

39278

1934

CO 78: 197/13

39278

CLOSED  
UNTIL

S  
1505

Prince Edward & Marion Island



Previous

Re 56 907/24

Subsequent

187

4x

Mr Davies

4x

Mr Jones

5x

Dr. (Agro)

22/10

Mr McSwiney

24 10

SL

24 10

ROUT BY

Reference 1. Transmits copy of correspondence with United States Ambassador re United States Consular Officers at Cape Town and Durban.

*Orig. minutes  
reqd. on  
31085/34/General.*

We should now proceed to write to the Officers Administering the Governments concerned on the lines of 3 and 4 in 10941/33 but before doing so there are two queries to which attention should be drawn:-

- (a) Tristan da Cunha. I understand that this island is not administered by any Colonial etc. Government and from our point of view I should imagine that it would be better if it were included in the consular district of the United States Consul-General in London. In that case I suppose that recognition in respect of Tristan would be accorded by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.
- (b) Prince Edward Islands. These islands are in the South Indian Ocean (45.15S-39.0E) and I cannot discover any evidence that they are regarded as British territory. (They are not underlined in red in the maps in the Colonial Office list or the "Times" atlas)
- ? write to St.Helena and Mauritius as proposed above and in sending copies of the despatches to Foreign Office put the suggestion made in (a) as regards Tristan and inform them as in (b) as regards Prince Edward Islands.

(Sgd.) T.R. Parsons.

16/8.

See my marginal notes

(Sgd.) F.Kennedy.

21/8.

See Mr.H.T.Allen's minute of 21/8 on 30487/2.

(Intld.) F.K.  
But it is for the United States Government to decide the jurisdiction of their consuls.

(Intld.) J.M.

Nor are they mentioned in Misc.89 - see 'A' in 30487/2.  
(Intld.) F.K.

It appears from Appendix III to Miscellaneous 251 (copy in 30487/2/34) that a licence to remove guano from Prince Edward Islands was granted to Mr. W. B. Newton in 1908. The Islands must therefore be regarded as British.

? write to St. Helena and Mauritius as proposed. Send copies of the despatches to Foreign Office adding that as Tristan da Cunha and Prince Edward Islands are not administered under the authority of any Colonial Government it is not practicable for this Department to arrange for recognition to be given in respect of these islands.

(Sgd.) J. Megson.

23/8/34.

If we write to Foreign Office as proposed and Foreign Office should use our wording in notifying the United States Ambassador, the United States Government might think there is some doubt about our sovereignty over Tristan da Cunha and Prince Edward Islands. Perhaps then it would be safer to say that as there are no resident British Officials responsible for the administration of these islands, it might be suggested to the United States Ambassador that it would appear to serve no useful purpose to include the islands in the United States Capetown Consular District.

(Sgd.) R. A. Thorne.

23/8/34.

(Sgd.) T. W. Davies.

23/8.

I don't think there is any danger of this.  
(Intld.) A. J. D.

As to Tristan - I would simply say that while of course there can be no objection to its inclusion in the list it is not possible for the usual formal recognition to be given locally as no official administration is maintained there.

(Sgd.) A.J. Dawe.

24.8.

I agree as to Tristan.

(Sgd.) H.T.Allen.

24.8.34.

As regards Prince Edward Islands, see now 56902/28 Falklands, annexed, which shows (a) that these Islands are under British sovereignty and (b) that they are dealt with on "Falklands" papers, and therefore now presumably fall to be dealt with by the P. and M. Department. In the circumstances your Department will no doubt advise as to what should be said in regard to them.

(Sgd.) J.J. Paskin.

31.8.34.

[ I understand that there is comparatively recent correspondence on Falkland papers about the leases of these Islands ]

Originally these Islands were dealt with by Dominions Office but the lease of 1926 was later dealt with on Falkland Islands papers presumably because it was a whaling and sealing lease. But the lease has now been terminated: and the Dominions Office may prefer to resume responsibility for these islands which of course have no conceivable connection with the Falklands!

Anyway

x  
I/43645/25  
Dominions.  
(Kept with later  
Falkland papers)  
See also  
56902/28 F.I.  
as to  
sovereignty. X  
(Intld.) H.T.A.

Anyway Dominions Office should see - subject to this the reply suggested by Mr. Dawe in regard to Tristan seems applicable to Prince Edward and Marion Islands, although they unlike Tristan are I imagine now uninhabited.

(Sgd.) H.T.Allen.

5/9/34.

Mr. Price.

So far as the immediate consular point is concerned, Dominions Office have no observations. After the letter has gone, this file might be recirculated to Department D to see Mr. Allen's suggestion at X in his minute of 5th September.

(Sgd.) W.G.Head.

6/9/34.

I agree - there seems to be no reason, so far as Dominions Office are concerned, why the reply as to the Prince Edward Islands should not be the same as that as to Tristan.

(Intld.) C.R.P.

7/9.

Recirculate after action as suggested at "A" above.

The draft consideration as proposed in Mr. Dawe's minute of 24/8.

(Sgd.) J.J.Paskin

13/9.

at once.

4. To St. Helena 60 ) (with copy 1st  
5. To Mauritius 305 ) enclosure 1, cons. 26/9/34.  
and copy  
) 2nd enclosure 3.)

l.89 )  
r. Gaunt ) to note. A

6. To Foreign Office - with copy 4 and 5 -  
1 and 3 answered

27.9.34.

? To Dept D of D.O.  
to see the X in Mr Allen's  
minute of 5/9 above

Mr Davies: u/x

Pernis Edward + Marion Islands  
in the Indian Ocean  
are to some 2000 miles S-E of  
Cape Town; they are marked on  
the map in the D.O. list. The  
islands may have no conceivable  
connections with the Falkland Islands,  
but neither have they, so far as  
I can trace, any necessary con-  
nection with the D.O. I see no  
reason to disturb the present  
arrangement <sup>was</sup> but I would sug-  
gest that Pernis Edward +  
Marion Islands should ~~appear~~ <sup>be listed</sup> in  
the list ~~as the islands~~ <sup>be listed</sup> as  
20618 for reasons of the question

of Administrative Attachment.

N.P.

22/10

I agree. D.R. to

noted arrange for the necessary noting  
on 20618/2.

S. J. M. C. Sweeney

24.10.34