

CONFIDENTIAL.

145
MIN/OIL/1#5

SECRETARIAT

0319

0

(Formerly)

319

0319
OIL AND COAL DEPOSITS.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

0214.

LIME DEPOSITS.

Inside Minute Paper.

YE.

A

D on 9 f. in most part of
M.F.V.

Abel
6.x
B

Yes MC

C

It ask G.N. to record herein the several places at
wh. oil is alleged to have been seen.

MC. 6/8

D

6x.

C

ha. h

Abel
6.x

E

H.C.S.

LAFONIA. (a) Pyramid Cove, opposite Lively Island, inside the 7 fathom sounding.

(b) Seal Cove, opposite Lively Id., between the 5 and 7 fa. soundings to the southward of Pyramid Point.

(c) Creek between Bull Road and Fanny Road in the Bay of Harbours and just below the 4 fa. sounding in the creek.

(d) Bull Cove at the south end of Lafonia

PORT ALBEMARLE (a) Between the small unnamed island on the south side of the entrance to Albemarle Harbour and the mainland.

(b) West Arm between the 8 and 12 fa. soundings.

(c) Off the north-east side of the north-west projection of the largest Arch Island.

WHITE ROCK BAY, N.E. corner of West Falkland.

(a) opposite the "settlement" where 4 fa. is marked on the chart.

(b) Near the entrance to the creek to the south of (a) and on the east side of another 4 fa. sounding

PORT EGMONT.

South west of Tussac Island which is NE of the Rapid Point peninsula of the mainland of West Falkland. Below the second "s" of "Tussac".

g.d.v.

G.N.

7-X-47

Y.E.

E with C on 10. It would be
more convincing if the places were less
widely separated?

C.B.
S.7

For all that they do confirm roughly with the
situation of the Laponia beds; meanwhile send d/o letter at once pt.

me. 2/x

Single Minute Paper.

YE

14 Ask G.N. if he knows
anything about the samples,
await reply to 12?

Alb
12.1

✓
MC. 12
7

G.N.

Abm. 2 9-?

Alb
12.1

H.C.S.

NOR rese. 1912 was a little before my
time.

2. They are specimens of the "bitumen"
or "oil shale" of which an outcrop
has never been found. All the pieces
I have seen have been from beaches.
see (635) herein.

g.S.O. G.V.
16-1-48

Bu
16/3/48
Alb
6.1

Bu. 13.10.

Bu. for rest in
last mail Alb
2/13

Bu. 25/3/48
Alb
Bu. d 25/3/48

Regret no mail
1/4/48

Bu
12/5 Alb
2.4

Bu'D

Re Bu'd

Bu. 14/5/48 (Mare)
? no mail. 16/5/48
Bu'd 14/5/48

VE.

12 remains unanswered.

2. Let this stand over till the question
of VE's possible influence with the U.K.
is decided?

18.5

Acay. I may be able to get hold of Joyce.

18.5

CP

I shall also seek
permission to pursue
enquiries about investigations
for mineral oil - a note pt.

18.5

Note made for London

23.6.

Br. 516

3/4

17/1/48

17/1/48

17/1/48

17/1/48

Br. 17/1/48

17/1/48

17/1/48

YE

A

20 - 23 with 2 Dept helms at
 com, for com. M., the met R.
 I have just received for G. N. who has
 expressed the utmost regret for the delay.

at com

10/12

B

By no means the
 first occasion; a
 minute returned to
 me yesterday which
 had been with him
 for one year!!

Some.

As to X opp., surely the SOI S accepted liability
 for this in his ^{detailed} comment on the Development Programme;
 we thanked him most pointedly.

See 29

M.C. 10/XII

7

A.

30

Ch.
x on 29. There does not appear to be
any record of this. Can you assist, pl?

B.

Myres
22/2/48

M.S. Y.E.

So far as I know Salustian geologist did not
work in the Falklands, but in S. Georgia and
South Shetland.

His name was Ferguson and he published a
paper, I believe, in the Proceedings of the Royal
Society of Edinburgh. ??? 1915

J.E.D. S.V.
24-XII-48

C.

Ask manager F.I.C. if he has a copy of the Ferguson

report referred to. If not BU aware of Mr. Yang.

Mc. 30
XII

Sp. Macgregor
3/1

EXTRACT FROM "DISCUSSIONS AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE".

Original filed in 0762.

{VIII. Oil Deposits.

0319

American oil investigators.

BU 20/4/49
N.H.

BU. 5/12/49.

Mr. H.S.

Return before British
sails

copy to
11/1/50

H.C.S.

Sorry that you were not informed re. H. Smith
 but arrangements were made by his brother
 and H.E. and I only got second hand news.
 He is returning U.K. next Friday.

J. H. Smith

26/1/50.

A

66

Y.H.
Page 65 para 2. Mr. Adie's final report is still awaited?

W.A.C.S.
30/6/51

B.

A.C.S.
Yes. I think FIDS might enquire when he hopes to be in a position to submit.

W.
2/7/51.

C.

S/F.
Will you please do so

W.A.C.S.
3/7/51.

D.

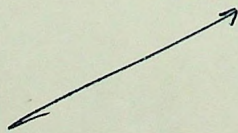
H.C.S. we enquired in March (pse see FIDS/9 page 87) and a reply is awaited. Adie is in S. Africa & it may take some time.

G.H.
2.7.51.

E

A.C.S.
Noted, P. 7. Pl b.v. 1/10/51.

W.
2/7/51.



Office

We have received a report from Mr. Adie.

W.A.C.S.
1/10/51

Yes - but on "Gears Series", p.

S.F.

8/F

B.W.
3/11/51
3/3/52

A.

Sff.

D on reverse - any reply pl.?

J. H. E.
5/4/52

B.

ACS

Your minute above and C.M.O.'s at D. p. 66.
FIDS 9 page 87 has a request to Adie
to forward a copy of his report on F. J.
Sands. This report I understand has been
received and is held by the Secretariat. It
may have direct bearing on oil deposits.
From our files it would appear that Adie
has not been asked for a report on 'oil'.

- J. H. E.
7/4.H.E. Papers (66) & (67)

Is it Y.H.'s impression that the Adie
was going to submit a further report
on oil or was his 'preliminary' report
at (57), preliminary to the submission
of his Glass Sands report?

9/4

ACP N.F.A.N.

9/4

at "Glass Sands" report

1452 att pl.

No - I did not say
any further, request from
Adie - see last sentence on 61

11/18/52

10/2/52

P. H. Grimley.

C. M. Barton

R. Tindal

Refer.

{ Post Pleasant
{ River looks to
{ R. to be known

Egg Markers

Gyzzet

Beaver Lake.

(Open Secret File please).

.... mais surtout pas

d'enthousiasme !

2. This letter is a masterly
essay in the art of teaching
Grandmama to suck eggs.

2. The reference to be
completed in my telegram in
reply is to be found in one of
the files you sent me up on
Friday evening regarding
development in the Dependencies.

M.C. 24/V



Colonial Office,
Downing Street.

12th April, 1947.

TOP SECRET

My dear Clifford,

I have told you in a letter of today's date of my conversation with Joyce on Falklands soil samples and his discovery of a lime deposit, and I continue here with what he said about oil and coal.

It appears that in 1922 or 1923 someone called Barker or Barker, I have not yet had time to look up the papers, made a geological survey which was curious in the extreme, e.g. he missed the lime being in considerable quantity, and that since then this negative report has been the pure gospel.

When we were selecting the 1945/46 party I did my best to ensure that the geologist should not be a palaeontologist or anything of that kind but an economic geologist, because I was sure that if we had to go to the Treasury here for money for F.I.D.S. and could talk with any assurance of minerals that we would get the money. I mention this because an "-ontologist" can, and does, indulge in theories and a practical geologist dare not do so as his living depends on the accuracy of his reports to mining and other corporations; consequently what such a man as Joyce says is, I think, the minimum susceptible of proof.

What Joyce has said to me is that the possibility of oil in the Falklands cannot be ruled out, nor can the possibility of coal, but that the latter is the less likely. I then got him to talk "off the record"; he said he was pretty sure that you had oil, but whether in workable or paying quantity or quality he could not say.

I asked him with whom he had discussed this in the Falklands and he said that he had only done so with Hamilton - it appears that Hamilton is tying up some loose ends for him. I asked him why he had not discussed the matter with you and/or Mathews; it seemed that you were away or not available and that he wished to keep his counsel for the same reason as he was being professionally "cagey" with me, i.e. not to start an economic scare, for, as I have said, his living depends on his accuracy.

I told him that he must give us a report on the oil and coal possibilities, and that if it is sufficiently encouraging we should have to try to get a proper geological survey going at once. I asked him if he would go and do a survey, and he said not for a year - I imagine for domestic reasons.

I have got him to go and have a talk with Wordie, who, although an academic geologist, is, you will agree, a wise man. He will then prepare a topographical report in which I gather he will say no more than I have indicated above. When we get this I will put it to Dixey, the Geological Adviser, and if it and Joyce stand up to scientific criticism obviously a geological survey looking for oil in particular is the step to be taken at once.

What we would like to suggest is that you should send for Hamilton and ask him as to his discussions about oil and coal with Joyce; assure yourself that Hamilton has not talked or written to anyone else and warn him he may not do so. You might

G.M. CLIFFORD, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.



3

He is near
as all that.

might also care to ask Hamilton as to oil spots seen on the sea in various places round your coasts, and by whom. I gather that Hamilton is near retirement.

His return.

There is no need for me to talk about what oil in the Falklands would mean to British naval strategy in the South Atlantic (the Battle in the 1914-18 war and the sinking of the "Graf Spee" are proof) or to the Colony's trade, industry and revenue, or how greatly its presence would strengthen our hands in dealing with Argentine and Chilean pretensions.

6-11-1910
1.26.7.1910
Buzza

As in the case of the lime deposit it seems that your mining law will need examination; my recollection is that during, or shortly after, the 1914-18 war most Colonies enacted an Ordinance giving the Crown all oil found. Is that so with you?

