

SECRET

C. S. O.

0838/C

DEF/FID/7#5

0  
8  
3  
8  
/  
C

(Formerly)

SUBJECT :

FALTLAND ISLANDS DEFENCE FORCE.

S E C R E T.  
=====

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

*Vol No. 295 10.5.75.*

CONFIDENTIAL

Port Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

13th November.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to an incident relating to Your Excellency's return to the Colony, which I consider of such a serious nature as to warrant the immediate closing down of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

I received orders to provide a Guard of Honour for Your Excellency and forthwith detailed Captain O'Sullivan to act as Officer i/c Guard and to choose his men preferably from Government Departments in order to avoid any difficulties which might arise from selecting men from commercial firms. Captain O'Sullivan informed me on the 2nd of November that he had obtained eighteen volunteers for the Guard of Honour and three men to man the saluting gun. All arrangements were then made and the men informed of the time and place for the parade.

On 13th of November at 1800 hours Captain O'Sullivan informed me that with the exception of seven men the Guard of Honour had refused to parade on the 14th as they stated some of them had signed the petition. Captain O'Sullivan then informed that he had done everything he could but these men still refused to attend the parade.

On his suggestion a meeting of all Active Members of the Force was called at 1930 hours on the 13th of November to ask for volunteers for the Parade. Nineteen men attended the meeting but only the seven who already volunteered again stated they would parade. On my instructions Captain O'Sullivan cancelled the Guard of Honour and I informed the Officer Administering the Government of my action.

I wish also to point out, Your Excellency, that I consider the Defence Force, by virtue of its organisation, an undisciplined and quite useless military Force. In my opinion the Defence Force should have been modelled on the lines of the Territorial Army at home, its discipline and regulations being brought into line with the Army Act and King's Regulations. Under the existing Ordinances the Force is less disciplined than a troop of Boy Scouts.

In view of the above I strongly recommend the closing down of the Defence Force and all its social amenities.

I also wish to tender my resignation as Commanding Officer of the Defence Force as I would sooner have nothing to do with a military organisation over which so little control and discipline can be exercised.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant.

*R. P. Burt* Lt. Col.

(S)

A deplorable affair - someone

had been at the bottom of it and to suborn even volunteer soldiers from their obedience is a grave offence.

LS. to advise a. the suggestion of

C, how does Govt stand.

I share Lt. Burt's views and I gather all officers propose to resign. 15/11

No.

It is requested that in any reference to this memorandum the above number and the date may be quoted.

MEMORANDUM.

17th November

1949

Colonial Secretary  
Port Stanley

2

O.C. F.I.D.F.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :-

Resignation of Officers.

Attached are resignations of F.I.D.F. officers and as well be noted certain requests for transfer to Retired list.

*[Signature]*

Stanley.

16th November, 1949.

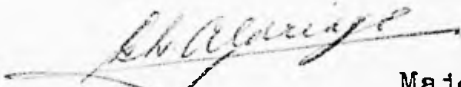
The Officer Commanding,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force,  
STANLEY.

Sir,

It is with sincere regret,  
following the recent refusal of members  
of the Defence Force to constitute a  
Guard of Honour on the occasion of the  
return to the Colony of His Excellency  
the Governor and Commander-in-Chief,  
that I find myself unable to continue  
in my appointment as 2nd i/c. of the  
Defence Force, and respectfully ask  
that my resignation from this post be  
accepted.

I should be grateful if you would  
approve my being posted to the Retired  
List for which I am eligible both in  
age and service.

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



Major.  
2 i/c. F. I. D. F.

Stanley.

16th November, 1949.

The Commanding Officer,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force.

---

Resignation.

Sir,

In confirmation of my telephone conversation with you at 1950 hours on Sunday last, the 13th November, 1949, I hereby tender my resignation as Captain and Adjutant, Falkland Islands Defence Force, with effect from 13th November, 1949.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*D.W. Hullman*  
*Capt. Adj.*  
*F.I.D.F.*

---

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 1949.  
Stanley.

To The Commanding Officer,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Sir.

It is with deep regret under the present circumstances in the Defence Force, I feel as a disciplinarian, I can do no other than request I be placed from The Active List to The Retired, at your approval, from this date.

I have the honour to be  
Sir  
Your obedient servant.  
Lieut. D. Hewitt.

7  
Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

16th November, 1949.

Sir,

In view of recent events I feel obliged to offer my resignation from the Defence Force.

I would respectfully add that in the event of any emergency I should consider it an honour to be allowed to offer my services to the Commander-in-Chief.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. Marshall.*

2nd./Lt.

The Officer Commanding,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force,  
Port Stanley,  
Falkland Islands,  
South Atlantic.

Stanley,  
16th. November 1949.

Sir,

With reference to resignation and retirement of Defence Force Officers through members refusing to form a Guard of Honour on the return of His Excellency Sir Geoffrey Miles Clifford, I personally disagree with the adoption of the above attitude.

After careful consideration I maintain that the above attitude if seriously adopted and entire disembodement of the Force is carried out, it would mean that we were unable to cope with a breach of discipline, & in the minds of the Public, & members of the Force, our only way out of the difficulty was to resign, or retire. I strongly object to this form of policy, for if one retires, or resigns, he is leaving himself open to a form of criticism that would be very detrimental to the future discipline of the Force. We should not give way, but make plans to prevent an occurrence of this nature in the future.

