

CONFIDENTIAL.

MAI/GEN/5#1

SECRETARIAT

(Formerly)

0604/A/II

0604/A/II

2161

VIOLATED MAILS.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

0604/B MAILS - DELAYS IN FORWARDING

No.

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



MEMORANDUM.

14th February, 1961.

From The Superintendent,
Posts & Telegraphs,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

SUBJECT:- Mail Violations.

The Postmaster reports as follows :-

"Of the 56 bags of English parcel mail received on H.M.S. Protector on 13th February, 1961, four had been violated and the majority of the parcels contained therein had part or all the contents missing. The seals of the outer bags were intact but on opening and examining the interiors of the outer bags there was evidence in all cases of the bags having been cut and restitched. Except for the one parcel which was missing altogether the value of the missing articles only amounted to £31. 10. 8. and consisted of clothing, footwear, bedding, a rug, tractor spares, a chisel set and a ring (£3. 17. 6.).

X1

One bag of ordinary letter mail shipped on R.M.S. "Amazon" failed to arrive.

The German mail (one bag containing one parcel) was received intact."

306

2. A copy of the telegraphic report to the G.P.O. London is attached for information.

3. The G.P.O. cabled today in connection with a previous violation, as follows :

"please cable whether you receive closed mails from Cuba"

to which we have replied :

"Never".

5

Superintendent,
Posts & Telegraphs.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

306 2*

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT

(W. & S. Ltd.—250 Pd/7/59).

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	Psy			14.2.61.

To
 ETAT POSTGEN CENT LONDON

FOLLOWING FOR ROSE PARCEL DESPATCH 29/1 RECEIVED 13TH PER HMS PROTECTOR STOP
 FOUR BAGS VIOLATED 18 PARCELS MISTREATED STOP USUAL ⁷⁰SYSTEMS EXCEPT ON
 EXAMINATION OF INTERIORS OF OUTER BAGS THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF CUTTING AND
 RESTITCHING STOP SURFACE DESPATCH 28/1 ONE BAG LC NOT RECEIVED

POSTMASTER

Time

307

G.E. for information

8 10/2/61

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1961

WORK

CLASSIFY

NUMBER

57

TO: DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

ATTENTION

Government House,
Falkland Islands.

15th February 1961

305 In continuation of my letter of February 7 about mail, the Postmaster has reported as follows on our latest consignment:-

" Of the 56 bags of English parcel mail received on H.M.S. Protector on 15th February 1961, four had been violated and the majority of the parcels contained therein had part or all the contents missing. The seals of the outer bags were intact but on opening and examining the interiors of the outer bags there was evidence in all cases of the bags having been cut and restitched. Except for the one parcel which was missing altogether the value of the missing articles only amounted to £31.10.8d. and consisted of clothing, footwear, bedding, a rug, tractor spares, a chisel set and a ring (£3.17.6d).

One bag of ordinary letter mail shipped on R.M.S. 'Amazon' failed to arrive.

The German mail (one bag containing one parcel) was received intact."

I did not examine the inside of the outer bag I mentioned in my telegram to Sheffield, and perhaps it had been cut in the same way as these latest bags, although there was certainly no sign of this on the outside. It is worrying that one bag of ordinary letter mail has again gone astray, but perhaps we will receive it on the 'Darwin's' return.

ju

BU 28.2.61

Repl at 319

06041A.

CONFIDENTIAL

309



(511/61)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MONTEVIDEO

February 22, 1961

Jean Edwin,

The Ambassador, who is away for a few days local leave, has asked me to reply on his behalf to your letter of February 7 about your mail problems.

301-2

I am sorry about the ROYSTON GRANGE consignment. This seems a particularly bad effort and, in anticipation of instructions which we shall no doubt receive from the Foreign Office as a result of the approach mentioned in Sheffield's telegram, I have written to the Director General of the Uruguayan Post Office about it. I have always found him personally friendly and ready to offer assistance, even if the practical results have not always proved very effective. I propose to follow up my letter in about a week by calling on Sr. Vazquez to enquire what he has been able to discover.

I discussed with the Ambassador whether we should make formal representations through the Foreign Ministry here. He felt that, although this might be the "correct" way to register a complaint, it would not in fact be likely to achieve any more than my informal approaches to the Post Office. We know from past experience that the Foreign Ministry would almost certainly do no more than pass a copy of our Note to the appropriate Ministry and reply saying that they had done so. So far as the Foreign Ministry are concerned, this would probably be the end of the story and, if the formal complaint ever penetrated as far as my contacts in the Post Office, they would be upset that I had gone over their heads without any useful purpose having been served. You may think this sounds unduly pessimistic, but I can assure you that it is based on our local experience of how not only the Foreign Ministry but also the Post Office work. The latter is notoriously inefficient - to use the most charitable epithet - in its handling of local mail and I cannot imagine that it would be any less casual in its attitude towards foreign mail.

I will write to you again by next month's DARWIN to let you know the results of my discussions with Sr. Vazquez. After that I shall be away until the end of July on home leave. In fact we are at the moment rather thin on the ground here, since the Administration Officer and Head Chancery Guard, who used to organize the checking of your mail in transit, have just left without yet being replaced, so we may find it difficult to keep the checks going until we are up to strength again.

Jean Edwin
[Signature]
(E.M. Rose)

His Excellency
Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor,
Falkland Islands,
PORT STANLEY.

310
See 318

3.2 for information

We shall have to wait

on
2/26/61

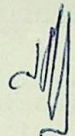
CONFIDENTIAL

oz
RA
2-23-61

S.P.T.

309 for information.

Did the bag of surface mail referred to
at X on 305 & come forward by Darwin on 27th
of Dec?

 2.3.61


312.

H.C.S.,

No.

2. It is alarming to note that following allegations from the Uruguayan Postal Authorities, we are now being openly accused by Switzerland of violating Swiss parcels. A rough translation of the correspondence received from Switzerland is at b.c.

3. Before replying to Switzerland, perhaps the P.M. and I could discuss with you? - after we have cooled down!!


S.P.T.
3/3/61.

313

U.S. This refers to what is described as the Uruguayan
mail referred to at 204 of 0604/A.

A copy of our verification report is at 6/c.

We report the violation of 609/8493, 611/8495

at 778/8713. In their letter quoted in the Swiss

letter of 24/12 they acknowledge receipt of this report but

in the letter quoted in the Swiss letter of 28/12

they deny receipt of a verification report in respect

of 609 #611.

I suggest that PRG might explain the position to
the Swiss Postal authorities so that we might refer
to the S & S or to Ambassador

5
2/3/61

314

H.C.S.

A copy of my letter & encls. to Switzerland together
with spare copies for S/S & British Ambassador, etc.
if required. — are at b.c.

 3/3/61

J. S.

Shd we not be corresponding to the Antarctic with
reference to 309 & to the Sheffield in
continuation of 299?

or 17/3/61

316.

HCS

I do not think we shd. send those
via the Cape in Protector. Let us await
the inward mail on March 27 to see
what Rose says and whether there is
anything from Sheffield.

or.

~~RA~~ 17.3.61

Act for inf.

BU 28.3.61

No. _____

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



MEMORANDUM.

317

23rd March, 1961.

From The Superintendent,
Posts & Telegraphs,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

SUBJECT :- Violation of Falkland Islands Mails.

I am pleased to be able to report that all the mail which arrived on the "A.E.S." yesterday was received intact.


Superintendent.

See
23/3/61

KIV 316

CONFIDENTIAL

318

(G1) 11/61)



BRITISH EMBASSY,

MONTEVIDEO

March 15, 1961

Sir Edwin,

309

In my letter 1511/61 of February 22 I promised to write again about the results of my approach to the Director-General of the Post Office regarding the mail on the ROYSTON GRANGE.

Shortly after I wrote, I heard from the Foreign Office that the G.P.O. were proposing to send out a representative to investigate the whole subject on the spot. The idea is that he should follow a consignment of mail through all its stages and discuss the problem with the Uruguayan postal authorities. The test consignment, of four parcel bags, was placed on the ARLANZA on February 25 and is due here to-morrow. The Post Office representative arrived by air last night and will inspect it, accompanied by Uruguayan officials, before it is handed over to the Uruguayan Post Office and again when it is handed over to the DARWIN next week. He does not expect that anything very startling will in fact be revealed by these physical checks but the most important part of his visit will be discussions which he will have with the Director-General here.

I myself am leaving for the United Kingdom in a few days time so will not be here to see the end of this enquiry. I will, however, ensure that you are informed of any local points which come up and which may be of interest to you and you will no doubt receive a report through the Colonial Office in due course.

Yours ever
Chris Rose

(C.M. Rose)

His Excellency
Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*P.S. Could you not make time
on account for a visit - 2
day - in August, when I
shall be back?*

CONFIDENTIAL

(G1511/61)



BRITISH EMBASSY,

MONTEVIDEO

March 21, 1961

By Sir Edwin Arrowsmith,

308

Thank you for your letter of February 15, 1961 about further losses from the Falkland Islands mail.

318

2. As Rose has explained to you in his letter 1511/61 of March 15, 1961, an official of the Investigations Branch of The G.P.O. is at present in Montevideo. You may like to have a brief account of what has transpired so far.

3. The four parcel bags in the test consignment were examined in the hold of the ARLANZA on arrival by the G.P.O. official in the presence of two Uruguayan post office officials. The stitching on one of the bags looked slightly suspicious and the bag was therefore opened. The contents were found to be in good order and the bag was resealed with the ship's sealing press. The bags were then handed over to the Uruguayan postal authorities for safe-keeping until to-day. It is expected that the G.P.O. official, again accompanied by his Uruguayan opposite numbers, will go on board the DARWIN later to-day in order to open all four bags. These will probably reach the Falkland Islands sealed with this Embassy's seal.

4. Fortunately, an opportunity occurred for the G.P.O. official to see for himself the arrangements made for handling mails in transit and this enabled him to see where and how thefts of the sort with which we are now familiar might possibly take place.

5. A long meeting took place last night with the Acting-Director General of Posts and some half-dozen other senior officials at which the G.P.O. representative laid before the Uruguayans the evidence which had led the G.P.O. to conclude that at any rate a large majority of the thefts of Falkland Islands mail have occurred while the bags have been in transit at Montevideo. By the time all the evidence, including statistics, scientific reports on the bags and seals and actual specimens of the violated bags and seals themselves had been produced, the Uruguayans were no longer able to deny the possibility that thefts were occurring in Montevideo. They revealed that they were in fact intending to construct a special cage for mails in transit inside the Maritime Post Office to which only one official would have access. In response to a direct question, they said they hoped to have this cage ready by the end of next month. If indeed they do build it and make proper arrangements for the safeguarding of the keys, it might well lead to an improvement in security. At least we feel that the G.P.O. representative's visit has served to put the Uruguayans on their mettle.

6. The question of our using a port other than Montevideo for mail in transit was raised once more but it was agreed that it would not be in the best interests of either the Uruguayans or the British.

Reply at-323

M.S. Henderson
(M.S. Henderson)

His Excellency
Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of the
Falkland Islands.

No. 0604/P II

MEMORANDUM



28th March, 19 61.

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

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

From The Superintendent,
Posts & Telegraphs,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :- Mail Violations.

All mails received by "Darwin" p.m. 26th March were intact - except that four bags of English parcels had been opened in Montevideo and resealed. This was done, I understand, on board the "Darwin" by what was described as an "Inspector from England" in the presence of Uruguayan Postal Officials. The "Inspector" apparently accompanied the bags from London on board "Arlanza" and is investigating mail violations. One of the bags was damaged at the base and the label bears the following endorsement "THIS SACK IS DAMAGED AT BASE" and one other label was marked in pencil "? STITCHING" and later endorsed in Spanish to the effect that the bag was in perfect state - the latter endorsement was under the signature of ? Vazquez. No correspondence has yet been received from the G.P.O. London regarding the activities of the investigating officer.

Superintendent,
Posts & Telegraphs.

P.S

4.8.
318 - 320
submitted
for
30/3/61

S.P.I.J to see
318-319 & Rem return to me
RA 20-3-61



321

~~SPF~~

~~Please with a return.~~

P.S.

~~20/10/61~~

See thank you.

Would you kindly return the file to H.E. i.a.w. 322

~~1/2~~

1.4.61.

322

Government House,
Falkland Islands.

6th April 1961

(My dear Sheffield)

I was very interested to hear from Henderson about the visit of the G.P.O. official to Montevideo, and of his meeting with the Acting Director General of Posts, and other senior officials. Henderson said that by the time all the evidence had been produced, the Uruguayans were no longer able to deny the possibility that thefts were occurring in Montevideo. They say that they intend to build a special cage for mails in transit, to which only one official would have access. If this is done, and the keys are properly safe-guarded, things should certainly improve.