A word as to Joyce's position. He was very right-minded and said that as a paid Government servant in F.I.D.S. all he found was covered by his remuneration. I said that I thought his case was a little different: he was a paid servant for work in the F.I.D.S. which was work in the Antarctic; and that if, instead of spending his enforced leisure in Port Stanley when going to or returning from the Antarctic, he chose to do voluntary field work, I did not think that any Government could take advantage of his goodwill. He was not, and is not, an established Civil Servant; nor was he employed for duties in the Colony.

Let us hope that something will come of it all.

All good wishes, You both must be having a busy time with domestic difficulties which time you are putting the Falklands "on the map" again.

Yours
Luxon Barker.

Reply at 4

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched : 27.5.47. Time : Received : Time :

No.292. TOP SECRET. Barton's top secret letter of 12th April.

36 in
105/10R

Need for geological survey to dispose of doubts disclosed in Baker report and of rumoured possibilities in the Dependencies was mentioned in correspondence shortly after my arrival and again with specific reference to petroleum in my despatch secret of 7th March. One of my first steps was to confirm that we are fully covered in regard to mineral rights and that is the case vide Ordinance No.1 of 1918.

2. Joyce discussed matter with Hamilton (who had not mentioned matter to me, or to Mathews, supposing presumably that Joyce had done so) and to Bertrand master of local schooner who has been asked by one or both to collect samples. Nine localities are reported from which oil is said to have been seen breaking from clear bottoms and you will note from page 36 of Baker's report that he recommends two sites at which boring might be advantageously attempted. It was on that score that I suggested approach to Shell D'Arcy Exploration to whom expense involved means nothing.

3. While I have spoken to Hamilton on lines suggested I think it would be imprudent to attempt to bind Bertrand to secrecy as anything of that sort would inevitably lead to speculation particularly as copy of note written by Joyce was passed to Agricultural Office. If Bertrand produces samples I will have these flown to you for analysis and if Motor Fishing Vessel arrives in near future will put Hamilton on to collection samples from all reported sources.

4. As to Joyce's position he was given specific leave by me (similarly in case of Croft) to remain and clear up lines of investigation started on his way through last year. He had made no mention of the lime deposits to me and the letter under reply received yesterday is the first I have heard of the matter.

5. You may rest assured that I am fully alive to any possibility of adding to Imperial resources or bolstering finances of this Colony.

CYPHER.

GOVERNOR.

95358.

Bu
27/8
15/9 Buo

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

12th August, 1947.

19860/54/47

TOP SECRET



Dear Clifford,

4 We are grateful for the information about oil in your telegram No. 292 of the 27th May.

6 We have since received a copy of Joyce's Notes on the Geology of the Falkland Islands. Dr. Dixey, the Secretary of State's Geological Adviser, and his deputy, Mr. Willbourn, have had a talk with Joyce, and I enclose a copy of a minute by Willbourn, written after their talk.

You will see that Dixey's opinion is that a Geologist should investigate the occurrence of carbonaceous rock near Port Sussex and also the alleged oil seepages reported by Captain Bertrand, and that samples should be collected for analysis. The Colonial Geological Survey Service cannot spare a Geologist for work in the Falklands and will not be able to do so for some years as things look at present.

The only course, therefore, would appear to be to endeavour to interest the Shell and Anglo-Iranian Oil Companies in the oil prospects of the Falklands, as you suggest. These two companies are working jointly in Nigeria and the Gold Coast through their subsidiaries, Shell Overseas Exploration Company Limited and the D'Arcy

Exploration/

G.M. CLIFFORD, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.

5A

X

Exploration Company Limited. Before making any approach to these oil companies we shall have to consult the Foreign Office and the Admiralty on the political and strategic aspects of the question. The immediate action, however, appears to be to get samples of the oil and send them here for analysis, and we should be grateful if you would do this. When we have the analyses we can consider the next step.

I may say that we let the Petroleum Division of the Ministry of Fuel and Power see our copy of Joyce's Notes on the Geology of the Falkland Islands and after studying these and the other data available their Technical Adviser has stated that he shares the opinion of his predecessor that the oil prospects of the Falkland Islands are poor.

In view of the difficult position in regard to the supply of Geologists, we think that the question of an investigation of the carbonaceous rocks will have to wait until the question of making a further geological examination for oil purposes has been settled.

Yours sincerely,

Luxa Barlow.

Reply at 829

6

10 SEP 1947

COPY OF MR. WILLBOURNE'S MINUTE OF 29th MAY, 1947.

1. Dr. Dixey and I had examined the geological reports of Dr. T.G. Halle (1912) and Dr. H.A. Baker (Government Geologist, 1920-1922) and, after an interview between Dr. Dixey and Mr. J.R.F. Joyce, at which I also was present, I read Professor J.G. Andersson's 1907 Report, lent by Mr. Joyce. On 29th May, after Dr. Dixey's departure, I had a second discussion with Mr. Joyce.

2. Mr. Joyce spent some weeks on the Falkland Islands in November and December of 1945, and in January 1946 on his way to Graham Land, and was there again in March 1947 when on his way back to England.

3. As a result of what he saw, he formed the conclusion that Baker had turned down the possibilities of oil before sufficient investigation had been made, and, in one respect, had probably made a mistake in his interpretation of structure, a mistake which caused him to estimate the thickness of the possibly oil-bearing Gondwana (Lafonian) beds as less than it actually might be.

4. I do not propose to describe the succession of beds that constitute the Falklands, but will proceed first to discuss the three significant features that might indicate the presence of oil, and to give Dr. Dixey's views about them:-

- (1) the bitumen specimens found in sea-beaches.
 - (2) Carbonaceous rocks found in several localities, notably in the Port Sussex area.
 - (3) Oil-seepages, stated by Captain Bartram of the Porvenir to occur in certain harbours in the south of East Falkland Island.
5. The Bitumen Specimens.

Can they send us some specimens of bitumen? ✓

Baker thought they could not be taken as evidence of oil in the Falkland Islands because they might have floated to the Falklands from some outside territory. Until bitumen is discovered actually in situ on the Islands this is a reasonable deduction.

6. The carbonaceous rocks.

The fact remains that Mr. Joyce is a confirmation of the Anderson claim that oil is now being produced in Patagonia.

As Mr. Joyce says, all such occurrences should be mapped. It should be realised, of course, that very many examples of the occurrence of carbonaceous rocks are known in countries where no oil or coal occur.

7. The alleged oil-seepages.

It is important to have samples for analysis collected by a reliable observer, who will note the exact localities. The only evidence for their existence is a conversation between Captain Bartram and Mr. Joyce.

8. Mr. Joyce's main criticism of Dr. Baker's mapping is that Baker has misinterpreted the structure of the rocks exposed on the south side of a line drawn eastwards from Port Sussex to Port Stanley. Baker considers that the threefold

repetition/

7.
repetition of the east-west-striking bed of "tillite" is to be explained by folding, whereas Joyce is of the opinion that faulting has caused it. Joyce contends that this faulting has increased the chances of oil, in having caused a greater thickness of Gondwana beds to be present in the southern half of East Falkland than has been estimated by Baker.

9. Dr. Dixey asked me to record his opinion that it is desirable that a geologist shall investigate the occurrences of carbonaceous rock near Port Sussex, and also the alleged oil-seepages as reported by Captain Bartram and that samples should be collected for analysis.

10. Moreover, the evidence of faulting accompanied by what may turn out to have been considerable displacements, seen by Mr. Joyce south of the line drawn east from Port Sussex to the east coast, and described to us by him, should be carefully investigated by a geologist able to spend a longer time than Mr. Joyce was able to give. This examination will determine if there is indeed a greater thickness of Gondwana (Lafonian) beds underlying the southern half of East Falkland than was estimated by Baker.

11. Even if such greater thickness is present, it remains to find positive indications of oil. So far as can be found in the scanty published information, bores in the corresponding Gondwana beds of the Cape Province of South Africa have found no oil; the apparent absence of a final published report on the subject probably means that the investigation is still proceeding. Large sums have already been spent in South Africa and the lack of success till now must cause a cautious attitude in the Falklands unless stronger reasons for optimism are found by geological survey.

12. There can be no call at present on the Colonial Geological Survey Service, for the supply of geologists is very limited and all that will be available during the next few years will be more usefully employed elsewhere.

(Sgd.) E.S. WILLBOURNE
29.5.47.

20th September, 1947.

Dear Barton,

5 Your Top Secret letter 19860/54/47 and enclosure. This is very disappointing and I think that if investigation has to await subaission and analysis of samples it is going to be held up for a very long time. Bertrand (not Bartran) to whom the task of collection was allotted is a most elusive gentleman, and his "Forvenir" goes whither the wind listeth and where opportunity (in the way of cargo) calls; he has been away for months with the requisite jars, but Hamilton thinks it very unlikely that he will have collected anything. It is quite useless to rely upon him and the only thing to be done is to await the arrival of the Motor Fishing Vessel and then send Hamilton out to collect the samples himself; even so it is a question of weather and the state of the sea which is very rarely calm in these parts. Meanwhile, I should have thought that there would be no harm in clearing the ground with the Foreign Office and Admiralty, and suggest that this be done.

7+6 As to Willbourne's minute, the South African analogy (para. 11, see also para. 6) appears to me to be of considerably less consequence than the fact that the Falkland Islands are, physically, a continuation of the South American "tail" and that oil is in process of being won now in Patagonia.

Juxon Barton, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
The Colonial Office.

Could/

WH.

Reply at 14

Could you get hold of some specimens of bitumen for me which I could distribute to the owners of coastwise schooners and others for purposes of identification?

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) MILES CLIFFORD.

CS.

B

Will you let D. Hammett
see the correspondence re oil?

MC. 30/ix/47.

Br.

23/11

Ably
23/11

D: Hammett C

His file 0214 below

f.

D

Ably
i. x

H.C.S.

Thank you. Mr. Bertrand has just
returned and saw no signs.

gtd.
-x-47

Where did
he look?

TOP SECRET.

11th October, 1947.

Dear Barton,

8
By letter of the 20th of September.
Oil. It occurred to me that it might be of interest to the Department and to Hixey to know where seepage is alleged to have been seen:-

LAFONIA.

- (a) Pyramid Cove, opposite Lively Island, inside seven fathom sounding.
- (b) Seal Cove, opposite Lively Island, between the five and seven fathom soundings to the southward of Pyramid Point.
- (c) Creek between Bull Road and Fanny Road in the Bay of Harbours and just below the four fathom sounding in the creek.
- (d) Bull Cove at the south end of Lafonia.

