

Previous No.

P.S. 17/192

No. P.S. 37/3

Vol. 1.

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUBJECT:

GOUGH ISLAND
AND
TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Scientific Survey - T.E.W. Schumann

Amateur Radio. Licence - 6/35/3.

from 2/5/52 - 4 Dec '62.

[1952-62]

CLOSED.

P.S. 37/3

Vol. 1.

RUSSIANS VISITED GOUGH ISLAND

Fishermen Report Signs of Slava Landing

Cape Times Shipping Correspondent

FISHING expeditions from Tristan da Cunha have reported finding inscriptions made on the rocks on Gough Island, near Tristan, by the crew of the Russian whaling factory ship Slava, which apparently landed there during the recent whaling season. Except for birds' eggs, Gough Island has no industry, though it is rich in guano.

Curiosity has been answered by the movements of the Slava after the close of the whaling season, for she returned to Table Bay almost a month behind other expeditions, but was known to be operating not far away.

The time supply tankers took to go from the Cape to the Slava and return showed that she was not more than a week's steaming distant, and the landings on Gough Island would confirm my earlier reports that she was in that vicinity.

Larger islands to the southwest of the Cape have shore whaling stations in operation, notably South Georgia, which has been developed by a Leith firm.

PROSPECTING

The visit of the Russians to Gough may have been with a view to prospecting, and establishing whether a shore station could be erected there.

Gough Island is a British possession.

Gough Island, also known as Diego Alvarez, lies about 1,500 miles from Cape Town, and about 250 miles S.S.E. of Tristan da Cunha. It is about eight miles long and 4 miles broad, with a total area of 40 square miles.



P.M. 102/2



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

Air

CAPE TOWN.
6 - MAY 1952

The High Commissioner for the
Union of South Africa,
L O N D O N.

I attach a report which appeared in the Cape Times of 2nd May, 1952, regarding a visit to Gough Island by the Russian whale factory ship "Slava" and should be interested to learn whether the competent British authorities have any comments on the matter.

You will recall that one of the motives which prompted South African occupation of the Prince Edward Islands was the desire to forestall possible Soviet occupation.

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

PPF
1952

M. P. ...
1952

19/88/2



24th May, 1952. FAIRS. THE SAKE.

Dear Reed,

I am enclosing four copies of a report which appeared in The Cape Times of the 2nd May, 1952, regarding a visit to Gough Island by the Russian whale factory ship "Slava".

As I mentioned to you, our people would be interested to learn whether your authorities have any comments to make on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

G. V. DOXEY,

Cape Times
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A.H. Reed, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

GVD/RLW

FAIRS.

1/1/52

M. Alexander
19/5/52

The dates of the departure of the Slava from Cape Town for the whaling ground and of her return to that port at the end of the season show little variation over the past four years, as the following table shows:-

Capetown	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Arrival		14th April	30th April	12th April	6th April
Departure	30th Nov.	1st Dec.	20th Nov.	18th Nov.	

Although we have no details of the movements of the Slava between leaving Cape Town on the 18th November 1951 and her return on the 6th April 1952, we feel on balance that the explanation given by the Ship's Master is probably correct. (Gough Island is about five days steaming from Cape Town.)

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

DOWNING STREET

LONDON S.W.1

Whitehall 2323

Ext.:

Your reference :

Please quote in reply: F 2872/7

26 June, 1952.

Dear Doxey,

Thank you for your letter (19/88/2) of the 24th May with which you sent me a cutting from the Cape Times about the visit of the Russian Whale Factory Ship "Slava" to Gough Island.

When the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha landed on the island last February, he saw a stone at Glen landing place which had on it the name "Ivanov" in Russian characters, and "Semejcov Sčava" in Roman letters, and the date "1951". He understood that "Ivanov" was the name of the Slava's Chief Engineer and reported that he believed the visit to have taken place in November 1951.

The Master of the Slava was in London earlier this month for the meeting of the International Commission for the Regulation of Whaling, and advantage was taken of an informal conversation to question him discreetly about Gough Island. He said that the ship had lain off the island while refuelling her catchers and that some members of the crew had landed for a few hours. It was then no doubt that they indulged in their taste for calligraphy.

The

G.V. Doxey, Esq.,
South Africa House.

19/52



19/88/2

AIR MAIL HEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

27th June, 1952.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

LONDON (W.)

Russian Whaling off Gough Island. June, 1952.

Dear Sir,
Acting on your minute P.M.102/2 of the 6th May last, we approached the authorities here about the visit of the Russian Whale factory ship "Slava" to Gough Island.

It appears that when the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha landed on the island last February, he saw a stone at Glen landing place which had on it the name "Ivanov" in Russian characters, and "Semejcov Sclava" in Roman letters, and the date "1951". He understood that "Ivanov" was the name of the Slava's Chief Engineer and reported that he believed the visit to have taken place in November 1951.

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File

K. E. PAKENDORF.

Political Secretary.

GVD/RLW

19/88/2

27th June, 1952.

OFFICE

952. AT

S.W. 1

Dear Reed,

Thank you for letting me have your comments on the visit of the "Slava" to Gough Island under cover of your letter P.2872/1 of the 26th June.

These will be most useful to our people in Pretoria.

