

SOUTH SHETLANDS
No. ~~D/1/27~~ C/2/27

D.

1927.

Whaling Officer.

SUBJECT.

1927.

4th January.

Expedition at South Shetlands reported to be investigating possibilities of pelagic whaling.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1. Telegram from Whaling Officer, - 4.1.27.

y.g. Submitted with a draft ref.

2. 1 sub. H.P. C/14/25 ref 27 in which refers specifically.

Jul

5.1.27.

H.P. 1. Please telegraph to Whaling Officer, South Shetlands, as ~~of~~ proposed.

2. Thereafter, this sub. should be transferred to Confidential Register, and returned to me.

H.P.

6 Jan. 1927
6.1.1927.

2. Telegram to Whaling Officer

y.g. H.P. submitted as intended.

Jul

10. 1. 27.

cl. Please transferred. 10/1/27 H.P. →
6/1

Subsequent Paper.

Hel. Thank you. Bf. 17th Jan'y.

Pa.
11 Jan'y. 1927.

4 17. 1. 27.
7 17. 1. 27.

12

Telegram from Whaling Officer, South Shetland. 3.
10th Jan'y 1927.

G. E. Schmitt.

Just

12. 1. 27

Hel. !

1. You have since ascertained that the Oddi is a seal catcher, licensed by Boyd & Dahl at South Georgia.

2. Will you please telegraph Confidentially to Mr. Birnie and enquire whether he has any information concerning the reported movements of the Oddi.

Pa.

13 Jan'y 1927

Telegrams to Magistrate, S. Georgia - 14. 1. 1927. 4.

Telegram from Magistrate, South Georgia, 17/1/27. 5.

G. E. Hel 5 abt. Await further

reports ?

Just

18. 1. 27

Pa.
19 Jan'y 1927

1. With reference to sub 3-1 the "Orval" arrived
 at Stanley on 23.1.27 and left the same
 day for the South Shetlands. She came
 from Norway via Cardiff and carried over
 2,000 tons of coal. The sails under the
 Ecuador flag and is presumably under charter
 for the Old Coy, the owners of "Gyphis".
 She brought 20 masts for the West Kingdom wh
 led masts for South Georgia at South Shetlands
 for Norway. After discharging her coal she is
 said to be returning to Norway direct with a
 cargo of oil i.e. without touching at Stanley.

2. The air of mystery that has been
 attached to her coming may be attributable to
 the fact that she flies the Ecuador flag, but
 W. Bennett himself has stated that his original
 information in regard to her was erroneous.

J. W. B.
 24.1.27.

24.1.27.

J. W. B. 1927
 95

9. 2. 27.
25. 1. 27.

4. 3. 27.
11. 2. 27.

Memo from Magistrate South Georgia 16th Feb 1927. 6.

1. G. S. Schell. Re Dependencies of the Falkland Islands do not extend beyond 80° W latitude and Peter Island would appear in fact to be within the sphere of British jurisdiction.

2. Messrs Boyd at Dall's lease for a land station at Falkland Station expires on 13. 9. 29. The Company does not in fact operate from a land station but employs a floating factory with its base in the harbour owned by Messrs Boyd.

3. In the first paragraph of his letter the Magistrate is quoting almost verbatim from the relevant paragraph of his report of 27. 2. 26. with refs 5-4 in M.P. D/59/25 annexed. I have however been unable to trace any indication of the adoption of Mr. Dinnick's view in this regard as the policy of Government.

4. I understand that the correspondence during the war to Lord W. Minto makes reference to the report sent to do with the unauthorised sale by the Company of State oil in the United States of America or other country than the United Kingdom.

J.M.S.
A.S.

3.3.27.

H.S. This information although disquieting is somewhat vague and in any case I do not see what action can be taken at present.

2. Magistrate should be instructed to continue to prosecute enquiries, to watch the situation closely, and report any further developments.

J.M.S.
14 March, 1927

7. Memo. to Magistrate, South Georgia - 7.3.1927.

4
7.6.27

6
7.3.27.

Memo from Aq. Magistrate, Sober.
12th April 1927.

8.

V.C. Submitted.
G.R. 1/3
D.P. Casey
28th April 1927.

H. 1/2 Sober

See: please continue to L.P. 7. 6. 27.

V.C. 29. 4. 27

L. 11. 11. 27
W. 5. 9. 27

U. 23. 8. 27
W. 25. 6. 27

①

TELEGRAM.

From Whaling Officer, South Shetlands.

To Colonial Secretary,

Despatched: 4th January, 1927. 11.30 p.m.

Received 5th January, 1927. 12.20 p.m.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

PORTSTANLEY

For your confidential information current South Shetlands semi-secret expedition fitted out South American port investigating whaling conditions ice broken up barrier on this side Ross Sea and also far south west South Shetlands object new Lancing information very vague but we suspect intrigue in the Argentine. Ship is Oural Belgian Norwegian owned worn out partly financed by the directors Pythia Company may call at Deception Island to discharge coal await instructions please.

BENNETT.

2-

TELEGRAM.

DECODE.

From: The Colonial Secretary.
To: The Whaling Officer, South Shetlands.