16 E
PORT ALBEMARLE.

- (a) Between the small unnamed island on the south side of the entrance to Albemarle Harbour and the mainland.
- (b) West Arm between the eight and twelve fathom soundings.
- (c) Off the north-east side of the north-west projection of the largest Arch Island.

WHITE/

James Barton, Esq., C.M.G., C.B.E.,
The Colonial Office.

WHITE ROCK (North-east corner of West Island)

- (a) Opposite the "settlement" where four fathoms is marked on the chart.
- (b) Near the entrance to the creek to the south of (a) and on the east side of another four fathom sounding.

PURT POINT.

South-west of Tusao Island which is north-east of the Rapid Point Peninsula of the mainland of West Island. Below the second "S" of "Tusao".

As you will see the distribution is fairly wide-spread.

Bertrand has returned from his wanderings, but has nothing to report (if indeed he has looked). It depends on wind and weather and there will be no possibility of conducting a reliable search until the Motor Fishing Vessel arrives. I should be glad to know the reactions of the Foreign Office and the Admiralty.

Yours ever,

(Sgd) MILES CLIFFORD.

B.C.
13¹²
ABE
3A
15¹²
BUd
OK
recd 75
4/11

9860/54/47

TOP SECRET

Co. Office,
In House,
Smith Street,
S.W.1.

Novem

1947.

My dear Clifford,

We have discussed your letter of the 20th of September about the oil potentialities of the Falkland Islands with the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

The Ministry feel, as we do, that it is extremely doubtful whether the British oil companies, who have a very full programme just now, are likely to be interested in so speculative a venture as this. In any case, before the matter can be put to them, it will be necessary to have some proof of the occurrence of oil in the form of samples.

In this connection I enclose some specimens of a bitumen-like substance sent to the Imperial Institute from the Falklands about 35 years ago. The Institute have no definite information as to what part of the Falklands it came from. They say it is somewhat different from the bitumen usually associated with oil-bearing beds in that it will not dissolve in the usual solvents, and a microscopic examination indicates that it is a rock rich in algal remains. On destructive distillation it yields 63.5% by weight of oil. However if this bitumen like substance does actually occur in situ in the Falklands, it would add something to what at present appears to be merely a very slight probability that

oil/

G.M. CLIFFORD, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.

oil may be p

With regard to the penultimate paragraph of your letter, the Ministry's comment, on the assumption that you are referring to the discovery of oil in the part of Tierra del Fuego belonging to Chile, is that conditions in that area for the accumulation of oil are much more favourable than in the Falkland Islands and that the physical proximity of the Falklands to South America is not a criterion for evaluating the former's oil possibilities.

When inviting schooner masters to look for specimens of oil you will, of course, see that they are warned of the possibility of oil waste discharged from tankers at sea clinging to rocks at the water's edge and so suggesting to the layman the presence of virgin oil.

With all good wishes,

Yours

James Baird

My par man! What
does he take us for?

THE BITUMEN-LIKE SUBSTANCE FOUND AT
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*the amount
looking for
1912 Report
nearest to
1912 found
is in 1920s.*

It was examined by the Imperial Institute, see Bull, Imp.
Inst. X, 1912, p. 400.

It is not a true bitumen since it is nearly insoluble in
the usual solvents. On destructive distillation it yields
63.5% by weight of oil.

3. FDA. 23 [No 30,990 Sc & Techn. Dept. Imp. Institute]

19.
EXTRACT FROM "matters for Discussion etc. (by H.E.) at the Colonial Office."

Original filed in 0762 (Official visit by H.E. the Governor to U.K.)

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ETC. AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>S u b j e c t.</u> | <u>File No.</u> | <u>C.O. Reference.</u> | <u>Explanatory Note.</u> | <u>Action Taken.</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 1. | Oil and Coal Deposits | 0319 | 10/15 D.O. lr. 19860/- 54/47 of 12.11.47 (Top Secret) | 12/13 D.O. lr. to Mr. Barton (copy att. marked "A") requires reply. To see Mr. Joyce. H.E. to seek permission to pursue enquiries regarding investigation for mineral oil. (?soil samples). | B.U. to remind 31.12.48 Discussed with Mr. Burt & with Harding (Treasury) Suggested direct application to Shell d'Arcy or employment of Joyce from C.D. Research. |

21
EXTRACT FROM ENCLOSURE TO S. OF S. DESPATCH No. 39 of
17th June, 1948.

(Original filed at 66 X in 0040 - Development Policy.)

.....
Items No's. 30 and 31. Geological and Topographical
Surveys.

I agree that the cost of these should be met from the appropriate Central allocations under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act but I can see no immediate prospect of their being undertaken. The question of the geological survey will, however, depend on the outcome of your enquiries into the possibilities of oil recovery which it is understood Dr. Fuchs is now examining.

VP. No. 74
EXTRACT FROM DESPATCH/TO S. OF S. OF 9th October, 1948.

(Original filed at 75 in 0040 - Development Policy)

.....
6. I note with satisfaction your agreement that the cost of the proposed Geological investigation and Topographical Survey should be met from the appropriate Central allocations and I hope that the work will not be too long deferred. As regards the first of these I am not aware that Dr. Fuchs has been approached or is likely to be available and am wondering if there is perhaps some confusion with Mr. Joyce, the commercial geologist attached to the 1945-46 F.I.D.S. party. The Topographical Survey is of course an essential preliminary to the introduction of a Land Utilisation Bill which alone can ensure that farmers plough back some part of their profits into the land; it is possible that Messrs. Freeman and Francis, late of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and now working in the Colonial Survey Department at Bushey, might be interested in this project.

.....
VP.

YE
X n. 20 I'm afraid not understood. There has been no transmission of an application but B n. 24 is of course correct.

Me 17/11

15/11

20/11/48



19860/54/48

20
COLONIAL OFFICE,
THE CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

29th October, 1948.

Dear Clifford,

During your recent visit you raised the question of an oil survey in the Falklands to be carried out preferably by an expert from one of the Oil Companies. We have looked into the matter and as Bennett is away I am writing to give you the latest information.

We took the matter up with the Ministry of Fuel and Power who got in touch with the Anglo-Iranian and Shell Oil Companies. The Ministry has now told us that both Companies are in agreement, and can see no justification for taking any action, as the oil prospects would appear to be as close to non-existent as it is possible to judge.

On what date?

I gather that if the Companies took this line you would be in favour of approaching Joyce and, provided the Geological Adviser is satisfied about his professional qualifications, would welcome a free grant from the C.D. & W. central allocation for geological surveys to finance a visit to the Falklands | X

This had in fact already been approved in the Development despatches?

MILES CLIFFORD, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.

/ by

See 26, 27

21
by him to prospect for oil.

We have consulted Dixey, the Geological Adviser, and it is his view that the considered opinions of the Oil Companies make it quite unwarrantable for him to recommend a central C.D. & W. grant.

On the other hand, he thinks the idea a good one of enlisting the assistance of a Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey geologist, whilst he is out there, to examine the reported occurrences of oil and of oil shale and to endeavour to collect samples. Until the existence of such occurrences has been proved and the samples examined nothing more can be done. You will realise, of course, that even so the prospects of commercial oil depend on more than such occurrences, and that it would by no means follow that, although proved, these occurrences would affect the Oil Companies' considered views. Nevertheless it would represent an advance on the existing position, and if some promising oil samples are found, we should be in a position either to ask the Oil Companies to think again, or to consider the possibility of a central C.D. & W. grant to cover the cost of a visit by a commercial expert whose views would be respected by the Oil Companies.

Perhaps, therefore, you may like to take advantage of the services of a Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey geologist such as Adie who, on account of his commercial background, seems more suitable for the job. He might usefully
/ employ



22

A

employ his time before returning home in looking at the oil seepage localities indicated in your letter to Barton of the 11th October, 1947, and if there is oil, in collecting samples for examination here. Indeed we had understood from Joyce that you had undertaken to see whether there were any samples which could be sent home for analysis. Apparently you had no luck.

I should add that, if you agree with the suggestion to use Adie, Joyce would be quite ready to prepare a short brief containing instructions for Adie's guidance, *but I doubt whether that would be necessary.*

Yours sincerely,

P. A. Carter

(P. A. Carter)

11 in ^{Cong?} 0214?

I think we have something available from Joyce.

We should ask Adie if he would care to spend a month or so here on this survey. Please ask G.N. to make a map the places where oil has been reported as seeping from clay bottoms.

MAC 13/21

23.

A

HCS

X

I am unable to trace any application for or grant having been approved for this Survey, but H.C. had discussions on the subject while in the U.K. the results of which are noted on (19) The project is listed on the C/12 schedule as serial No. 31 (please see 79 in 0040 attached.

Alfacs
25/11/48.

B

HCS spoken

Alfacs
26/11/48

GN

as in 22^B pt.

Alfacs
26/11/48

recalled from
Gm 9.2

the results of the survey are as follows: ...

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

25

From His Excellency the Governor.

To Mr. Adie Base E.

Despatched: December 21th 19 48 Time: 12.05.

Received: 19 .. Time:

I should be glad to know if you would be prepared to spend some time in Falkland Islands to follow up report by Joyce who queried Baker's conclusions and to examine and report upon alleged occurrences of oil and oil shale, and to endeavour collect samples. This would involve visiting various outlying places and should be of some interest to you professionally and also be of great assistance to me. Please let me know. In the event of your agreement I will ask for a "brief" from Joyce to be flown out.

G.T.C.
LJH.

See 26

Reply at 28

GOVERNOR.
111205.

DECODE.TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched: 11. 12. 48 Time: 12.30 Received:Time:

No. 506. Following for Carter begins:-Your letter 19860/54/48 of 29th October. Am contacting Adie.

Meanwhile please request Joyce prepare brief as you suggest for transmission by airmail. Ends.

Reply at 31

GOVERNOR.

G.T.C.
LJH

0319
DECODE.

No. 161.

TELEGRAM.

28

From Jones Base E.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : December 15th 19 48 Time : 21.00.

Received : December 16th 19 48 Time : 09.30.