When an incident of this nature presents itself, it is up to all Officers to deal with it effectively, and to impress upon the offenders what discipline really means and to leave them in no doubt whatsoever as to the consequences, if a breach of discipline of this nature should ever occur again.

There are Officers who have taken a very keen interest in the training, and social entertainment of the Force, and what they stand to lose whether through resigning, retiring, or the disembodement of the Force, needs no further explanation. Then there are the old retired members, who, through no fault of theirs, stand to lose what they strove so hard to build up, "The Honour of the Force" The Honours gained by them at Bisley on so many occasions, both individually and collectively.

We must not think for one moment that by resigning, retiring, or the disembodement, can preserve the Honour of the Force, because it won't, and is only a sign of weakness. The Honour of the Force so far has not been lost, only darkened, and it rests entirely with us whether it remains like that or not. If we pull together and discipline is restored and maintained, we will then have achieved something to be proud of, and there will be no need to shudder. Alternatively we resign, or retire, and the Force is finally dissolved, we should as Officers be ashamed of ourselves to think that the fate of the Force rested entirely with us.

I therefore suggest that another Officers meeting should be called to reconsider the somewhat rash decision made.

Yours faithfully,

*W.S. Jones*

2nd.Lt. F.I.D.F.

To,  
Capt. O'Sullivan.  
Adjutant.  
F.I.D.F.



8A

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 22nd of November, 1949.

6. Falkland Islands Defence Force. His Excellency informed Honourable Members that the Commanding Officer of the Defence Force had reported that members of a Guard of Honour who had previously volunteered to parade on the occasion of His Excellency's return to the Colony, had at the last moment declined to parade, and despite a further broadcast appeal, only six details could be obtained, and the Guard had therefore to be cancelled.

Following upon this the Commanding Officer and the Officers of the Defence Force (with one exception) had tendered their resignations in protest. His Excellency went on to say that under no circumstances was he prepared to overlook such a gross insult to him as His Majesty's representative, and proposed, with the concurrence of Honourable Members and subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, to suspend the activities of the Defence Force together with all its associated amenities until such time as the names of the ringleaders have been disclosed and/or full and formal contrition has been expressed. His Excellency also proposed to announce his decision at a special parade of the Defence Force in the near future, and to refer to it in his address at the forthcoming meeting of the Legislative Council.

Honourable Members unanimously concurred in the action which His Excellency proposed to take.

*S. H. Aldridge*

Clerk of the Executive Council.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched : 23/11/49      Time : 1200      Received : ...      Time : ...

No. 298. SECRET. On 2nd November Officer Commanding Defence Force called for volunteers to furnish Guard of Honour of 21 details on occasion of my return to Colony. Volunteers obtained without difficulty and selected mainly from Government personnel to avoid disturbances other interests. On 13th November thirteen of these volunteers declined to parade having in interval been suborned from their loyalty and obedience. Guard had therefore to be cancelled.

2. Commanding Officer and all Officers Force excepting one recently commissioned (who favours exhortation) have tendered resignation in protest.

3. Since Force without Officers is as useless as Force without discipline I intend in my capacity as Commander-in-Chief to suspend its activities and also associated amenities (latter under Rule 7 of Defence Force Club Rules see Gazette of 1st December, 1945) until such time as names of ringleaders have been disclosed and/or full and formal contrition has been expressed. Force has completed winter training and its efficiency will not therefore be affected. Commanding Officer reports that Force has no proper discipline that there is no means of enforcing it and that judged by any military criterion it is quite valueless. It is clear that constitution of Force will have to be amended in any case possible to make it more like the Territorial Army in England, in order to strengthen powers of the Officers and enforcement of discipline.

4. While I have thusfar remained silent in face of continued abuse and subversive activity of Hardy clique this recent affair represents gross insult to me as His Majesty's representative which I am in no circumstances prepared to overlook. I propose with the full support of my Executive Council to announce my decision at a special parade of the Force as soon as I am fit enough to attend it and shall refer to decision at forthcoming session of Legislative Council, i.e. on 29th November. I therefore request your very early concurrence in action which I propose.

GOVERNOR.

Cypher E.

MRR/KPB.

*For info on 12*

Confidential.

10

Q.

I think we should have  
a record from the C.C/ FIDF  
a nominal roll of the 13 members  
who refused to parade? Please see  
that this is done early and let me  
have it.

Col: Butler.

Accordingly please.

23/11

mc. 23/XI

H.C.S.

With reference to H.E's minute, original volunteers were as follows:-

S/Sjt Goss ✓	D. Farle
R. Skilling ✓	R. Mansan
M. Clark	K. Summers -
H. Blyth	L. Etheridge -
L. Summers -	H. Bonner -
T. Perry -	J. Newing
J. Rowlands -	H. Luxton
H. Skilling	J. Blyth -
L. Smith -	J. Thompson -

On 13th Nov: the following refused to turn out:-

T. Perry    L. Etheridge    H. Bonner

Also

L. Summers    J. Rowlands    K. Summers

stated they were detailed to go out peat cutting and operating the fire pumps which was pumping water at the Naval W/T station.

The following stated that they were unable to attend through sickness:-

J. Blyth    J. Thompson    L. Smith

this reduced the Guard of Honour to 9 men.


At the meeting at 1930 hrs the same day volunteers were asked for and all refused with the exception of the nine men mentioned above.

The peat cutting etc. could hardly be put forward as an excuse as I could have arranged with the E.E. accordingly.

K.S.P.B% 23/11/

Y.E.

Your minute at p.10. Above copy of minute by O.C., F.I.D.F., (original at cover) submitted for information.

