

CONFIDENTIAL.

C.S.

1931.
~~1929.~~

No.

471/31

S. of S. Confidential

SUBJECT.

1931.

~~1929~~

22nd April.

Previous Paper.

KILLING OF SEA LIONS IN THE FALKLAND
ISLANDS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FUR
SEALS.

471/24

MINUTES.

1-2 Confidential despatch from S of S. of 22/4/31.

y/e

Submitted with k.p.s.

C.D.S.
28/5/31

Off 1/2 Sect.

I presume the incident
referred to is that which took
place in 1924 and is dealt with
in H.P. 471/24, attached. Only
8 or 9 sea lions are said

Subsequent Paper.

to have been killed at the

Volunteer Parks on that occasion!

2. I put up a draft

Confidential despatch in reply on

which in the first place I should

be obliged for Mr. J. E. Hamilton's

Comments. Please refer this N.P. with

N.P. 471/24 attached to be.

J.E.H.

29.5.31.

Mr. J. E. Hamilton,

For your comments please

C.L.H.
checked.
30/5/31

O/C. C.S.O.
I wish to state my entire agreement with H.E.'s views as
set forth in the draft confidential despatch.

2/ ? May I, with all diffidence, suggest that the
insertion of the word commercial before operations
in the third line from the end of the despatch
might be of some assistance in defining the
position.

J. E. Hamilton.
1st June 1931.

C.S.O. No. C/17/31

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

JH.

Submitted.

a. S. J.
1/6/31

Off 1/2 Sect.

Please type draft.

2. I am grateful for Mr

Hamilton's advice as to what to
accept his suggestion. Please let him
see Mr A.P. again when the draft
has gone.

JH.

1.6.31

3. Conf. despatch to S. of S. of 1/6/31

Mr. J. E. Hamilton

1/10 See.

a. S. J.
a. S. J.
2/6/31

O'c. 280.

Dear, thank you.

J. S. Hamilton.

5th June 1821.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DOWNING STREET,

22 April, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my Confidential despatch of the 25th of June, 1930, on the subject of the British Sealing Industries Limited's proposed hair sealing operations in the Falklands, and to state that I am informed by Mr. Wheeler, one of the Research Officers engaged in the "Discovery" investigations, that in 1925 the Government Stock Inspector, acting apparently under orders, undertook an expedition to the Volunteer Rocks for the purpose of killing sea lions in the interests of the fur seals. It is represented to me that this expedition was of doubtful expediency, and was conducted in a very unsatisfactory manner. The carcasses of the sea lions are reported to have been left to decay on the Rocks, and no doubt fouled them. Mr. Wheeler is of the opinion that the sound of the firing would possibly, and may actually, have resulted in the fur seals leaving the Rocks in alarm and failing to return. As far as the preservation of fur seals is concerned, I am advised that it would be better for a licensed company to take the sea lions for oil and hides, and so remove them bodily.

2.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*Received despatch
21-22
213/28*

①
S.S.O.

2. I shall be glad to be furnished in due course with your observations on the policy which you propose to pursue in future in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) PASSFIELD

S.S.O.

S.S.O.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

1st June, 1931.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 2.

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of the 22nd of April, 1931, I have the honour to state that as I am advised at present, for example by Mr. J. M. Hamilton of the "Discovery" expedition, I do not consider it to be either necessary or expedient to take any measures to kill sea lions in the interests of the fur seals.

2. I have to add that in the event of it appearing desirable at a future date to take such measures I agree in the view expressed by Your Lordship that it would be better, if practicable, for the sea lions to be bodily removed and utilised but that I cannot at the same time restrain a doubt as to whether it is wholly prudent to permit, even under supervision, commercial operations for the killing of sea lions at or near the fur seal rookeries.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most
obedient humble servant,

J. M. ELLIS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.