Fl 323^A
328

As I think you may know, we have had trouble with mail from Germany and Switzerland, and you might be interested to see the enclosed correspondence about mail from Switzerland.

Yours ever,

(signed) Edwin Arrowsmith

Reply at 337

323

Government House,
Falkland Islands.

6th April 1961

(My dear Henderson),

319

Thank you for your letter of March 21, about the visit of the official of the Investigations Branch of the G.P.O. to Montevideo. I was particularly interested in your account of the meeting with the Acting Director General of Posts, and the production of all the evidence by the G.P.O. man. It does seem that his visit must have done good, and if the cage is constructed, and if proper arrangements can be made for the custody of the keys, things should certainly improve.

I quite agree with you, that it would not be feasible to use a port other than Montevideo for mail in transit.

There have, of course, been violations of mails other than those from the United Kingdom. The Swiss Post Office recently suggested that these might have occurred in Stanley. We have denied any liability, and you may like to see the correspondence which I enclose.

323A-323.

Yours ever,

(signed) Edwin Arrowsmith

Ed

Bu
Pa - 9.5.61

SIR MALCOLM HENDERSON, K.C.M.G.

323A 325
324
324

C O P Y (rough translation)

GENERALDIREKTION DER POST-TELEGRAPHEN-UND TELEPHONVERWALTUNG

etc

etc

etc

Bern, Bollwerk 25,
21. XII. 1960.

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that we have instituted an enquiry into the subject of the parcel described below :

No.	778
Weight	3 kg.
Date of Posting	27th June, 1960.
Office " "	La-Chaux-de-Fonds 1
Sender	M. Edouard Messerli (on account of Gyma Watch Co. SA)
Addressee	Mr. T. Pinnie, "Kelvin Store", P.O. Box 236, Port Stanley (Falkland Islands).
Contents	8 wrist watches with steel backs 4 metal wrist watches

This parcel was contained in the despatch No. 24 of the 1st July, 1960, from our exchange office of Chiasso 2 for that of Montevideo, registered under position 5 of the way bill No. 2, reached its destination without contents (see photostat copy attached of a communication from G.P.O. Port Stanley to addressee of parcel).

We have submitted the matter in question to the postal administration of Uruguay who have just sent us the result of their enquiry:

"We are able to establish that parcel 778 on your enquiry was sent on to the Falkland Islands in perfect condition. We can say this as all the parcels put in our despatch No. 10 for Port Stanley were examined in the presence of Customs officers, in it was included a parcel No. 382/7611 received violated by our office (bulletin 50, Proces verbal 14/60).

Afterwards we received a bulletin No. 044/c/47 from Port Stanley declaring other parcels received in the despatch No. 10 were also in a bad condition. In view of the action we have taken, our office must be considered free from responsibility in this matter."

In the circumstances, it seems that the parcel in question was sent on from Montevideo in good condition, and complete, and the violation must have been perpetrated in your country after the acknowledgement of despatch.

We ask you to order a thorough investigation in your office and to communicate the result to us as soon as possible, and pronouncing on the question of responsibility. The sender claims the usual repayment of 15 gold francs plus the cost of postage, 4.20 gold francs.

Messerli

GENERALDIREKTION DER POST-TELEGRAPHEN-UND TELEPHONVERWALTUNG

ETC

ETC

ETC

Bern, Bollwerk 25.

28. XII. 1960.

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that we have instituted an enquiry into the subject of the postal packets Nos. 609 and 611, weight 9 kg 700 each and deposited at the Post Office of Ste-Croix by Messrs Reuge S.A., Ste-Croix, addressed to Mr. T. Binnie, Kelvin Store, P.O. Box 236, Stanley (Falkland Islands). According to a letter from the G.P.O. Stanley, the parcels in question arrived in the Falkland Islands completely violated.

These two parcels were part of the parcels despatch No. 23 of 20th June, 1960. from the office of exchange of Chiasso 2 for that of Montevideo. The Uruguayan service have just replied to us concerning this subject :

"Referring to your letter 662, Am. 88.4 of November 1960, I have the honour to inform you that the parcels in question were received from the Chiasso Office with the wrappers in good condition, and the weight in agreement with the respective bulletins, they were forwarded to Port Stanley in the same condition as they were received. Our office has not received a Verification Note on the subject from Port Stanley".

From this, there is cause to say that the two parcels in question were sent intact to Port Stanley and were violated in your ~~office~~ service.

In the circumstances, we ask you to acknowledge responsibility in this matter. The sender of the two parcels is entitled to the sum of 99 gold francs - comprising the usual indemnity (2 x 40) and the cost of postage (2 x 9.50).

11/28/60

662.12.4
662 Am 88.6.
003/B/108.

13th March, 61.

Sir,

328A
323B

I have the honour to refer to your letters 662.12.4 and 662 Am 88.6 of 21st and 28th December, 1960 respectively regarding the violation of Parcels Nos. 609 and 611 stated to have been enclosed in Parcels Despatch No. 23 of 20th June, 1960 and Parcel No. 778 stated to have been included in Parcels Despatch No. 24 of 1st July, 1960 - both Despatches originating in the Office of Exchange of Chiasso 2 for that of Montevideo, Uruguay; the parcels in question being forwarded to this Administration in Montevideo Despatch No. 10 dated 16th August, 1960, which arrived at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands on 20th August, 1960.

Despatch No. 10 from Montevideo comprised three bags numbered 1 - 3 inclusive and contained 19 parcels in all destined for the Falkland Islands and originating from Switzerland, Germany, Holland, United States of America and New Zealand. All three bags were closely examined on receipt and there was no external evidence of mistreatment. The seals were intact but on opening the bags, each one contained violated parcels as follows :-

Bag No. 1. One parcel violated with contents completely missing. This mistreated parcel was however covered by a Verification Note from Montevideo to the effect that the parcel was received in the Uruguayan service in a violated condition.

Bag No. 2. Two parcels (Nos. 609 and 611) violated - contents completely missing. No Verification Note was enclosed.

Bag No. 3. Five parcels (one of which was No. 778) violated - three with contents completely missing and two obviously mistreated but contents apparently intact. No Verification Note accompanied the bag.

328 326

The usual Verification Note (a copy of which is attached as Appendix A) reporting the irregularities observed was prepared and forwarded to the Uruguayan Postal Authorities by the first opportunity. In your letter 662 Am 88.6 of 28th December, 1960, under reference, it is stated that the Uruguayan service informed you that they had not received a Verification Note from this Administration in respect of Parcels Nos. 609 and 611. This is a misstatement of fact on the part of the Uruguayan Post Office. The receipt of the Verification Note was acknowledged by the Uruguayan authorities and a copy was returned under cover of a letter dated 23rd November, 1960 - a copy of this letter is attached as Appendix B. The Verification Note was not signed as 'Seen and accepted'.

328 328

In their letter at Appendix B, the Uruguayan Administration made a statement to the effect that all mails destined for the Falkland Islands are under strict control on their arrival at the Montevideo Offices and also on their departure, with examination by customs officers, high officials from the British Legation, etc., etc. This is a further misstatement of fact inasmuch as officials from the British Embassy do not as a rule examine all mails destined for the Falkland Islands, although on occasions they have examined closed mails from England. There is no evidence that British officials from the Embassy examined Montevideo Despatch No. 10 and it is most unlikely that they did.

.....It is

The Director Generale des Postes,
Telegraphes et Telephones,
Bollwerk 25,
Bern,
Switzerland

327
325

It is however true to say that on this occasion senior officials from the British Embassy were called to the Port Post Office in Montevideo to inspect two bags of English and one bag of German mail which the Chief Officer of the oncarrying vessel ("Darwin") to the Falkland Islands had refused to accept on the grounds that he suspected the bags had been tampered with, i.e. he considered they appeared light in weight. On inspection, in company with the Chief of the Port Post Office and a representative from the ship's agents in Montevideo, one of the English bags contained violated items as did the one from Germany. The seals of all bags were intact prior to opening by the above mentioned officials. No Verification Note was received by the Port Stanley office concerning the violated items. The bags were merely rescaled and sent on. A report was promised by the Uruguayan authorities but this likewise was not received at Port Stanley.

Violations of Falkland Islands mails routed through Montevideo have been occurring for some years and the complete disappearance of sealed bags of mail is not unknown. To illustrate - four bags of mail which formed part of London's Surface Despatch No. 24 of 18th November, 1960, have still not arrived in the Falkland Islands despite the fact that the ship ("Royston Grange") which carried the mail from London had a clear discharge for the correct number of bags at Montevideo.

It is interesting to note that mails shipped by direct vessel from London to the Falkland Islands are always received intact and I can but advise you to cause Swiss mails to be routed via England for direct shipment where possible. I would point out however that there are only a limited number of direct sailings from London annually and some mails must perforce continue to be routed via Montevideo.

In all the circumstances this Administration must deny responsibility for compensation in respect of parcels Nos. 609, 611 and 788 referred to in your letters under reference.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Postmaster General, London for information.

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

(sgd.) J. BOUND

Superintendent,
Posts and Telegraphs.

(Rev'd. 55816/58)

Administration des Postes
Postal Administration ofService avec l'Administration
Service with the Administration

Bureau de FALKLAND ISLANDS

d. of URUGUAY

Office of

Timbre du bureau

expéditeur du bulletin

BULLETIN DE VÉRIFICATION No.

Timbre du bureau
destinataire du bulletin

VERIFICATION NOTE No. 044/C/47

concernant l'échange des dépêches
concerning the exchange of mailsErreurs et irrégularités de toute nature constatées
Errors and irregularities of any kind observeddans la dépêche No. 10 (Aduana)
in the mail No.

du bureau d'échange d Montevideo

from the office of exchange of

Port Stanley

pour le bureau d'échange d

for the office of exchange of

Stamp of the despatching
Office of the Verification
Note.Stamp of the receiving
office of the Verification
Note.

Parcel Post

expédiée le 16th Aug. 1960 à h m.
despatched on the 19 atERREURS OU IRRÉGULARITÉS DIVERSES.
ERRORS OR IRREGULARITIES.(Manque de la dépêche, manque d'envois recommandés ou de la feuille d'avis, dépêche spoliée,
sac en mauvais état, indications inexactes sur les formules AV2, AV7, etc.)(Non-receipt of the mail, non-receipt of registered articles or of the letter bill, mail tampered with,
bag in bad condition, incorrect entries on forms AV2, AV7, etc.)

The above despatch was received in this service on 20th August, 1960. All bags contained violated parcels as per attached statement. Your BV 50/Acta 14/60 refers to Parcel 382/7611 from sack No.1. This parcel was opened in my presence and I confirm that the declared contents were completely missing. Seals, strings and bags 2 & 3 are returned for your examination under Registered Number, F. I. 1315

Port Stanley le 24th Aug. 19 60

Les agents du bureau qui établit le bulletin :
Officials of the office which prepares the note :

(sgd.) H. T. LUXTON

Postmaster.

, le , 19

Vu et accepté : Seen and accepted :
Le chef du bureau auquel est adressé le bulletin :
Officials in charge of the office to which the note is
addressed :

DETAILS OF MISTREATED MAI

Despatch No. 10 dated 16th August, 1960.

Uruguay.
From ~~GREAT BRITAIN~~ to FALKLAND ISLANDS

Parcel Number	Addressee	Sender	Declared contents	Remaining contents	Declared Value	Remarks
332/7611	<u>Bag 1.</u> F.I.Co.Ltd., PORT STANLEY	OMEGA, Louis Brandt & Freres SA, BIENNE, Switzerland.	12 S/Steel Watches	N I L	Fc 1820.00	BV 50/Acta 14/60
609/8493	<u>Bag 2.</u> T.Binnie, Box 236 PORT STANLEY.	Reuge SA, Ste-CROIX, Switzerland.	Music Boxes	N.I.L.	Fc 257.00	
1/8495	<u>Bag 3.</u>	N I L	Fc 257.00	
n/n8613	Mr & Mrs T.Fleuret, PORT STANLEY	Misses R & F Cloos, 3446 Whitfield Ave. Cincinnati 20 Ohio.	1 Rockwood Pottery Tile	Wilfully opened but contents appear unharmed		
676/8712	F.I.C.Ltd., PORT STANLEY.	Rolex SA, GENEVA.	12 Steel Bracelets	N I L	Fc 252.00	
778/8713	T.Binnie, Box 236, PORT STANLEY.	E.Messerli, Succes 25, La-Chaux-de-Fonds.	8 Gold wrist watches 4 Metal wrist watches.	N I L	Fc 1125.00	
234/8757	F.I.CO.Ltd. PORT STANLEY.	Justus van Maurik NV. Clarastraat 25, HERTOGENBOSCH, Holland.	Cigars.	N I L	/12.6.6.	
56/8758	Rev Br.A.Roozendaal St Marys Church, PORT STANLEY.	Nitgeverij Davo, Brink 26, DEVENTER, Holland.	6 Albums.	WILFULLY OPENED BUT CONTENTS APPEAR UNHARMED		

REPÚBLICA DEL URUGUAY
DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS

Montevideo, 23 de noviembre de 1960.-

DIVISION SERVICIO INTERNACIONAL

SIRVASE CITAR

No. 1952

Expte 3885/60.-

MIS/fc.-

Dirección General de Correos
PORT STANLEY - ILES FALKLAND.-

Senor Director General:

Tengo el honor de devolverle adjunto el boletín No. 044/C/47 de esa Administración concerniente a irregularidades constatadas en el despacho No. 10 (Aduana) de encomiendas postales.-

Según se lo expresabamos en nuestro boletín de verificación No. 50 - Acta 14/60 que incluimos en el despacho 10 precitado, solamente la encomienda 382/7611 fue recibida de origen expoliada.- El minucioso control ejercido sobre todos los envíos no denunció ninguna otra anomalía.-

2 Anexos

Corresponde hacer caudal que todos los envíos destinados a Falkland Islas son motivo de un estricto contralor a su llegada a nuestras oficinas y a su salida, con intervención de funcionarios aduaneros y altos comisionados de la Legación británica y, a veces, como lo ilustra la copia de nota que agregamos, hasta de un delegado de las Agencias de los buques transportadores.-

Todo eso está plenamente probado por la numerosa documentación que poseemos y de la que hemos dado traslado tanto a esa Administración como a la británica.-

Reitero al señor Director General las expresiones de mi elevada consideración,

por el Director General

(Sgd.) ? ? ? ?

