - SS informed

for  
CCAM

28/11