

CONFIDENTIAL.

1933
~~1929.~~

C.S.

No.

99/33.

S. of S. Confidential.

SUBJECT.

~~1932~~
1933.

3rd March.

Previous Paper.

CENTENARY OF COLONY OF FALKLAND ISLANDS -

Articles published in the Argentine
Press concerning.

MINUTES.

- 1-6 S. of S. Confidential despatch of 3/3/33.
- 7-10 3 pm. from A.M. Huissler, B.A. 17/3/33.
- 11-12 S. of S. Confidential 3 pm. 24/3/33.

Y.E. Letter to Sir Ronald Mackay
submitted for signature.

M. Craigie Hart
ag. cs.
16. V. 33

- 13 Letter to Sir Ronald Mackay, 16/5/33.
- 14-18 Confidential despatches from S. of S. 25/10/33.

Y.E.
Submitted.

C. H. Jones
6/12/33.

Subsequent Paper.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you. Await further
developments, if any.

McH

7. 12. 33

K.H.
7/17/33

6

Reference to previous correspondence:-

Secretary of State's Despatch No. 16... of the
Governor's

A
1



12th January,.....19.....

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. CONFIDENTIAL.

DOWNING STREET,

.....5 March,.....19..33.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you ~~the papers~~
for your information, a copy of the papers
noted below on the subject of the centenary celebrations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

Date.	Description.
<u>1932.</u>	
23rd December. No. 432.	From H.M. Representative Buenos Aires.
<u>1933.</u>	
7th January. No. 8.	- do - (without enclosures).

COPY

No. 432.

BUENOS AIRES.

December 23rd, 1932.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 266 (A5757/1006/2) of September 28th relative to the Falkland Islands and the proposed Centenary Celebrations there, I have the honour to report that until quite recently I had seen no reference to this Centenary in the Argentine Press.

2. However, now the Sociedad Popular Educadora de Liniers has addressed a Memorial to the Minister for Foreign Affairs reminding him that in January next will occur the centenary anniversary of the day on which "the Falkland Islands" passed into the dominion of England under the pressure of force, since on January 2nd, 1833, Commander Onslow of the British Navy, in command of the corvette "Clio" took possession of the port Luis de Soledad obliging the Argentine schooner "Sarandi" to return dismantled to Buenos Aires". The Memorandum proceeds: "this act of force is the only antecedent which, for lack of a legitimate title, England can produce to continue in possession of an island which juridically and by reason of its geographical position pertains to our territory, it having been proved moreover by incontrovertible historical reasons that these islands were discovered by Magallanes in 1520, long before they were surveyed by Davis in the name of His Britannic Majesty (1592), as was recognised by France when in 1764 the

French

The Right Hon.
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.
Foreign Office.

French subject M. de Bougainville founded the establishment of Puerto Luis and ordered its return to Spain in consequence of the claims presented in that epoch". In conclusion the Memorial says that "notwithstanding that the authorities (of the Sociedad Popular Educadora de Liniers) are able to demonstrate in a conclusive manner the unquestionable right of the Argentine Republic in her claim to the Falkland Islands, the Society considers it their duty to leave to the study of the Chancery the best means of securing the legitimate return to our Nation of this fragment of territory which has been for a century under foreign dominion". The Society announced its intention of organising a public campaign to secure its object, but though some days have now elapsed since this memorandum was reported in the press I have not seen further references to it.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) RONALD MACLEAY.

No. 8.

Buenos Aires

January 7, 1933.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 458 of December 23rd, 1932, relative to the Centenary of the final occupation of the Falkland Islands by His Majesty's Ship "Clio" on January 3rd, 1833, I have the honour to transmit herewith for purposes of record long informative articles published by the two leading dailies "La Nacion" and "La Prensa" with reference to this occasion, and giving the history of the Falkland Islands, and the controversy. However, the editorial comment is as friendly as the occasion allows, indeed remarkably so, while maintaining with complete confidence the Argentine claim to the Islands.

2. The Prensa comment is contained in a paragraph at the end of the historical article above-mentioned, and is as follows:

"The traditional and solid friendship between Argentina and Great Britain has never become cold because of this question. All our Governments have respected and followed an international policy of peace, which is already an Argentine tradition. But our nation never forgets that a foreign flag waves over a portion of the Argentine soil which belongs to us geographically and historically

The Right Hon.
 Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
 etc. etc. etc.
 Foreign Office

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historically; whose shores are washed by the same waters as our coast and whose territory is covered by the same skies as our territory; and because it does not forget it and does not renounce its rights, it is confident that justice, more powerful than force, will one day impose a just judgment in the matter."

3. The Nation reserves comment for a leading article: it begins by saying that the incident of His Majesty's Ship "Olio" should be remembered "without bitterness and only to retemper our spirit. That act of violence which constitutes the one case in which we have had to give way under the pressure of force, has not blotted the stainless record of our history nor prejudiced the justice of our claims. Neither then, nor during the hundred years that have since passed, have we ever renounced our claims; on the contrary we have maintained them serenely and firmly on every appropriate occasion and have always been ready to defend them before a court of arbitration, the only authority which can grant incontestable and final claims to the possession of the Falklands."