25 Your 111205. Adie states "pleased to carry out work if immediate return to South Africa unnecessary. This depends on reply re University post expected in a few days. Will inform you earliest."

see 37

HONES
152100z.

P/L.
LJH.

me.

I inform H.E.

Bu 23/12 i
16.12

Bull
20/12
11/12

80
29
CS

A

John Brown will not be leaving till late May/early June
and Mr. Adie should be here by the end of February; preliminary
investigations will doubtless tell him how long the "follow-ups"
will take. We don't want the job half-done. He has
read the Baker Report.

M.C. $\frac{21}{XII}$

X I rather believe that Salvesen had a geologist out at one
time that he submitted a Report of which we may have a
copy; I seem to remember Wiffamy mentioning this to me.

ACS R. Loh with ^B R. L. & ask GNL
regr

34
C O P Y.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W. 7.

Dec. 22nd, 1948.

Dear Adie,

Herewith the notes for your examination of the Falkland Islands. I have very little hope that oil will be found but I have a strong feeling backed by what I saw in Port Sussex that Halle is right and Baker in error. If this is the case then a considerable thickness of the Lafonian Series are not exposed.

If this is so then since they are of Goudwana[?] age (at least in part) then they may be worth looking at.

I suggest that Port Sussex is the place to start as exposures are better there and then work eastwards. It won't be an easy job as the sections will need quite a lot of correlation and there may be considerable gaps because of poor exposures.

Anyhow best wishes and I am awaiting your report with considerable interest.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Jno. R. F. Joyce.

Copy.
For Adie

From Joyce.

35

1. Bartram the Cdr. "Porvenir" informed me that in several harbours he has seen oil breaking from bottoms which are clear of weed and that he has lain on the deck and watched these coming up as globules.
2. Nothing is known of the nature of this oil so that it is important to collect samples. About 1 cc. is required for an initial determination.
3. The localities reported by him are

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| White rock Harbour | |
| Rapid Harbour | in Port Egremont |
| Seal Cove | in Lively Sound |
| Pyramid Cove | --do-- |
| West Arm | in Port Albemarle |
| North Arm | --do-- |
| Arch Islands | in Lafonia |
| Bull Cove | --do-- |
| Laning ? Road | --do-- |

4. Samples of oil shale were found on several beaches in Lafonia, but in view of Baker's report they were discarded. Later Dr. Hamilton pointed out that there is no record of any ship which was carrying this cargo being wrecked, and that in spite of it being many years since this was carried unworn samples ^{not} were still being found on the beaches. The sample discarded certainly did not have any signs of long abrasion.
5. Three reports on the geology are available; that of Andersson; that of Halle and that of Baker. Only the latter two attempted any structural interpretations. They are in complete disagreement for Halle suggested that Falkland Sound is a fault Feature while Baker ascribes it to a monoclinical fold.
6. In the Port Sussex Area Halle shows a considerable fault while Baker minimises its importance. This area was given a cursory ~~examination~~ examination and I formed the opinion that Halle was more likely to be right.
7. Baker admits the possibility of overthrust faulting in the neck of land between Choisel Sound and Brenton Lock.
8. The outcrops of the Tillite as mapped by Baker in the Port Harriet Area and explained by folding could just as easily be explained by faulting.
9. The line of hills sweeping from Port Stanley via Mount William and Mount Osborne to north of Port Sussex may also be a fault Scarp.
10. If Halle's conception is more correct than Baker's then there is a possibility that all the beds above the Quartzite Series are not exposed, and it is therefore important to establish if this faulting is present

Jo R. Joyce
BW 14/2/49 2/15/

Co.

S & S shd. be told reference 31 that Adie is now and available. He can go to U.K. in hafnia with the others. I don't suppose it would interest Fuchs but we can put it to him. He should know of intention to send all relieved personnel home in hafnia.

MC. 25/1.49.

I saw Yang about the Ferguson report this morning and he tells me that all he has (and he will send it to us when he gets back) is a commentary by some other Geologist on the Baker Report and a further comment on that commentary by someone in the Shell D'Arcy Exploration Co.

DECODE.TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR.

Despatched: 24th Dec Time: 1030 Received: 25th Dec Time: 1200

26

363. Your tel. 506 following from Carter begins,

Para 2. Brief from Joyce is being despatched forthwith.

Para 3. He tells me if Adie's report is favourable he proposes to
apply for a prospectors licence as he has gained interest
Unknown ?? of a certain finance House which is prepared to support him.

Para 4. Joyce is being asked to discuss further with us details
of his proposition. Will keep you informed.

Secretary of State.

G.T.C.
M.H.

32.

46.
~~Record~~ may be interested.

D. Hamilton was informed by J. Bowles that 'Wimber' (air shell) was found near a point at Fanny Cove (north of Moffitt Bay, Lafonia). J.B. says it sounds as if it were not a beach specimen, as were the others.

L.H.

8/1.

I should like to see the two Bowles in question

A.E. 3/30.
12 Jan.

MC 8₁.

C.S.

I have spoken with Mr. Bowles and we should arrange for him to visit Fanny Cove (in Pheland) with D. Adie. He tells me that similar pieces to the sample sent me by D. Hamilton have been found in clay beds in Lafonia. MC 12₁.49

B.W. 12/2/49
13/1

KW

0319



19860/54/48.

PRIORITYSAVING

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS COLONY.

NO. 162.

Date 24th December, 1948.

31.

My telegram No. 363.34-35.

Enclosed herewith is a short brief by
Joyce to assist Adie in his investigation of oil
prospects.

SEGER.

To Mr. Adie as usual; not very hopeful.

Mc. 10/

see 38

*Kh.
10/*

*Original of (34) & copy of
(35) sent to Mr. Adie by Mr. B. B. B. B.
'John Biser' J.
26.2.49.*

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

37

From Dr. Fuchs, Base E.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : January 25th 19 49 *Time* : 12.00.

Received : January 26th 19 49 *Time* : 09.30.

Following from Adie.

"Just informed of University appointment in South Africa therefore regret inability to undertake work in Falklands".

P/L.
LJH.

FUCHS
250105z

Sec 44

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched: 1. 2. 49 Time: 16.15 Received: Time:

No. 34. Your telegram No. 162 of 1948 Priority Saving.

Adie has University appointment in South Africa and therefore
unable to undertake investigations here.

GOVERNOR.

G. T. C.
LJH.

39.

a.

To me in eva?

inc. 3
2.49

for
the
year



19860/54/48

My dear Clifford

In a recent personal letter you asked whether there have been any developments in connection with Joyce's interest in the search for oil and coal in the Falklands.

2. Carter and Burt had a long talk with Joyce on the 14th January during which he said that he was still interested in proving that Baker was wrong and Halle was right in his interpretation of the geology of the Falklands. To prove his case he was prepared to spend £1,500 of his own money. He wanted, however, to make sure that, if, as a result, oil or coal were found, he would be able to cash in on the discovery: in other words he wished to get rights over any coal or oil that might exist in the Colony. He could not develop such rights himself but he would sell them to interests who could. He would not be prepared to sell for a lump sum but only for a continuing royalty on the coal or oil produced.

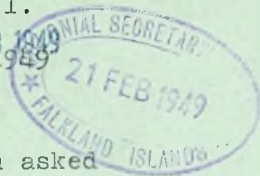
Burt explained to him the system of granting prospecting and mining rights in the Colonies. He said that we were opposed to the grant of concessions to persons who were not able to develop them owing to lack of the necessary

/financial

MILES CLIFFORD, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

0319
40
THE CHURCH HOUSE.
GT. SMITH STREET.
S. W. I.

2 FEB 1949



*I thought
80.*

H.R. 2/12



41

financial or technical resources and that Colonial mining legislation was generally designed to achieve this purpose. We would certainly not look with favour on Joyce's selling any rights granted to him to Whitehall Securities Limited as he had suggested, as the latter was merely a finance house who would sell the rights again to an operating company. It was pointed out to Joyce that no company would be likely to agree to granting him a royalty on any oil or coal that might be produced merely on the basis of his having proved that Halle's geology of the Falklands was right and Baker's wrong, as the essential thing was to prove the existence of coal and/or oil and the operating company would have to incur the expense of doing this and might well lose their money.

4. Joyce was informed that if Adie's report and the samples he found warranted it we might consider a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme to provide for a visit by Joyce to the Falklands to prove his case. He is not, however prepared to go out as a salaried employee of the Government because in those circumstances Government would be under no obligation to him to grant him a concession should the prospects of exploitation prove feasible. He then enquired whether he could obtain a prospecting licence in the Falklands and he was informed that we could see no reason for refusing him one. He also asked whether he could be furnished with a copy of Adie's report and I hope you will not mind our having usurped your prerogative we said that we saw no

/objection



42

objection to this also. He was, however, warned that if he should find several exploitable minerals in the course of his prospecting he could not count on being given rights over them all as it had been laid down in the Memorandum on Colonial Mining Policy that generally mining rights should only be given over one mineral or several minerals found in association.

5. Joyce went away to think the matter over and you may in due course receive an application from him for a prospecting license. On the whole we see no reason why Joyce should be refused a license to prospect, providing it is made perfectly clear to him how he stands should the grant of a mining lease later be justified.

Yours sincerely

J. P. Bennett

43

42.

40/42.

MA. Suggests that pending application from
Soyuz n.p.a. reviewed. Crocker with \$8.

2. Brief to Adie with y.c. mentions
re 33/35.

3. The film to 20 bucks submitted \$1.

Kh.

23/3.

CS.

Issue to gram d. even + send

34-5 to Mr. Adie in Biscoe.

M.C. 24/2

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To Dr. Fuchs Base E.

Despatched : February 25th 19 49 Time : 15.30.

Received : 19 .. Time :

37
Your 250105. Would it interest you to look into geology Falklands and advise on conflicting interpretations of Halle and Baker?. Work might take couple of months. I did not put suggestion to you earlier as believed you planned to go home as soon as relieved and understood that Adie was at loose end.

2. I have received Joyce's "brief" which does not contain much but I am anxious to get the doubts disposed of. Am sending brief and note from Joyce to Adie to whom they were addressed through Colonial Office.

G.T.C.
LJH.

Reply at 45
GOVERNOR
251530.