  
24/11/49.

CS.

*This document appears to agree entirely with B as 1 ?*

*It is true we had a copy for S/S.*

*Inc. 28/xi*

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR.

Despatched: 27/11/49

Time:

Received: 28/11/49 Time:

IMMEDIATE.

No. 203. SECRET. Your telegram No. 298.

It is difficult for me to comment usefully on a matter ~~has~~ of this nature which is essentially one for your discretion. It does not seem to me, however, on the evidence before me that there has been any breach of any provision of the Defence Force Ordinance 1920, unless it can be shown that failure to attend the parade after originally volunteering was such an act as for example deliberate conspiracy by members concerned which might thus make them liable for the offence of committing an act prejudicial to good order and military discipline. Unless that were so, disciplinary action under the Ordinance or action such as you propose taking would appear drastic and might aggravate the whole issue. The real cause of the trouble seems to be the original instigators of this affair who, unless they are also members of the unit, would not be affected by the action which you propose.

2. So far as I can judge this is a matter which would normally be dealt with inside the unit, and an alternative way to settle it might be through the Commanding Officer. I note the latter's opinion about the discipline of the Force and that he has tendered his resignation. Normally speaking, however, the Commanding Officer would be responsible for discipline and morale of the force and for dealing with a situation such as this.

3. I recognize that this incident represented a personal affront to yourself which I deeply deplore and I sympathise with your feelings. However it is a grave matter to bring into public discussion questions affecting the dignity of the Crown and I am not convinced on the information before me that it might not be better for you as His Majesty's representative to avoid becoming involved in controversy over the incident. I feel sure that you will weigh this carefully before taking any action.

4. There may well be a need for an overhaul of the constitution and organization of the Defence Force, and I shall be interested to receive your proposals in due course.

Secer.

Cypher.  
MRR.

J.E.

I mentioned this on the telephone this evening. Not very helpful.

27/11/49

Discuss in Ex. w.o.

M.C. 29/

Clexco

To members of Ex. Co. - then back to H.E. via me. Meeting of Ex. Co. on

25/11/49

Friday next @ 1100 hrs.

Hon. Sir  
Hon. a.o.  
Hon. Mr R.D. Winter

A.

Circulated for your info. pl.

J.P. C.  
29/1/49

Ref.

J.P.C. has raised the point that the appointment was to H.C. as the representative and that a force looking in principle to that extent should either be re-embodied or re-organised.

2. The matter should not be allowed to go unchallenged as J.P.C. indicates. I feel the following steps should be taken.

1. Accept the resignation of the officers thereby rendering the force non-effective, and

2. Suspend the activities of the Club.

pending approval by J.P.C. of re-organisation of the force

3. The revised Club rules should provide that no one who is not on the Active list should be a member unless he is approved by the Committee - by ballot if necessary.

4. On re-organisation the present officers should automatically be re-instated - with promotion, if possible, for their loyalty.

R.D.

30/1/49

H.C.S.

A Force which cannot furnish a Guard of Honour to its own Commander-in-Chief is in this I think able of as a Force & cannot logically be allowed to continue so.

Can that a refusal to Parade be proceeded with in a Civil Court as was the case with Home Guards in England & the Territorials in peace time

John P. C.  
30/1/49

J.P.C.

H.C.S.

The telegram at 12 does not recognise the resignation of the Officers. The line of action suggested in para 3 is therefore impossible.

Unless the Officers can be persuaded to withdraw their resignations - and, were I in their place, I should certainly refuse to do so - I cannot imagine how the Force can continue as a Military organisation. Consequently, the only action which seems to me logical is to ~~XXXXXX~~ terminate the Force.

R. Stewart Jones 20/4/49

J.E. may wish to have these papers in advance of Ex. Co. meeting. In case I am not present (away at Charles) I should perhaps record my view, expressed verbally to Y.E. this morning, that in view of the unhelpful nature of the telegram at p. 12, I would suggest proceeding on the lines agreed upon in the last meeting of Ex. Co. I submit that para 2 of L.S.'s minute is sound.

1/12/49.

I have expanded your draft a little to include one or two points which should be on record. Please consider the revise and then circulate to Ex. Co. for views before issue.

ME. 4/xii

ACS. Pl circulate to Ex. Co. members (N. Oliver 1st) and then return to me.

5/12/49.

Non. A.D. Agree. J.P. Oliver 20. 5/12/49.

Non. S.M.D. Agree. R.H. 6/12/49

Non. Mr. Winter

Draft telegram at cover circulated for your views, pl

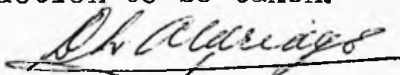
J.H. Slope 5/12/49

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 2nd of December, 1949.

2. ARISING OUT OF MINUTES. Falkland Islands Defence Force.

His Excellency informed Honourable Members that in view of the reply which had been received from the Secretary of State, he proposed to issue instructions for the suspension of the Defence Force, together with all its associated amenities, in accordance with the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Executive Council.

The Council concurred in the action to be taken.

  
Clerk of the Executive Council.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched: 9/12/49 Time: 1200 Received: Time:

SECRET. No. 309. Your Telegram No. 203.