Yours sincerely,

G. V. DOXEY,

A.H. Reed, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

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G.V. Doxey	Arrival.,	14th April	30th April	12th April	6th April
	South Africa House.				
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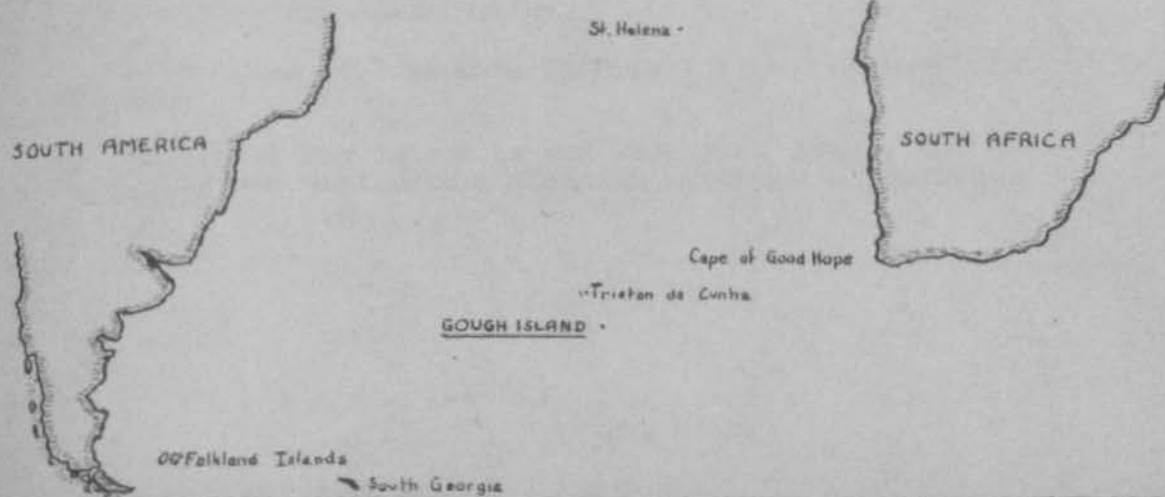
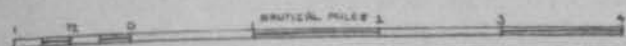
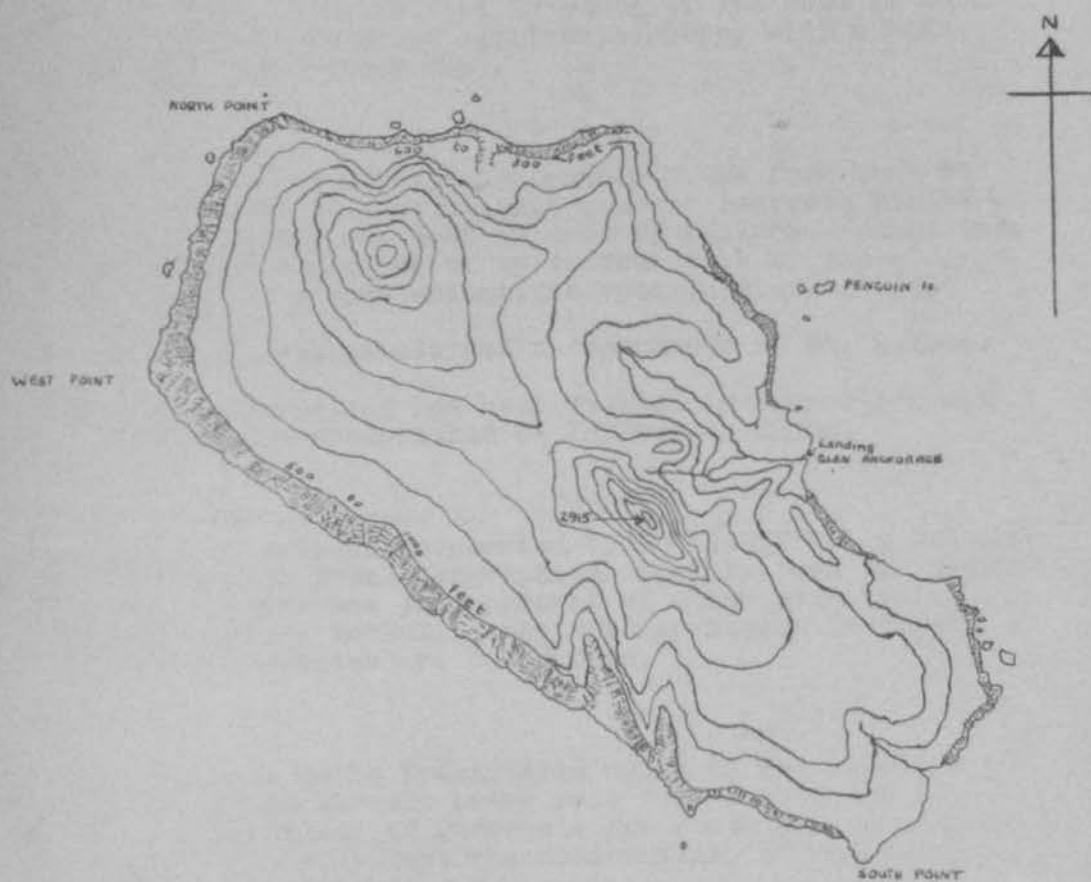
K. E. PAKENDORF,

Political Secretary.

GVD/RLW

SKETCH MAP OF GOUGH ISLAND

40° 20' S. 9° 57' W.



There are indications that Fur Seals have returned to breed on the island in some numbers, after being exterminated by the sealers in the last century. Investigations will indicate whether it would be possible to start controlled farming of the seals for their valuable pelts.

PERSONNEL

- J.B. Heaney (leader, surveyor), 24....
South Georgia Survey, 1951-52. Army trained surveyor.
- M.K. Swales (zoologist), 24....
Leader of Cambridge University Norwegian Ornithological Expeditions, 1953 and 1954. Honours degree in Zoology and Botany.
- N. Wace (botanist), 26....
ex-Royal Marines.
- R.W. Le Maitre (geologist), 21....
Cambridge University Mountaineering Club.
- J.J. van der Merwe (meteorologist)
seconded from Weather Bureau, Pretoria.
- J.G. McLaggan (general assistant), 21....
Third year medical student.
- R.J.H. Chambers (general assistant), 23....
Cambridge University Mountaineering Club.
- P.J. Mullock (Radio operator-mechanic), 21....
Cambridge University Wireless Society.

All seven members ^{from U.K.} detailed above will have graduated at Cambridge or Oxford Universities by June 1955.

COST

The approximate cost of the expedition will be £5,000-£6,000.