Despatched: 6th January, 1927, Time: 3.30 p.m.
Received: ... 1927. Time: -

BENNETT

WHALING OFFICER

SOUTH SHETLANDS.

Your telegram of 4th January telegraph further report on receipt of definite information or actual development. In case of emergency instructions contained in my letter of 22nd October relative to Lancing will apply generally.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

C/2/27.

3

T E L E G R A M.

From: The Whaling Officer, South Shetlands.

To: The Colonial Secretary.

Despatched: 10th January, 1927. Time: 19.20.

Received: 11th January, 1927. Time: 1430.

C. S.

PORTSTANLEY.

(Orla ?
/u)

Referring to Oural Expedition much regret information erroneous Oural due about 6th February direct from United Kingdom cargo of coal load cargo at South Georgia. Expedition arrived Saturday p.m., from South Georgia Odd I excepting name of steamer and suggested intrigue information is quite correct appears to be bona fide. Clearing out on Wednesday coasting effective range 600 miles. [Whaling cannot be worse more applications being made.]

[D/95/26]

BENNETT.

Note on above telegram.

It appears that the "expedition" ship is not as was supposed the "Oural" but the "Odd I". The Odd belongs to the Odd Whaling Company, the owners of the "Pythia" a factory licensed to operate at the South Shetlands. Evidently the Odd arrived at the South Shetlands on Saturday the 8th January and it was her intention to commence investigations on Wednesday the 12th coasting over a distance of 600 miles. The applications which Mr. Bennett states are being made evidently refer to applications to operate elsewhere than at the So. Shets. vide application from Norge Company in H. P.D/52/26.

DECODE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

2/27.

TELEGRAM.

From The Colonial Secretary.
To The Magistrate, South Georgia.

Despatched: 14th January, 1927. 11 a.m.

Received:

MAGISTRATE

SOUTHGEORGIA

Confidential Bennett reports that spare catcher Odd I belonging to Bryde and Dahl has arrived South Shetlands apparently investigating conditions of pelagic whaling. Telegraph whether you have any information as to these movements.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

DECODE.

25-

TELEGRAM.

From: The Magistrate, South Georgia.

To: The Colonial Secretary.

Despatched: 17th January, 1927. Time: 23.20.

Received: 18th January, 1927. Time: 11.00.

SECRETARY

PORTSTANLEY.

With reference to your telegram of 14th January Confidential Odd I was cleared from here for South Shetlands in ballast with 11 bags of mails I have no information as to object of cruise other than rumour. This catcher belongs to the same Company as the "PYTHIA" and it is possible that she may be looking for Harbour farther south the Manager of "THOR I" however states that he was asked by Company to release Odd I for a month knowing nothing of object of cruise. I will however endeavour to elicit further information on the subject for you.

MAGISTRATE.

Odd Whaling Coy.

Thor and Judd Coy.

6

FALKLAND ISLANDS.



C.S. No.....

MEMO.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Departmental Number.

From.....Magistrate, South Georgia

.....S/G.No.51/27.....

Date.....16th February, 1927.....

To.....Hon.Col.Sec. Stanley.....

Reference Numbers.

With reference to your telegraphic communication of the 14th ultimo, on the subject of the S/S "Odd.1."investigati conditions of pelagic whaling, I beg to inform you that on the return of the Catcher to South Georgia nothing could be gained by questioning the Master (who is also the Captain of the S/S "Thoroy"),but enquiries made in other directions have resulted in the following information,which can be taken as correct:-

The "Odd.1." went to Southward of Shetlands and Grahams Land to find if there was any possibility of anchoring a Factory at Peter Island which lies in 69 S. and 90 W,(more or less) and which is looked upon as outside British jurisdiction.

The Island was reached but no landing made nor harbour found but the bottom was sounded.

From general rumour it appears that this Company do not hold out any hope of their lease of land being renewed in South Georgia and are looking ahead with intentions of floating a pelagic factory.

F.B. Binnis

Magistrate.

i.s.

Angela de Dahl.

Confidential.

No. 2/27.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

7th March, 19 27.

From

To The Magistrate,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

SOUTH GEORGIA.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

With reference to your memo. No. 51/27 of the 16th of February, on the subject of the recent cruise of the whale catcher "ODD I" I am directed by the Acting Governor to request you to continue to prosecute enquiries regarding the object of the investigations being made by Messrs. Bryde & Dahl, to watch the situation closely, and to report any further developments that may come to your knowledge in this connection.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

8

FALKLAND ISLANDS.



Confidential
C.S. No...2/27...

MEMO.

Departmental Number.

From. Ag. Magistrate, So. Georgia.

.....S.G.No.114/27.....

Date...12th April, 1927.....

To. Hon. Col. Sec., Stanley.

Reference
Numbers.

With reference to your memorandum of the 7th ult., regarding the investigations being made by Messrs Bryde & Dahl, I have to inform you that I spoke with Mr. Binnie on the subject, prior to his departure, but he had no further information to report.

As requested in your memo. I will continue to prosecute enquiries and advise you accordingly.

L. Barlas
Ag. Magistrate.