Miguel I. Salinas

Jefe del Servicio Internacional

BU 9.5.61

12.5.61.

No mail dm
17.5.61

3
Rough translation of the attached Press cutting.

Newspaper "EL PAIS" page 6, 7th March, 1961. MONTEVIDEO

" Defining responsibilities.

THE POST OFFICE FORMULATES EXPLANATIONS
RE THEFT OF CORRESPONDENCE IN TRANSIT/ .

"The Direction General of Posts has sent us the following communication, in which it makes clear its own position regarding the thefts of correspondence in transit for the Falkland Islands and which have been denounced.

The press of the 3rd makes echo of a telegram from London in which the spoliation of correspondence and parcel post destined for the Falkland Islands has been denounced, adding that these irregularities take place in our post office.

This Office - duly authorized and informed - makes clear that ~~XXX~~ what is now denounced has been taking place from years back and that the National Posts has taken the necessary intervention in order to clear the matter up by an internal investigation and with the assistance, also, of a functionary representing the British Embassy, fiscal officers from the Customs, a representative of the Royal Mail Lines company and local CID police, in order to verify processes and to get the sacks sealed, in transit, with the seal of the Embassy to assure the final stage of their transit.

It would be a long process to relate all the antecedents of this matter, but it is important to underline that already by Files Nos. 1982/59 and 3618/60 of the International Service (As.24/50 of 25/VI/59) the British Post was informed - with the necessary proofs - of the results of the investigation that was held, and that in no manner affected the Uruguayan Postal Services.

Nevertheless, and notwithstanding the control effected by the Embassy in Uruguay, further claims came in denouncing the loss of parcels for that destination (i.e. Falkland Is.)

In this extreme, it was requested that the transit through our port should be set aside, because it was creating an obligation on our Post Office in regard to postal sacks which, in accordance with an International Covenant can not be opened at a port of transit, this notwithstanding it was being saddled and held responsible for those irregularities.

Lately, under date of 12/7/60 (As.26/60) the London post office requests information regarding a despatch NO. 24 for the Falkland Islands which failed to arrive there, and immediately enquiries have been instituted the results of which will be made known opportunistically.

Note. This is a horribly involved bit of 'official' Spanish and is most difficult to translate.

y. 2.

Mr. Board this newspaper
cutting no violations since.

Shall we ask embassy whether the case has
been completed?

336 ^{su} 6/2/57

HCS

I think we can wait a bit.

18.5.61.

Beal 6.6.61



337

COLONIAL OFFICE
GREAT SMITH STREET, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: ABBey 1266, ext.

Our reference: COM 207/50/01
Your reference:

17th May, 1961.

Dear Arrowsmith

322 Thank you for your letter of the 6th April about the mails.

338 We sent copies of it and the enclosures to the G.P.O. and I have now received the enclosed letter and report from them. We seem to have made some progress at last, although it looks as if we must not expect too much, even now!

Yours sincerely,

fr.

(A.H. SHEFFIELD)

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, KCMG.
Government House,
FALKLAND ISLANDS

COPY

338

Postal Services Department
H.Q. Building, St. Martin's la Grand
London, E.C.1.

4th May, 1961.

Dear Sheffield,

I am not sure whether we have been keeping you fully in the picture as regards our investigations into the Falkland Islands' losses. If not, I apologise, but you will remember that I said we had in mind to send somebody to Montevideo; we did this and I think I cannot now do better than send you copies of his report and of that of the Embassy official who assisted him.

The main point that emerges is, of course, that the Uruguay Post Office has now admitted the possibility - dare I say probability - of the losses occurring at Montevideo, and has promised to take steps to seal off the vulnerable point. It seems that have no plans whatever for seeking to apprehend the culprit but I suppose we must be thankful that they are at least proposing to make his pastime more difficult!

We propose to continue for the present with our special sealing arrangements but we hope that the steps that have been taken will render these unnecessary soon and we shall watch for reports of future arrivals with great interest.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) B. J. Rose

P.S. Since dictating this and while I have been waiting for the copies of reports, I have received the copies of Sir E. Arrowsmith's correspondence for which I thank you.

B.J.R.

A. H. Sheffield, Esq.,
COLONIAL OFFICE.



The Controller,

It will be seen from copies of Foreign Office correspondence now at pages 22 to 25 that when the Uruguayan Postal Authorities learned of the Parliamentary question regarding these mistreatments they were "ruffled". It seems that the implication in the question placed them on the defensive and provoked unfavourable press comment. Translations of a statement by the Director General and a Communique issued by the Post Office are at pages 26 & 27.

Against this background H.M. Embassy in Uruguay suggested that it would be impolitic to create the impression that my visit to Montevideo was for the sole purpose of testing the treatment of the despatch in question whilst it was in the custody of the Uruguayan Post Office there. My visit was to be made to appear part of a check of the entire route of the mail. Accordingly, I travelled to Montevideo on the 13th and on arrival on the 14th discussed the matter with H.M. Consul, who is also 1st Secretary at the Embassy, Mr. C. M. Rose.

Mr. Rose re-iterated and amplified the reasons offered for my being available to check the bags before they were off-loaded from the s.s. "Arlanza" - the bags I had checked at Tilbury before she sailed - and arrangements were made for an interview with the Director General of Posts next day, the 15th March, 1960.

At that meeting Mr. Rose, Mr. Stephen de Mowbray, 2nd Secretary at the Embassy, who was to take over from the former two days later, and I, met the Director General Senor Vasquez, Sr. Rosario Bruno, Inspector General and Sr. L.E. Castellanos. We confined our discussions to arrangements for meeting and checking the mails due the following morning and arranged a further meeting to take place during the following week to discuss the general problem. By then I hoped to have made a courtesy visit to the Post Office and Sorting Offices etc., and to have had a discussion with the Master of the s.s. "Darwin" and, of course, to have had a further check of the bags just prior to their being loaded to the s.s. "Darwin" due to sail for Port Stanley on the 21st March, 1961.

On Thursday the 16th March, de Mowbray, who was ostensibly there solely as my interpreter, and I joined the Inspector General, Sr. Bruno, another Post Office Inspector, Sr. L. A. Amatoy, and the local agent of the British Shipping Lines, Mr. F. Drever, before boarding the "Arlanza". The Uruguayans were content with an external examination of the bags. The stitching at the base of one seemed irregular and they obviously entertained some doubts about it. I opened the outer bag and found the inner bag to be in perfect condition, but nevertheless opened that and found the three insured parcels to be intact. (None of the bags had been interfered with) The bag was re-tied and sealed, but this time with the ship's seals and press. All the bags were permitted to take their course, the Uruguayan Postal Officials declaring that the special check was unknown to the rank and file of the Post Office.

Later the same day the British Embassy received a telephone message from the Customs Office reporting that a bag from Gt. Britain to Port Stanley was "imperfect" and asking that someone inspect the bag. de Mowbray and I went there and saw that the bag was, as expected, that which we had opened earlier in the day. It was being retained with the others in a Customs clearing office and the summons to the Embassy had in fact been made by an officer employed on opening parcels for Customs internal examination, the function of a Postman H.G. in the L.P.S. Foreign Section (R.A.H.) It seemed odd that there was no intervention at supervising level. I formed the impression that had the report been made at a higher level we might have suspected that the supervisor had been warned to have the despatch specially scrutinized.

We took the opportunity to examine the arrangements for dealing with transit bags and learned from the Post Office men in the Customs Depot that only parcel bags are taken there, the letters going elsewhere for retention. The parcel bags are dumped in

/any

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any convenient place in the fourth floor of the Customs House, but outside the Customs enclosure in which are kept all inward parcels and packets awaiting collection by addressees. (When Customs duty exceeding a certain amount is raised on an inward parcel or parcel the addressee is notified and required to attend a public counter ~~to pay duty and clear the item~~).

This enclosure, containing thousands of postal packets, is protected from the main floor working only by a wire mesh partition approximately six feet high. One's first reaction is to speculate as to why a thief should go to the lengths of cutting and re-sowing transit bags to reach parcels when only this partition separates him from so many on which the contents are openly declared. The declarations are undoubtedly in foreign language but most could be understood by the average South American. It was ascertained that this office is open only between 4.0 p.m. and 7.0 p.m. daily. Mails taken off ships at other times we were told, are taken into a nearby shed on the docks. We visited this shed and discussed with the Officer in Charge there the arrangements for looking after the mails.

It seems that only parcel bags are brought into this shed, the letters being segregated at the quayside immediately they are off-loaded from the ships. If the "Darwin" is due within "a day or two" the bags are retained in this shed for direct transfer and do not go into the Customs House. This shed also houses a Branch Post Office, partitioned off from the main enclosure. The doors from the Branch office giving access to the main part are open at all times giving access to anything there. This shed is for the exclusive use of the Post Office but it also contains a huge safe, the property of ~~the~~ Customs, which contains contraband and is stated to be rarely used. We were told that arrangements were being made to seal off the Branch Office portion of the premises. The Officer in Charge also informed us that the keys of the Branch Office which are, of course, keys giving access to the shed are retained by the late duty officer when he goes off duty at 9.0 p.m. daily, and the early duty officer opens at 7.0 a.m. with a set of keys already in his possession. He was unable to say how many sets of keys were in existence.

So much we gleaned from the men on the spot following our summons to check the contents of the parcel bag off-loaded from the "Arlanza".

I discussed the matter with Mr. F. Brewer, the Agent in Montevideo for the British Shipping Companies. He referred to the transfer of the mails from the R.M.S. "Drina" direct to the S.S. "Darwin" (serials 19-21) when two British bags were rejected. As we already knew, these bags were retained overnight in the Montevideo office and on inspection the following day one bag and contents were intact and the other contained letter packets in an open condition; one lace mat proper to one of the packets could not be found. Neither of these bags bore signs of having been tampered with, but a German bag which had been in the office for some days, and was rejected at the same time as the British bags, had been cut and re-sewn in the usual fashion. Mr. Brewer assured me that he followed in a car the mail bags from U.K. as they were being driven direct from one ship to the other. There was no question of their having been tampered with whilst the local people handled them on that occasion.

Later, in discussing the incident with the "Darwin's" captain, Mr. F. White, and the First Officer, Mr. W. Goss, I learned from the latter that on the shipment in question there was little cargo apart from the mail bags. He decided to scrutinise, for the first time ever, each bag as it came aboard and it was during this detailed examination of more than 200 he rejected the three, the British bags because, he said, they were too light to contain parcels and in one he felt loose wrappings (In fact they were letter bags and were not deficient in weight) and the German bag as he thought it, too, to be underweight. I reiterate this incident at length because at our subsequent meeting with the Uruguayan Postal Authorities it loomed large and threatened to destroy our case. To revert, it seemed clear that Mr. Goss was determined to reject some bags during his special scrutiny and these were the straws he clutched. But the fact is that when one of the bags was opened next day in the

/presence



presence of various local officials most of the wrappings of the packets were loose, as were several articles, tobacco pipes and others which one would have thought to have been more attractive than the one missing article, a lace mat. There seemed no ready explanation for this isolated incident.