J.B. Heaney.

16 March 1955

GOUGH ISLAND SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

Plan

OBJECT

The expedition will map the island, and make a thorough study of its fauna, flora, and geology, and also establish a pilot meteorological station to transmit daily weather reports to the Central Forecasting Office, Pretoria, from August 1955 to February 1956.

DESCRIPTION

Gough Island is a small uninhabited island in latitude 40°20'S. and longitude 9°57'W. It is some 260 miles south by east of Tristan da Cunha, and nearly 2,000 miles west by south of the Cape of Good Hope. In size the island is about eight miles long, with a peak rising to 2,915 feet (see sketch map).

HISTORICAL NOTE

The island was sighted in 1731 by Captain Gough from whom it gets its name. There are only about half a dozen recorded visits up to the end of the last century, most of them by sealers. Since then visits have been made for periods of up to four days by three Antarctic Expeditions, and some scientific specimens collected.

In 1938 the island was proclaimed a dependency of St. Helena.

More recently Gough Island has been visited in connection with the crawfish industry now established on Tristan da Cunha.

SUPPORT

The expedition is actively supported by the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Weather Bureau, Pretoria. It also has the approval of other scientific societies and institutions including the British Museum (Natural History), for whom collections are being made.

FIELD WORK

The weather reports to be transmitted daily by the expedition in conjunction with those already being sent from Tristan da Cunha, will increase the reliability of forecasts for South Africa and its western sea areas. This will test the desirability of maintaining a permanent station on the island.

Gough Island is the only remaining sub-antarctic island on which no systematic scientific collecting has been done. The place has been described as a naturalist's paradise; there is abundant vegetation and a rich bird population. Complete collections will be made of the plants, mosses, lichens, and invertebrates, and the study of these and the birds and seals should elucidate some interesting problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

I have been in touch with the Royal Navy over the question of transport, but the programme for their ~~ships~~ ships stationed on Simonstown is already prepared, and so the chances of their help do not appear high.

The expedition's Agent in South Africa is Mr. A. B. Crawford, the Port Meteorological Officer for Cape Town. He is in the South African Naval Reserve, and would be able to make arrangements with the Navy in South Africa, on my behalf.

I would be glad to let you have further details, or to come up to see you.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient servant,

J. B. Heaney

J. B. Heaney.

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low snow.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

GOUGH ISLAND SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

Leader:
J. B. HEANEY

Supported by:

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
Colchester,
Essex.
30th March, 1955.

South African High Commissioner in U.K.,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON.

Your Excellency,

I enclose the plans for an expedition that is setting out for Gough Island in June 1955.

The expedition is actively supported by the Scott Polar Research Institute, the Royal Geographical Society, the British Museum, and other scientific institutions in this country. The Colonial Office has approved the plans, and given permission to visit the island. In addition, The Director of the Weather Bureau, Pretoria, Dr. T.E.W. Schumann, welcomes the plan to establish a pilot weather station on Gough Island for six months, and has offered to second one of his experienced meteorological observers to the expedition, and to lend all the necessary instruments.

The American expert, Professor A. Spilhaus, reporting officially on the Union's meteorological services in 1947, said: "Gough Island is a very important point from which to secure meteorological observations in addition to those of Tristan da Cunha. By the comparison of simultaneous readings at the two points, information may be secured which is not available from one alone." The simultaneous readings make it possible to orient fronts, and to fix more correctly the centres of passing depressions, thus enabling their time of arrival in South Africa to be forecast more accurately. This leads to improved weather forecasts, see (Weather Bureau News Letter, Pretoria, No. 61, 1954, p. 5). In 1950, when a member of the Scott Polar Research Institute was in Cape Town it was suggested that the preliminary trials for a weather station on Gough might be carried out by private enterprise, and could well be undertaken by a University party, as the present one is.

Dr. Schumann is not able to offer any financial assistance since the resources of his department are heavily taxed by the plan to establish a weather station on Bouvet Island, but he attaches great importance to reports from Gough Island. One of the big problems is fixing transport from Cape Town to the island, and since South Africa attaches so much importance to the Meteorological side of the expedition's programme, I wonder whether it would be possible for you to recommend official co-operation from the South African Navy. It would appear that the best way of getting there would be by a frigate; the expedition plans to arrive in Cape Town at the end of July, ¹⁹⁵⁵ and to leave the island in February 1956.

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

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2. Hand Becker.

Leader:
J. B. HEANEY

Supported by:
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH IN
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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LONDON.

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problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

7517/192
1st April, 1955.

Dear Sir,

I write with reference to your letter of March 30th to the High Commissioner on the proposed expedition to Gough Island in June next.

The High Commissioner received your letter on the eve of his departure from London on an official visit, and has requested me to let you know that he has referred to the South African authorities for consideration your suggestion regarding transport for the expedition. As he is not conversant with all the details of the expedition he does not feel able to express an opinion in the matter, but will inform you as soon as the views of the South African authorities are received.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

Political Secretary.

J. B. Heaney, Esq.,
Gough Island Scientific Survey,
Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
Colchester.

JS/AG

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

P.S. 17/192

AIRMAIL

4th April, 1955.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Gough Island Scientific Survey

I am directed to forward for consideration by the appropriate authorities a copy of a letter dated 30th March, with enclosure, from Mr. J. B. Heaney, the leader of the Gough Island Scientific Survey. It will be seen that the expedition is seeking the assistance of the Union authorities in providing transport from Cape Town to Gough Island in July, 1955, and back to Cape Town in February, 1956.

As the expedition is setting out from England in June there remains little time to complete arrangements, and it would be appreciated if the matter could receive urgent consideration and if you would inform the High Commissioner as soon as possible what reply may be returned to Mr. Heaney.

J. G. STEWART

Political Secretary.

JS/AG

Handwritten notes:
Mr. [unclear] 4/5
P.B. 4/5 3/F 4/5/55
1/5/55
A.G.
5/4
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problems of biological distribution.

