



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

- 9 MAY 1961

Met die komplimente van die
Sekretaris van Buitelandse sake.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary for External Affairs.



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

For your information and records.
Your minute P.S. 37/3 of the
16th January 1961 refers.

~~Mr. O'Leary~~

~~Patrick~~

8.5.1961 F

which was rightly theirs.
102/2/6.

is a matter of co-operation
Union Government had
a station which is not
partial situation exists

CAPE TOWN.

9 MAY 1961

Therefore, the
is a matter of exchange
agrees to a limited
likely to agree that
by the Union of rental

There is special advantage
February, 1957, the Union

aware, the continued
Gough Island by the
transfer of this station
e been the subject of
a letter (SAR.467/3)
is on the 7th March,

informed that there
ended operation of the
its transfer to another
conditions were observed.
ditions that I am

images "a rental of
the station on Gough
wireless licence". This
practice, and contains
discussed below.

2, which was framed
(d) of the Convention of
tion provides that

"Each member shall establish in its territory
a network of synoptic stations on land."

It follows that, since Gough Island is a British dependency,
the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a
weather station there would normally fall upon the United
Kingdom Government. In fact, however, the Union Government
has been maintaining this station in accordance with an
arrangement reached during the International Geophysical
Year. Since the results of meteorological observations
on the island are of great benefit to Southern Africa as
a whole - including both British and South African territories -
and since the British authorities were not at the time
prepared to establish a station there, the Union Government

3. The maintenance of the station by the South
African Government is a considerable expense. It is now proposed to increase by the Imperial Government of these
Peter Lewis, Esq.,
Office of the High Commissioner
for the United Kingdom,
CAPE TOWN.

had occurred to us that it might be possible for the vessel which will relieve the South African weather station on Gough Island to carry our expedition and divert to Tristan on her return voyage. This, of course, would necessitate a short period at Gough Island and it is felt that this might be a benefit as the geologists could examine the trachytic domes there as a basis for comparison with their studies on Tristan.

If some form of South African assistance with the transportation of our expedition could be effected early in the New Year we would fly our personnel to Cape Town. The equipping of such an expedition presents quite separate problems and although it will be possible for us to send a reasonable quantity of material by sea, this will have to be done within a few weeks and I feel it would probably be beneficial for us to purchase many items such as foodstuffs in Cape Town. If, as you suggest, Mr. Crawford would be prepared to co-operate in this venture, I am sure his local knowledge of the island would prove most valuable. Perhaps we could discuss items which could be provided from this country at a later stage. The major problems which come to mind are those of suitable boats and radio equipment: a small radio transmitter would be essential to enable the expedition to maintain communication with any shipping in the area in case of emergency. Perhaps regular schedules might even be arranged with the fishing vessels of the Tristan da Cunha Development Company. In any case I feel we must go into the question of range and frequencies fairly carefully and some advice on the frequencies usually employed on the Tristan - Cape Town circuit might be useful.

As you will realize, the plan for this expedition is in its very early stages and owing to the little time available we must act as quickly as possible. I should therefore be most grateful if you would kindly give this matter your earnest consideration and enquire on our behalf what co-operation might be possible from South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) D. C. Martin

Assistant Secretary.

J. A. King, Esq.,
South African Scientific Liaison Office.

COPY

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

Burlington House,
London, W.1.

TCE/GEH/FBW
15 November 1961

Dear King,

As you are aware from our recent discussions, the Royal Society is seriously contemplating sending a small expedition to examine the volcanic activity on the island of Tristan da Cunha. Soon after the eruptions commenced, geologists in this country expressed their interest in examining the island; in particular Professor Kennedy of the Department of Geology of Leeds University stated that two members of his Department were most anxious to visit Tristan da Cunha at the earliest possible date. Since then Dr. Lemaitre of the British Museum (Natural History), who has already visited Tristan with the Gough Island Scientific Survey and in fact wrote his Ph.D thesis on the mineralogy and petrology of the rocks of Gough Island, has also expressed a wish to revisit the island.

Recently the question of the possibility of a small expedition was discussed at one of the Royal Society committees and we have now set up a special committee to investigate the matter further. Our proposal is to send a small team of about half a dozen to the island to take advantage of the rather unique opportunity of examining an active volcano of the type involving the protrusion of a solid plug whilst it is actually erupting, and this means that any such expedition should visit the island during the coming southern summer. Our committee will be primarily concerned with detailing scientific programmes and appointing personnel, but meanwhile we are urgently examining the possibilities of transport to and from the island because, as you will appreciate, this presents a major problem.

We would very much like to seek South African co-operation in this venture, particularly in so far as transport to the island early in the New Year is concerned. It is hoped that the relief of our party might be effected by one of the vessels of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey which will be returning from Antarctica about April of next year and we are awaiting a decision on this.

You will, of course, realize that there is a considerable degree of urgency about this matter if the expedition is to spend a reasonable time on the island and I should be most grateful if you would kindly explore the possibilities of South African co-operation and assistance with the various departments concerned. It

/2....

African scientists may wish to be associated in some way with the investigation, but this is no doubt an aspect of the matter which can be gone into separately.

M. I. BOTHA.

Minister.

Special Secretary, Department of Education

Enclosed for the attention of the Scientific Advisory Committee are three copies of a letter dated 12th November 1951, addressed to the Scientific Secretary of the South African Institute of Science and Technology, in connection with an application for the South African Institute of Science and Technology to sponsor a scientific expedition to Antarctica. The letter also contains background information regarding the expedition and the draft minutes of a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the South African Institute of Science and Technology, held on 12th November 1951, in connection with the application for the scientific investigation of the Antarctic continent to be initiated.

