

FIS/12/3

VOL 2

FALKLAND ISLANDS

FIS/12/3

VOL 2

NAT/SEA/6 # 9

# SECRETARIAT

SEALING

ARCHIVE

CONNECTED FILES:-

FIS/30/2.....  
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File Opened 28 - 3 - 74

Pa 16/5  
CS 22/5  
PA 17/12  
DCS ✓  
Pa ✓  
DCS  
PA

*[Large handwritten signature across the grid]*



✓  
R63

①  
Mr Müller came to see me the morning he left and I told him that we were not issuing any licences for sealing in the Falklands. He expressed an interest in sealing in South Georgia but explained that he would need to have a licence for thousands of young seals. He seals in Alaska where he is permitted to take about 40% of the young seals from rookeries. More than this would be harmful to his future business. He also operates in South America

He has written to us before - see R608

I suggest that the reply to R63 is that Government policy is not to issue any sealing licences at present.

6/8/

②

*[Signature]*

25. 11. 73  
27.

as you suggest in your last letter.

*[Signature]*  
28/11

BU 15/3

*[Signature]*



(3)

~~YE~~

R. 72.

The haws will be in Stanley in several days time and will be flying out on Monday 25th.

2. Do you wish me to ask him to record his views or send them on when he has time to spare?

(4)

D. L. S.

PN wh Dr Law. to record his views/

DL

18.3.74

P.L.H.

20 Mar

D C S

1. I discussed the subject of sealing in the Falklands with the Director of BAS and he confirmed the advice he had given earlier that no sealing should be permitted in the Colony at the present time and that nothing should be done to re-start sealing before a full scientific survey had been carried out.

ELJ

E G Lewis

22 March 1974

Pa

RESTRICTED 101800Z

Routine to FCO from Falklands

Telegram No. 361 of 10th December

Sloggie has raised in Council the possibility of permitting the killing of fur seals, hare seals and sea lions around the Falkland Islands. I was very blunt about the outcry that this would cause and said I was surprised that this matter had been raised but in order to quieten members who are always looking for ways of raising revenue I would be grateful for your confirmation that on scientific and conservation grounds we cannot look at this at the present time.



B/W K m

RESTRICTED

69

BY BAG SAVING TELEGRAM  
FROM FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE 141230Z  
RESTRICTED

(WIAD)

TO ROUTINE FALKLAND ISLANDS TELNO. 3 SAVING OF 14 DECEMBER 1973.

Your telno. 361 of 10 December 1973: Seals.

// We agree that likely outcry from "animal lovers" and possibly Argentines (Sir D Hopson's letter to you of 9 November), makes killing unacceptable at the present time.

2. We consider a detailed census by experts of the Falkland Island seal population would have to be undertaken before exploitation could be permitted. Subsequently, adequate conservation measures would need to be adopted and a scientifically qualified sealing control officer appointed.

3. Dr Laws has advised that partial seal censuses since the 1930's reveal that population of sea lions to have decreased markedly and the population of fur seals to have remained static (elsewhere they have been increasing rapidly). The permissible kill would therefore probably be small and have little effect on revenue. Furthermore it would hardly be financially worthwhile to an outside commercial sealing operator.

FILES

W I A D

Latin Amer Dept

COPIES TO

Polar Regions Section LAD

RESTRICTED

bbbbbb

70

# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

*MA B/n 22/12*  
AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

*Stanley,*

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

13th December, 1973

His Excellency,  
The Governor,  
Government House,  
Stanley.

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for your note reference FIS/12/3 of the 6th December, 1973. I note all that you say and appreciate the position. However, I would like to see some authoritative reports on the seal population around the shores of the Colony, particularly hair seals.

I have no wish to see any action taken which would be detrimental to the wild life of the Colony but sight of some unbiased reports might provide useful ammunition when the subject is raised.

I hasten to add that, as is the case with the "S.A.L.T." people, the ammunition would only be used for defensive purposes!

Yours sincerely,

*Hester Slagden*

AS/ra



FIS/12/3

31 December 1973

The Hon A Sloggie  
The Falkland Islands Company Ltd  
Stanley

Dear Alistair

With reference to your letter (AS/ra) of 13 December about seals, I did in fact send a telegram to London after our last meeting of Executive Council and I have received the following reply: -

"We agree that likely outcry from "animal lovers" and possibly Argentines (Sir D Hopson's letter to you of 9 November), makes killing unacceptable at the present time.

We consider a detailed census by experts of the Falkland Island seal population would have to be undertaken before exploitation could be permitted. Subsequently, adequate conservation measures would need to be adopted and a scientifically qualified sealing control officer appointed.

Dr Laws has advised that partial seal censuses since the 1930's reveal that population of sea lions to have decreased markedly and the population of fur seals to have remained static (elsewhere they have been increasing rapidly). The permissible kill would therefore probably be small and have little effect on revenue. Furthermore, it would hardly be financially worthwhile to an outside commercial sealing operator".

With regard to South Georgia, Dr Laws and his scientists are studying the growth-rate of the various types of seals and sea lions on South Georgia and when I was down there recently with HM Endurance a considerable amount of photographic work was carried out to assist in the count. When the study has been completed, we will then know whether culling out of any particular species is necessary and whether this would have any economic potential.

Yours ever

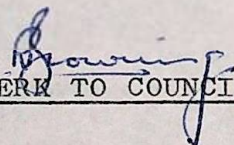
E G Lewis



EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING NO. 1/74  
HELD ON THE 3RD JANUARY 1974.

