

CONFIDENTIAL.

MED/BRO/4#9

No. 0001/III.

Subject.

LOCAL BROADCASTING COMMITTEE.

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# Falkland Islands and Dependencies

CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

Meteorological Service,  
Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

Your Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

Our Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Broadcasting.

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H.C.S.

Thank you for your note about my success  
as D. of B. To be honest I don't like the idea  
of Mrs. Hamilton. Of course it's a bit difficult  
for me to pass judgment on whether or not she can  
do the job, but I certainly doubt that she would  
it well. At the moment the staff tolerate her  
I don't really think she could keep them up to the  
mark in times of difficulty. I think the annals  
accept my authority because they recognise that  
I know more about the job than they do and can  
if necessary, do it for them — as indeed I have.  
The engineers appreciate that I have a certain amount  
of technical knowledge and they are prepared  
up with some interference, extensions of hours  
because they know that I am willing to  
my spare time to the job without.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton does not impress them in this way and they feel (I'm sure) that she is being well paid already. I'm confident that she wouldn't accept the job without another hundred or two and this might well add to her difficulties.

I agree that Mrs Hamilton can do all the routine work, of course, but I think she must have a "watch dog" rather than a "stooge" - someone who sets a reasonably high standard and has enough authority to keep it up. Mrs Hamilton has a definite tendency to let things slide in the matter of standards - a good example is the talk she allowed FID. to give on the recent voyage of the "Hersel".

Not only was it a load of puerile rubbish but it contained two highly uncomplimentary remarks which could have ~~led~~<sup>led</sup> to serious trouble - one about the B.C. cafe in Westminster and one about the comment and drainage of Uruguay! - this despite the fact that I had specifically asked her to vet. it and she claimed to have done so.

As I think about it, the more I feel that it was the only logical choice. He was among

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the first people to ring me up and complain about  
the talk I have mentioned and his wife wrote a  
letter of complaint to Mrs. Hamilton. He is undoubtedly  
keenly interested, listens to nearly everything we  
broadcast, and is already involved in educational  
broadcasting, which ought to expand. He has  
authority which comes from being Head of a Department  
and, although I don't doubt he is kept busy, the  
hours and holidays should at least give him  
opportunity to arrange his work to suit himself.  
I know only too well how inflexible his views can  
be but I took the opportunity of asking the members  
of the Broadcasting Committee (quite unofficially) of  
who they thought might be able to take over the  
? So, and they were almost unanimous that  
the best choice - despite his obvious dislike  
a lot of the trouble we had with him.

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before was due mainly to two factors - he felt he was "in opposition" because he wasn't the chairman and (to make matters worse) he strongly disliked me - though I think he may have mellowed a bit by now. I feel strongly that you should at least give him the opportunity to refuse before considering Mrs. Hamilton further. She, (by the way), says she'll be quite happy to work with him. And I'm quite satisfied that he will do the job better than anyone else we can get.

In either case I should be grateful for early action to relieve me of my posts as Director of Broadcasting, Chairman of the Broadcasting Advisory Committee and Secretary of the Wireless Communications Committee. I have spent much of my spare time on these jobs for almost eight years and I must get off them soon to clear up my met. office and personal affairs before going home.

It was in 1948 that Mr. Matthews, then Col. Sec.,

came to take over from Mr. Rice the weekly

and gramophone record concert on Sunday.

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afternoons. I don't know for how long I did but I know I did a total of over fifty and was responsible for organising them for some years - except for a period when we had a so-called "Information Office" (Cunningham). A Broadcasting Committee had been set up in 1947 but, although some good ideas were put forward, it never seemed to get going and we muddled along on records and the odd feature programmes for quite a long time. (The first morning commentary I did, probably the first ever done in the Colony, was on the laying of the Town Hall foundation stone April 1948 by Sir Miles Clifford. Football matches followed soon after. The first one was by sticking the aerial of an Army walkie-talkie out of my car window, receiving it on a radio in the studio and rebroadcasting it on the radio.

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quality of reproduction (and the contents of the commentary).  
were both very poor but it was a start — )

The present Broadcasting Advisory Committee  
was set up in May 1949 and the members elected me  
as chairman. Mrs Cawthell was good enough to  
become Secretary and her enthusiasm, and the fact  
that we were soon able to start using B.B.C.  
Transcriptions, helped to get us off to a good start  
this time. We have had our ups & downs but,  
generally speaking, we have made steady progress ever  
since and the difference between local broadcasting  
now and six or seven years ago has to be heard  
to be believed. In 1952, to ensure closer  
co-ordination of effort, authority for programmes  
was vested in an individual (D. of B.) and the  
Committee was made advisory to him. This post  
fell to me & I continued as Chairman of the  
Committee. And for several months in 1953 I acted  
as Secretary as well! In October 1953 a full-  
time Secretary was appointed and broadcasting time  
to seven evenings a week.

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On the technical side - when the Wireless Commu-  
Committee was re-constituted in August 1947 I was  
appointed Secretary. I have now served in this  
capacity for almost eight years, under the succe-  
chairmanships of Commanders Gairdner, Lt/Col. Pierce-Bu-  
and Mr. Mercet. The period has included the  
organisation of meteorological communications, the  
setting up of the new w/r station, the planning  
led to the new broadcasting and re-diffusion equi-  
the development of the R/T service, and so on.  
has involved scores of meetings and many  
of words in minutes & reports. Now that the  
problems associated with these developments have  
solved the advisory functions of this committee  
steadily decreased and things have been handled  
more & more as routine work inside Mr. M.  
the committee now consists only of Mr.  
Hookey, the O-i-c demospheric st/

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advice has not been sought for some time.  
I suggest that you might delay appointing a  
new Secretary till the need for one is obvious.

So I think I may fairly claim that I have  
been more closely associated with the development  
of broadcasting in the Colony in the last eight years,  
and have devoted more of my own time and energy  
to it, than any other individual. I feel sure you  
will look with sympathy on my request to be  
relieved — I should like to be free by March 15th.  
if possible, and certainly not later than the end of  
the month.

D. Mc

D/S

8/3/55.

P.S. I would like to visit the B.B.C. officially  
behalf of the local services when I get back if  
can be arranged.

DM

Right, in view of what's said I'll approve my  
appointment

Will 4/4 CLOSING  
see Vol IV

Confidential

28<sup>th</sup>

Albion

I mentioned before that Mr Hamilton seemed to be the best candidate for the post of Secretary. I felt that Campbell was too inflexible in his views. However, I would like to reconsider his representations and recommendations if he will do so.

He has the advantage of being in position of authority, he is a tireless worker and gets on well with Mr Hamilton. Now that we have a paid Secretary the work of Director and Campbell can exercise the necessary governmental control & supervision.

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