12

1. There can be no doubt that refusal of certain individuals furnish guard after having volunteered and been detailed constitutes act prejudicial good order military discipline. Though volunteers these men have taken Oath Allegiance and wear King's uniform. Ordinance confers no repeat no disciplinary powers on Officers who have been consistently handicapped. They believe that Karl Lellman (who with Hardy and Jones has been actively engaged in fomenting trouble here) was responsible for this disfection; person named is a Reservist and was responsible for opposing Government's plans to increase efficiency and strength of Force last year. Officers hoped that action I proposed would lead recalcitrant members to expose this individual as I have taken great interest in Force but I appreciate views expressed in your paragraph 3 and will take no personal part.

2. I remain of the opinion that seriousness of incident and state of indiscipline which it reveals leaves me no choice in accepting or at least holding in abeyance resignations very properly tendered by Officers and suspending activities and associated amenities Force until such time as amende has been made and or proposals for remodelling of Force have been considered. I can in any case do nothing until Commanding Officer (Butler) returns from Antarctic and it will do them no harm to cool their heels till then. This decision has unanimous support of my Executive Council who consider that anything less could only be regarded as sign of weakness and would lower dignity of Administration. I propose on this alone to make a brief reference to this matter in Leg. Council.

GOVERNOR.

J.E.

A.

Despatch at once for signature please.

Signature

21/12/49.

Seq.

B.

(and other members of Ex. Co)

You/are to consider the question of relaying the  
enclosure over the Broadcast, together with gist of  
Mr. Barker's remarks, on Sunday. See Mr. Huxton, whom  
I consulted informally - advises.

Mc. 20/12/49

Item. C.S. — Agree. 17/12.

SHO - agree 18/12/49

LS. Agree R<sup>o</sup> 18/12

AO. agree J.P.O. 18/12/49

Attached for your  
information and views the  
text of what I propose to  
say at the end of the  
Budget session. If any  
Item Number disagrees with any  
of it he is at liberty to  
say so.

me.

17/12

18

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1st December, 1949.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SECRET

DESPATCH NO. 20

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my Secret Telegram No. 809 of the 13th December, 1949, and to enclose for your information the text of some remarks which I found it necessary to make at the conclusion of the recent Budget Session of Legislative Council.

2. I have given the most careful consideration to this matter in Executive Council, in all its hearings, and we came to the unanimous conclusion that it could do no harm and might at least do some good to force this disaffected faction into the open. For there is no doubt in the mind of any of us that they do not represent the views of the people, but that if they are permitted to go on stirring up trouble with no word from me as head of the Administration, the poison will inevitably spread. This is too small a community to allow such conduct to pass unchallenged.

3. I will of course keep you informed of any reactions.

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

MILES CLIFFORD

GOVERNOR

The Rt. Hon. A. Creech Jones, P.C., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London. S.W.1.

Y.E.

shook w.r.t. your minute at p.17 - as it was agreed that any broadcast should be not this Thursday but the next week.

2) In order to complete the file - to allow members of Ex. Co. to advise, has Y.E. a spare copy of your concluding remarks at Leg. Co. for inclusion herein?

L.S. advised.

At cover.

3) Major Aldridge will obtain from Mr. Barton a copy or version of his speech when Mr. B. comes in for Christmas. We must be sure to refer him correctly.

Quide so - I wd. like to see early.

22/12/49

M.C. 22/XII

Clerks.

Please circulate to members of Ex. Co. for them to consider H.E.'s minute at p.17

2) Note yourself to get a copy of Mr. Barton's Leg. Co. speech for him early.

Noted  
L.S. 23/12/49

23/12/49

H.C.S.

Hon. Mr. O.  
Hon. Mr. A.D.  
Hon. Mr. Cameron

I am not in favour of H.E.'s speech being broadcasted verbatim, but the reasons which led H.E. to suspend the activities of the Defence Force should be made clear to those in the camp.

23/12/49 M.C.

For your consideration and written opinion. H.C.S. minute at my<sup>s</sup> refers, pl.

L.S.  
23/12/49

H.C.S.

Yes it is in the interests of Democracy that these matters should be given the publicity proposed. John P. Collins

M.C.S.

Although many will not have heard the original speech, I am sure in view of it has reached everyone by now. I do not think any good would come from a repetition.

M.C. 23/12/49

Y.E.

Agree

This will need to be carefully phrased; will you pl. submit draft?

Will ref. to your minute at p. 17. I agree with S.P.O. and Mr. Cameron that the speech should not be re-broadcast. While I believe that it should have as much publicity as possible, I feel that it would not be the same thing read out by another person, however good an announcer he might be. I agree with Mr. Cameron that our resume for the news broadcast should include a reference to the closing down of the F.I.D.F. and the reasons for it.

2) Y.E. wished to see the notes of Mr. Stanton's speech early. They are at back cover. On return of the file, a resume of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day's Leg. Co. proceedings will be prepared for the weekly news broadcast - submitted to Y.E. for approval.

*[Handwritten mark]*

27/12/49.

Y.E.

Draft resume of Leg. Co. proceedings for broadcasting submitted at cover. I have tried to keep it short, otherwise I fear that listeners may lose interest.

2) With regard to the inclusion of a piece explaining the suspension of the F.I.D.F. I have experimented with some drafts, but am convinced that I cannot improve on the relevant part of Y.E.'s closing speech. I suggest that with minor alterations and translation from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the third person it should be used as it stands.

*[Handwritten mark]*

28/12/49.

Very well.