4. Further on the article states "The sovereignty of the Falklands can be, if so desired, a litigious question, a lawsuit between two nations which understand each other and esteem each other, but never a matter settled by unilateral decision and by the simple predominance of force."

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5. In its concluding paragraph the Nation article states: "Long before this incident, from the first years of our struggle for independence, we found in England a valiant and sincere helper. We must always remember with gratitude how the vigorous and clever diplomacy of Banning gave decisive protection to the Republic at its birth, and was one of the first to recognise our independence. . . . Afterwards and always the British have been our good and loyal friends. In the development of the resources of our country British capital has been the most liberal and active agent, the most constant and efficacious propulsive power. Our finances were greatly helped by the London banks. British railways and industries were, generally speaking, the first and principal ones on our soil. We believe that we have requited this liberality suitably in all cases. We are therefore able to claim with nobility and friendliness, without acrimony, but with honest and unwavering sincerity, as is fitting between friends, that which we believe to be our inalienable right."

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(signed) RONALD MACLEAY

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

With the compliments of His
Majesty's Ambassador at Buenos Aires.

March 17th, 1933.

COPY.

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No. 83

BUENOS AIRES.

March 17th, 1933.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the recent issue of a series of Falkland Islands postage stamps commemorating the centenary of the British occupation of the Islands has occasioned considerable and unfortunate comment in the Argentine where the matter is considered as a provocative act and one which cannot be ignored.

2. The action of the competent British Authorities in permitting the issue of these stamps has been the subject of criticism in the local press of which the following translation of a leading article in "La Prensa" of March 11th is a typical example.

"We have already mentioned the proposal of the British Authorities to print and circulate a series of postage stamps commemorating the centenary of the occupation of the Falkland Islands. We published a photograph of the stamp which, among other details, contains the inscription "1833-1933", and is of a certain value inasmuch as it testifies to the origin of British possession obtained through the forcible removal of the officials who represented the Government of Buenos Aires.

"The printing of these stamps compels our Authorities to do or say something that will make it clear that the British Government has no right whatever to do so; their action should be categorically disclaimed and a communication to that effect despatched to the International Office at Berne. A similar case happened last year when the Postal Administration of British India proposed to issue a series of stamps to be utilised by the British post office authorities in the Bahrain Islands in the Persian Gulf and claimed by Persia. The Persian Authorities at once informed the International Office at Berne that, as the Bahrain Islands belonged to Persia, the correspondence from those localities which bore stamps that were not Persian would be treated as unstamped and would not be delivered to the addressee until a double postage rate had been paid.

"We could have wished that the Executive had taken adequate steps to safeguard our rights without our

The Right Hon.
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc. etc. etc.,
Foreign Office.

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our having to call their attention to the matter, above all when the Governments of both nations are trying to come into closer relations and increase the interchange of trade".

3. On the same day an official announcement appeared in the press to the effect that the Argentine Government had been considering the matter for some time previous to the press campaign calling upon them to take action and that a communication had in fact been sent to the Argentine Legation in Berne to notify the International Postal Union that the Argentine Post Office would refuse to recognise the franking power of the stamps. The result of this action will be that recipients in Argentina of letters bearing the stamps will be called upon to pay the postage plus the usual fine.

4. In this connection I would refer you to Sir Malcolm Robertson's despatch No. 220 of December 19th, 1927, regarding the Argentine Postal Administration's declaration to the International Postal Union claiming territorial jurisdiction over the Falkland Islands and also to his despatch No. 226 of December 28th, 1927, in connection with the refusal of the Argentine Postal Authorities to forward letters addressed to the Governor of the Falkland Islands by His Majesty's Embassy and Consulate General. In that despatch Sir Malcolm Robertson reported that as a result of his representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the Argentine Government had agreed that the postal and telegraphic interchange with the Falkland Islands could be carried on "provided that the Ministry of the Interior makes a previous declaration that such fact does not lessen in the slightest degree the previously expressed right of Argentine sovereignty and that it cannot be invoked by any country to the detriment of such right".

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5. The issue of the centenary stamps has undoubtedly taken place at an unfortunate moment in Anglo-Argentine relations as it was bound to cause unfavourable comment and to re-open in the Argentine press the whole question of the sovereignty of the Islands at a time when it is important that it should be forgotten. Nevertheless the action of the Argentine Government in refusing to recognise the issue was as unexpected as it is childish. If, however, the Postal Authorities in the Falkland Islands could arrange that this particular issue of stamps is not used for correspondence from the Islands to the Argentine I imagine that we shall hear no more of the matter.

6. Copy of this despatch is being sent direct to His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) RONALD MACLEAY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.



