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APPLICATIONS FOR
LEASE OF LAND

1

1 ~~4~~ 1

To the Colonial Secretary,
Port Stanley, Falkland Islands.



May 4th, 1971

*
Dear Sir,

The Office of the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Ottawa suggested that I contact you in the following matter.

In the past two years I wrote a number of letters on the subject to various British agencies. Some of these letters may have reached you and impressed you as silly or impertinent. I hope you will grant me nevertheless the courtesy of a reply.

I have included a small amount to cover expenses.

I am in my thirties, very healthy, have university education, and work at a job which I thoroughly enjoy. I have never been charged with a criminal offence, and have no particular troubles, financial or otherwise.

But ever since I was a child I have been obsessed with the desire to be the lord of some faraway stormy bleak islet.

J. A. Canadian 677 attached J 26/8

My understanding is that under the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 the nations claiming Antarctic territory exercise only limited sovereignty there. I have lived through enough weeks of -30⁰F and lower temperatures here in Canada to believe that I would be able to establish a permanent home on an islet in the South Shetlands or their vicinity.

I am convinced that I can do it, and that my aspiration merits great risks. Yet I realize also that any well-meaning person would try to discourage me. What I request of you therefore are merely answers to a few questions listed below.

1. Would H.M. Government endeavor to prevent me from landing with provisions on an islet in the area indicated?

2. Would H.M. Government endeavor to remove me forcibly from such an islet once I have effected a landing?

3. I desire to live under the Union Jack. If the answers to the preceding questions are "no", and I succeed in establishing myself in reasonable comfort on

such an islet, would H.M. Government after several years of continuous occupation grant me a charter? *

R. E. Lieb

Randolph E. Lieb,
12147 - 83rd Street,
Edmonton, Alberta,
CANADA

Reply at 16

Dear Ted,

This may be an item for our brackets
for the Museum, have you any comments on the
proposed reply?

Yours ore,
John A. Jones

DRAFT

5

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 4th May has, due to our slow communications, only recently reached me, hence the delay in replying to it. The situation regarding British Antarctic Territory is that it is used for scientific purposes and its inhabitants consist entirely of scientific and supporting staff of the British Antarctic Survey.

The Survey has limited resources and is unable to support or to provide rescue or other services in the case of the sort of project which you have in mind. It would not, I am reasonably certain, regard your project favourably. However, I am referring your letter to the Director of the Survey and will address you again after I have heard from him. Meanwhile I would advise you not to make plans to pursue your project until you have heard further from me.

(J. A. Jones)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Randolph E. Lieb,
12147 - 83rd Street,
Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada.

JB

Dear John,

I think Mr. Lieb is a person who some five or six years ago made tentative queries regarding purchase of an Island in the South Shetlands or Trinity area. My knowledge of this is second hand through verbal FCC contact and I may be wrong but the name Lieb seems familiar to me.

Certainly the United Kingdom carries out full sovereignty over the Territory but under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, no further claims are permissible and the Government has a very strong responsibility regarding expeditions, occupation and the likes of Mr. Lieb's project.

The answers to the questions on page 2 could be:-

ORKNEY'S AND SHETLANDS.

Q.1 : Yes. Most of the Islets under South ~~Caroline~~ are protected areas, this means that no human being is allowed to stay in the area for any length of time unless he is carrying out pure scientific research on the species within the protected areas. In the South Orkneys particularly, areas that have not been declared a protected area are of particular interest to the Survey's main biological station at Signy Island, and we have various projects ranging around the group. The Argentine station, Orcadas, although mainly concerned with static work, also carries out external programmes.

Q.2 : Quite simply I would say the answer is yes.

Q.3 : I would personally say that the terms and conditions of the Antarctic Treaty would preclude such a "charter".

Your points about the inability for support, rescue services and such like is a major one.

As this is something you will most likely wish to get off of your back quickly, may I suggest that I refer this to our Director via our Telex links. Your answer to ~~me~~, connect the next out-going mail could therefore be conclusive.

Alan
Ted

23.8.71

Dear Ted,

I'd be grateful if you would refer the matter to Fred as you suggest.

*Yours
John*

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

7

Number

R

Date

24.8.71

Time

1955Z

FM STANLEY

To LONDON

INFO

X/700/71. THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM A MR RANDOLPH E. LIEB OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA CANADA HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

QUOTE * - *

IT IS WISHED TO ANSWER THIS LETTER WITH THE OBVIOUS REPLY BUT TO BE AS AUTHORITATIVE AS POSSIBLE. I AM ASKED FOR YOUR COMMENTS WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS OF A FINAL REPLY.

MY OWN VIEWS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLICITED, ARE THAT THE UK CARRIES OUT FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORY AND UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS A VERY STRONG RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING EXPEDITIONS, OCCUPATIONS AND THE LIKES OF MR LIEB'S PROJECT. ANOTHER POINT FOR NOTING IS THAT APART FROM LIEB'S OBVIOUS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF CONDITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., THE AREA HE SHOWS INTEREST IN HAS PROTECTED AREAS AND IS OF CONTINUED SCIENTIFIC INTEREST. ALSO THE SURVEY COULD BEAR NO RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT OR TO PROVIDE RESCUE OR OTHER SERVICES. MY OWN VIEWS ON THE QUESTIONS ARE (1) YES, (2) YES, (3) WOULD PERSONALLY SAY THAT THE TERMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WOULD PRECLUDE SUCH A CHARTER.=

ECJC/-

Time



HQS/1140Z R 1530Z 25/8/71
FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/164/8. X/700/71. LIEB HAS ALREADY BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH ME REGARDING ESTABLISHING HIMSELF ON AN ISLAND OFF SOUTH GEORGIA. HE IS PERSISTANT. THE LAST LETTER REFUSING HIS S.G. REQUEST WAS FROM FCO DATED 21ST JULY. HE HAS WRITTEN TO THEM AGAIN BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN IT. PRESENT POSITION IS THAT TWO SECTIONS OF FCO ARE JOINTLY CONSIDERING SITUATION INCLUDING YOUR X/700/71 WITH A VIEW TO FINALLY STOPPING HIM.