Prior to meeting the Uruguayan Postal Authorities, H.M. Ambassador, Sir Malcolm Henderson, discussed with Mr. de Mowbray and me the tactics to be adopted. It was decided that de Mowbray was to be present in the sole capacity as interpreter at my meeting with the Director General, otherwise this would have meant bringing in the local Foreign Office thus adding to the complications of an already difficult situation. It was decided also to prepare and translate a summary of the facts showing the total number of despatches during 1960, the number of direct mails which reached Port Stanley in good order, the number taken into Montevideo (and carried by different ships) which did not, the number of German mistreatments and their similarity to those suffered by U.K. mails, and to conclude with the detailed incidents concerning the "Habana" seal and the restitching cases affecting two different despatches carried on different ships to Montevideo and on different ships thence to Port Stanley. The Government Chemist's reports on the condition of certain seals, strings and bags were to be translated to Spanish.

On the 20th March, 1961 when Mr. de Mowbray and I arrived at Post Office Headquarters for our meeting, not only were we greeted by no fewer than seven officials, from the Director General, Sr. Eduardo Vasquez, to an "Inspector of Posts" and an interpreter, but the pressmen and photographers were also in attendance. de Mowbray withdrew from this aspect. In the following day's press reports my visit was described as a "courtesy call". At pages 17 to 19 are details of those in attendance and a copy of de Mowbray's report to the Embassy.

Mr. de Mowbray then read from the summary of the facts, and was interrupted at frequent intervals by various members of his audience. With some difficulty he reached the conclusion, at which were produced the Government Chemist's reports and photographs, and the actual bags received off the H.M.S. "Protector" and one off the "Darwin" (I took these with me having cut three approximately six inches from the base). I also produced for their inspection the base of an unused bag and demonstrated the method used by the thief. By now the opposition was silenced; they capitulated and disclosed that they had already had plans to construct an enclosure within the existing "Maritime Office", the Docks Post Office already referred to. They intended making it a lock-up enclosure and making one person responsible for the key which is to be adequately safeguarded.

The Director General, in response to my request, promised that the alterations (part of the existing shed is to be caged off from the Branch Office, the fencing to extend to the ceiling) would be completed by the end of April, 1961. He explained that the Department would not be granted enough money to build a dividing wall and that wire mesh fencing was the most that could be hoped for. I had the impression that the local people already appreciated that the mistreatments were occurring whilst the bags were in the Maritime Office and that our facts merely confirmed their fears. This would not, of course, account for the letter bag mistreatments; and when this was put to the meeting it was agreed that all transit mails, letters and parcels, will henceforth be taken from the inward ship into the new enclosure to await transfer to the ship destined for the Falkland Isles. There is no need for either to be taken into the Customs House or the Central Post Office.

At no time during the meeting did anyone suggest taking steps to identify the offender(s) or to institute detective enquiries of any kind. I did not raise it as the Embassy had earlier suggested that the local authorities might infer from such a suggestion that we were seeking compensation for the losses. This would, it was said, stiffen their resistance and jeopardise our chances of obtaining their co-operation in increasing the security arrangements. Nevertheless, it does not seem to have occurred

to anyone present to seek detailed information which might assist in detective enquiries. Sr. Galleras "Chief of the Letter Division" who was particularly pugnacious and difficult until he was silenced by the Director General, asked that the parcel bags be left so that he could find out whether the substitute thread "is used in Montevideo". They were left, as were the Spanish translations of the Government Communist's reports and the photographs. The meeting ended most cordially with the Director General assuring us that everything possible will be done at the earliest moment.

I am not too optimistic about the speed with which anything will ever be done. I am told that the readiness with which promises are made is matched only by the tardiness of their implementation. But nothing more could be hoped for. de Newbray of the Embassy has promised to make discreet enquiry at intervals and keep me informed of progress, if any: and in the meantime Mr. P. Brever, the Shipping Agent, is making a record of which arrivals are taken to the Maritime office and which, if any, direct into the Customs House or to the Central Sorting Office.

On the 21st March, 1961 the Uruguayan Postal Authorities were present and saw the four parcel bags checked by me as they came on board the S.S. "Darwin". All were, of course, in good order.

The administration of the postal service in Uruguay is not of a high standard, nor is the service or discipline. The standard of efficiency is very poor and the Authorities do not seem by any means to be concerned to raise it. I learned that in 1956 the United Nations, through the Technical Assistance Board, in an effort to reduce complaints affecting the international services sent an expert to advise on the administration of the Post Office. Professor Roger Polgar arrived in April, 1956 to study "traffic in registered and unregistered letters, the giro system and to make recommendations".

Concurrently with his study, which, incidentally lasted until January, 1958, an extension of 12 months at the request of the Uruguayan Postal Authorities, another U.N. expert was making recommendations regarding the complete replacement of obsolete equipment for telecommunications and the establishment of urgently needed circuits of communications to North America and Europe. (U.N., I.T.U. Telecomms. 198 para 56 refers).

Professor Polgar's study is dealt with in the "Quarterly Reports" of the U.N., T.A.B. (T.A.B. SLA/R15 et seq.) and shows a brave attempt to effect some improvement in the primitive state of the postal service at all stages, from legal provisions for budgetary allocations to the opening of sub-offices to relieve pressure in the overcrowded Head Office. He produced from U.N. resources model equipment to train local personnel in use of new techniques. 5,000 dollars' worth of equipment was provided, and throughout the two-year study various technical improvements were introduced. But since the expert's departure, it seems, things have stood-still; scarcely an office below that of the Director General boasts even a telephone, and there is no sense of urgency about anything that is to be done. An inward parcel mail which reached Montevideo on the 8th October, 1960, and was not dealt with until the 9th November, 1960 (papers DE.1112/Montevideo/34/60/156 refer) is a fair illustration of the speed with which most things are done.

However, all this was outside my terms of reference but I mention it to illustrate the difficulty one can expect to encounter in any subsequent effort to induce the Uruguayan authorities to take action on behalf of this - or even their own - administration.

It may be that the personal contact formed by my visit will help but I am more optimistic of the value of semi-official representations to be made through the good offices of Mr. S. A. de Newbray of the staff of the British Embassy.

/I must

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I must add in passing that the assistance rendered me by the Embassy staff was invaluable, de Mowbray in particular being content to give our problems his undivided attention during my visit.

It may be considered that the enquiries have established beyond any doubt that the mistreatments are not occurring before the despatches are made up in the LPS (Fgn) R.A.H. and that some of the security arrangements in force there might be relaxed, i.e. the personal inspection by local Investigation Duty Staff and the double bagging. It might be as well to retain for a further period the special tying and sealing devices.

Robert
20 April, 1961.

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH POST OFFICE ON
MARCH 20, 1961**

+ Provisional
(re. acting?)

Present: Director General Interino⁺
Sr. Eduardo Vasquez,
Inspector General Interino⁺
Sr. Rosario Bruno,
Chief Jefe Interino de la Division
Economías, Sr. Luis Eduardo
Castellanos, *mail*
Inspector de Correos, Sr. Luis A.
Amatoy,
Jefe de la Division Servicio
Jefe / Internacional, Sr. Miguel Salinas
Sub Jefe de la Division de Correos,
Sr. Luis Fidel Calleri,
Press // Jefe de Boletín Oficial y Prensa,
Chief Sr. Milton Morón,
J. Culbert, C.P.O.,
S.A. de Cowbray, Embassy.

The press was awaiting us when we arrived for the meeting. I explained that the Embassy as such was not officially involved in the discussions which were between the two Post Offices. I was there only as Culbert's interpreter and therefore did not wish to be photographed. Culbert's photograph appeared in "EL DEBATE" this morning.

2. The following points were then put to the Uruguayans orally:-

- (a) While mail robberies occurred here and there throughout the world, the case of the Falkland Islands mail was unique for the frequency and persistence of the thefts.
- (b) They had been going on since early 1958. In some cases, seal and ties had been removed and replaced but in most the seams of bags had been cut and re-sewn in such a way as to pass any but the most thorough examination.
- (c) During 1960, there had been 28 despatches of parcel mail to Port Stanley. Seven of these were by direct ships (A.E.S.(4), Shackleton, John Biacco and Kista Dan). All arrived intact. Three were conveyed direct from ship to ship in Montevideo. All arrived intact. Of the 18 which were in Montevideo in transit seven arrived intact and eleven (involving 22 bag and 122 parcels) were tampered with. These mails were brought to Montevideo in eight different ships - Aragon, Amazon, Drina, Durango, Royston Grange, Paraguay Star, Uruguay Star and Brazil Star(3).

/ (4) ...

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

- (d) Exactly similar thefts had been occurring from German mails for the Falkland Islands. These mails were brought to Montevideo in German ships. In 1960, 12 despatches from Hamburg to Port Stanley were rifled.
- (e) Mails are usually carried from Montevideo to Port Stanley in the Darwin but this is not always the case. Both the John Biscecc and H.M.S. Protector have carried despatches.

At this point various slightly heated attempts were made to draw red-herrings across the trail:-

- (i) by suggesting that Darwin's crew might be dishonest.
- (ii) by referring to a bag for H.M.S. Protector which had gone to Buenos Aires in error where it might have been rifled,
- (iii) by referring to a letter bag which had been transferred direct from Drina to Darwin and found to have been tampered with on arrival at Port Stanley.
- (f) Scientific reports on several of the damaged bags and seals were handed to the Uruguayans together with photographs. The bases of two of the mail-bags were also handed over. One of these had been carried by the Amazon to Montevideo and by Protector to Port Stanley; the other had been carried by Brazil Star and Darwin. The method used for opening the seam of the bag was identical in both cases. The Uruguayans asked to keep the bags in order to find out whether the thread used for restitching the bags was available in Montevideo.
- (g) Despatch No. 26 by "Royston Grange" was made up specially under the supervision of the G.P.O's investigation branch and the Captain also took special precautions. A seal found on a letter bag from this consignment turned out to be a Havana seal which could not have been obtained in London or on board "Royston Grange" (which called only at the Cape Verde Islands before Montevideo) or at Port Stanley.

3. By the time this evidence had been finished, Uruguayan protestations had been reduced to occasional gasps of "qué cosa más curiosa". The Acting Director General and /other ...

"That is a very curious thing"

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

29 340

other officials expressed great concern and explained that they were intending to build a special cage in the Maritime Post Office for mails in transit. They assured us that it would only have one entrance and the key would be in the charge of one person only. They said it would be ready by the end of April.

Note: Mr. Culbert had already inspected the fourth floor of the Aduana and the Maritime Post Office in both of which places bags in transit are stored. It seems likely that the latter is the place where the thefts have been occurring. The Head of this office had already told us about the wire cage proposal.

4. The idea was that all Falkland Islands mail both letters and parcels would henceforward be stored exclusively in this cage. Sr. Castellano asked if it would be possible to ensure that in future no Falkland Islands mail and parcels would be included in bags for Montevideo. Mr. Culbert agreed to look into this but thought that so far as other countries were concerned, this would be a matter for the International Postal Union.

5. Inspection of mail carried by "Arlanza" and "Darwin"

Messrs. Culbert, Drever and de Mowbray together with Sres. Bruno and Ametzoy went on board the Arlanza soon after arrival on March 16. One of the four parcel bags had some suspicious stitching round the base and it was therefore opened. The parcels were in good order and the bag was subsequently handed to the Uruguayan Postal Authorities in the normal way.

The same evening the Aduana informed the Embassy that they had received some bags of mail, one of which had been opened. Messrs. Culbert, de Mowbray and Hugo Vazquez went to the Customs to discover that the bags were in fact those from Arlanza. The suspect bag was opened and checked once more. On March 21, Messrs. Culbert and de Mowbray in company with Sres. Bruno and Ametzoy went on board "Darwin" with the four parcel bags all of which were opened and found in order. The parcels were repacked in single bags and sealed with the Embassy seal. The arrangements for safeguarding mail in "Darwin" were explained to Sres. Bruno and Ametzoy.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

G. E. for information.

Perhaps G. E. could find out from Mr. de Montbray when
at Markt when the case has been omitted

5/6/61.

DA. 6.6.61.

348

21st June 1961

(Dear Sheffield),

Many thanks for sending me copies of the record of the meetings between Culbert and de Mowbray, and the Uruguayan Postal Authorities. I am sure they will have a good effect, although, as you say, we cannot expect too much. As an example of this, an airmail which left here in the 'John Biscoe' on the 28th April was delayed in Montevideo for a month, finally reaching London on 3rd June.

Yours sincerely,

signed Edwin Arrowsmith

SRT

349

To see the latest correspondence pl.

Edw
21.6.61
22

350

A.H. Sheffield Esq.

AES.

Thank you

£
23.6.61

347 for H's descendants list

Bu. 17.6
mail?

No.

MEMORANDUM

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

18th July, 1961.

From The Superintendent,
Posts and Telegraphs,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.


To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

SUBJECT :- Violation of Falkland Islands Mails.

