

C.S.

SECRET.

MAI/GEN/3#11

1942.

No.

S/22/42.

4

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

19 42.

2nd September.

Previous Paper.

76/36.
Mail contract with
F. Is. Co., Ltd.

POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MAIL SERVICE
TO FALKLAND ISLANDS BY AIR TO MONTEVIDEO AND
THENCE BY SEA.

MINUTES.

1. S of S. telegram No. 145 of 2/9/42.

(2).

G.F.
at present the Fitzroy makes 10 voyages
to U.V. irregularly spaced. Some increase for the
immediate future is being considered in order to fulfil
military contracts, negotiations are proceeding for the
use of the San Carlo for two regular voyages to bring
in the balance of the wool clips. Mr. Cremer informs
me confidentially that that the Company are anxious
to be relieved of the Patagonian cargoes next year
in order to free the ship for use in U.V. voyages
for carrying military supplies. The military expect to
need a minimum of 50 tons of cargo per month from
U.V. indefinitely. If the idea is to arrange one
regular voyage to U.V. per month, this might
be sufficient to justify the proposed airmail service
the extra cost to us would be only £1309 (two
extra voyages @ £645.12.6). This is assuming that

2. If the Company cannot manage 12 U.V. voyages and
also bring in the wool clips, the San Carlo would have
to be used again. The M.O.I.C. is finding out from the
Admiralty what the charges would be for the maintenance
cost of fuel + 70% + wages of officers and crew. This
represents heavy extra costs to the farmers, who have
to pay freight into Stanley. If the Fitzroy is not
available because of government requirements, we can

Subsequent Paper.

or civil, the excess freight on the wool will have to be paid by us or by the Imperial Govt., as the case may be.

2. Another possibility is to try for more wh. voyages than 12 & make more use of the San Carlo.

The wool-clip averages something over 2000 short tons. The San Carlo can carry 500 tons in her hold. The Fitzroy makes an average of 12 island voyages a year calling at the larger ports once in two months & at the smaller ports once in 3 or 4 months (average).

If we sent the Fitzroy on 4 ^{round} trips a year to all island ports she could bring in about half the clip. The San Carlo could bring in the balance in two trips.

This would give fine mail & shore passenger services to every port in the year & I do not think we could reduce facilities below this level. On the above basis the Fitzroy would be free to make 18 voyages to wh. & 2 to S. Georgia. Allowing for time lag & other difficulties we could rely on 15 voyages to wh.

3. It is very difficult to calculate the extra cost to Govt. of the 15 voyage programme on our present information.

Present cost (including S.G.) £10,000.

15 Voyages to wh. at £600 (average).	9,046
2 ——— S.G. ——— £1322.	2,644.
Excess cost on S. Carlo freight	?

say £13,000?

4. I suggest that we first of all inform S. of S. of existing communications & ask them what they would consider minimum requirements (number of voyages & regularity) to justify the Air-service. By the time we get this reply we may find that the Admiralty & F.I.C. have come to some arrangement (see para 1 above), & we shall know better on what line to proceed.

Perhaps a monthly voyage will be enough. I do not think it is much use discussing this with the F.I.C. & M.O.C. until we get the views of the S. of S. as above.

KB.
3/9

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : 2nd September, 19 42 *Time* : 1540

Received : 3rd September, 19 42 *Time* : 1040

No. 145. Preliminary considerations given to possibility of establishing a mail service to Falkland Islands by air to Montevideo and thence by sea. The advantage of such a service depends upon frequency of sea communications between Montevideo and Colony. Please telegraph on this point and any observations you may have to make on proposal generally.

I.D.C.O.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

DECODE.

(3)

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched: 7th September, 1942 Time: 1230

Received: 19... Time: ...

CHAPELRIES

LONDON

Red!

No. 181. Your telegram No. 145 air mail. Maximum service possible between here and Montevideo would be 14 trips yearly at irregular intervals. Provision has to be made for at least one trip South Georgia and one Punta Arenas. Only one steamer available and she has to collect and carry whole wool-clip as well as inter-island mail this taking ten round trips.

At present service to Montevideo is a minimum 10 trips a year and the extra four would be very expensive as no cargo northward and not a full cargo southward. Estimate of this extra cost not at present available.

I presume the intention is to provide a British air service between United Kingdom and the Plate with Falkland Islands mail as a side-issue. If so there are two aspects, peace time and war. In the former case the expenditure does not seem at present justifiable owing to irregularity of sailings from here and smallness of population and trade. That is my opinion most reluctantly given.

But in war time any speeding up of communications is good especially with our present increased population since it must tend to maintain morale and dispel impatience and unhappiness.

GOVERNOR.

I.D.C.O.

G. B. Knight



16.

Falkland Isles

Telephone: HOLBORN 4343. Telegrams { BOOKSTALLS, ESTRAND, LONDON.

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Cutting from Times
Issue dated 25.9.42

Air mail correspondence for the Falkland Islands is now accepted for transmission by air to Montevideo. Conveyance onwards from Montevideo is by sea.

Falkland I

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Cutting from Daily Telegraph
Issue dated 25.9.42

Falkland Islands Mail.—Air mail for the Falkland Islands is now accepted for transmission by air to Monte Video, thence by sea.

Advertisements may be inserted in all Newspapers and Periodicals at Home and Abroad through any Branch of W. H. SMITH & SON, LTD.

Cutting from Manchester Dispatch
Issue dated 25.9.42

Air Mail for Falklands

Air mail correspondence for the Falkland Islands is now accepted for transmission by air to Montevideo and thence by sea.

Postage rates are the same as those for air mail to Uruguay (3s. 6d. per half-ounce, postcards 1s. 7d.), or, if for sea conveyance via New York and thence by air, 2s. 3d.; postcards 1s.

Falkland Isles

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Cutting from Liverpool Jnl of Commerce
Issue dated 26.9.42

AIR MAIL CORRESPONDENCE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Postmaster-General announces that air mail correspondence for the Falkland Islands is now accepted for transmission by the existing air mail services to Monte Video; onward conveyance from Monte Video is by sea.

The postage rates are the same as those for air mail correspondence for Uruguay, viz.: 3s 6d per 1/2 oz. (postcards 1s 7d) if intended for conveyance by air all the way to Monte Video, or 2s 3d (postcards 1s) if for conveyance by sea to North America and thence by air.

Correspondence prepaid at the higher rate should be superscribed "via North Atlantic Air Service," and that prepaid at the lower rate should be superscribed "via New York." In either case the usual blue air mail label should be affixed.

Falkland Isles

3. Telegram no. 181 to S. of S. of 7. 9. 42.
4. Press cuttings received 29. 12. 42.

How do these rates compare with
our own suggested lowered ones?

[Signature] 18/11/43

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