Type copy of 34 ~ 35
to go south by J. B. B. 25/2
this time

45

C8

As the authorities at home are so lukewarm about the investigation of this problem I shall propose referring it to an American Oil Company such as the United Geophysical of Pasadena (Herrick Hoover, Jr.) or Shell California (Dr. M. Gary Edwards) but I think we need rather more evidence than is yet available. The advantage of American exploration, if there is anything to be gained, is that we should earn dollars. Meanwhile I see that originals of 34 & 35 have been sent to Archie so NFA

MC 27/2.

PA 1/2/2

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

46

From FUCHS BASE E

To H.E. THE GOVERNOR

Despatched : 1st March 19 59 Time : 1800

Received : 2nd March 19 49 Time : 1000

44
Your 251530Z I am prepared do work you suggest. My particular urge to return to United Kingdom is to arrange this year's results for publication while fresh in mind.

FUCHS

021340Z

G.T.C.
MMCA.

C.S. Good F & B.U. (Intd) M.C.

BN. 20/3/49
JG
9/

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. 4.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To Governor's Deputy.

Despatched: March 17th 19 49 Time: 14.00.

Received: March 18th 19 49 Time: 09.30.

M.C.0016. Following for Secretary of State. Begins:-

Fuchs. Should also be noted person named had agreed to undertake geology investigations Falkland Islands vice Adie who has obtained appointment South Africa. While I would not allow this stand in his way it would entail deferring investigations. Ends.

GOVERNOR.
171400z.

G.T.C.
LJH.

Repeated to S. of S. as under.

No. 101. Following from Governor begins:-

.....
..... Ends.

G.T.C.
LJH

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

48

0319

Co.

If we hear nothing from
Co. about oil prospecting by the
end of the year we will suggest
an approach to the Phillips
Petroleum Company of Bartlesville,
Oklahoma USA who specialize in
the seismographic survey. It
would be a source of dollars?

Mc. 18/

I will pursue again at home.

AAA & R.E.
had a business
at home with a Bu 11" K.L.
19/5

acs
Noted on schedule
pl.
with
19/5/49.

20. 1/11/49
dk/20/5/49



570

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

My Reference 19860/54/49

Your Reference _____

0319

13th October, 1949.

Dear Sir Miles,

Yesterday you asked us whether there would be any objection to your writing to some American Engineering Corporation with a view to interesting them in the possibility of an oil investigation in the Falklands.

We have consulted Burt on the other side of the house and we understand that the person you have in mind is Mr. Glen M. Ruby, United Engineering Corporation, S.A., 620 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

We see no harm at all, in fact perhaps much good, in the action you propose. I understand that you intend to write informally to Mr. Ruby direct, which we agree is preferable to writing via the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely,

P. A. Carter.

(P.A. Carter)

See 64

CS

Let us now pursue above. There is correspondence of I think I made note of an American Exploring firm.

Sir Miles Clifford, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Recd. 15/11/49

Recd for file 20/11/49

48

Reply was enclosed with the Acknowledgement - he is based in New York.

51

Office.

Is there a copy of the ~~Indian~~ Report
available?

24/1/52

A.S.F.

Has Mr. Hetherley Smith returned to Stanley?

If so, I should like to see him with this file. If
not, can you tell me when he will be returning?

24/1/50.

H.C.S.

Mr Hetherley-Smith was given permission
by H.E. to go on the Fitzroy, presumably
for geological investigation. I ~~do not know~~
have just heard from the Shipping Office
that he was put off at West Point and
will fly in later. ? Do you wish me to
recall him

H.C.S.

25/1/52

A.S.F.

No, thank you. I suppose he will get in touch with us about
this, first I'd heard of it. Is he for U.K. or South again?

25/1/52

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

To Governor.

Interim Report 27th March Begins
 Peninsula W. of San Carlos and San Carlos
 area mapped ○ Succession determined reversing
 Baker's report ○ Local details mapping ○
 Fossil plants horizon found in Shales N. of

Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed In at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|------|
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|------|

To

San Carlos Settlement ① Structure of tunnels
 Complex pitching fields ①
 Proceeding to Mr Osborne 28th
 March. Adie Me.

Time

(Received by phone 27/3/50)

B.W. 5/4/50

0319
DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

SS

From Adie

To The Governor

Despatched : 3rd April

19 50

Time :

Received :

19

Time :

3rd April. Teal Inlet. Completed detailed mapping San Carlos area south east to Mount Osborne. Established there is no large scale faulting here. Aerial reconnaissance en route Teal Inlet revealed western Portion Wycomb Heights of Anticlinal origin. Large collection fossils made at Teal Inlet including tribolites sea lily stem and worms. Correlation sediments with those at San Carlos.

Mc. 3/
4.

ACI
will you see
you see
see
3/4/50.

B.H.
3/5/50.

56
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
2nd. June, 1950.

Sir,

56-62
I have the honour to submit the attached "Preliminary Report
on the Prospect of Finding Oil in the Falkland Islands."

A "Final Report" will be submitted when the specimens have
been examined in the laboratory.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. H. H.
Geologist.

H. E. the Governor,
Falkland Islands.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PROSPECT OF FINDING OIL IN THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

by

R. J. Adie.

CONTENTS.

- I. Introduction.
- II. Stratigraphy.
- III. The Devono-Carboniferous Rocks.
- IV. The Lafonian Sandstone.
- V. The Black Rock Slates.
- VI. Reported Oil Seepages.
- VII. Bitumen and Oil Shales.
- VIII. Structure.
 - (1) Folding.
 - (2) Faulting.
- IX. Conclusion.
- X. Acknowledgments.

56

I. INTRODUCTION.

During the past three months, while investigating the possibility of finding oil in the Falkland Islands, I have been able to examine geologically quite a considerable area of the islands. In view of the fact that the greater part of the data accumulated is purely of academic interest it is proposed that only information bearing directly upon the present investigation will be presented in this preliminary report.

II. STRATIGRAPHY.

The stratigraphic succession and thicknesses calculated by Baker have been checked and the only error I am able to detect is in the Devono-Carboniferous Series, which is thinner than he calculated due to more folding. My calculated thickness for this series is 8,700 ft. compared with 10,000 ft. (?) of Baker.

Baker's calculated thickness of the Gondwana (Lafonian) rocks is correct, since there is no major displacement by faulting.

III. THE DEVONO-CARBONIFEROUS ROCKS.

The complete succession of these strata has been investigated in detail and carbonaceous beds have been recorded in only one area, i.e. Chartres River opposite the settlement. Analyses of this material still have to be completed, but it can be said with confidence that it is of no economic value, because the outcrop is no more than 10 feet in thickness, and lenticular in form.

IV. THE LAFONIAN SANDSTONE.

Lying above the Lafonian Tillite is the Lafonian Sandstone, which can be readily differentiated from the remainder of the Lafonian Series. I have checked Baker's mapping in an east-west direction from Port Pleasant to Port Sussex, and find it entirely satisfactory. His estimated thickness is also correct.

In my opinion, based on the correlation of succession, the Lafonian Sandstone is the Falkland Island equivalent of the Middle Ecca Series of South Africa, where these same beds are coal-bearing. In some localities in the Cape Province, where doleritic sheets have been intruded beneath the coal horizons, partial distillation of volatile hydrocarbons has taken place, giving rise to oil seepages. These are, however, of little significance.

It is now certain that the Lafonian Sandstone contains no carbonaceous horizons, and even in the Port Sussex area where two doleritic dykes intrude this series no signs of graphite are seen in the sandstone itself.

V. THE BLACK ROCK SLATES.

These beds were carefully examined in the Port Sussex area, where graphite was reported to occur. There is indeed a small percentage of carbonaceous material in these slates, but the formation of graphite is entirely due to the thermal metamorphic effect of a small doleritic dyke intrusion.

The graphitic slates are of very limited extent and would certainly be of no economic value.

VI. REPORTED OIL SEEPAGES.

Bertrand, one-time captain of the "Porvenir", reported the following oil seepages along the coast of the Falkland Islands : -

- LAFONIA
- (a) Pyramid Cove, opposite Lively Island, inside the 7 fathom sounding.
 - (b) Seal Cove, opposite Lively Island, between the 5 and 7 fathom soundings to the southward of Pyramid Point.
 - (c) Creek between Bull Road and Fanny Road in the Bay of Harbours and just below the 4 fathom sounding in the creek.
 - (d) Bull Cove at the south end of Lafonia.

- PORT ALBERMARLE
- (a) Between the small unnamed island on the south side of the entrance to Albemarle Harbour and the mainland.
 - (b) West Arm between the 8 and 12 fathom soundings.
 - (c) Off the north-east side of the north-west projection of the largest Arch Island.

WHITE ROCK BAY, N.E. corner of West Falkland.

- (a) Opposite the "settlement" where 4 fathom is marked on the chart.
- (b) Near the entrance to the creek to the south of (a) and on the east side of another 4 fathom sounding.

PORT EGMONT South-west of Tussac Island which is NE of the Rapid Point peninsula of the mainland of West Falkland. Below the second "s" of "Tussac".

Reference to Baker's geological map of the Falkland Islands reveals that all reported oil seepages, except those in Lafonia, are from strata of Devonian age. These areas have been investigated and no trace of oil seepage or even carbonaceous material has been discovered. It is difficult to imagine what Bertrand saw at these localities reported by him !!

It is of interest to note that no oil occurrence in Devonian

strata has yet been reported from any other part of the world.

The Lafonian rocks of Seal Cove and Pyramid Cove were mapped in detail. This revealed no trace of carbonaceous sediments, though innumerable plant remains were recorded.

Countless other localities from which oil seepages were reported have been visited and duly examined. In the majority of cases the apparent petroleum seepages have turned out to be limonitic scum or vegetable oils resultant upon organic putrefaction on the surface of pools or ponds. "Fool's oil", in fact

VII. BITUMEN AND OIL SHALES.

During this investigation no oil shales or bitumen outcrops have been observed, though they have been reported from the coasts of Lafonia. It is my opinion that bitumen specimens collected in the past are not indigenous to the Falkland Islands.