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P.S. 17/192.

AIR MAIL

4th May, 1955.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Gough Island Scientific Survey.

I have to refer to our minute of the 4th April, 1955, and to enquire whether you are as yet in a position to let us know what reply should be sent to Mr. Heaney regarding his request for assistance from the Union in connection with the transport of the expedition from Cape Town to Gough Island.

J. FOURIE.

Political Secretary.

JF/SB

*Noted
P.B. 5/5
M7. 4/6/55.*

problems of biological distribution.

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CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: SECEXTERN, CAPE TOWN

DESPATCHED: 14.5.55

TO: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

RECEIVED: 16.5.55

No.46

Your despatch of 14th April, PS.17/192.

Union Government regret inability to provide frigate to Gough Island Scientific Survey Party unless latter prepared to meet cost. This is in view particularly of the Union's decision to participate in projected Antarctic Expedition.

*Mr Beecher
9/15
16.*

/PC

Cape Town to Gough Island.

J. FOURIE.

Political Secretary.

JF/SB

*Noted
P.B. 5/6
M7. 4/6/55.
[Signature]*

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

P.S. 17/192

17th May, 1955.

Dear Sir,

Would you please refer to your letter of the 30th March to the High Commissioner about the proposed expedition to Gough Island.

As intimated in my letter of April 1st, the suggestion that the Union Government might provide transport for the expedition was referred to the appropriate authorities, and the High Commissioner has now been informed that after careful consideration the Union Government find they will not be able to make a frigate available for the purpose unless the expedition is prepared to meet the cost.

The Union Government regret that they are not able to return a more favourable reply to your request, but their position is governed in particular by their decision to participate in the projected Antarctic expedition.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

Political Secretary.

J. B. Heaney, Esq.,
Gough Island Scientific Survey,
Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
Colchester.

JS/AG

*Denis College
Cambridge*

7

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

GOUGH ISLAND SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

Leader:

J. B. HEANEY

Supported by:

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

17, Malcolm Street,
CAMBRIDGE.

Your Ref: P.S. 17/192.

21st May, 1955.

Political Secretary,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON W.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 17th May. I am very sorry to hear that the Union Government cannot see its way to providing transport for the Expedition to Gough Island free of charge.

The Royal Navy have indicated that it could possibly take the party to Gough Island in November, 1955, which will necessitate a slight change of the original plan, but there still remains the problem of getting back. The available sources of transport are very limited, and therefore I would be most grateful if you would enquire what meeting the cost of a frigate to pick up the party in March 1956 would entail. It may be the only means of getting off, since the Tristan Development Company have said they cannot provide transport.

I was talking to Dr. Fuchs the leader of the projected Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition, and he was most anxious to know what you meant in your letter when you referred to the "projected Antarctic expedition". Do you mean his show, or the ~~exped~~ winter reconnaissance to Bouvet Island?

Yours faithfully,

J. B. Heaney

J. B. Heaney.

*Mr. Beecher
in reply to SA
15/5*

problems of biological distribution.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

P.S. 17/192.

AIR MAIL.

17, Malcolm Road,

SINGAPORE.

24th May, 1955.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Proposed Expedition to Gough Island.

Will you please refer to your telegram No. 46 of the 14th May, 1955, about the proposed expedition to Gough Island.

The leader of the Gough Island Scientific Survey has informed us that the Royal Navy have indicated that they could possibly take the party to Gough Island in November, 1955, but the party still has to find transport for the return voyage. The leader of the expedition has now enquired what meeting the cost of a South African frigate to pick up the party at Gough Island in March, 1956, would entail.

Your reply, for the information of the leader of the expedition, would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

Political Secretary.

JJB/SB

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Telegraphic
reminders sent after
alphabetic call from
Mr. Kearney.
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The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

CODE TELEGRAM

CO: SECEXTERN, PRETORIA

DESPATCHED: 20.6.55

FROM: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

B/Fed further 2 wks. PB. 7/7
NOTED
21/7
Mr. Becker
A.C. 2/7

No.55

Your No.46 and my despatch PS.17/192 of 24th May.

Can you now indicate estimated cost of round trip by frigate and also cost per day in event of delay due to bad weather at Gough Island?

used
PB.
28/6

JS/PC

Debit: E.A.

Mr. Becker
Dispatched after telephone call from Mr. Mearns
Mr. Becker
PB. 28/6
Mr. Becker
PB. 7/7
22/6

Your reply, for the information of the leader of the expedition, would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

Political Secretary.

JJB/SB

15/7 24/6
Noted
PB. 25/7

Telegraphic reminder sent after telephonic call from Mr. Mearns.
20/6

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

I myself have had a great disappointment in that for medical reasons I shall not be able to take part in the field work. I am therefore handing over the leadership in the field to Mr. Chambers who enjoys the support of the Royal Geographical Society, the Scott Polar Research Institute and the other organizations helping the expedition.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

J. B. Healey

J. B. Healey

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

GOUGH ISLAND SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

Leader:

I. B. HEANEY

Sponsored by:

SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
Nr. Colchester,
ESSEX.

20th July, 1955.

The High Commissioner,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W. C. 1.

Your Excellency,

Following a telephone conversation I had with the Political Secretary on 18th July, I am writing to enquire whether it would be possible for the Union Government to reconsider my request that a frigate of the South African Navy might assist the expedition.

Since I last wrote on the subject I have heard from the Royal Navy at Simonstown that they will take the expedition to Gough Island via Tristan da Cunha at the end of September. Nearly all the preparations for the expedition are now complete, and the party is due to leave the U.K. on 31st August. Most of the necessary funds have been raised and all equipment collected; as I mentioned earlier, the South African Weather Bureau is seconding an experienced meteorological observer to the expedition and providing all his instruments. Since Gough Island lies in the 'path' of South African weather, the Weather Bureau is anxious to test the value of Gough Island as a weather station.