Of the 76 bags of English parcel mail which, according to the G.P.O., London, should have arrived in Montevideo on the "Amazon" on 29th June, 1961, only 72 were received here by "Darwin" on 14th July, 1961, i.e. 4 bags short. The G.P.O. has been informed by telegraph.

2. Fifteen bags of German parcel mail also arrived on "Darwin". A number of these bore a second seal - that of the Uruguayan Post Office. Two of the bags so sealed were violated. Externally the bags in question appeared in perfect condition but on opening the inner bags were slit near the base and one parcel in each bag had been tampered with. Nothing was however missing from one parcel but four harmonicas (value about 30/-) had been stolen from the second.

fr.


Superintendent.

See 355.

352

SRT

for your comments sent from M.V. P.

AK

19.7.6

see ab.

(G1511/61)



BRITISH EMBASSY,

MONTEVIDEO

June 30, 1961

Dea Manders

On June 30 we received a message from the Uruguayan Post Office that they were holding a bag of mail addressed to the Falkland Islands, which had been torn open. Two members of the Embassy staff went to the Post Office and examined the bag. The seal was intact, and as it was full almost to capacity, none of the contents appeared to have been removed.

When the examination of the bag had been completed the contents, mostly books and magazines, were removed. They were then placed in another bag provided by the Post Office and sealed with the Embassy seal. The torn bag and the original seal are being forwarded to you under separate cover. The bag itself appears rather weak through wear and tear.

Yours sincerely
J.L. Taylor

(J.L. Taylor)

R.G. Manders, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands,
PORT STANLEY,

SPT

file pl *or*
2/17/61


Reply at 355

354

H.C.S..

I have examined the bag in question with the F.M. and find it to be very old and worn and in a poor state of repair. It possibly became damaged in normal unloading operations in Montevideo - pilferage is not suspected on this occasion.

The bag originally contained newspapers and general
• 2nd Class mail.


S. P. T.
18.7.61.

* no means of checking as in the .
case of parcel post and Registered
mail.

is under

2

07/01

000 do

24th July, 1961.

Dear Taylor,

353

Thank you for your letter (G1511/61) of the 30th June, 1961, and the bag. The bag appears to be very old and worn and in a poor state of repair. It possibly became damaged in normal unloading operations in Montevideo - pilferage is not suspected on this occasion. The bag originally contained newspapers and general 2nd Class Mail.

As regards the mail that arrived on the last 'Darwin' the Superintendent Posts & Telegraphs reports as follows:-

351
refers

"Of the 76 bags of English parcel mail which, according to the G.P.O., London, should have arrived in Montevideo on the 'Amazon' on 29th June, 1961, only 72 were received here by 'Darwin' on 15th July, 1961, i.e. 4 bags short. The G.P.O. has been informed by telegraph.

Fifteen bags of German parcel mail also arrived on 'Darwin'. A number of these bore a second seal - that of the Uruguayan Post Office. Two of the bags so sealed were violated. Externally the bags in question appeared in perfect condition but on opening the inner bags were slit near the base and one parcel in each bag had been tampered with. Nothing was however missing from one parcel but four harmonicas (value about 30/-) had been stolen from the second".

I wonder whether the cage referred to in your letter of March 21st has yet been constructed and whether it is used for German and other foreign mail addressed to the Falkland Islands.

Yours sincerely,
R.H.D. Manders.

Reply at 358

J. L. Taylor, Esq.,
British Embassy,
MONTVIDEO.

82.

RHDM/FH

Copy to S.P.T.

19.9.61
~~25.61~~ (mail)

By ~~8.8.61~~ (mail)

No mail ~~28.61~~

H.C.S.

While in Montevideo I called, with Mr. Rose, on Senor Vazquez, the Director General of Posts. The official who is primarily responsible for dealing with transit mails was also present. We had a cordial meeting, and I explained to Senor Vazquez how entirely dependent we are in the Falklands upon the services of the Uruguayan Post Office. Senor Vazquez had hoped that the cage for the protection of our mails would have been ready by now, and Rose told me that before our meeting when he learned it had not been installed, he issued a rocket to the responsible officer. From Senor Vazquez's office we went to the Port to inspect the place where the cage is to be installed, and then on to the workshops where it is in course of construction. The delay is apparently due to the fact that the cost was rather higher than at first anticipated, and further financial authority had to be sought. However, they are getting a move on, and I hope it will not be long before it is installed. When it is ready, the plan is that one official will be solely responsible for seeing that all mail destined for the Falklands, whether from the United Kingdom or elsewhere, is placed in the cage as soon as the ship carrying it arrives, and remains there until it is transferred to the "Darwin".

2. I think it is clear that the senior officials are no longer attempting to deny that violations have occurred in Montevideo, and they are doing their best to improve matters. The trouble is, however, that the subordinate staff is completely undependable, and there seems to be no adequate method of supervising them. Senor Vazquez said he had discharged half of the Port postal people, and as soon as the new staff who had taken their place had become acquainted with their duties, he would discharge the other half.

3. The British Embassy is certainly doing all they can to assist us, and I think it is useful that I have established this personal contact with Senor Vazquez. I hope that there may be some improvement once the cage is installed, but we must always be dependent on the honesty of those who handle our mails in Montevideo.

357

RA

will return home to SPT
or in hands
1279/61

14th September 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

(G1511/61)



BRITISH EMBASSY,
MONTEVIDEO.

August 29, 1961.

355
Dear Manders,

Thank you for your letter 064/A/11 of July 24 to Taylor about mail and for your subsequent telegrams about bags shipped in the "Amazon", etc.

2. The 78 bags which arrived in the "Aragon" were, as you say, carried on to Buenos Aires since the stevedores refused to unload them in unclément weather. Maclean and Stapledon assure me that they have all safely returned to Montevideo and will be placed in the "Darwin" which is due to leave here about September 6. The mail which arrived in the "Arlanza" will also be placed in the "Darwin" on this voyage. The four missing bags ex-"Amazon" are still unaccounted for but the Director of Posts, to whom I spoke about them yesterday, told me he had already ordered an investigation. I am afraid that we must accept the probability that they were stolen after arrival in Montevideo, but if I get any further information I will of course let you know.

3. As regards the cage which it was agreed that the Uruguayan Post Office would construct following the visit from the General Post Office representative in March, the Director-General told me that this was practically complete and he hoped that it would be in operation within the next week or ten days. I have been invited to inspect it once it is ready so I shall try to keep the authorities here up to this. The intention is that all mail in transit for the Falkland Islands whatever its country of origin, should be taken straight to the cage from the ship in which it arrives and locked there until it is transferred to the "Darwin".

Yours ever

Ch. Rose

(C.M. Rose)

R.H. Manders, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

SPT.

CF Letter recd from Embassy D.V.
dated ~~21/8~~ 22/8/61

4 bags - unaccounted for.

Director of Ports has ordered investigation.

Fears that keys were probably stolen.

X (Sandy has in the first one of these of which bags?)

Case It was hoped that it would have been read
in 10 days or a fortnight.

or
12/8/61

JES

Thank you.

360.

Ref. X above - Yes, as far as parcels are concerned
but no less than bags of other mail remain unaccounted
for, viz.

- 1 Bag Air Mail ex London 31st July, 1961
- 1 " Registered " " 18th Nov., 1960
- 3 Bags ordinary " " " "
- 2 " " " " 14th Dec. "
- 2 " " " " 22nd " "
- 1 Bag " " " 12th Jan. 1961

JES
14/9/61
or

BU # 21.9.61
(357)

Government House,
Falkland Islands.

19th September 1961

(Dear Clive)

362 I enclose in an open envelope a letter for Sr. Vasquez, which I hope you will think suitable.

I have been into the question of the forwarding of mails which are received in Montevideo from the Falkland Islands, and I attach a minute to me from the Postmaster, with a copy of the despatch note we send to Montevideo every "Darwin". I understand that the Port Postal Authorities in Montevideo take delivery of our mails promptly in their own van when the "Darwin" arrives, and this applies at weekends as well. The trouble seems to be in the passing of these mails from the Port to the "Oficina Expedicion al Exterior". Probably the bag labelled "de Falkland Islands pour Montevideo", which contains the advice note, is also held up in the Port. The only way I can think of improving matters would be to send the advice note in a separate envelope, to be collected when the "Darwin" arrives at Montevideo by MacLean & Stapledon's representative, and handed by him to the Oficina Expedicion al Exterior, who would thus know that a mail had been received at the Port. If you think this idea is worth pursuing, perhaps you would let me know.

We had a wonderfully smooth trip down on my return, and the ship hardly moved at all.

Signed Edwin Arrowsmith

19th September 1961

(Dear Sr. Vazquez)

Thank you very much for your courtesy in receiving me with Mr. Rose when I passed through Montevideo recently on my way to the Falkland Islands, and for showing us the arrangements that are in train for the safe custody of the mails destined for this Colony.

I am most grateful for the keen personal interest you are taking in this matter, which I am sure will produce results which will be gratifying to us both.

I remain,
Dear Senor Vazquez,

Yours sincerely

(signed Edwin Arrowsmith)

Sr. Don Eduardo Vazquez

Director General de Correos,
Montevideo

363
no mail stolen out his
all in order was except for 4
4 bags missing presumed
stolen
P 26/9/61

See 364.

Reg. 21.9.61 (357)

BU 259.61(519)

UNCLASSIFIED

(1511/61)

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MONTEVIDEO.

September 27, 1961.

Dear Edwin,

362

Thank you for your letter of September 19. I have sent on your letter to Sr. Vazquez, which seems excellent, with a covering letter expressing my own thanks for his co-operation. I have not yet seen the cage in operation but hope to be able to do so soon.

Extracted
to
0604/B

As regards air mail despatches from the Falkland Islands, I understand from MacLean and Stapledon that they took the matter up with Vazquez who wrote an apologetic reply saying that he had given instructions for priority treatment to be given to all such mail in future. Nevertheless they and I agree that your suggestion about the advice note is worth trying. It would certainly ensure that the Oficina Expedition al Exterior would be informed without delay of the arrival of air mail bags. Whether they would then act promptly to get them away is another matter, but I hope that this procedure and the interest which Vazquez is obviously taking in your mail now would have the required result. So perhaps you will institute this system with effect from "Darwin's" next voyage.

Yours sincerely
Chris
~~(C.M. Rose)~~

His Excellency,
Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G., ~~C.M.G.~~,
Governor,
Falkland Islands.

Hes

365
For action.

Extracted to 0604/B.

TH 4.10.61.

366

Extracted
to
0604/B

Shown to SPT.

SPT here see 361 & 364.

Will you please note to take action as soon as possible or have other accordingly & return pl.

su w/c/61

367.

JOS.

Action will be taken accy. R.

S

S.X.61.

Extracted to
0604/B.

368

J.E.

for information
of

6/10/61

extracted to 0604/B.

369

Copy in 0604/B.

Government House,
Falkland Islands.

October 6, 1961

(Dear Clive)

Many thanks for your letter of September 27, about our airmail despatches. We are arranging in future that the procedure outlined in my letter of September 19 will be followed, but as you say, whether they will act promptly to get the mail away, is another matter. We can but wait and see, and it is encouraging that Vazquez is taking this personal interest in our mail.

Signed Edwin Arrowsmith

BU 27/10/61

Para 2 of 364 - 369 is actually delay in forwarding mail. Extract of to 0604/B or we are going to get com- firmed.

JH.

BU 26/10/61

BU 21/11/61

C.M. ROSE ESQ.

Translation of letter received from the Director Generale des Postes.
Telegraphes et Telephones, Bollwerth 25, Bern, Switzerland.

003/B/108

Sir,

Postal packet No. 778 Ste Croix - Stanley, postal
packets Nos. 609 and 611 - complete violation

With reference to your reminder concerning the violation of the three postal packets mentioned above, we have the honour to inform you that on the basis of your declaration, we contacted the Uruguayan Postal Service and invited them to pronounce on the question of responsibility. By letter of the 23rd September 1961 Ref. No. 1749 Doss 3038/61 the said Service replied as follows:-

x | "With reference to your communication No. 662 Am 88.13/60 of 17th September 1961, I have the honour to state that, as established in my note No. 3488/60 of 26.11.60, the said despatch was forwarded to the Falkland Islands in good condition, and was checked by the Customs Authorities, without meriting any remarks.

Now, the said despatch was received in the Falkland Islands, and four days after its arrival, the corresponding verification note was prepared and sent with the fastenings of the said despatch where one can see signs of obvious violation. In the circumstances we consider that our Service is exempt from responsibility in this case.---"

In addition to the above, the lead fastenings of the bag which contained the parcels in question showed signs of violation. The Uruguayan Postal Administration maintain that the Verification note from your office was made out four days after the delivery of the bag to your Service. They infer that the violations were committed in your country and disclaim all responsibility.

In view of this, we ask you to re-examine the case, and to inform us of your decision concerning the responsibility.