20-21 should however appear verbatim following my Summary-up in the printed record.

mc 29/xii

I must refer now to certain matters which although they are outside the scope of this debate are nevertheless of public interest and importance; on these I have hitherto remained silent but I intend to be so no longer. As is doubtless well-known an Hon. Member of this House has thought fit to identify himself with a communication to the Secretary of State decrying the new Constitution; to thus condemn the new Constitution, which marks a substantial advance upon the old, before it has been given a fair trial cannot be regarded as responsible criticism and is little calculated to encourage, much less to accelerate, the further advance which you - or should I say some of you? - would wish to see.

That same Honourable Member in association with a paid employee of the Town Council has thought fit, also, to conduct a scurrilous personal attack upon me, and upon my wife, through the columns of a notoriously anti-British journal. The Honourable Member and his friends pride themselves, no doubt, on their British origins but they would do well to remember that two of the outstanding virtues of the British character are chivalry and a sense of fair play and both of these are conspicuously absent from their conduct. In England the purpose of this manoeuvre was clearly apprehended and it was treated by an enlightened Press with disdain; what effect it may have had on the readers of the ~~Journal in question~~ I neither know nor care and will content myself with referring you to an old English adage which reminds us that it is an ill bird that fouls its own nest.

I will turn now to a more recent and more shameful incident. On the 2nd November volunteers were called for from the Defence Force, and readily obtained, to mount a Guard of Honour on the occasion of my return to the Colony. On the eve of my return, when it was too late to make other arrangements, certain of the men declined to parade and it appeared to the Commanding Officer and other senior officers that these men had been got at in the interval. Now members of the Defence Force, although volunteer soldiers, have taken an Oath of Allegiance and any person who suborns a soldier, even a volunteer soldier, from his loyalty and obedience is committing to say the least of it a grave anti-social offence; while any soldier who permits himself to be so suborned or who of his own volition commits an act of gross indiscipline on purely political grounds is unfit to wear the King's uniform. The mounting of a Guard of Honour is not a compliment paid to the Governor in his own person and this lamentable incident does not, as it was intended to do, besmirch me but besmirches the good name of the Defence Force - a good name which has been built up over many years by some of the best citizens of Stanley. There can have been few more disgraceful episodes in Colonial history and I sympathise deeply with those to whom the good name and reputation of the Force have meant and still mean so much. The Commanding Officer and Officers, with only one exception and that not on political grounds, at once and very properly tendered their resignations which I have accepted and hold in abeyance. It will be clear to you, Honourable Members, that a Force without Officers is as useless as a Force without discipline and in my capacity as Commander-in-Chief I have suspended its activities and associated amenities until such time as wiser counsels may prevail and a full and formal apology has been tendered through the Commanding Officer.

91

It is evident to me, and to my advisers and others, that the Honourable Member and his associates have dedicated themselves to the unworthy purpose of breeding and maintaining ill-will between the Governor and the people and although I deplore this misdirected energy at a time when there is so great a need for mutual understanding and good will I can only leave them to their ignoble task in the belief that the general public will no longer be deluded.

Let me say this in conclusion. I did not come here to court popularity and I have nothing but contempt for those who do. I came here to do my duty, without fear or favour, to this Colony and its people; to promote, as far as in me lay, the prosperity of the one and the welfare and wellbeing of the other. That duty I have done; that duty I shall continue to do regardless of these mischievous and subversive activities.

---

*John Bull*



0828/c

22

94036/4/49



COLONIAL OFFICE,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
S.W.1.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. /



31 JAN 1950

SECRET

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your secret despatch No. 20 of 1949 arising out of certain matters connected with the Defence Force.

As requested in paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 203 of 1949, I should be grateful to learn in due course the manner in which the Defence Force is brought again into active existence.

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

16 FEB 1950

*H*

*A. C. ...*

GOVERNOR

SIR MILES CLIFFORD, K.B.E., C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

to Major Aldredge O.B.E. S.D.

Stanley

23

27/2/50

Ross Rd mg

Sir

I request that you place the enclosed before His Excellency the Commander in Chief

I am

Sir Yours faithfully

J. Harris

Yours  
I submit this letter as requested, as Mr Harris was a former Lieutenant in the Defence Force and is now on the Retired list

J. Harris  
Supt. F.I.D.F.

To go in File <sup>in working</sup> I have secured his letter and  
Infer Mr. Harris that while I am very willing to hear any explanation he may have to offer I think — and I am sure he will be the first to agree — that it should be put through the Commanding Officer F.I.D.F. who returns to Stanley on Friday next.

M.C. 1/111

To His Excellency  
The Governor  
Commander in Chief  
F. I. D. F.

Stanley  
27/2/50  
Ross Rd No 9

Sir

With reference to the recent  
Defence Force incident.

It is the  
opinion of many that all  
facts have not been brought to  
your notice.

An inquiry would  
give satisfaction to all.

I am

Sir Yours  
Faithfully

J. J. Harrow  
Esc Lieutenant

25.

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEFENCE FORCE,

STANLEY.

1st March, 1950.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 27th of February enclosing a letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency has received your letter, and that while he is very willing to hear any explanation you may have to offer, His Excellency thinks - and is sure that you will be the first to agree - that it should be put through the Commanding Officer, Falkland Islands Defence Force, who returns to Stanley on Friday next.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Major.  
for Commanding Officer, Falkland  
Islands Defence Force.

Mr. J. J. Harries,  
STANLEY.

26

Extract from the record of an interview granted by His Excellency the Governor to Mr. A. L. Hardy, B.E.M., J.P., on the 6th of March, 1950. (Original at 27 in o671/A)

In conclusion Mr. Hardy mentioned that he had been "probing" the question of the recent refusal of the Defence Force to provide a Guard of Honour and that he believed that an explanation was available. His Excellency said that he would be very ready to hear any representations or explanations which might be submitted to him through the proper channels, i.e., through the Commanding Officer.