No transport has yet been fixed for return passages from Gough Island to South Africa which would have to be in February/March 1956. Commander Tripp, the head of the South African Hydrographic Department, is interested in doing a radar survey of the coastline of Gough Island, for which the expedition ^{could} suitable beacons on the island, and I understand he has mentioned this to Commodore Biermann. Since both South African and Britain are already co-operating in the expedition, and both are interested in its results, I wonder whether this ^{could} be taken a step further and a vessel of the South African Navy ^{could} take the party off the island - the Royal Navy having provided outward passages.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh is keenly interested in the expedition, and has extended his support with a substantial contribution to the funds.

The survey work will be made difficult by the high rainfall and low cloud.

The geology of the island is not completely known, and the proposed expedition will make a thorough examination possible.

P.S. 17/192

AIRMAIL

22nd July, 1955.

THE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Gough Island Scientific Survey

This Office has again been approached by Mr. J. B. Heaney, leader of the proposed expedition to Gough Island on the subject of the provision of a South African frigate for the transport of the expedition.

It will be recalled that in your telegram No 46 of the 14th May, 1955, you indicated that the Union Government were not in a position to provide a frigate to take the expedition from Cape Town to Gough Island unless the Survey Party was prepared to meet the cost involved.

Thereafter Mr. Heaney intimated that arrangements had been made with the Royal Navy for transport to Gough Island, and enquired the extent of the cost involved should a South African frigate bring the Party back from the Island. (My minute P.S.17/192 of the 24th May). This information has not yet been furnished by the Union authorities.

Mr. Heaney has now enquired whether the Union Government would reconsider his request that a South African frigate be made available (for the return journey) without refund of the cost involved, and I enclose a copy of a letter which he addressed to the High Commissioner on the 20th July, in which he sets out certain considerations in support of his request.

In the telephone conversation to which Mr. Heaney refers in the opening paragraph of his letter, I gathered that while the Survey Party was assured of sufficient funds to ensure the success of the expedition, these funds were not enough to cover the cost involved in the use of a South African frigate. Mr. Heaney also intimated that he had explored other avenues for obtaining transport back from Gough Island, but without success. He had also enquired into the possibility of his party being picked up at Gough Island by the advance party which Dr. Fuchs is sending to the Wedell Sea in preparation for the Trans-Antarctic expedition, but there were found to be practical difficulties in the way of this, and it appears that the Fuchs party could not assist except perhaps in the case of an extreme emergency.

It would be appreciated if Mr. Heaney's representations could be considered by the Union authorities and if you would inform me as soon as possible of the nature of the reply which should be returned to him.

J. G. STEWART
First Secretary.

Back from
22/7 JS/AG

P.S. 17/192

23rd July, 1955.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th July, 1955, in which you ask that the Union Government give further consideration to your request that a frigate of the South African Navy be made available to assist the forthcoming expedition to Gough Island.

Your request has been referred to the Union authorities, and I shall inform you as soon as their reply is received.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

First Secretary.

J. B. Heaney, Esq.,
Gough Island Scientific Survey,
Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
nr. Colchester.

JS/AG

or his party being picked up at Gough Island by the advance party which Dr. Fuchs is sending to the Wedell Sea in preparation for the Trans-Antarctic expedition, but there were found to be practical difficulties in the way of this, and it appears that the Fuchs party could not assist except perhaps in the case of an extreme emergency.

It would be appreciated if Mr. Heaney's representations could be considered by the Union authorities and if you would inform me as soon as possible of the nature of the reply which should be returned to him.

J. G. STEWART
First Secretary.

JS/AG

*used
29/8
20/8
20/8*

*BT 10/8
N. Stead
A.G.
25/7*

*Mr. Becker
20/8
Mr. Becker
29/8*

*Mr. Becker
23/7*

*Bank time
22/7*

LUGPOS.
AIRMAIL



102/2.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRETORIA.

25 AUG 1955



Die Hoë Kommissaris vir die Unie van Suid-Afrika,
LONDEN.

Wetenskaplike Opname van Gough-eiland:
Gebruik van 'n fregat van die Suid-Afrikaanse
Vloot.

Met verwysing na u diensbrief nr. P.S. 17/192 van 22 Julie 1955, waarin u 'n versoek van mnr. J.B. Heaney oorgedra het om heroorweging van die Unie-regering se besluit dat 'n fregat van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vloot nie kosteloos voorsien kan word om die lede van bogemelde ekspedisie by Gough-eiland op te tel nie, moet ek u meedeel dat daar weereens op die saak ingegaan is. Tot sy spyt moes die Unie-regering andermaal besluit dat hy nie aan die versoek kan voldoen nie weens die Unie se verpligtings in verband met die stigting van 'n weerkundige stasie op Bouvet-eiland en die voorgestelde Statebondekspedisie na die Suidpoolstreek.

Ek sal bly wees indien u mnr. Heaney in dier voege kan meedeel.

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

HTP
29/8

Mr. Stewart
A.C
29/8

or his party being picked up at Gough Island by the advance party which Dr. Fuchs is sending to the Wedell Sea in preparation for the Trans-Antarctic expedition, but there were found to be practical difficulties in the way of this, and it appears that the Fuchs party could not assist except perhaps in the case of an extreme emergency.

It would be appreciated if Mr. Heaney's representations could be considered by the Union authorities and if you would inform me as soon as possible of the nature of the reply which should be returned to him.

Handwritten note: [unclear] 29/8

JS/AG

J. G. STEWART
First Secretary.

P.S. 17/192

30th August, 1955.

Dear Sir,

In your letter of 20th July, 1955, you enquired whether it would be possible for the Union Government to reconsider your request that a frigate of the South African Navy be made available free of charge for the return of your Expedition from Gough Island.