VIII. STRUCTURE.

(1) Folding.

a. The northern portion of the East Falkland, comprising entirely Devonian strata is intensely folded along approximately east-west axes, and even though the rock structure is suitable for the retention of liquid petroleum, stratigraphical lack of carbonaceous material eliminates the possibility of its presence.

b. Lafonia, which consists entirely of Gondwana rocks, forms a gentle assymetric syncline with the major axis trending north-east to south-west. This structure is even less suitable for the retention of oil, since the fold axis lies at the south-east extremity of Lafonia in the Bay of Harbours area. Any oil which may have been present in this syncline would long since have been lost due to seepage into the sea.

c. The eastern coast of the West Falkland, together with the western margin of Lafonia, forms a major assymetric syncline, where probably the greatest thickness of Gondwana rocks are to be recorded.

d. The remainder of the West Falkland is folded along east-west axes, but since the greater part of the strata are of Devonian age, oil prospects are extremely small.

(2) Faulting.

a. The main difference in opinion between Halle and Baker regarding the interpretation of the structure of the Falkland Islands is that the former maintains there is considerable faulting along the east coast of West Falkland, whereas the latter ~~interprets~~ the structure as being due to folding. I am of the opinion that Baker is correct.

b. There is no faulting of any importance in the Falkland Islands; the only faults I have observed have been small scale and associated with fold axes in competent strata. This also means that the complete succession of Gondwana rocks is exposed, which is the reverse to what Joyce has suggested.

c. The thrust fault north of Darwin is small, only affecting about 200 feet of the adjacent strata.

d. In the Port Sussex area the faulting indicated by Halle and confirmed by Joyce is of minor significance, the outcrop of the Lafonian Sandstone being reduced by increased dip and not faulting alone. There is slight dislocation due to a doleritic dyke intrusion.

e. Minor dislocations along north-south trending faults produce tillite outcrops in the Port Harriet- Port Fitzroy area. However, these faults are of little structural significance, since the major structural element is folding along east-west axes. The faults are the result of local adjustment in competent strata.

f. Detailed observation on the structure of the Wickham Heights reveals that this mountain system is of fold origin and not a fault scarp as suggested by Joyce.

IX. CONCLUSION.

In spite of detailed mapping and careful examination of the Falkland Island strata, no actual seepages of liquid petroleum have been discovered.

It may therefore be concluded that the possibility of finding oil or oil shale in the Falkland Islands is extremely remote, and in view of the above facts it is suggested that no further action be taken regarding prospecting for oil in the islands.

X. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

To all those who have so kindly rendered me assistance during my field tours, I tender my sincere thanks.

Adie.

Geologist.

C.S.

63 And I wish my very sincere thanks conveyed formally to Mr. Adie for a most competent piece of work which will spare future Geologists the labour of pursuing oleaginous holes. We should inform S & S or the appropriate file. M.C. 13/v.

14th June, 50.

Sir,

57- I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to convey to you an expression of his appreciation of, and gratitude for, your report on the prospect of finding oil in the Falkland Islands, which he has read with much interest.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Michael R. Raymer

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

R.J. Adie, Esq.,
C/o. F.I.D.S.

0319

CS

Has my copy of Baker's
Geological Report been returned
in care to the Office ? I
lent it to Adie.

Returned
to H.E.

We should send a copy
(Adie's)

see p. 64.

of his Report under bond

Carrying despatches by this mail

23/6.

MC 19/vi

see Pl 10 - file

20/1/50

0319

BU 31/7/50
21/7/50

19th June, 1950.

Dear Carter,

50 Please refer to your letter to the Governor dated the 18th of October, 1949, reference 19860/54/49, about oil prospecting in the Falklands. In this connection we have made use of Adie of F.I.D.S., while here awaiting onwards passage to do some investigations for us, and His Excellency has instructed me to send you a copy of his report, from which you will observe that he considers the possibility of finding oil extremely remote and that it is not worth while prospecting.

We will send you a copy of his final report when received for your records.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Michael R. Rayner

A. Carter, Esq.,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

B.N. 30/6/51

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A further publication
Baker report may be supplementary to the
obtainable still —

REPRESENTATIVES of the GONDWANA SYSTEM
in the FALKLAND ISLANDS

by R. J. ADIE

extract from volume "Symposium on the Gondwana
System" published by the 19th International
Geophysical Congress, 1952.

contents: a re statement of Baker's correlation with
South Africa and some extra details on
the sedimentary succession: no major changes.

M. Brady April 1954

TAPE adhesive

K ... 0 p.6 reqd. for binding sketches

Amur '57

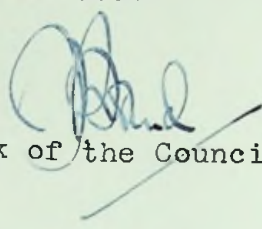
TAPE adhesive

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH MARCH, 1957.

.....
9. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

It was decided that preliminary enquiries should be made with regard to the possibilities and implications of a survey for oil deposits in the Colony.

.....


Clerk of the Councils.

Note.
I have asked Mr. Gavin Robinson of Hastings and Son, who have done a lot of this sort of survey work, to make personal enquiries in London from Shell Company to find out whether or not they would be interested in carrying out a survey in the Falklands. He will telephone me i.d.e. If that fails we might enquire from the C.O. - as the next move.

Please keep these papers in view and b.u. end of April if we have heard nothing by then.

W.F.F.
30.3.57.

Bu. 38/4
8
1/4

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

RECEIVED.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| 64 | LONDON | 18 | | 12-4-57 |

To

LT DENTON THOMPSON STANLEY

FULL CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN BUT NO QUICK DECISION POSSIBLE BALL ROLLING
WELL WRITING

GAVIN

On the 10th of April

16.

6/17

12.5.57

Time

DJ/10

*Oil investigation
file*

70

26th April,

57

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Commercial Secretary,

We should be very grateful for any information under the following heads you can obtain for us regarding the oil bearing strata of the oil fields in the Punta Arenas area:-

- (i) age.
- (ii) formational name
- (iii) rock type.
- (iv) equivalent formation in Africa (if known).

This information is required in connexion with preliminary geological investigations we are carrying out here with a view to ascertaining whether or not there is any prospect of oil in the Falkland Islands.

Yours sincerely,

Secretariat.

Reply at 81

Commercial Secretary,
H.M. Embassy,
Santiago,
Chile.

AGDT/PT

Port Stanley

27 April 1957

Sir

In envelope
at L.C.

Here are notes arising out of our several conversations and my survey of Huntington's aerial photographs. I look forward to gathering further information in S. America on my return to England but shall write no more until instructed by you.

I am Sir your obedient
servant

Pran Bayly

1) Fair draft letter. I want him
to get it before his ship sails.

2) On file.

[Signature]

29.4.57.

30th April, 1957.

Dear Bayly

AT. B.C. Thank you very much indeed for your Geological notes, report and map. I am very grateful for all the trouble you have taken over this problem.

I will let you know as soon as we get any information from Santiago.

Yours Sincerely

(Sgd.) A. G. Denton-Thompson.

B. Bayly, Esq.,

R.R.S. "JOHN BISCOE".

AGDT/ME

Dec 69 on file as requested pl
2/5.

73

please send

4
72

ACS.

Mrs. Tiney should have a copy of
a letter I wrote to the Communist Secretary
at the Santiago Embassy on this matter. Pl.
register on this file and recontact.

3.5.57

5
73

Office

ask Mrs. T. for the letter pl.

3/5.

Y. E.

Oil Deposits.

There are two locations in the Fathland Islands - one Hestby and myself - who believe that in view of:-

(1) The marked development and improvement during the past few years in "oil hunting" methods and

(2) The very rapid development of the oil field and industry in the Persian Persian area,

it is worth making further enquiries about the possibility of oil in the Fathlands, not only in the interests of the Fathlands themselves but also, I feel, in "Imperial" interests.

You will see from J. 68 that the matter was raised at Joint Committee in March. I put a persistent enquiry (with no commitment) through Gavin Robinson of Hastings - who is a personal friend of Douglas Baden (none one of Shell's principal hatchet men) to Shell to see whether they might be interested.

The next man was to get Brian Bayley - a Firth's Geologist and, I think, a good man, to look at the bio. cover of the Fathlands. This he did and his report and map are in the envelope at B.C. The third man was the approach to the Hastings Committee Secretary at J. 70. Bayley will read this information before reporting further. If the reply to J. 70 denotes similarity between the Persian Persian areas structures and our own - then we cannot rule out the possibility of oil, although in the long run somebody would have to drill.

What I have in mind is to try and get together sufficient data and a strong enough case to present on grounds to the S. of S. without the danger of it getting shot down out of hand at the first shot. The Baden report is attached.

C.S.

I am sure you are tackling this in the right way, and it will be interesting to see what news we get about developments in the Pueta Arenas area.

2. In view of Adie's report, we would certainly be shot down if we approached the SOVS before we have more to go on.

ZPA. 16.5.57.

24/7
12.5.57.

3/8 (mail)
Be. 30/6
2/12.



CASILLA 72D

BRITISH EMBASSY

Santiago, Chile.

Commercial Department.

81

CD.1536/7/57

June 21, 1957.

Dear Secretariat,

70

Thank you for your letter of April 26 about the oil bearing strata of the oil fields in the Punta Arenas area.

The Chilean National Petroleum Enterprise (Empresa Nacional del Petróleo) have given the following replies to your four questions:

- (i) Lower cretaceous (cretáceo inferior)
- (ii) Springhill
- (iii) Sandstone (areniscas)
- (iv) Unknown.

In its 1950 publication "Economic Geography of Chile" (Geografía Económica de Chile) the Chilean Production Development Corporation (Corporación de Fomento de la Producción) described the strata as:

"A sandstone of medium grain, varying in thickness from 10 to 30 metres, composed of quartz grain bound together by white clay and finely crystallised material. It has a porosity of 20 to 25%. Pressure at the base is estimated at 3200 to 3500 lbs. p.s.i."

x

As regards (ii), the name Springhill is merely that of the petroleum-producing district on the island of Tierra del Fuego and is therefore meaningless. We hope, however, that the rest of the scant information available will be helpful to you.

Yours ever,

COMMERCIAL SECTION

R

The Secretariat,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Mail from 79.

Reply at 88

168.

78.

82

I very much regret that owing to the present staff situation & the colossal mail (3 months) we received "as soon as possible" has been a week!

52/8



80

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
FIRST SECRETARY (COMMERCIAL)

Forwarded at the request
of Commercial Department,
British Embassy, Santiago.