X || I WILL COMMUNICATE FURTHER WHEN I KNOW THEIR CONCLUSIONS AND EXPECT THIS WILL PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR COL. SEC.
VEF/JP

~~AM 6/9~~

~~BU 3/9~~

~~BU 3/8~~

9

A.C.S.

P.S.

Please inform telephonically from Col. BAS
whether he has heard anything further from London.

J 7/9

File: Space BAS - no reply yet received.

GA 20.9.71.

file - pl D2/71 10
DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 10.9.71 Time: 0320 Received: 10.9.71 Time: 0900

Unclassified 091215Z

To Routine Governor Falkland Islands telno 219 of 9th September.

In addition to the application received by you from Mr. R.E. Lieb for permission to settle in South Shetlands he has also asked us whether he may settle in South Georgia.

We have replied that permission cannot be granted. Copy of our letter follows by bag

DOUGLAS-HOME

PL: HT

Bh. 15.10.71.
(mail)

J. A. N. O. W. S. E. C. Y.



With the compliments of
ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN
DEPARTMENT

Reference FCO tel: 219 09 Sept. 71.

Okenned
15/7

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

HGF 18/1

9 September 1971

R B Lieb Esq
 12147 83rd Street
 Edmonton
 Alberta, CANADA

Thank you for your letter of 2 August about your wish to settle on an island in South Georgia. Your letter to the Prime Minister of 8 August has also been passed to me for acknowledgement.

You propose that you should settle on a small island off the mainland of South Georgia to raise flowers, vegetables and sheep and to take your sheep-dog with you. I also understand from the Government of the Falkland Islands that you have applied for permission to settle on an island in the South Shetlands.

I have already informed you in my letter of 21 July that permission could not be given for you to settle in South Georgia and you may be interested in the following explanation for the reasons for this decision.

- i. In the interests of wild life conservation, the Government could not allow the introduction of any exotic animals or plants either to the main island of South Georgia or to one of the off-lying islands. A scheme is now under consideration to make most of the off-lying islands into wild life reserves to which no access will be allowed without a special permit for scientific research.
- ii. The Administration is concerned to avoid a repetition of the damage done in the past by introduced animals. On the main island of South Georgia there already exists a serious problem caused by too many introduced reindeer for the limited pasture. Experimental introduction of horses was a failure and sheep, pigs, etc cannot survive out of doors in winter. Sheep must be fed on imported food stuffs except for a short period in summer.
- iii. In the interests of conservation, importation of a dog could not be permitted, nor would it be possible to allow the killing of birds and seals, thus making it necessary to import all food required. The access of visiting tourists has been strictly controlled by the Research Station at Grytviken and in the future it may be necessary to restrict their movements to specified areas to lessen disturbance of wild life.

- iv. The staff of the Administration at Grytviken are not permitted to leave the Station alone, even when they have considerable experience of local conditions. This precaution has been found essential because in the South Georgia climate even a sprained ankle can result in death unless help is rapidly available.

In regard to the South Shetland islands, these are even further south than South Georgia and the climate is much more severe. Most of the points relating to South Georgia apply with greater force to the South Shetlands. As the administrative authority, the Falkland Islands Government has special responsibilities and cannot allow any activity which is likely to involve rescue operations which they are not in a position to undertake.

I regret, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government cannot approve your project and that in the terms of the Antarctic Treaty and the subsequent international agreements reached under the Treaty, it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to grant a charter of the kind you suggest.

In view of the considerations set out above, I trust you will now realise that there is no possibility of your being permitted to settle in any of the South Atlantic islands to which you have referred. I can only suggest that you should make enquiries from the Canadian Government in regard to the many islands off the shores of that Dominion.

C F Kinnear

Copies to:

Dr Roberts, FCO

Mr Jones, Falkland Islands

Sir Vivian Fuchs, British Antarctic Survey, 30 Gillingham St, S W 1

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS
SENT

13

Number

R

Date 6.10.71

Time 1345Z

FM STANLEY OFFICE
To LONDON HQ
INFO

X/823/71. REF X/700/71 AND YOUR REPLY. ANY AMMUNITION YET PLEASE.=

ECJC/-

Time

14

V
HQS/1321/71 R 1524Z 11/10/71
FROM LONDON
TO STANLEY

AS/164/8 X/823/71 TELEGRAM FROM FCO TO GOVERNOR DATED 9TH
SEPTEMBER INDICATED THAT PERMISSION HAS BEEN REFUSED AND COPY OF
LETTER FROM FCO TO LEIB HAS BEEN SENT BY BAG.
WOS/AH



KIV — 11/12

15

A.C.S.

Please take care this weather now.

2 What is needed is a reply to Lieb & for his money to be returned to him.

J
13/16

No. D/2/71

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FAULKLAND ISLANDS.

18th October, 1971.

Dear Sir,

1

Thank you for your letter of 4th May 1971 which was received in this office on the 4th July

2. I have since referred your enquiry to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Department of the Commonwealth Office in London and I understand from a copy of their letter that they addressed you on the 9th September 1971.

11/12

3. I regret that we are unable to support your request and am therefore returning your remittance of 5/ (Canadian). I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(H. L. Bound)
for COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. R. E. Lieb,
12147 - 83rd Street,
Edmonton,
Alberta,
Canada.

CB

Registered Air Mail

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