We insist on the necessity of settling as quickly as possible this old complaint alluding to parcels sent almost a year ago. On the other hand, we recall that the mounting total of indemnities paid to senders is now 118.20 gold francs.

Yours etc.

Copied LH

G.E.

370 refers to correspondence between 323 A or 325.

We could / think send a fairly firm reply to be
 ✓ dropped to SPT. The one point they have is that
 we did not send a prompt report of the violation
 and I think SPT can put up a good case to
 that. We might I think also let them slip into
 into the history of the mail violations & that
 Mike video has more or less admitted that
 violations took place here & we can
 explain the conditions here and that violations
 could not take place. We should also I think
 give them a bit of a rap over the knuckles
 in regard of their last sentence. We certainly
 haven't delayed matters.

Possibly however G.E. will consider that we might
 take some other action e.g. handing the whole
 thing over to the S of S or taking it up with
 Mike - but I do not think the last would be
 advisable.

5-
3/11/61

RA 3.11.61.

372.

SPT.

Ward for please submit a draft.

8/2/61

373

~~Ward~~

Drafts herewith, pl.

6
11/7/61

374

G.E. Draft submitted for approval.

8/15/61

JZ

RA

15.11.61

375

S.P.T.

Draft letter as amended may
now issue.

2/16/11/6

315

315

315

662 Am. 88.15/60.

003/P/149.

17th November, 61.

Sir,

370 With reference to your letter 662 Am. 88. 15/60 of 5th October, 1961, regarding the violation of Parcels Nos. 778, 609 and 611 ex Switzerland, it would appear that you do not appreciate the state of affairs which existed in the Uruguayan Post Office at the time the parcels in question were violated nor are you apparently conversant with the conditions under which mails are received and dealt with in the Falkland Islands.

2. Overseas mails are received and despatched here by sea only once every four or five weeks; there is no external air service. On the occasion in question no fewer than 349 bags of mail arrived at once. The carrying vessel was boarded by senior Postal Officials immediately on arrival and all mails were under strict supervision from the time the ship's hatches were lifted until the mail was examined for irregularities at the Post Office. There was no delay in examination as the Uruguayan authorities appear to claim. Detailed notes of the irregularities were made immediately they were discovered and the fact that the date of the corresponding Verification Note was four days later bears no relation to the actual date of examination. The date appearing on the Verification Note is merely the date on which it was typed, there being ample time to prepare the note and despatch it by the first available mail which did not leave the Falkland Islands until 16 days after receipt of Despatch No. 10 (this is the Despatch now being dealt with) from Montevideo, Uruguay.

3. In support of the statement in paragraph 1 above concerning the Uruguayan Post Office, I would inform you that the General Post Office, London had occasion to send an officer to Montevideo to investigate mail violations in Uruguay and a copy of the investigating officer's report would no doubt be made available to you should you care to communicate with London.

4. This Administration's security measures for the safe custody and handling of foreign mails are stringent and effective and I am fully satisfied that the mail violations for which the Falkland Islands Service is being accused did not occur on board the vessel which carried the mail from Montevideo nor after its delivery in the Falkland Islands. I am further satisfied that the requirements of the Universal Postal Convention regarding the checking of mails and the despatch of Verification Notes have been observed.

5. Finally this Administration categorically denies responsibility for the mistreatment of the parcels in question and disclaims liability for compensation.

323A, 323B
324 6. The only other matter which requires comment is the implication that this matter has been delayed by me. I would point out that before the letter under reference the only letters I have received were those of 21st and 28th December, 1960 and these were answered by me in March, 1961.

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

(sgd.) J. BOUND

Superintendent,
Posts and Telegraphs.

The Director Generale des Postes,
Telegraphes et Telephones,
Bollwerk 25, Bern,
Switzerland.

377.

MS

375.

A copy of my letter to Switzerland is now filed at folio 376.

2. The delay noted appears to have been caused by the Swiss authorities themselves. They did not move on my March letter at 324 until they wrote to Longman on 17th Sept. (pl. see x on 370)



17/11/61.

378

see 2A/4/61

BU 26.11.61

about A

CONFIDENTIAL

380
379

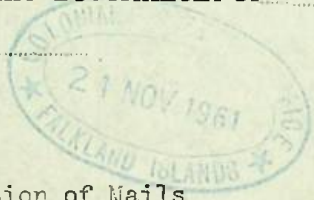
Saving

From the Secretary for Technical Co-operation

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS

Date 6 November, 1961

No. CM.207/48/01 **Saving**



Violation of Mails

351

With reference to Mr. Bound's letter to you of the 20th July about the violation of mails, the G.P.O. say that they continue to urge the Uruguayan authorities to give some information about the enquiries they were to make about the bags missing from the despatch by s.s. "Amazon"; but so far without success. They have also had no further news of the cage which has been promised for safeguarding the mails at Montevideo. They have written to the Uruguayan Postal Administration about it, but intend also to ask the Foreign Office to seize any opportunity of making an "on the spot" enquiry by the British Embassy at Montevideo.

2. I will let you know when I receive further information.

SETEC.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

380
~~379~~



BRITISH EMBASSY,
MONTEVIDEO.

November 15, 1961.

(1511/61)

Dear Edwin,

This is just to tell you that the famous cage is now up and, I am assured, already in operation. I saw it yesterday and it looks adequate and I am assured that the keys will be held by one man only.

I do not think the cage was in operation early enough to be used for the mails which will come down on this month's "Darwin", but it certainly should be in use for your Christmas mails next month, so I shall be glad to know if you notice an improvement in the security.

Yours ever

C.M. Rose

(C.M. Rose)

B.O.F

5.

His Excellency
Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G.,
Falkland Islands.

2.

381

S.S. 379 & 380 Submitted in file

8 24/4/61

RESTRICTED

382

F. I. ref: 0604/A/11
C. O. ref: CM. 207/48/01

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for Technical Co-operation

Date: November 27, 1961

No. 11 SAVING. COLONY

Your savingram of November 6, violation of mails.

379

On my return to the Colony in September I had an interview with Sr. Don Ed ardo Vazquez, Director General de Correos, Montevideo, and found him anxious to help. We inspected the site for the cage, which was in course of assembly at the workshops. I have now heard from the British Embassy that it is in position and in operation. I hope this will improve matters.

GOVERNOR

383

November 27, 1961

(Dear Clive)

Many thanks for your letter No. 1511/61 of November 15 about the cage. I am very glad to hear that it is now up and in operation, and I shall let you know how things go.

380

(Yours ever,

signed Edwin Arrowsmith)

BU 20.12.61

384

s/c

I think there is something in the mail!

20.12.61

yes. s/T

C.M. ROSE, ESQ.

RESTRICTED

385

Saving.

From the Secretary for Technical Co-operation

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS

Date 5 December, 1961

No. CM 207/48/01 Saving



379

My savingram No. CM 207/48/01 of the 6th November.

Violation of Mails.

386

I enclose a copy of a letter from the British Embassy to the G.P.O., which gives information about further progress in Montevideo.

2. The Christmas mails left on 23rd November on the S.S. "Aragon", which is due in Montevideo on the 14th December, the day the "Darwin" sails. The G.P.O. have sought the co-operation of the Royal Mail Lines and the Uruguayan Postal Authorities in ensuring safe delivring.

safe delivring

SETEC.

RESTRICTED

COPY .

(1511/61)

British Embassy,
Montevideo.

November, 15, 1961

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter GM 5/9 of November 3 about the arrangements for safeguarding mails in transit through Montevideo to the Falkland Islands.

2. The cage has now been constructed and has just recently been put into operation. All future mails in both directions will pass through it while in transit in Montevideo. It looks secure enough and we have been told that the keys will be held by one person only who will be entirely responsible for safeguarding these mails which will be placed in the cage immediately on arrival here.

3. When the Governor of the Falkland Islands was here in September, we took him to call on the Director-General of Postal Services, who showed him the cage in the course of construction and explained the proposed procedure. Sr. Vazquez himself has told us how concerned he personally is about the losses and anxious to do anything he can to guard against their recurrence. We shall now have to wait and see how effective the new procedure is.

Yours ever,

(Sgd) CHANCERY.

General Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1

S.S.

File submitted.

Mail from England went from Buch to Rich last time.

It or German mail were all intact. One bag air mail is so far missing but we hope will be traced.

C follows up to 383 could perhaps await by fancy mail.

Sm
21/12/61

388

~~21~~ 21.12.61
Sm.

S.P.T.

389

For inf. pl.

↓
22.12.61

~~488~~

390

Thank you

↓

22.12.61.

391

BU 23/1/62

SP7 says mail inviolate but no further information about the missing bag. But I will see him again on Thursday

pm
23/1

BU 25.1.62

no further information. H.V. see next c

8/27/1/62

100 not much
see 5 up to me

BU 20.2.62

We can do but up to us in

10004/R for see hand

8/20/2/62

BU Monday 26.2.62

392

whis need the be dr. They
are geo.

For 2/2/62
to 2/2/62

f. 393 - 400 sand
to SPT on 8/5/63 Rtd 9/6

Bu. 14/5/63

0604/A/II

393

No. _____

MEMORANDUM

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

10th April, 19 63.

To The Honourable, _____

The Colonial Secretary, _____

STANLEY. _____

From The Superintendent, _____

Posts & Telecommunications, _____

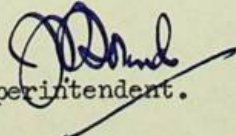
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :- Violation of Falkland Islands Mails.

This is to confirm my oral report that two bags of English parcel mail which arrived on R.M.S. "DARWIN" via Montevideo on 31st March, 1963, were violated. The bags in question were slashed and very roughly repaired with string stitching. On opening, one parcel in each bag had been violated and part contents were missing. The Chief Officer of "DARWIN" refused to give a clear receipt for these bags and other suspect bags when they were loaded in Montevideo. He endorsed the covering Way Bill to the effect that the bags in question were received on board in a damaged condition.

A report of the violations has been made to the G.P.O. London and copied to the Uruguayan Post Office.

Incidentally this is the first time Falkland Islands mails have been mistreated since the Uruguayan authorities built a special cage to ensure the safe custody of our mails in transit.


Superintendent. *BUF only pl*

394

S.E. ³⁹³ for information. Perhaps not a result
of his strike.

Shall I write to Mr Jones of the Embassy
a comparatively calm letter informing him of the
situation.?

or 11/4/63

395

HCS

I hope this was an isolated
incident. Let us see what
happens next time before
taking any action.

16/10 for report
on SP7 etc.

for IBA 11.4.63

BU 29.4.63

396

No. 0

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



29th April, 1963.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

From The Superintendent,
Posts & Telecommunications,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT:- Mail ex "DARWIN" 27.4.63 - Report on Irregularities.

I regret to have to report the following irregularities in the mail which arrived on R.M.S. "DARWIN" on 27th April, 1963 :

- (i) One bag of parcels from Germany - violated. The outer bag appeared intact but on opening, the inner bag was slashed and three of the five parcels therein had been mistreated. The complete contents of all three were missing. It was noted on opening the outer bag that the string used for sealing was single whereas other German bags were double stringed. On closer examination in company with the Superintendent of Police the lead seal of the bag in question appears to have been tampered with. A report will be made to the German authorities accordingly - copied to Uruguay.
- (ii) One bag of Air Mail (Serial No. 24 ex London 1.4.63) failed to arrive and the G.P.O. London has been informed by telegraph. This bag has probably been overcarried to Buenos Aires and may come forward next "DARWIN". Similar cases have occurred in the past.
- (iii) One bag of surface mail for South Georgia was noted on the Uruguayan Way Bill but was not loaded on "DARWIN" - the ship's overall tally of mails shipped disagreed with the Way Bill by one bag and the Way Bill was endorsed accordingly by the 2nd Officer of the "DARWIN".

[Signature]
Superintendent.

397-

4.4 396 for information vide 395-

2/5/63

~~399~~
398

As in 394, pl.

[Signature]
2.5.63

6th May, 1963.

Dear Jones.,

As you no doubt know, the Embassy have been of great help to us in the past over the question of violated mails and the whole matter was finally dealt with when an official from the G.P.O. came out and it was arranged that all the mail for the Falklands should be kept in a cage so that nobody could get at it. This proved very satisfactory and we had hoped that this question was closed for ever. Unfortunately, however the matter has cropped up again, the first case occurring on the mail that reached here by the Darwin on the 31st March, and the second on the Darwin which reached here on the 27th of April. In the first case two bags of English parcel mail were slashed and very roughly repaired with string stitching. One parcel in each bag had been violated and part contents were missing. In the second case a bag of parcels from Germany was violated. The outer bag appeared intact but, when it was opened, the inner bag was found to be slashed and three of the five parcels therein had been broken open. Complete contents of all three were missing. It was noted on opening the outer bag that the string used for sealing was single whereas other German bags were double-stringed. Closer examination in company with the Superintendent of Police showed that the lead seal of the bag in question had apparently been tampered with. I wonder whether the mail is still being put into the cage and whether any theories can be put forward as to how the violation occurred.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. D. Manders

K. Haylton Jones, Esq.,
 First Secretary and Consul,
 British Embassy,
MONTEVIDEO.

RHM/TB.