27

Y. E. (via Col:Butler)

We discussed the matter of the refusal to provide a guard of honour on your return from leave in the light of the recent information which has come to light, and Y. E. agreed to my suggestion that we might make the opening of the new Town Hall a test case. Col:Butler to call a meeting of the whole force, active, reserve and retired, and put the issue to them squarely. I submit at back cover a draft for him to use when putting it to the meeting.

2. Also at cover is a list of all active members of the force, giving a total of ~~9456~~ 9456. I have purposely put the number asked for for the guard high, for the reason that I think we should try and force some at least of those who refused before - and I am convinced in my own mind that some at least refused from motives of personal spite - to turn out this time and thus give the lie to their former actions. Provided we can have the opening on a Saturday afternoon, which I imagine can be arranged, I do not see why that number should not turn out if it is really true that the failure to do so on the former occasion was due to mismanagement and not to malignancy. At the same time I would recommend that Col:Butler be allowed some discretion as to numbers should it become apparent to him during the course of the meeting that the number for which we are asking genuinely cannot be found. Say discretion up to a reduction of 10. (Not as in Genesis, XVIII, 25-32).

3. I am submitting through Col:Butler, in case he has any comments.

*I agree that Col. Butler should be given full discretion in the matter. I have so drafted forwarded also you to consider with him. H.C.*

*R.*

23 MAR 1950

28

Copy of Commanding Officer's Speech

On the eve of the Governors return to the Colony I was told by the Adjutant that certain members of the Force having declined to parade and others offering unacceptable excuses, it would not be possible to furnish the Guard of Honour which is normally mounted on such occasions. I duly informed the Governor and together with other officers tendered my resignation. Apart from its local affect, this incident was reported by the Stanley correspondent of a London paper thereby exposing the Governor, who is our Commander in Chief and who has taken considerable interest in the Force, to a widespread affront.

With only one officer remaining, His Excellency had no option but to suspend the activities of the Force for the time being but on my recent return from the Dependencies he informed me that a member of the ~~RANK~~ Retired List wished to place further facts before me and that so far as His Excellency himself was concerned he would be only too happy to be able to regard the incident as closed.

Upon investigation I am satisfied that the facts were not entirely as stated, that there may have been some measure of misunderstanding and consequently perhaps of misinterpretation. I must in passing express my astonishment that representations by other members of the force were not made to me at the time, or to Major Aldridge in my absence.

In order to avoid any possible recurrence of such an embarrassment to the Force, I have recommended that the regulation prescribing compulsory parades should be amended to empower the Commanding Officer to order ceremonial parades not exceeding four in number in any one year for I am sure it is the wish of all of us that such a situation should never arise again.

Lastly, in order to dispel any doubt which may remain I understand that there is to be a formal opening of the new Town Hall next month, or possibly in May, and I intend to ask you for a Guard of Honour of forty on that occasion.

Stanley.

7th April, 1950.

The Officer Commanding,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to a meeting in your office yesterday, 6th April, 1950, when I attended at your request, and when Major L.W. Aldridge, MBE, was also present. You suggested to me that I should resign my appointment as Adjutant. I was so taken aback that I mentioned resigning my commission. My long connection with the Defence Force, however, makes me feel that I should not do so but should give your suggestion further consideration and to enable me to do so, I respectfully ask that I be given, in writing, your reasons for making this proposal.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*D.W. Sullivan*  
Captain.



PUBLIC NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that at a meeting of the Active Members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force which was held last night, the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel K. S. Pierce-Butler addressed the members regarding an incident which had led to the proffered resignations of himself and other Officers of the Force and to the temporary suspension of its activities which His Excellency was anxious to restore if possible.

The response to Lieut.-Colonel Pierce-Butler's statement was overwhelming agreement to provide a Guard of Honour at least 40 strong on the occasion of the opening of the new Town Hall.

This information has been conveyed to His Excellency who has therefore been pleased to give instructions that the suspension of the Force should be lifted and that all its activities should be resumed forthwith.

(Sgd.) M. R. RAYMER.  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
STANLEY.  
5th April, 1950.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the recent incident involving the failure to provide a Guard of Honour for Your Excellency by the Defence Force.

I was informed by the Adjutant, Capt. D.O'Sullivan at the time that on 2nd November he had detailed the Guard on receipt of orders from me but that on the evening of 13th November, which was the day prior to the Guard being required, three members had refused to parade, three others had offered unacceptable excuses for not parading and three members had reported sick and would therefore be unable to parade. He also informed me that at a meeting of the active members on the evening of 13th November all those present had refused to turn out for the Guard.

I reported these facts to Your Excellency and in view of the serious nature of the incident I recommended that drastic action should be taken to prevent a recurrence of such a situation. At the same time together with other officers I tendered my resignation from the Force.

On further investigation, after my return from the Dependecies, into this situation I interrogated the three men who were alleged to have volunteered and then refused to parade. They informed me that they had only been approached by Captain O'Sullivan late on the evening of 13th November and as it was a voluntary parade they had stated they did not wish to volunteer. It then became apparent that Captain O'Sullivan had not tried seriously to obtain the Guard until the evening of the 13th November and that although on the 2nd November and again on the 8th November he had assured me that the Guard was complete. These facts I also placed before Your Excellency and in view of them you authorised the recommencing of the activities of the Force.