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The Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Officer Administering the Government of Falkland Islands and has the honour to transmit, for his information, copies of Questions and Answers in Parliament during the current session, which have reference to the territory under his administration.

Downing Street.

24th March, 1933.

Date.	Asked by.	Answered by.	Subject.
20th March, 1933.	Captain Peter Macdonald.	Mr. Eden.	Falkland Islands Centenary Stamps.

Extract from Official Report of
20th March, 1933.

Falkland Islands (Centenary Stamps).

30. Captain PETER MACDONALD asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the action of the Argentine Government in refusing to recognise as valid the stamps issued to celebrate the centenary of the Falkland Islands, with the result that all correspondence so stamped has been surcharged; and what action he proposes to take in the matter?

MR. EDEN: I have seen statements on this subject in the Press, and my right hon. Friend is asking His Majesty's Ambassador at Buenos Aires for a report.

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16th May, 1933.

Dear Sir Ronald,

Thanks for sending me copy of your despatch dated March 17th to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have of course seen statements setting forth the view of the Argentine Government in the matter of the Falkland Islands Centenary Stamps and the action taken thereto. I agree that such conduct is childish - petulant children want "spanking" some times.

With due respect the suggestion "that the Postal Authorities here should arrange that our Centenary Stamps are not to be used in correspondence from the Islands to the Argentine", will not for a moment, be entertained.

Yours sincerely,

SIR RONALD MACLEAY, K.C.M.G.
&c., &c., &c.

(sgd) James O'Grady

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Bureau International

de

l'Union Postale Universelle.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.



Downing Street,

25 October, 1933.

Sir,

Monsieur le Secrétaire.

With reference to Mr. Inery's despatch Confidential (2) of the 11th June, 1933, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, covering a communication from the Argentine Postal Administration with regard to the Falkland Islands centenary stamps, together with a copy of the reply which has been returned to the International Bureau.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

General Post Office,

London.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Recd
84-85
12/28 (3)
Fr. Intl. Bureau.
10.4.33.

To do. 11.9.33.

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Bureau Internationale
de
L'Union Postale Universelle,
Berne.

le 10 avril 1933.

Monsieur le Secrétaire,

Je prends la liberté de vous
communiquer, a toutes fins utiles, la copie d'une lettre que
je viens de recevoir de l'Office de l'Argentine au sujet des
timbres-poste de Falkland repartis par notre circulaire du
11 janvier dernier, No.229/10.

J'ai informé l'Office argentin de la
transmission d'une copie de sa lettre à votre Administration.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire
l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Pre Le Directeur:

Le Vice-Directeur.

General Post Office,
Londres.

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REPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE
Direction générale des
Postes et des Telegraphes.

Direction des Postes.

Buenos Aires,
le 16 mars, 1933.

No.1392.
Dos.Resol.41.611.

Monsieur le Directeur du Bureau international
de l'Union postale universelle, Berne.

Me référant à votre lettre-circulaire du 11 janvier 1933,
No.229/10, et, spécialement, en ce qui concerne le
paragraphe 6°, GRANDE-BRETAGNE, lettre c) Iles Falkland
(Malvinas), J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que mon office
a résolu, comme conséquence des antécédents existant dans
la circulaire publiée par votre Bureau, le 14 Octobre 1927,
sous le n° 6799, de considérer manquante de valeur
d'affranchissement toute pièce de correspondance qui
arrive à notre pays, timbrée avec les exemplaires
commemoratifs dont fait mention la circulaire précitée,
n° 229/10.

Partant, à la correspondance dont il est question
lui sera appliquée la taxe de charge qui existe pour les
envois non affranchis.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma haute
considération.

Le Directeur des Postes,
Signature.

3003.

28909/33.

11th September, 1933.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th April, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Argentine Postal Administration in regard to the postage stamps issued in commemoration of the centenary of the Falkland Islands, I am directed by the Postmaster General to refer to the letter from this Administration of the 30th May 1928, (No.123648/27). As stated in that letter, the Falkland Islands and their dependencies, among which are included South Georgia and the South Orkney Islands, are and remain under British jurisdiction, and the title of the Postmaster General to represent them in Postal Union matters cannot be regarded as qualified in any way. This re-affirmation is considered to be necessary in view of the fact that the Argentine Post Office have based their action in refusing to recognize the validity of the Falkland Islands centenary stamps on their statement reproduced in your circular letter of the 14th October 1927, No.6799/195.

As you are aware the provisions of Article 46, Section 1 of the London Convention and Article 43 section 4 of the relative Detailed Regulations require the participating Administrations to accept correspondence, bearing the necessary postage stamps valid in the country of origin for use by private individuals, as prepaid; and in these circumstances the disallowance of the postage stamps in question

by

The Director of the International Bureau
of the Universal Postal Union,
BERNE.

by the Argentine Post Office is in the Postmaster
General's opinion a breach of the Postal Union
Convention.

I have etc.,

(Sd) A.R. Kidner.