The factors which you put forward in your letter were conveyed to the Union Government. After careful consideration, however, they have to their regret come to the decision that, in view of their obligations in regard to the establishment of meteorological stations on Bouvet Island and their participation in the proposed Antarctic Expedition, they cannot see their way clear to comply with your request.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. STEWART

First Secretary

J. B. Heaney, Esq.,
Gough Island Scientific Survey,
Oldhouse Farm,
Wakes Colne,
nr. Colchester.

JS/AG

or his party being picked up at Gough Island by the advance party which Dr. Fuchs is sending to the Wedell Sea in preparation for the Trans-Antarctic expedition, but there were found to be practical difficulties in the way of this, and it appears that the Fuchs party could not assist except perhaps in the case of an extreme emergency.

It would be appreciated if Mr. Heaney's representations could be considered by the Union authorities and if you would inform me as soon as possible of the nature of the reply which should be returned to him.

J. G. STEWART
First Secretary.

JS/AG

*Hand from
11/7*

CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: SEC. FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, PRETORIA

DESPATCHED: 31.8.55

TO: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

RECEIVED: 31.8.55 (4.50 p.m.)

No.124

Re British Expedition Gough Islands.

1. On the invitation of Heaney, South African Weather Bureau attaching one meteorologist and Port Liaison Officer to expedition.
2. Apart from expedition, Weather Bureau interested in possibility of establishing Weather Station on Gough Island during geophysical year. But before approaching United Kingdom Government with definite proposal would like to study suitability of island for the purpose. Anxious therefore to attach engineer to expedition to examine the possibilities.
3. Please ascertain United Kingdom's view on inclusion of engineer and the purpose of his visit. If reaction favourable enquire if passage would be available frigate H.M.S. 'Magpie' due to leave Simonstown September 25th. Also cost of passage.

*Macindoe with
Mr Brown (CRO) with
whom I left a copy
of this telegram. He will
consult Colonial Office
and inform me of UK views
as soon as possible.*

*Mr. Robert
S.B. 8/9.
Mr. Baker
Phone phone
Brown + see whether he
has information re
12/9*

*Mr Macindoe of CRO is now dealing
with this matter.*

B.F. 8/9

*Noted
P.A.
1/9*

The Admiralty have sent a signal to enquire whether a passage would be available for an extra person on H.M.S. Magpie. We shall let you know what the reply is as soon as it is received. In the meantime, you may like to know that, if a passage is available, the only charges on the ship would be for messing.

Yours sincerely,
W. I. McIndoe
(W. I. McIndoe)

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favourable

enquire if passage would be available frigate H.M.S. 'Magpie' due to leave Simonstown September 25th. Also cost of passage.

*Macindoe with
the Brown (CRO) with
whom I left a copy
of this telegram. He will
consult Colman. He will
and inform me of UK orders
as soon as possible.*

*Mr Macindoe of CRo is now dealing
with this matter.*

*Mr. Robert
S.B. 8/9.
Mr. Baker
Please phone
Brown & see whether
his information is
correct.*

B.F. 8/9.

Noted

P.A.

1/9



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWNING STREET
LONDON, S.W.1

14 September, 1955.

Whitehall 2323/Ext.

Your Reference:

Please quote in reply: CON 58/4/1

Dear Becker,

We discussed over the telephone the telegram which Stewart left with Brown the other day about the possibility of a South African engineer being attached to the Gough Island expedition in order to study the suitability of the Island for the purpose of establishing a Weather Station there.

We should have no objection to the inclusion of an engineer in the expedition for this purpose. The South African Government will no doubt approach us again, as envisaged in paragraph 2 of their telegram, if his visit leads to firmer proposals for the establishment of a weather station on Gough Island.

So far as the inclusion of an extra person in the expedition is concerned, we feel that the decision must rest with the leader of the expedition who will know the number for which he can provide accommodation, food and transport. As you perhaps know, H.M.S. Magpie will only be taking the expedition as far as Tristan and back. We suggest, therefore, that an approach might be made to the leader on his arrival in South Africa.

J. J. BECKER, ESQ.,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE.

Macindoe pleased & asked that "and back" be deleted from 2nd para of this letter
B.B. 14/9

enquire if passage would be available frigate H.M.S. 'Magpie' due to leave Simonstown September 25th. Also cost of passage.

Discussed with Mr Brown (CHO) with whom I left a copy of this telegram. He will consult balmain office and inform me of UK views as soon as possible.

Mr Macindoe of CRo is now dealing with this matter.

*Mr Baker
Phone phone
Brown & an article
has information for
B.B. 8/9.*

B.F. 8/9.

Noted

P. G.

1/9

CODE TELEGRAM

TO: SEC. FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, PRETORIA.

DESPATCHED: 14.9.55.

FROM: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON.

No. 111.

Your telegram No. 124. Re British Expedition Gough Island.

C.R.O. advise that U.K. Government have no objection to the inclusion in the expedition of engineer to study suitability of island for weather station. So far as the inclusion of an extra person in the expedition is concerned, U.K. feel that the decision must rest with the leader of the expedition who will know the number for which he can provide accommodation, food and transport. H.M.S. Magpie will only be taking the expedition as far as Tristan. U.K. suggest therefore that an approach might be made to the leader on his arrival in South Africa.

The Admiralty are ascertaining whether a passage would be available for an extra person on H.M.S. Magpie and will inform as soon as possible. C.R.O. say that the only charges on the ship would be for messing.

X

*Mr. Brown
the Brown
about 9 Sep.
of this telegram
consult balanced
and inform me of U.K.
as soon as possible*

*Mr. [unclear]
[unclear] 8/9.*

Mr Macindoe of CRO is now dealing with this matter.

*B.F. 8/9.
Noted
P.A.
1/9*

P.S. 17/192

15th September, 1955.

Dear McIndoe,

Thank you for your letter NR
CON 58/4/1 of the 14th September about
the Gough Island Expedition.

I have informed our authorities
accordingly.

Yours sincerely

(J. J. Becker)

W. I. McIndoe, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

JJB/AG

7

X

Mr MacIndoe of CRo is now dealing
with this matter.
I / 19

Mr Robert
P.B. 8/9.
B.F. 8/9.
Noted
P.A.
119

TO: SECXTERN PRETORIA.