FIS/12/3

(vii) Sealing in the Colony - His Excellency told Council that he had written to the Honourable A. Sloggie on this subject (see Minute 9(xii) of Meeting 10/73), and that the advice of Dr. R. M. Laws would be sought while he was in the Colony.

  
CLERK TO COUNCIL



75

WILFRIED MÜLLER

IMPORT - EXPORT  
FELLE - SKINS - PIELES

D-2940 WILHELMSHAVEN  
UHLANDSTRASSE 12  
TELEFON (04421) 23208

8.04.1974

Mr.  
Ted Clapp  
Port Stanley - Falkland Islands  
c/o British Antarctic Survey  
mail via Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. Clapp:

six month have gone by since I visited your office in Port Stanley. I do hope you are well, the work isn't too much and the weather isn't too lousy.

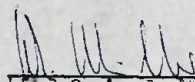
While in Port Stanley we were talking about the seals on South Georgia and that your office was going to make a count; also on the Falkland Islands in the near future.

?  
Did of?  
cont  
Remember

I would appreciate if you kindly inform me if you have done any surveys yet and if the figures are permitting a hunt in the near future.

Thank you for your reply, and all the best in the future.

Sincerely your's

  
Wilfried Müller



MIT LUFTPOST  
PAR AVION  
BY AIR MAIL

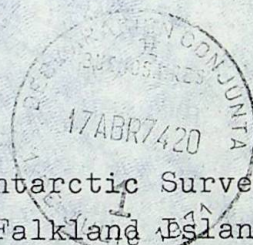


**WILFRIED MÜLLER**

IMPORT - EXPORT

D-2940 WILHELMSHAVEN  
UHLANDSTRASSE 12

Mr.  
Ted Clapp  
c/o British Antarctic Survey  
Port Stanley-Falkland Islands  
mail via Buenos Aires





74  
BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

Number

ROUTINE

Date 2.5.74.

Time 1415Z

FM STANLEY OFFICE

To LONDON H.Q.

INFO

X/0295/74 FOR DIRECTOR. AM IN RECEIPT OF A LETTER FROM HERR WILFRIED MULLER OF WILHELMSHAVEN GERMANY WHO IS AN IMPORTER AND EXPORTER OF SKINS. HE VISITED THE COLONY DURING THE WINTER OF 73 TO INVESTIGATE, I BELIEVE, THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SEAL SKINS ( PRESUMABLY FUR SEAL) AND COW HIDES.

HE HAS NOW ASKED IF WE HAVE MADE ANY COUNT OF THE SEALS AT SOUTH GEORGIA AND IF QUOTE THE FIGURES ARE PERMITTING A HUNT IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNQUOTE. I SHALL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO PASS THIS LETTER ON TO THE DEPENDENCIES GOVERNMENT BUT IN ORDER TO PASS ON AS COMPLETE PICTURE AS POSSIBLE AND TO SAVE FUTURE TELEX QUERIES MAY I REQUEST NOW YOUR VIEWS OR DIRECTIVES ON HERR MULLERS QUERY.

ECJC/-.

Time



73

V

L/1345/74 R 1352Z 7/5/74

FROM LONDON HQ

TO STANLEY

AS/103/4 X/293/74 CURRENT ESTIMATE 55-60 (55-60) THOUSAND FUR  
SEAL PUPS ANNUALLY SOUTH GEORGIA SUGGESTING TOTAL POPULATION AROUND  
200 (200) THOUSAND. I WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL FOR  
EXPLOITATION AT THIS STAGE. FIGURES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN POLAR  
RECORD BUT DO NOT ADVISE DIVULGING THEM TO MULLER.

RML/AH





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# BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

●  
Please quote in reply

No. 528/111C.

PORT STANLEY,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

7th May, 1974.

The Chief Secretary,  
Secretariat,  
STANLEY.

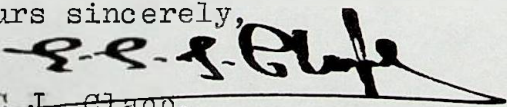


Dear Sir,

I copy to you self evident correspondence on the subject of seals at South Georgia.

Perhaps Dependencies Government would care to reply to Herr Mullers letter direct.

Yours sincerely,

  
E.C.J. Clapp,  
Officer-in-Charge,  
British Antarctic Survey,  
STANLEY.



20th May, 74

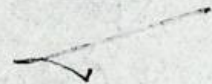
Wilfried Muller, Esq.,  
D-2940 Wilhelmshaven,  
Uhlandstrasse 12,  
GERMANY

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your letter of the 8th April addressed to Mr Ted Clapp of the British Antarctic Survey. This has been passed to me for reply since South Georgia continues to be administered by the Falkland Islands Government.

2. Surveys have now been completed on the seal population in South Georgia and I regret that we are not proposing to issue any licences for seal hunting in the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully,

  
(T.H. Layng)  
Chief Secretary

c.c. E.C.J. Clapp, Esq.,  
BAS,  
Stanley.



78

H

NR 140 R 081826Z JAN  
FM SOUTH GEORGIA  
TO STANLEY

M/0039/75. FOR CHIEF SECRETARY.

REGRET NECESSITY TO SHOOT MATURE FEMALE ELEPHANT SEAL, FOUND TRAPPED  
IN PIT CONTAINING CRUDE GASOIL GRYTVIKEN YESTERDAY.

PAWLEY+