~~BU 20.5.63~~

file 401

S.P.T.

400

For inf. file

8.5.63

hes

401

Thank you

8.5.63.

BU 10.6.63

DECODE.

402

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 20.5.63

Time: 1040

Received:

Time:

No. 42. Your mail No. 29 24th April, 1963 Registered No. 6198 received with seal broken and one scheduled item OAG DTC SB missing. Packet containing circulars commencing 209/63 and one addressed Falkland Islands ex DTC both opened but contents apparently intact. Have reported details to Post Office for postal investigation.

Governor

SE.

403

Submitted

for information

21/5/63

B11 106.63

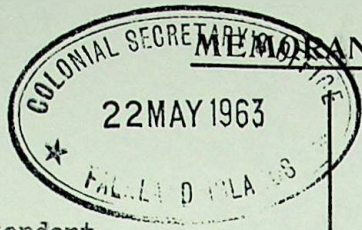
GTC.
HLB/TB.

KW B1 on 401

404

21.5.63

No. _____
It is requested that in any reference to this memorandum the above number and date should be quoted.



21st May, 19 63.

From The Superintendent,
Posts & Telecommunications,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

SUBJECT :- Mail Irregularities.

(i) Violation of Parcel Mail ex Germany.

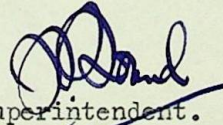
I regret to have to report that one bag of parcels ex Germany which arrived on R.M.S. "DARWIN" on 18th May, 1963, was violated and two of the four parcels therein had been pilfered, only empty cartons and wrappers remaining. Six cameras with cases and 27 harmonicas were missing.

X

On receipt of the bag in question, it was observed that the parcels appeared to be packed in a single bag rather than in two bags which is the normal German method. The seal also appeared to have been tampered with. The Superintendent of Police was informed and was present when the bag was opened. On opening it was noted that the string of the seal was not stitched through by the usual method and, as suspected, the parcels were packed in a single bag. The second bag was discovered rolled up loose among the parcels, minus seal and label. No Bulletin de Verification explaining the irregularities, was enclosed.

(ii) Missing Bag of Air Mail.

The bag of Air Mail reported missing from the previous mail arrived safely this "DARWIN" enclosed in a bag from the Argentine. In the same bag was a second bag of English Air Mail. Both had apparently been overcarried to Buenos Aires.


Superintendent.

406

could you please set off a letter
to the former (to ^{give} ~~return~~ to Captain Owen to deliver
J

25th May, 1963.

Dear Jones,

399

Further to my letter of the 6th May I am sorry to say that further violations occurred in the last inward mail and I enclose a copy of the report on the matter received from the Superintendent Posts and Telecommunications.

In addition to this, the registered bag (airmail) from the Colonial Office addressed to me on 24th April was also found to contain opened correspondence and one item missing. The seal of the bag was not intact although the outer mail bag in which the complete postal despatch was contained showed no evidence of violation.

Yours sincerely

R.H.D. Manders

K. Hamylton Jones, Esq.,
First Secretary and Consul,
British Embassy,
MONTEVIDEO.

BU 9.63

HLB/IM.

Reply at 10.08
L

(1511/63)



RESTRICTED

British Embassy

MONTEVIDEO

May 31, 1963



Dear Maunders,

407 Thank you for your letter 0604/A/II of May 6 dealing with violation of your mails, about which we were sorry to hear.

2. I brought these cases to the attention of the Acting Director-General of Posts, Dr. Pedro Sanchez Varela. He undertook to see that incoming mail for the Falkland Islands arriving at the airport (as well as that arriving by sea) goes straight to the Port Post Office (and into the "cage") rather than via the Central Post Office; and also to see that especial vigilance is exercised at the Port.

3. In return he hoped that the officer who signs for mail on board the "Darwin" will take great care to inspect mail handed to him by the Port Post Office, to draw attention on the spot to any signs of damage, and to record any such observations on the receipt. I said that I was sure that they would normally do this (though at the end of March, when there was a wave of strikes in the port, it may have been impossible due to lack of a proper handover). I will discuss this aspect with Freddy White when I see him tomorrow after this bag closes.

Yours sincerely,
K.H. Jones
.....
(K.H. Jones)

R.H.D. Maunders, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

407 P.S. Since writing the above I have seen your further letter of May 25: I will bring these cases also to the attention of the postal authorities.

To (whom) as at B/c

1009

H 1 V for it to Muddler

we found
on

1009

409
410

14 June,

63.

Sir,

408

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from the British Embassy in Montevideo and to request you to let me know in due course whether Mr. Jones in fact discussed the matter with Captain White and what the outcome of their discussion was.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

jm

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Manager,
Cookland Islands Co., Ltd.,
STANLEY.

1/11.

Reply at 411

KIV 409

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA



Stanley,

27th June, 1963.

Sir,

410
412

With reference to your letter No. 0604/A/II dated 14th June, 1963 I now enclose copy of Capt.F.W.White's letter of the 18th on the subject of the transfer of mails in Montevideo to R.M.S."Darwin".

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

[Handwritten Signature]
for Manager.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

R.M.S. "Darwin".

M.G.Creece, Esq.
Acting Colonial Manager.
The Falkland Islands Trading Co., Ltd.
Port Stanley.

18th June, 1963.

MAILS.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the enclosed correspondence from the Colonial Secretary concerning mail I comment hereunder.

1. All mail, insofar as possible, is examined carefully on receipt.
2. Attention is drawn, of the appropriate Postal Officials, to any damage found.
3. Mail receipts are annotated when possible.

The foregoing points were mentioned to Mr.Keith Jones. I wish to draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the following points.

1. Mail is handled by stevedores in the port of Montevideo. Stevedores in all parts of the world today appear to be a law unto themselves. In Montevideo it frequently happens that when loading the mail into net slings on the quayside the stevedores will not allow sufficient time for an examination to be made. The Uruguayan Postal Authorities must be well aware of this.
2. Uruguayan postal receipts are the most shoddy I have seen, and are quite often practically indecipherable.

Yours faithfully,

F.W.White.
Master.

418

We could not make
him pay for 408 and
myself are glad to say that
the last mail arrived
in back 21/7/63

4114

6th July, 1963.

Dear Jones,

408

Many thanks for your letter dated 31st May, 1963. You will be pleased to learn that the last inward mail was received intact.

I am most grateful to you for the assistance you have given us in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

R.H.D. MANDERS

see 416

K. H. Jones, Esq.,
British Embassy,
MONTEVIDEO.

HLB/TB.

Box 409?

Surely this is it

I thought it was a mention in M.V. ✓
D.R.

P.A.

415



No. _____

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

MEMORANDUM

2nd August, 19 63.

Postmaster, _____

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

SUBJECT :- Violation of Mail

I have to report the following violations to the mail received by 'Darwin' on 26th July, 1963.

AIR MAIL

1 Bag apparently re-sealed. Inner Registered Bag un-sealed and Registered Item No.9773 (Diplomatic Bag) open but contents intact.

PARCEL MAIL

1 Bag ex Germany appeared in perfect condition but when opened revealed 3 parcels wilfully opened but contents intact and 1 parcel with contents (unexposed film) completely missing.

J.P. Smith
Postmaster

4

7th August, 1963.

Dear Jones,

414 I am sorry to have to follow up Manders' letter of 6th July with another advising you of a further violation of our mail routed through Montevideo. The Postmaster has reported as follows -

'AIR MAIL

1 Bag apparently re-sealed. Inner registered Bag un-sealed and Registered Item No. 9773 (Diplomatic Bag) open but contents intact.

PARCEL MAIL

1 Bag ex Germany appeared in perfect condition but when opened revealed 3 parcels wilfully opened but contents intact and 1 parcel with contents (unexposed film) completely missing.

We have, of course, no evidence of where the violation occurred; I write only to keep you advised.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L. Cleadell

Acting Colonial Secretary.

K.H. Jones, Esq.,
British Embassy,
MONTVIDEO.

LCG/IM.

BU 15/1063

see 205

417



MEMORANDUM

14th October, 19 63.

No. _____
is requested
that in con-
equence to the above
memorandum the above
number and date
should be quoted.

To: The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

From: Postmaster,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :- Air Parcel Service.

I attach herewith a letter received from the G.P.O. in connection with the above service.

2. Air Parcels from Great Britain will now be despatched in sealed bags, addressed to this administration and should come through in the same manner as our Air Letter Mail. They will no longer be subject to re-sorting and delay in Montevideo. I propose writing to the Postal Authorities of Germany, Switzerland, Canada, U.S.A. etc., requesting them to forward any Air Parcels for the Falkland Islands via London.

J.P. Postmaster
Postmaster

2

MB



GENERAL POST OFFICE
POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Headquarters Building, St. Martin's-le-Grand
LONDON E.C.1

Telex: 21166 (POHQ LDN)

Telegrams: Postgen London EC1

Telephone: HEADquarters

In any reply please quote: 29429/60
Your reference: 03550

13 September, 1963.

Sir,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to refer to earlier correspondence about the proposed air parcel service between our two Administrations.

The Uruguayan postal administration have now agreed to accept air parcels in transit for the Falklands and it is proposed to introduce the service from this country on the 1st October, 1963.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

E. M. Cornwell

(MISS E. M. CORNWELL)

The Postmaster,
General Post Office,
STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

419

P.M.,

This should improve things. Your
proposal is fully endorsed.

L.S.

17.10.63

420

J.C.S.

Thank you.

J.P.

18.10.63

P.A.



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Eland House, Stag Place, Victoria, LONDON S.W.1

Our reference: GM207/48/01

Your reference:

22nd November, 1963

Dear Sir Edwin,

When you were in London in August you spoke to Browning on the telephone about letters for the Falkland Islands getting lost or opened in Argentine. The matter was referred to the G.P.O., who have since been in touch with the Postmaster at Port Stanley.

It appears that very little correspondence arrives via Buenos Aires and no closed transit mails are received by that route. It would seem that the mistreatment of mail must have been concerned with the small amount of correspondence for the Falklands which was included in bags of mail sent to the Argentine Administration or with airmails which were over-carried to Buenos Aires in error.

The G.P.O. have no objection to receiving and forwarding mail for the Falklands from any Administration, which has no direct services to Montevideo. They have asked the Postmaster at Port Stanley to watch out for any mail or correspondence which he receives via Buenos Aires and to write to the Postal Administration concerned suggesting that future mail should be sent to London or Montevideo.

The G.P.O. have adopted this rather roundabout method to avoid having to go through the Universal Postal Union and becoming involved in acrimonious exchanges with Argentine over the Falkland Islands.

It is hoped that these arrangements may do something to improve the position.

Yours sincerely
R. H. Gower

(R. H. Gower)

HCS

422

The whole point is that correspondence sent & despatched via B.A. does not arrive. It's 10-1 that it's thrown away by the B.A. post office. I have spoken to SP&I and

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G., he will be writing to GPO to enquire whether letters to the Falklands may be addressed "G.P.O. London." If envelopes are merely marked "via London" some bright boy in the Trinidad P.O. may think he knows better & send them via B.A.

2. Pl. pass on file U.S.P. & S. 28.12.63



423

5801

422 para 2. File to you accordingly

P. P. P.
8.1.64

424

Ms. /

This will be done on the next mail


13.1.64.

Pa

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

425

511/64)

British Embassy

MONTEVIDEO



January 24, 1964

Dear Tommy,

Wt
per

416

Please refer to the Acting Colonial Secretary's letter O604/A/II of August 7, 1963 about violation of mails.

You may like to know that the Uruguayan Postal authorities investigated this case but have found no evidence at all of any tampering in Montevideo.

We hope you are both enjoying the Islands.

Yours ever,
K.H. Jones
(K.H. Jones)

P.S. Thanks for
letter just received!

W. Thompson, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Jan
6-26-

UNCLASSIFIED

(1511/64)



British Embassy

MONTEVIDEO

October 5, 1964

*Send copies 4-26
to Mr Ross
with Swedish
Consul
G.*

A
--
Dear Secretariat,

I enclose a translation of a copy of a statement made in Montevideo about two missing Longines watches consigned from Switzerland to Mr. Donald J. Ross. You might like to inform Mr. Ross of the contents of this statement.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C.C. Jones', with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.

(C.C. Jones)

The Colonial Secretariat,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Replied to Mr. Ross.