FROM: OPPOSITELY LONDON.

D: 19.9.1955.

My telegram No. 111.

C.R.O. advise that C.-in-C. South Atlantic unable to accommodate engineer on H.M.S. Magpie. Ship is already overcrowded as extra persons from Colonial Office have been included in expedition.

C.R.O. has asked U.K. High Commissioner, Pretoria, to take up matter with our authorities. He will suggest inter alia that engineer be taken by ship of Tristan Development Co. later this year.

FAB 20/9

W. I. Macindoe, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

in the

7

JJB/AG

X

*Mr Macindoe
the soon
whom I refer
of this telegram
consult balanced
and inform me of it
as soon as possible*

*Mr. Gilbert
21.9.55*

*Mr Macindoe of CRO is now dealing
with this matter.*

B.F. 8/9

*Noted
P.G.
1/9*

AIL.
OS.



19/88/2
102/2/6
102/1

1.5.17/192

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

PRETORIA.

21 DEC 1955

The High Commissioner for the
Union of South Africa,
LONDON.



Res 13/10/55

South African participation in
the activities of the International
Geophysical Year: Establishment of
a scientific observation station on
Gough Island.

As one of its projects in connection with the
Union's participation in the activities of the Inter-
national Geophysical Year, the South African National
Committee for the International Geophysical Year
proposes to erect a scientific observation station on
Gough Island.

The United Kingdom authorities are already
aware that the establishment of such an observation
post on the island has been under consideration - Vide
your telegram No. 111 of the 14th September, 1955.

It would be appreciated if you could now
obtain the formal approval of the United Kingdom
Government of the use of Gough Island for the erection
and operation of a South African scientific observation
station during the International Geophysical Year.

As it is the intention to send the expedition
team to the island as early as May, 1956, I shall be
glad to receive early advice of the outcome of your
request to the United Kingdom authorities.

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

P.S. 17/192

29th December, 1955.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, as one of the projects in connection with the Union's participation in the activities of the International Geophysical Year, the South African National Committee for the International Geophysical Year proposes to erect a scientific observation station on Gough Island.

The United Kingdom authorities are already aware that the establishment of such an observation post on the island has been under consideration. In this connection I would refer to Commonwealth Relations Office letter # COE.58/4/1 of the 14th September, 1955.

The Union Government would be most grateful if the United Kingdom Government would now kindly consider granting their approval for the use of Gough Island for the erection and operation of a South African scientific observation station during the International Geophysical Year.

As it is the intention of the Union authorities, if the approval is granted, to send the expedition team to the island in May, 1956, it would be greatly appreciated if the United Kingdom authorities would be so kind as to furnish their views as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) J. R. Jordan

Minister Counsellor.

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

JS/AG

Mr. Becher
11/11
Mr. Stewart
P.B. 16/11
B.F. 16/11
Noted
A.C.
31/12

CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: SECEXTERN, CAPETOWN

DESPATCHED: 18.1.56

TO: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

RECEIVED: 19.1.56

No.9

My despatch 21st December 102/2/6 over 102/1.

Please telegraph whether United Kingdom Government agree to the establishment of South African Observation Station on Gough Island.

1/PC

Mr. Becher
Mr. Stewart

Tel. sent.
13/19/1

granting their approval for the erection and operation of a South African scientific observation station during the International Geophysical Year.

As it is the intention of the Union authorities, if the approval is granted, to send the expedition team to the island in May, 1956, it would be greatly appreciated if the United Kingdom authorities would be so kind as to furnish their views as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) J. R. Jordan

Minister Counsellor.

Mr. Becher

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Mr. Stewart
P.B. 16/1

B.F. 16/1

Noted

A.C.
31/12

JS/AG

P.S. 17/192.

CODE TELEGRAM

TO: SECEXTERN, CAPE TOWN
DESPATCHED: 19.1.56
FROM: HIGH COMMISSIONER, LONDON

No.7

Your telegram No.9.

Understand informally that U.K. authorities have no objection to establishment of South African Observation Station on Gough Island.

Hope to telegraph confirmation within two or three days.

JB/PC

Debit: E.A.

Mr. Becker

the erection and operation of a South African scientific observation station during the International Geophysical Year.

As it is the intention of the Union authorities, if the approval is granted, to send the expedition team to the island in May, 1956, it would be greatly appreciated if the United Kingdom authorities would be so kind as to furnish their views as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) *J. R. Jordaa*
Minister Counsellor.

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

JS/AG

Mr. Becker
Mr. Stewart
P.B. 16/1
BF 16/1
Noted
A.C.
3/12

PS.17/192



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWNING STREET
LONDON, S.W.1

Whitehall 2323

Your Reference:

Please quote in reply: CON.58/4/1

Please address reply to THE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

29th January, 1956

Sir,

With reference to your letter, No. PS 17/192, of the 29th December, 1955, I am directed by the Earl of Home to say that the United Kingdom Government gladly gives its approval for the erection and operation on Gough Island of a South African scientific observation station during the International Geophysical Year.

I am to add that Mr. M. A. Willis of the Colonial Office will be in Cape Town from the 23rd January for discussions with the Tristan de Cunha Development Company and will be very pleased, if the South African Government sees no objection, to discuss certain details of the project for Gough Island with the appropriate South African authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

F. A. K. Harrison

(F. A. K. HARRISON)

THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
W.C.2.

Mr. Becker 2/1/

Tel. Room AB 22/1

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Mr. Becker

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I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) *J. R. Jordan*

Minister Counsellor.

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

JS/AG

Mr. Becker
Mr. Stewart
AB 16/1

BF 16/1

Noted

A.C.
3/12

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWNING STREET
CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: HIGH COMMISSIONER: LONDON.
TO: SECXTERN CAPE TOWN.
D: 21.1.56.

No.8.

My telegram No.7.

Now been informed that U.K. Government quite gladly gives its approval for the erection and operation on Gough Island of a South African Scientific Observation Station during the International Geophysical Year. unquote.