I feel however that in view of the serious results which have been caused by Captain O'Sullivan action he should cease to be Adjutant of the Force, I have already reprimanded him for his action and informed him that I should make this recommendation to Your Excellency. At the time he stated that if he ceased to be Adjutant he would tender his resignation from the Force but I understand that he has since approached Major Aldridge and stated that he will not do this and that he wishes to place further facts before Your Excellency, these have not so far been forthcoming but I have received the letter at 30 from him this morning.

*Alfred Bath 18/11/50*

*Seen.*

*You may bring Capt. O'Sullivan before me at any time which may be convenient.*

*MC 8/11*

*Seen 11/11 - he has been sleeping (as have others) and it does not encourage one to reproach*

a great deal of confidence in him as Adjutant

but it is a bit late on the day to start

a witch-hunt now. CO. to think of possible

alternatives.

MC 11/IV

MB 12/4

Y.E.

We shall have to advise the S. of S. of the lifting of the ban on the Defence Force. I suggest that the less we say the better. Draft at cover s.f.c.

and 'agree'

Col. Butler to see / before issue please.

MC 21/IV

23.4.50.

Col: Butler.

As above.

MB 24/4/50.

HCS

Agree

MB 25/4/50

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

25th April, 1950.

SECRET No. 6.

Sir,

18

I have the honour to refer to your Secret despatch No. 1 of the 31st of January, and earlier correspondence, and to inform you that, after my return from the Antarctic in February, it was represented to me that the facts regarding the refusal of members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force to provide a Guard of Honour on the occasion of my return to the Colony from leave last November were not exactly as had been stated at the time. While I and my advisers regarded this "explanation", coming three months after the event, as disingenuous to say the least of it, I was very willing to use it to bring the matter to a close. As a result of further investigation I am myself satisfied that the facts as stated at the time were substantially correct, although it is possible that a slight degree of misunderstanding may have existed. Since however it was manifestly desirable to remove any doubts that might remain I decided to give the Force an opportunity of doing so. The new Town Hall is to be opened formally next month, and the Commanding Officer of the Force called a general meeting and intimated that if the members were prepared on that occasion to furnish a Guard of Honour, this would be accepted as an expression of regret for their failure to do so on the former occasion. A meeting was accordingly held at which those present (including the previous recalcitrants) overwhelmingly expressed their desire and intention of finding such a Guard. On receipt of this information I instructed the Commanding Officer that the suspension of the Force was lifted, and that all its activities should be resumed forthwith.

Co.  
 "A lot of good facts were the words."  
 Mc.

9

2. While I therefore regard the incident of last November as closed, and am persuaded that the action taken has had a salutary effect, I share the Commanding Officer's view that the constitution of the Force needs amendment, as stated in paragraph 3 of my Secret telegram No. 298 dated the 23rd of November, 1949, and I should be grateful for any suggestions, or for a model Ordinance, for strengthening the discipline of the Force.

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

MILES CLIFFORD.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
 JAMES GRIFFITHS, P.C., M.P.,  
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

The Officer Commanding,  
Falkland Islands Defence Force,

STANLEY.

14 John Street,

Stanley,

15th May, 1950.

Sir,

To avoid further misunderstanding and possibly a repetition of what has happened in the past I feel that it is my duty as the Acting C.S.M. of the Falkland Islands Defence Force to bring to your notice a rumour, originating from a reliable source, that is at present circulating in Stanley and causing discontent among the members of the F.I.D.F. that are about to form the Guard of Honour for the opening of the new Town Hall. Namely, that His Excellency will accept the said Guard of Honour as an apology for the misunderstanding regarding the previous Guard.

As I asked you would this be the case, at the meeting called prior to the reopening of the F.I.D.F., to which your reply was in the negative I feel that it is in the interests of the Force that this rumour should be clarified as soon as possible.

I am,

Sir,

Through-:

The Adjutant,

F.I.D.F.

Your obedient servant,

*R. J. Goff*  
S/Sgt. Acting C.S.M.

*I had never  
said this before.*

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

36

From ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ SECRETARY OF STATE. *H. G. ...*

Despatched : 25.1.51      Time :      Received : 26.1.51      Time :

IMMEDIATE.

No. 15. CONFIDENTIAL.

Following Parliamentary question is for oral reply on Jan:31st, repeat Jan:31st. Begins: Captain Ryder to ask Secretary of State for the Colonies what were the circumstances which led to suspension of the Falkland Islands Defence Force; what is composition of this Force; whether its activities have been resumed unquote. Ends.

2. Subject to your comment it is suggested that my reply might be on the following lines. Begins. Quote The F.I.D.F. was temporarily suspended in November, 1949, because of certain acts of indiscipline among a number of its members. Force consists of one infantry company of volunteers. It resumed activities in April, 1950. " Ends.

3. I am not sure what official reason was given publicly in the Colony for the suspension. Your address to Leg:Co: in December, 1949, (enclosure to your secret despatch No. 20 of 1949) recounted political background but did not refer specifically to indiscipline or any other offence under Defence Force Ordinance, 1930. See also first paragraph of my Telegram No. 203 Secret of November 28th, 1949, on this point. Should also be glad to know in view of subsequent "explanation" reported in your despatch No. 6 Secret of 1950 whether it may be desirable to modify now any statement made about original reason for suspension.

4. Please include with your reply statement of present strength of Force. Do you see any objection to figures being quoted if asked for & in supplementaries ?