Translation

Record of Proceedings No.19/64. At Montevideo on the sixteenth day of September nineteen hundred and sixty four, air freight consignment No.108, carried by B.O.A.C., which was transhipped at Rio de Janeiro, the weight of which was 8,200 kilogrammes and air freight consignment No.109 weighing 22,900 kilogrammes, both without seals and completely open, were inspected. These consignments were delivered accompanied by certificate No.88/64 prepared by officials at Carrasco Airport and an official from the airline. At the Opening Division of the Department of Foreign freight parcels in the presence of the Head of the Department, Señora Olga Martínez Arredondo; of Customs Attorneys Messrs. Walter Lezue and Nestor Labeque; Post Office officials Messrs. Bernardo Lucas, Gregorio Gutierrez, Darwin Aitcin; and in the absence of the Head of the External Division, Mr. Julio Acosta Toerres, the Acting Head of the Division, Mr. Juan Pedro Arremón; and Mr. Hugo Vazquez, official from the British Embassy, parcel No.485 proceeding from Switzerland and addressed to Mr. Donald J. Ross - Box No.119, Port Stanley was opened; according to the schedule this parcel should have contained two Longines watches proceeding from the makers; it was then found that the watches were missing. The seal strap of the parcel had been tampered with. Inside the parcel only two empty cases and the guarantee for the watches were found. Having read the above record, the above mentioned officials sign it on the above mentioned date.

(Here follows signatures of the officials).

Republic of Argentina
Posts & Telecommunications

The forwarding of these bags in no way affects the Argentine sovereignty over the Islas Malvinas, the occupation of which, by the United Kingdom of Great Britain, by virtue of an act of force, has never been accepted by the Argentine Government, which reaffirms the unalterable and inalienable rights of the Republic, and proclaims continually that the Falkland Islands and the South Sandwich ^{and} ~~or~~ South Georgia Islands do not constitute colonies or possessions of ~~any state~~ ^{any state} but form a part of the Argentine territory and are included in her sovereignty and dominion.

Y.E.
19/11
fyi.

Si 8/11.

428

CS

see me
if

12 November, 1965

427

I thought you might be interested to see the enclosed label which came attached to one of our mail bags by the last inward mail.

The mail bag was one of several which were carried by Royal Mail Line and landed at Buenos Aires instead of at Montevideo. Having taken these bags so far, the least the Royal Mail might have done was to bring them back to Montevideo instead of handing them over to the Argentine Post Office.

The bags were slashed and it is not known whether any of the contents are missing but at least I suppose we can consider ourselves lucky that the Argentine Post Office sent the bags on to us at all.

A rough translation of the note pasted by the Argentine Post Office on to the G.P.O. label reads as follows:-

"The forwarding of these bags in no way affects the Argentine sovereignty over the Islas Malvinas, the occupation of which, by the United Kingdom of Great Britain, by virtue of an act of force, has never been accepted by the Argentine Government, which reaffirms the unalterable and inalienable rights of the Republic, and proclaims continually that the Falkland Islands and the South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands do not constitute colonies or possessions of any state, but form a part of the Argentine territory and are included in her sovereignty and dominion".

My object in sending the label to you is not in order to create a fuss but merely to give you an example of the sort of thing which tends to happen.

W

Referred
428

Pa

J.S. Bennett Esq., C.M.G.



Col. No further action needed
LA 24/12 429

COLONIAL OFFICE
GREAT SMITH STREET, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: ABBey 1266, ext.

pa.
Di, 24/12

24: December, 1965.

Our reference: FST.47/01

Your reference:

428

Dear Sir Cosmo.

Thank you for your letter of the 12th November addressed to Bennett about the mail bags that were taken to Buenos Aires and returned damaged with unnecessary remarks on the label!

I have let the Foreign Office know about this and am asking the Post Office to try and see that it does not occur again.

The Argentine authorities will no doubt soon have rubber stamps made with these sort of remarks. We might do something on the same lines repudiating their assertions!

J. St. J. Sugg
A. St. J. Sugg

(A. St.J. Sugg).

SIR COSMO HASKARD K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,
Government House,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

pa

DECODE.

430

TELEGRAM.

No 23

From Administrative Officer, South Georgia

To Colonial Secretary, Stanley

Despatched : 11th April 19 66 Time : 2130

Received : 11th April 19 66 Time : 0900

No 86 Confidential. Official Mail from Secretariat Stanley landed by Biscoe. This bag has been violated in transit. Bag arrived here with neck loosely tied with string that had been cut and re tied lead seal on string was not clenched. Only 3 of the official covers in the bag but not the letter schedule enclosed. Second Officer Biscoe states that he received bag in the condition as described from Mail Officer Shackleton. Please investigate and advise details official Secretariat despatched by you per Shackleton/Biscoe

Adminoff

See

GTC : ER
(intl'd) HLB

DECODE.

431

TELEGRAM.

No 32

From Administrative Officer, Stanley

To Colonial Secretary, Stanley

Despatched : 11th April 19 66 Time : 1255

Received : 11th April 19 66 Time : 1030

430

430

No 87 My telegram No 86. Secretariat mail no 3/66 received in envelope and contents intact. Mail referred to in my telegram 86 although labelled South Georgia Official Mail would seem to have originated from BAS but their letter schedule was not enclosed in bag. Matter cleared and no action required

Adminoff

P/L : ER

Pa



COLONIAL OFFICE
 GREAT SMITH STREET, LONDON S.W.1
 Telephone: ABBey 1266, ext.

432

Our reference: FST.156/1/01
 Your reference:

14 April, 1966

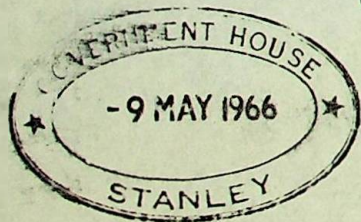
Dear Sir Cosmo,

You wrote to Bennett on the 12th November last year about a mail bag being overcarried to Buenos Aires. I took this up with the General Post Office and have now had a letter from them a copy of which I enclose, together with the labels referred to.

We hope that Miss Cornwell's efforts will result in a more efficient handling of your mail!

(A. StJ. Sugg)

you suggest
 A StJ Sugg



433
 Cf: I shall write to thank him. Meanwhile please pass for information to SPT -

SIR COSMO HASKARD, K.C.M.G. M.B.E.,
 GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
 FALKLAND ISLANDS.

434
 es. 9/11-
 Dear thank you

See 437

16.5.66.

P.C.



In any reply please quote: 24582/63 :
Your reference: FST 47/01

Postal Services Department
Headquarters Building
St. Martin's-le-Grand
LONDON EC1

Telephone:
HEADquarters 1234 (switchboard)
HEADquarters (direct line)
Telex: 21166 (POHQ LDN)
Telegrams: Postgen London EC1

4329
3
6 April, 1966

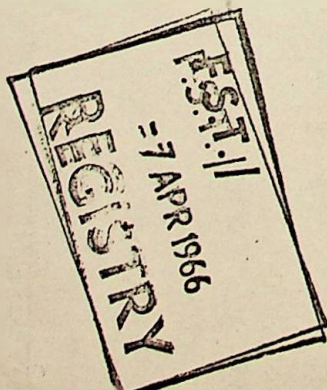
Dear Mr. Sugg,

⁽¹²⁾
₆₃₆₅ You wrote to me on 1st December about the letter you received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands concerning mail bags which were landed at Buenos Aires instead of Montevideo.

As you will have observed from the bag label which you forwarded with your letter, the mail was correctly routed for off-loading at Montevideo; and we have ascertained that the discharge at Buenos Aires was entirely the error of the Shipping Company (Royal Mail Lines). The presence of Falkland Islands mail in Argentina certainly caused delay and gave opportunity for unpleasant political propaganda but we have had confirmation from the Postmaster, Port Stanley, that this mail arrived on 30th October and all items were intact.

I am sorry to have kept you waiting so long for a reply to your letter but we have been considering whether we could make our bag labels more distinctive and less liable

A. St. J. Sugg, Esq.
Colonial Office
Great Smith Street
S.W.1



to the error of overcarriage from Montevideo to Buenos Aires. We have now arranged for a revised print of Letter and Parcel bag labels for Port Stanley and South Georgia, similar to the enclosed specimens, emphasising Montevideo, and have asked the Shipping Companies to ensure that when mails for these destinations are loaded on their vessels for discharge at Montevideo they are stowed apart from Buenos Aires mails and under no circumstances overcarried to that port.

We trust that these measures will go some way towards preventing any Falkland Islands or South Georgia mails getting into the hands of the Argentine Post Office.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. Cornwell

(MISS E. M. CORNWELL)

PARCEL POST

4326

From LONDON

FOR

PORT STANLEY

(FALKLAND ISLANDS)

OFF LOAD AT

MONTEVIDEO

No. of Bag.....

Serial No. of Mail.....

03400/935/2/DL_214/168

For
PORT
STANLEY
(Falkland
Islands)

For
PORT
STANLEY
(Falkland
Islands)

PARCEL POST

From LONDON

FOR

SOUTH GEORGIA

OFF LOAD AT

MONTEVIDEO

No. of Bag.....

Serial No. of Mail.....

00400/935/2/DL_214/168

For
SOUTH
GEORGIA

For
SOUTH
GEORGIA

From LONDON Foreign Section

FOR

PORT STANLEY

(FALKLAND ISLANDS)

Serial No. of Mail.....

VIA **MONTEVIDEO**

43184/935/2/DL_206/168.

For
PORT
STANLEY
(Falkland
Islands)

For
PORT
STANLEY
(Falkland
Islands)

From LONDON Foreign Section

FOR

SOUTH GEORGIA

Serial No. of Mail.....

VIA **MONTEVIDEO**

40751/992/2/DL_278/148.

For
SOUTH
GEORGIA

For
SOUTH
GEORGIA

BY AIR BAG
UNCLASSIFIED
(1524/66)



BRITISH EMBASSY
BUENOS AIRES

May 3rd., 1966

Dear Office,

The latest event in the Falkland Islands' saga was the issue by Argentine Post Office on 27 April of a regulation providing that any correspondence going from Argentina to the Falkland Islands should be addressed to "Islas Malvinas" or "Islas Malvinas, República Argentina" or "Islas Malvinas, Territorio Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Antártica e Islas del Atlántico del Sur". From now on any correspondence which does not have this correct address will not be accepted but will be returned to the sender with "destination unknown" stamped on the outside.

2. Correspondence coming from abroad and addressed to the Falkland Islands in transit or sent here by mistake, will be returned to the sender with the words "Islas Malvinas (República Argentina)" stamped on, as well as the following caption: "The return of this letter does not in any way affect Argentine sovereignty over the "Islas Malvinas" whose continued occupation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain as a result of an act of force has never been accepted by the Argentine Government. The latter re-affirm their unproscribable and unalienable rights and remain firm to the view that the "Islas Malvinas," South Sandwich Islands and the South Georgic Islands are not colonies or possessions of any State but a part of Argentine territory, and come within its dominion and sovereignty."

3. The opera is obviously getting more Gilbertian. It would be interesting to know how much mail the Falkland Islands get from here each year - presumably not much. We should also be interested to know your reaction to the new Regulation.

4. We are sending copies of this letter to the American Department at the Foreign Office, to the Chancery at Montevideo, and to the U.K. Mission at New York.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

Office of the Governor
of the Falkland Islands,
Port Stanley.
Falkland Islands.

copied to 2361/12.

*Reply
at 456*

24th May,

66.

Dear Chancery,

435 Thank you for your letter of 3rd May 1966 (1524/66).

People who live here and who correspond with persons in the Argentine have all established their own routes through Montevideo and are not particularly troubled by the machinations of the Argentine Post Office.

Mail from U.K. is now clearly labelled "Montevideo only NOT TO BE OFFLOADED IN ARGENTINA", and only irregular correspondents, usually from the North American Continent, appear to be troubled.

We only receive about a hundred letters a year, from, or through the Argentine, and about half of them get re-addressed to the "Islas Malvinas".

The effect of the edict will not be great and we shall no doubt carry on as before, but it is hardly the way to encourage relationships, and if we had Argentines living here (which we haven't) they would be the main sufferers.

I am sending a copy of this reply to the American Department at the Foreign Office, to the Chancery at Montevideo and to the U.K. Mission at New York.

(W. H. THOMPSON)
COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
BUENOS AIRES.

III.

A.S.
Postmaster to see please.

437

Ref.No.
0604

30 May 1966

432

Many thanks for your letter FSP 156/1/01 of 14th April about mail bags being correctly off-loaded at Montevideo.

Everyone here concerned with arrangements for mail handling was delighted to see the efficient looking new labels and we are most grateful to Miss Cornwell for her interest and initiative.

LS

A. St.J. Sugg Esq., C.M.G.
Colonial Office.

PM

To see pl.

JA

31.5.66

✓ *[Signature]* 31/5/66

Pa