Willis of Colonial Office will be in Cape Town from 23rd January. C.R.O. suggests, if you see no objection, discussion with him of certain details of project. He may be contacted at Tristan de Cunha Development Co.

Handwritten initials

THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
W.C.2.

(F. A. K. HARRISON)

Mr. Becket 2/1

Tel. sent RB 22/1

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I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) J. R. Jordan
Minister Counsellor.

Mr Becket 11/1

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Mr. Stewart RB 16/1

BF 16/1

Noted

JS/AG

A.C. 3/12

P.S. 17/192

23rd January, 1956.

Dear Harrison,

Thank you for your letter RE
CON.58/4/1 of the 20th January, 1956,
about the erection and operation on Gough
Island of a South African scientific
observation station.

We are grateful to you for your
assistance in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) J. R. Jordaan

F. A. K. Harrison, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

JB/AG

7 *[Handwritten initials]*

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) J. R. Jordaan
Minister Counsellor.

The Under Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

JS/AG

Mr. Becher
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Mr. Stewart
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A.C.
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COPY/MB.

M.62/8.

1 March 1956.

REGISTERED.

The Leader,
Gough Island Scientific Survey,
c/o Dr. Brian Roberts,
Scott Polar Research Institute,
Lensfield Road,
CAMBRIDGE, England.

Dear Sir,

PURCHASE OF HUT AND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT
ON GOUGH ISLAND.

I enclose a warrant voucher to the value of £950.0.0 being the price agreed upon between Mr. R.T.H. Chambers and Dr. Schumann for the following items referred to in the list of equipment and stores which could be left behind by your Expedition, which list was handed to Dr. Schumann in Cape Town last year :-

- Items: A.(i) to (vii) - Hut and Accessories
B.(i) - Eddystone Communications Receiver
(iii) - Panda Transmitter
C. - Generator

Will you kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J.F.W. Cilliers.
for SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. W. CILLIERS
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

The Secretary,
Office of the High Commissioner for South Africa,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON,
England.

For your information. Copy of the letter referred to above is enclosed. Will you please arrange, if possible, to pay an amount of £950.0.0 to either Dr. Brian Roberts or the Leader of the British Expedition to Gough Island, Mr. Neaney

after/....

after surrender of the warrant voucher in question, which is to be returned with your claim on this Department.

3 Sept 1944

Continued
RECEIPT FOR TRANSPORT.

RECEIPT FOR TRANSPORT VOUCHER

- 1. No. and description
- 2. Quantity
- 3. Date
- 4. Remarks

THIS RECEIPT IS VALID FOR THE TRANSPORT OF

FOR THE TRANSPORT OF

THIS RECEIPT IS VALID FOR THE TRANSPORT OF

FOR THE TRANSPORT OF



PS17/192

understood
P. 22/38

1) Accept.
To note file
2/3

M.62/8.

2) Regy
Per index "Antarctic Palents"
+ file on "Scott Polar Research Inst." file
17-3-1956
2/3

Dr. Brian Roberts,
Scott Polar Research Institute,
Lensfield Road,
CAMBRIDGE, England.



Dear Sir,

PURCHASE OF HUT AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM GOUGH ISLAND
SCIENTIFIC SURVEY EXPEDITION.

I enclose for your information copy of a letter dated 1 March 1956 addressed to the leader of the abovementioned Expedition care of yourself.

In forwarding a warrant voucher to the value of £950.0.0 with the abovementioned letter sight was lost of the fact that warrant vouchers issued by the Union Government is only payable within the Union of South Africa within three months after date of issue.

It would therefore be very much appreciated if you could open the letter referred to and present the warrant voucher at the office of the High Commissioner for the Union at Trafalgar Square. That office is being requested to pay the amount in question over to you after surrender of the warrant voucher.

If you have no authority to act as requested it would be appreciated if the contents of this letter could be brought to the attention of the Leader of the Gough Expedition on his arrival in England during May next with the request that he follows the procedure set out above.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. W. COLLIER

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

The Secretary,
Office of the High Commissioner for South Africa,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON,
England.

For your information. Copy of the letter referred to above is enclosed. Will you please arrange, if possible, to pay an amount of £950.0.0 to either Dr. Brian Roberts or the Leader of the British Expedition to Gough Island, Mr. Heaney after/....

Telephone:—
KENSINGTON 6221.

Telegram:—
NATHANES, SOUTHAFRICA, LONDON.



HWP/RSG

Assistant Secretary,
High Commissioner for
Union of South Africa,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.7.

10th November, 1956



PS17/192.

Dear Sir,

Arrangements for the study of the zoological material collected by the Gough Island Scientific Survey Expedition are being centered in this Department. Part of the work is actually being done here but in other instances specialists at other institutions are being approached by us to undertake the work of naming the collections.

The current practice in such matters is that the representative collections are deposited at a public institution where they will be available for consultation by anyone interested. In the present instance the first set will be deposited here but the leaders of the expedition are anxious that a second set shall be deposited in an appropriate institution in South Africa.

I would be glad of your guidance regarding which of the South African museums would be the most appropriate. I believe the Transvaal Museum is the premier national institution but perhaps since visitors to Gough Island (meteorologists and commercial fishery staffs) will probably sail from Cape Town, the Museum there might well be more appropriate.

The matter is perhaps a trivial one and it is not likely to cause jealousy or heart-burnings amongst the museums in South Africa; so it is not worth-while obtaining an official decision at a high level. I would just appreciate your advice.

Yours faithfully,

H.W. Parker
Keeper of Zoology

Yours faithfully,

J. F. W. COLLIER

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

The Secretary,
Office of the High Commissioner for South Africa,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON,
England.

For your information. Copy of the letter referred to above is enclosed. Will you please arrange, if possible, to pay an amount of £950.0.0 to either Dr. Brian Roberts or the Leader of the British Expedition to Gough Island, Mr. Heaney

after/....