Oil Exploration f. h. pl.

L. G. T.
9.8.57.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MONTEVIDEO.

28.6.57.

Extract from P.G.Mott's letter, dated 28th June 1957,
reference C/2/FIDAS 2nd Season. pgm/jls

Regarding the other matter raised by you at our last meeting before I left Stanley, I have asked our Geological Department to prepare an approximate cost for providing a rough "laydown" mosaic of the photographs covering the Falkland Islands, and on this basis to prepare overlay traces showing a preliminary geological interpretation. Such an interpretation would, of course, have to be followed up by visits on the ground, but would undoubtedly give the field geologist a great deal of information and enable him to concentrate on the areas most likely to be of interest.

Finds.

I should like an extract
of para x for the ~~att~~
Sustained Oit explanation
file. p.V

24.7.57
7.8.57

Offic.

Pl. register on the
Oit explanation file - together
with the letter that came in
from Pentecost - and let
me have the papers as soon
as possible.

24.7.57
13.8.57.

23rd August, 1957.

Dear Commercial Section,

8) Thank you for your letter CD.1536/7/57 of the 21st June, which has only just reached us on account of the very considerable gap we recently had in our mail service.

The information you gave us about the oil bearing strata of the oil fields in the Punta Arenas area is very useful and has been passed on to the Geologist who has undertaken a preliminary survey of our "Air Cover" of the Falkland Islands with a view to deciding whether further investigations might not be worth while.

Yours ever,

Secretariat.

The Commercial Section,
Commercial Department,
British Embassy,
Santiago,
CHILE.

AGDT/MC

D/O

81

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter that we have received from the Commercial Section of our Embassy in Santiago about the oil bearing strata of the oil fields in the Punta Arenas area.

I don't know to what extent this information will be of any use to you but I should be very glad indeed if you would look it over and let me have your comments and reactions.

I understand that you are now working at Birmingham and hope very much that you are enjoying yourself.

A.G.D.T.

B. Bayly, Esq., B.Sc.,
Department of Geology,
Birmingham University,
Birmingham,
ENGLAND.

AGDT/MC

24/x (maie)
30/9
Ba. 8
28/6

UNIVERSITY

OF THE
ORANGE FREE STATE
DEPARTMENT:

Geology.....



UNIVERSITEIT

VAN DIE
ORANJE-VRYSTAAT
DEPARTEMENT:

BLOEMFONTEIN
South Africa

12th September, 1957.

His Excellency the Governor,
The Falkland Islands Dependencies,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Sir,

A study of the rocks of the Cape and Karoo systems is being carried out in my Department; in the Falkland Islands there are rocks resembling the South African material very closely and I shall esteem it a very great favour indeed if I could obtain some aid from someone in the Falklands who has had a geological training or perhaps of a surveyor. It will therefore be appreciated if you would hand this letter to a suitable person.

On East Falkland the sedimentary beds grade from older to younger in a Southerly direction and I particularly need about four samples (each from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lb. in weight) taken at intervals across the island from North to South. One should be from the northern part, one from near the centre and two from the Southern part (taken in a North-South line and not in an East-West line). All should be of the kind of rock known as sandstone or quartzite, a light-coloured, gritty rock, which I understand forms prominent ridges across the Island; and all should be taken from outcrops and not from loose-lying boulders.

If I may suggest that two notes written to two persons in the Northern and Southern parts of East Falkland to bring in a chunk of rock on their next visit to Stanley should meet my requirements adequately. The third sample could be taken from the vicinity of Stanley. The places where the stones were taken should be indicated precisely.

If a fairly recent geological map of the Falklands is available, I shall be glad if you can either send me one or refer me to an address where I could order a copy. If no recent maps are available, have you the publication: Baker, H.A., Final report Geological Investigation, Falkland Islands, 1922?

I really regret having to put you to all this trouble. The samples are, however, indispensable to the investigation I have undertaken. Needless to say, I will be happy to forward you the amount of any costs which you may incur in collecting and dispatching (by post) the samples. If there are any publications or samples of South African material I can procure for you, you have but to name them and I will do my best to oblige.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

J.E. de Villiers

PROFESSOR J.E. DE VILLIERS.

Reply at 89.



Geology Department
The University
Birmingham

23 September 1957.

Dear Mr. Benton-Thompson,

Many thanks for your

84 letter and enclosure. I am sorry to say that the letter is definitely not encouraging. Equivalents of the Chilean oilbearing strata do not occur in the Falkland Islands. Consequently although we are correct in expecting a resemblance between Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands, it is the barren rocks below the oil which are matched by the Falklands. (see the centre of p. 2 of my previous notes.)

Pa. 16
25/10/57

In envelope
at back
cover

The structural evidence is of course unaltered. The rock-traps postulated by various people are still suitable sites for accumulation of oil: but about the

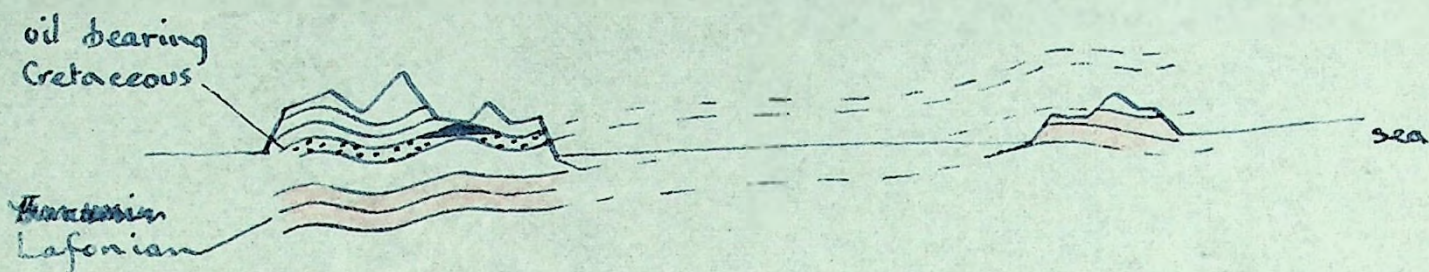
Reply at 90

critical question whether there is oil in the trap or not, the Chilean occurrence turns out to be irrelevant - it does nothing to counter Baker's gloomy view.

I am sorry about this, on account of the Falkland Islanders generally and because it must be a disappointment to you: but I conclude that the chance of success is so small that you will not be able to persuade any oil company to come and look. If by any chance I am wrong and your idea of inviting an exploratory company bears fruit, I do hope I shall be sufficiently in touch with petroleum news to hear about it.

Yours sincerely

Brian Bayly.



Tierra del Fuego

Falkland Islands.

Diagram of relations between oil bearing rocks in Tierra del Fuego and the Lafonian etc. of the Falkland Islands.

Airmail.

29th October, 1957

My dear Professor,

88

Thank you for your letter of the 12th September. I shall certainly do all I can to help in sending you samples of our rocks, and I hope they may prove to be as interesting as the dinosaur specimens that went to the Bloemfontein Museum when I was in Basutoland! It is pleasant to have this contact with Bloemfontein again.

Dr. Adie, who is a South African, will be coming out here in December before doing a trip to our bases in Graham Land. He now works at Birmingham University in the Department of Geology, and is responsible for the training of the young geologists whom we employ in our Antarctic Dependencies. I think he will be just the chap to advise me on the best way of getting the specimens you require, and I will take this up with him as soon as he gets here.

I am, in the meantime, sending you by sea mail a copy of Baker's report on his geological investigations in these Islands. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is any further help or information you would like to have.

(sent by same
"Darwin" seamaile)

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. P. Arrowsmith.

Reply at 101

Professor J. E. De Villiers,
University of the Orange Free State,
Department of Geology,
BLOEMFONTEIN,
South Africa.

EPA/PT

11. 11.57.

85

7/6

Very many thanks indeed for your letter of the 23rd September in which you gave your views about the possibility of oil deposits in the Falkland Islands having regard to the information we have obtained from Chile.

As you say this is very disappointing indeed. Nevertheless I feel that it was an exercise very well worth conducting on the grounds that even a negative opinion has its value inasmuch as we have some idea of where we stand.

Thank you again for all the trouble you took. I very much hope that you are enjoying life at Birmingham.

6-5-77

B. Bayly Esq., B.Sc.,
Department of Geology,
Birmingham University,
BIRMINGHAM.

AGDT/CJA

Y.E.

Folio 85 refers.

This is very disappointing. My own feeling is that we cannot really accept Bayly's opinion as the last word even though all the indications of the Baker Report were pessimistic. I feel in fact that the matter is so important that we cannot afford to "leave no stone unturned". Do you feel that it would be worth while dropping a line to the Colonial Office suggesting that it might be profitable if the aerial photographs of the Colony were to be submitted to the Director of Geological Surveys for examination and at least a preliminary opinion?

C. G. J. J. J.
11/11/57
9.11.57

AGDT/SJA

22/11/57

0319

D/O

Now that the air cover of the Falkland Islands has been completed and photographs are available, we have been wondering whether it would not be desirable for the Directorate of Geological Surveys to have a look at them, if possible, with a view to the possibilities of oil.

So far as we can see the prospects are certainly not hopeful. Baker expressed the view in 1922 that there was little likelihood of there being oil deposits in the Falkland Islands. Similarly Adie reported in 1950 that he concluded that the possibility of finding oil or oil shale in the Falkland Islands was extremely remote.

We got one of our F.I.D.S. Geologists who had some time to spare in Stanley on his way home to have a look at the air cover and to express an opinion as to whether or not the photographs indicated something new. He has also intimated that our prospects are pretty remote, in spite of the fact that some very profitable fields have been opened up in the Punta Arenas area in Chile.

While we are certainly not at all hopeful and do not of course want to start anyone on a wild goose chase it does seem that the matter is so important that it is worth getting final authoritative opinion from the Geological Surveys if this can possibly be arranged. We don't want to labour the matter unduly but we would like to feel that the last word has been said from an expert source before closing the file.

Perhaps you would be good enough to think this over and let us have your reactions.

A.G.D.T.

M.A. Willis Esq., M.B.E.,
The Colonial Office,
LONDON S.W.1.

