

SG People

IN CONFIDENCE

SECRETARIAT

0003/11	0003/11

(Formerly)

LEAVE & PASSAGE REGULATIONS.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

|

COPY - Original in D/18/51/VI.

OK 8/31/65

SAVING

From the Secretary for Technical Co-operation

To The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands

Date 11th September, 1963.

No. SA 253/48/01

Your ref: D/18/51/VI.

Your Dependencies Savingram No. 1 S.G. of the 22nd May.

Leave and Passages for South Georgia staff.

Further consideration has been given to the length of ~~four~~ and leave entitlement of officers serving in South Georgia and the proposals in sub paras (i) and (ii) of your Colony Savingram No. 16 of the 19th March, 1962, are agreed.

2. With regard to passages it is still felt that the provision of oversea passage privileges for locally recruited staff is unnecessary and it is a practice which cannot be approved in principle for territories whose finances are assisted by H.M. Treasury. The desirability of allowing officers recruited from the Colony for service in South Georgia the same passage conditions as apply in the Colony service is appreciated, but in our view there is no real justification for the grant of this concession in the Colony service and when an opportunity arises, e.g., in a future revision of pay and conditions of service, consideration ought to be given to its withdrawal.

3. In the meantime, officers, recruited for South Georgia may continue to be allowed the same passage privileges as Colony staff, but it is not possible to agree to the inclusion of the oversea passage concession in any regulations drawn up for South Georgia.

4. I am prepared to agree to the payment of a fixed grant towards baggage expenses incurred from port to home so that South Georgia staff should receive the same treatment as Colony staff, but I am far from convinced that this is a satisfactory method of dealing with this matter, however administratively convenient it may be.

SECRET.

L.2.

Original removed from
D/18/51/VI to G.H.file.

CA
8/3/65

23rd December, 1963.

PERSONAL

My dear Arrow,

I am sorry that we have not replied earlier to your letter of 18th October in which you referred to the D.F.C. savinggram of 11th September about leave and passages for South Georgia staff.

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2. I am sorry that the D.F.C. savinggram has caused so much bother. At the time we thought we were rather lucky to get Treasury concurrence to the grant of leave and passages to the United Kingdom for Falkland Islanders serving in South Georgia. The Treasury, in letting us have their somewhat reluctant agreement to the arrangements, threw in their views about the concession granted to the Falkland Islanders in the service of the Falkland Islands administration. It is recognized both here and in the D.F.C. that there was no immediate cause for them to comment on the Falkland Islands arrangements since the Colony is not grant-aided but, since the main argument which we had used for getting their agreement to the arrangement in South Georgia was the fact that this concession was granted by the Falkland Islands administration to their local officers, it is perhaps not surprising that they should have made this comment. We passed it on to you as an indication of the Treasury's strong views on the subject. With benefit of hindsight, I am not sure that we need have done so; and we all agree that the savinggram could have been more happily worded.

Noted

3. The savinggram reflects a general doctrine to which the Treasury hold tenaciously. But we recognize that in small and isolated territories, particularly in the Falkland Islands with their strong ties with Britain, "general doctrine" may need a good deal of modification before it can be applied in all its rigour. If the question were at any time likely to become a "live" one, those of us who are concerned here would be ready to make a strong case for an exception to be made in the case of the Falklands, and I should have good hopes that we could carry the day. Since however there is no imminent likelihood that this will be necessary, I am reluctant to embark on an argument with the Treasury on a hypothetical case in which they would almost certainly defend their general doctrine with some vigour and probably become even more firmly wedded to it. I suggest that the best way of dealing with the situation would be for you to let it be known in confidence to those who may have seen and been worried by the savinggram that you have made strong representations against the paragraph in question; that you understand that there is no likelihood of your being asked to withdraw the leave concession so long as the Colony is not grant-aided; that even if grant-in-aid did become imminent -- which does not seem at all an immediate prospect -- you have been assured by the Colonial Office that they recognize that the Falklands Government of the day would wish to argue that the general doctrine should not be applied to them and that the Colonial Office would naturally give full weight to such representations; and that given the special circumstances of the Colony you believe that a case of such strength could be made that there would be a good hope that it would carry conviction in London.

4. I hope this will serve to allay any fears your officers may have felt, and which I honestly don't think they need feel. If it didn't, we should have to have another look, but I am sure it is best not to ask for an official recantation if you can help it.

Yours ever

(J.E. Markham)

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, KCMG,
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Law
22.2.64