5. Please reply at the latest by 29th repeat 29th January.

SECR.

J. S. R. H.

*Reply 27*

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched: 28.1.51

Time: 1800

Received:

Time:

IMMEDIATE.

CYPHER.

36  
No. 23. CONFIDENTIAL. Your telegram No. 15 Confidential. Defence Force.

Suggest amend reply to read as follows quote: F.I.D.F. was temporarily suspended in November, 1949, on account of an act of indiscipline on the part of certain of its members reported by Commanding Officer to Government and his consequent resignation together with all other officers except one. Force consists of half Company of volunteers. It resumed activities in April, 1950. Unquote.

2. No reason given publicly for suspension apart from that contained in address to Legislative Council in which operative clause was quote Force without & officers is as useless as Force without discipline unquote. There was widespread belief that deliberate affront had been offered to me and this had been immediately reported to London Daily Telegraph by local representative, quoting telegrams exchanged by me with Acting Governor.

3. You are aware that Defence Force Ordinance, 1950, confers no effective disciplinary powers on officers and it may interest you to know that 2nd in Command (a local) who would normally succeed Butler when latter goes to S. Georgia has tendered resignation giving as reason lack of support or interest except by half-dozen in any aspect of Force apart from Rifle Club and Canteen.

4. I accepted a belated and disingenuous explanation of quote Misunderstanding unquote, some of which may have been genuine, purely to get the incident put out of the way but see no point in mentioning this. I remain of the opinion endorsed unanimously by my advisers that Force is of no (r.no) military value.

GOVERNOR.

M.C.

K.S.F.B.



94036/4/50

Your Ref. 0838/C

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 1

COLONIAL OFFICE,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
S.W.1.



11 January, 1951.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your secret despatch No. 6 of the 25th April, 1950 regarding the desirability of new legislation in order to strengthen the discipline of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

*Where is this filed? Mc. 3/3*

2. I enclose a copy of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Enactment, 1924, and I suggest for your consideration that an amendment to the Falkland Islands Defence Force Ordinance, 1920, to incorporate the general principles embodied in paragraphs 24, 25, 28, 32, 33, 34 and 35 would achieve the desired purpose. The wording would, of course, have to be modified in the light of local conditions. In the absence of any Regular Forces in the Colony it would be inappropriate to insert any references to the powers or composition of courts-martial. A Section similar to the present Section 27, or to Section 17 of the Malay States Enactment, providing that members of the Force should be subject to the Army Act when called out in emergency or when attached to any of His Majesty's Regular Forces should, however, be retained.

*Op. Pl. ask Col. Butler to study summary as attached before he leaves.*

13.

GOVERNOR

*Mc.*

SIR MILES CLIFFORD, K.B.E., C.M.G.  
etc., etc., etc.

12 FEB 1951





3. I must express regret at the delay in forwarding model legislation, but I trust that you will find the enclosed enactment appropriate for the changes you have in mind. I shall be grateful to be kept informed of your proposals in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

*James Euffels*

H.C.S.

I have carefully examined F.M.S. Volunteer Enactment 1924 and consider that a new Ordinance should be drafted using it as a basis and extracting paragraphs from our own Defence Force Ordinance where necessary.

I feel the practical way of drafting the new Ordinance would be to form a Committee consisting of

- HCS Chairman
- C.O. or 2 1/2 Defence Force Registrar.
- and possibly the Adjutant F.I.D.F.

who could prepare the new Ordinance.

I still feel that it would be wiser to "stand down" the F.I.D.F pending new legislation and then reform the unit under a new title i.e. "Falkland Island Volunteers" allowing old members of the Active and Reserve to re-enter for Colour Service only. This would mean that all under the age of 40 would either re-enter or resign and those over 40 could be placed on a Reserve or Retired list.

Those who resigned would of course lose all the <sup>privileges</sup> ~~facilities~~ of the Club etc.

This system would be much more fair on the new Commanding Officer who would otherwise have to contend with considerable criticism and trouble during the interim period and I feel sure that Major Aldridge would be prepared to remain as Acting C.O. until the F.I.D.F was finally disbanded when a new C.O and Officers could be selected for the new Force.

H.C.S. 27/2/51

CS.

(as amended)  
Pl. resubmit with our own Order / i.d.c.

and meanwhile send interim acknowledgment of 38

saying that the enclosure is under active consideration and that I will keep him informed of developments.

2 I still share your doubts <sup>and those of the Commanding Officer,</sup> as to the military value of local soldiery but I think we should be told that this is no time to talk of disbanding a force however useful it may be.

3. Where is the despatch referred to in 38?

4. Also as proposed by C.O. to examine Malayan model and produce our draft.

CS.

2nd Lt. (Major Aldridge)

Registral.

Adjutant and/or M. Bound.

MC 8/  
iii

Y.E. Draft interim reply to 38 at cover s.f.c.

2) There is no complete amended copy of our present Ordinance, but the copy at 1 in attached file may serve.

9/3/61.

Please return after despatch of S/T.

MC 9/

SAVING TELEGRAM

From: The Governor of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 10th March, 1951.

No. 55. SAVING. COLONY.

38

Your Despatch No. 1 dated 11th January, 1951.  
Falkland Islands Defence Force.

I have to acknowledge receipt of the above mentioned despatch together with the enclosure thereto for which I am much obliged; it will, I think, be of material assistance. The subject is under active consideration and I will keep you informed of developments.

GOVERNOR.