AGDT/SJA

Recd. 10/1/58 (mail)
22/11

93 94.
26F.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

CONFIRMATORY COPY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Phoned to W/T Station
1130 26.11.57

SENT

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|----------|
| | | | | 26.11.57 |
| To | MANAGER RINCON GRANDE | | H.O. A/C | |

Hope to fly FIDS Geologist Bibby out tomorrow Wednesday morning
and collect late afternoon for purpose of collecting rock samples
Stop Very much regret short notice but hope will not be too
inconvenient at this busy time Stop Grateful learn if you have
any objections Stop Regards

Colonial Secretary

Bu 10/1/58
(mail)

Time

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 11.12.57 Time: 1620 Received: 12.12.57 Time: 0900

Confidential. 135. Following from Willis Begins. Your letter
November 22nd Geology.

Adie has informed Directorate of Overseas Surveys that his Organisation at Birmingham could under take Photogeology of Colony. Directorate Geological Surveys is willing and will confirm with Adie but suggest you discuss with him yourself Ends.

GTC:SJA

95

Y.E.

Q quick reply. Discuss with Adie?

B.G.T.

12/12/57.

26A

18.12.57.

96

B.u. early February 1958

A.H.
18/2/58B.u. 15
12/2
11/2
2/2/58
A.H.

97

Dr. Aine will be back in Stanley about the
6th March - possibly a day or so earlier. Please
b.u. about 2nd March 1958.

C.G.P.T.
17/2/58

98.

Hes.

Dr. Aine has now returned

10/3/58.

B.u. 9/3/58
A.
17/2/58

University of the Orange Free State,

BLOEMFONTEIN, *South Africa.*

21st February, 1958.

H.E. The Governor,
Falkland Islands,
Port Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

My dear Mr. Arrowsmith,

Attention: Mr. E.P. Arrowsmith.

89 Thank you for your letter of the 29th October, 1957 and the copy of Baker's report on the geology of the Falkland Islands. The latter I received only a few days ago.

Your willingness to collect some samples of Falklands' rock specimens for me is very greatly appreciated.

After reading Baker's report, I can now tell you more or less precisely what I require. One specimen (about 1 lb. in weight) of each of the following rock types: Lower Devono - Carboniferous sandstones (Port Stephens beds). Middle Devono - Carb. sandstone (Fox Bay beds). Upper Devono - Carb. sandstone (Port Stanley beds). Lafonian tillite (Port Fitzroy). Lafonian sandstone (also from near Port Fitzroy). Upper Lafonian beds sandstone, lower part (whole of Lafonia, e.g. Darwin). Upper Lafonian beds sandstone, upper part, (Swan Island or Cygnet Harbour)

Any one or more of these specimens that may prove difficult to obtain may be left out. The Port Stanley sandstone should be easy to procure and perhaps also the Darwin sandstone and Port Fitzroy tillite (the mottled or speckled rock). The Fox Bay beds also occur near Port Louis. If the Swan Islands and
Reply at 103 Port Stephens/.....

H.E. The Governor,
Falkland Islands.

2.

21st February, 1958.

102

Port Stephens sandstone prove difficult to procure, I can do without them or a Bay of Harbours sandstone can be substituted.

According to South African regulations, if the parcel weighs less than 11 lbs. it can be sent by post. The charge for 11 lbs. from the Falkland Islands is 22/6 and I accordingly enclose a postal order for this amount to cover postage. Any other expenses you may incur in obtaining the samples I will gladly refund.

My work on the heavy residues of the Cape and Gondwana rocks has now progressed to a point where information on Falkland Islands' rocks becomes of the very greatest significance.

Some day (in two years time) I hope to have the opportunity to visit the Falkland Islands and look at some of the exposures myself. I have seen a good deal of South America and have for a long time been attracted by the Falklands. I therefore greatly welcome this contact with that bleak outpost of civilisation as I imagine it to be.

Thank you very much again for your kind co-operation. If there is anything I can do for you in South Africa it will be a privilege.

Yours Sincerely,

J. E. de Villiers
J.E. DE VILLIERS.

/AK.

Y.E.

I discussed the question of geological interpretation of the air photography by Dr. Adie's department at Birmingham University with him on the 11th March. He is very ready to take it on and agrees with the old cliché that we should "leave no stone unturned or avenue unexplored." He has a complete set of photographs and he will take the necessary action.

2. I understand that he discussed with you the letter at folio 88 from Professor de Villiers. I got the impression that he thought the Professor was talking nonsense and he asked for copies of folios 88 and 89 in order that he could write to Professor de Villiers and give him any help or advice he can. This question is, therefore left with Dr. Adie to pursue.

a.g. 17.1.
13.3.58

160
SA 16.3.58

Bee 30/9/58

G
11/5

103

Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

6th May, 1958

My dear Professor de Villiers,

101
Many thanks for your letter of the 21st February. Before I received this letter I talked over your requirements with Dr. R. J. Adie, himself a South African from Maritzburg, who is in charge of the geological side of the F.I.D.S. organisation at Birmingham University. He was out here visiting our bases in Graham Land and promised that he would write to you after his return to England. He thought he would be able to give you much of the information you need, and I have now sent him a copy of your letter of the 21st February. 161 I am afraid that at the moment we have no one here who knows one rock from another, so we would not be able to help you until we have another visiting geologist.

In the meantime, I am returning your postal orders for 22/6d., but if there is anything further I can do after you have heard from Dr. Adie, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I was very interested to hear that you may be able to pay us a visit in two years' time, and will look forward to meeting you then.

Yours sincerely,

E. P. Arrowsmith

Professor J. E. de Villiers,
University of the Orange Free State,
BLOEMFONTEIN,
South Africa.

Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

6th May, 1958

Dear Ray,

161
103 After you left I had another letter from Professor
de Villiers, of which I enclose a copy and my reply.

I hope you had a good trip back to England, and that
the meeting of the Scientific Committee on the 1st of this
month went off well.

Frank Elliott leaves here on the 7th May and will have
June in England before leaving for Swaziland at the beginning of
July.

Please forgive this rushed note but the mail is closing
shortly.

Kindest regards from us both,

Yours *ever*

Dr. R. J. Adie,
Birmingham University,
Geological Department,
BIRMINGHAM.

105

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

W. A. S. LTD.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|------|
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|------|

24.11.58

To MANAGER PORT STEPHENS, PORT LOUIS, FOX BAY EAST,
HILL COVE, DARWIN, NORTH ARM, —

Over next few weeks group of geologists will be travelling in plane as second man in each case and will wish to take rock specimens from your camp in connection with geological investigation of the Falkland Islands. They will not be staying overnight will not require entertainment and as far as we can see will not need to trouble you in any way. Grateful permission for them to land and take specimens and if the need arises for any assistance that may be required. Regards,

DENTON-THOMPSON

Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

107

(W. & S. Ltd.—288 Pd/7/56).

RECEIVED

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|----------|
| 207 | FOX BAY ETAT | 16 | 1600 | 25/11/58 |
| To | | | | |
| penton - Thompson STANLEY | | | | |

105 Your telegram geologists shall be glad to render any help we can
Regards
Wick

PM:CL.

Time

25th November,

58

To: Director of Civil Aviation,

From: Colonial Secretary,

Aviation Department,

STANLEY.Geological Investigation of the Falkland Islands

You are hereby authorised to carry, as second man in each case, without charge, the following Geologists who are engaged in collecting specimens required for the Geological Investigation of the Falkland Islands.

B. H. Grimley
C. M. Barton
R. Tindal.

2. This Memorandum should be quoted as the necessary authority for ~~con~~mitting free flights in each case.

p21

(Sgd.) A. G. Denton-Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

AGDT/MF

Copies to Treasury and Audit.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

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| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|----------|
| 9 | Etat North Arm | 12 | 1010 | 26.11.58 |

To

Colonial Secretary Stanley

Will be pleased to assist geologists in any way
Vinson


✓ Pa
D

Time

@AJ/

Geologists — Mr. Gilbert

Keefelmed " ~~see~~ Her's are
right " this morning


26/11/58

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

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| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| 213 | Fox Bay etat | 24 | 0900 | 27.11.58. |

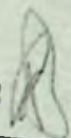
To Denton-Thompson Stanley

Reference your message re geologists have had pleasure in receiving one for very brief visit can I expect any more regards

Blake.

Time

JC



GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

28.11.58

To

BLAKE HILL COVE

HO A/C

110 Many thanks your message re geologists and for your help
stop It is unlikely they will be your way again stop Most of the
work is being done from the photographs stop Regards

DENTON-THOMPSON

Time

AGDT/IN

COPY

MEJOR-GOODWIN

Sociedad Anonima Comercial
Paseo Colon 221 Buenos Aires



14th July 1959.

CITAR CM

The Colonial Office,
The Church House,
8, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1

Dear Sirs,

Falkland Islands

Oil in considerable quantities has been found in Tierra del Fuego and in the extreme south of Patagonia so that it would seem possible and, in fact, perhaps probable that the oil deposits extend under the sea along the Continental shelf to the Falkland Islands.

Whilst I have no particular interest in the Falklands, apart from the fact that they are a British possession, it might be that a very acceptable source of crude oil could be brought to the surface.

Yours faithfully,

See 114

(signed)

C. MEJOR.



Colonial Office,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

END.138/50/01

12 August, 1959.

Sir,

115 I am to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 14th July about the possibility of oil deposits off the Falkland Islands, and to say that it is known that oil is present in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, where indeed it has been produced for many years. Geological conditions, however, are not entirely comparable in the Falkland Islands as much older rocks are present and the oil bearing beds of the mainland are generally absent.

Your comments have, however, been noted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd

R. J. J. Hill

C. MELLOR, ESQ.

139.28

Savingram

 CO_2 i

From **Secretary of State for the Colonies.**
To the **Officer Administering the Government of Falkland Islands**

Date..... 18 AUG 1959

No.

Colonial Office Reference PMD 138/50/01 - 9 SEP 1959 Your reference

Your reference

despatch
my telegram
your telegram

~~XXXX~~ , I enclose, for your

information

~~Consideration~~ a copy of the paper noted below.
~~observations.~~

SECEP

Originator and date

Subject

Mellor-Goodwin, Buenos
Aires 14-7-59
and Colonial Office reply
of 12-8-59

Possibility of oil deposits
in the Falkland Islands