It will be noted from the attached papers that the Special Secretary is recommending the granting of a loan of about £10,000 to the South African Institute of Science and Technology for the purpose of sponsoring the expedition. It is suggested that the Government of the Union of South Africa should contribute towards the cost of the expedition in the amount of £5,000. It is suggested that the Government of the Union of South Africa should contribute towards the cost of the expedition in the amount of £5,000. It is suggested that the Government of the Union of South Africa should contribute towards the cost of the expedition in the amount of £5,000.

The Scientific Advisory Committee has already conveyed its views on the proposed expedition in a preliminary letter dated 12th November 1951, addressed to Mr. G. N. S. of the Scientific Co-operation Division of the U.S.A.S., and you may wish to contact him in this connection.

It would be most appreciated if your letter could receive urgent attention, and if we could be informed as soon as possible, preferably by telegram, whether the South African authorities will be able to co-operate with the expedition, especially as regards assistance with transport. It is also possible, of course, that South

/Africa

AIRMAILURGENT

17th November, 1961.

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.Royal Society Expedition to Tristan
da Cunha

Enclosed for urgent consideration by the appropriate South African authorities are three copies of a letter dated 15th November, 1961, addressed by the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society to Mr. J. A. King, Scientific Adviser, in connection with an expedition the Royal Society is proposing to send to examine the volcanic activity on Tristan da Cunha. Also attached for background information are copies (in duplicate only) of the draft minutes of a meeting of "The South Pacific Expedition Committee" of the Royal Society held in London on 7th November, and of a memorandum on the desirability of a scientific investigation of the recent volcanic eruption on the island.

2. It will be noted from the attached papers that the Royal Society is considering the despatch of a team of about half a dozen scientists to Tristan da Cunha early in the New Year and that South African co-operation in this venture is invited, particularly as regards the provision of transport from Cape Town. In this regard there is reference in the enclosed papers to the possibility of passages for the members of the expedition being obtainable on the South African Research Vessel which is apparently scheduled to proceed to Gough Island in January.

3. The Scientific Adviser has already conveyed certain preliminary information about the proposed expedition in a personal letter G/19/E/4 of 10th November, addressed to Mr. C. Hide of the Scientific Co-operation Division of the C.S.I.R., whom you may wish to contact in this connection.

4. It would be most appreciated if this matter could receive urgent attention, and if we could be informed as soon as possible, preferably by telegram, whether the South African authorities will be able to co-operate with the expedition, especially as regards assistance with transport. It is also possible, of course, that South

/African

17th November, 1961.

The purpose of this note is merely to draw your personal attention to our urgent minute P.S.37/3 of 17th November (in the same bag) in regard to the expedition which the Royal Society is proposing to mount for the purposes of investigating the recent volcanic phenomena on Tristan da Cunha. South African co-operation has been invited in this exercise, particularly as regards transport. Time is of the essence, however, and anything you can do to expedite inter-departmental consideration of the matter would be of the greatest help. We feel here that there is much to be gained in co-operating in this type of venture, particularly with a body such as the Royal Society, and no doubt you will share this view.

A. J. OXLEY

P. H. Philip, Esq.,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Pretoria.

- + It could, perhaps, keep our foot in the door for any possible re-establishment of our weather station, if we were to show this continued interest in the island.

AD/AG

M.I.B.

4. It would be most appreciated if this matter could receive urgent attention, and if we could be informed as soon as possible, preferably by telegram, whether the South African authorities will be able to co-operate with the expedition, especially as regards assistance with transport. It is also possible, of course, that South

/African

The Committee agreed to report to Council that Sir Vivian Fuchs would investigate the possibility of diverting R.R.S. Shackleton as she would be carrying a quantity of geophysical equipment, that Admiral Irving agreed to investigate the availability of H.M.S. Protector, and that it was its view that, should it be possible, Dr Holdgate should be given an opportunity of visiting the island; Dr Holdgate was, in any case, spending the current southern summer with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and if either H.M.S. Protector or R.R.S. Shackleton could call at Tristan da Cunha on return from Antarctica it might be possible to arrange for him to be aboard. The Committee agreed to

Recommend to Council:

- (a) that, due to the urgent need for study of the Tristan da Cunha volcanic activity, an expedition be sent in December
- (b) that Council set up a small ad hoc committee, consisting of Professor W.Q. Kennedy, Sir Vivian Fuchs, Professor L.R. Wager, Sir Edward Bullard, Dr S.H. Shaw and such others as Council might determine, which would report direct to Council but maintain liaison with the South Pacific Expedition Committee, to consider the scientific programme for a first expedition and the means by which this could be achieved
- (c) that approaches be made immediately to the South African Government, the Royal Navy and the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey concerning the availability of shipping.

8 November 1961

SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION COMMITTEETristan da Cunha

Minute 4 of the Meeting held on 7 November 1961 (advance draft)

At the Chairman's invitation, Professor Kennedy reported that the recent volcanic activity on Tristan da Cunha had followed a period of seismic activity and that so far as was known there had been no similar activity on this island for some 2500 years. The present eruption was one of particular scientific interest as it involved the protrusion of a solid plug or dome and in the past there have been few opportunities of studying volcanic phenomena under such conditions. Professor Kennedy reported that he felt it was highly desirable that a team of scientists should study this activity as soon as possible but appreciated the difficulty of getting personnel there due to the remoteness of the island; it was understood that the Colonial Office would be taking no action in the near future. It was reported that there was an urgent need to send a party of four or five scientists to spend at least a month on the island and that it was known that at least three were available and anxious to go. Two of these were geologists from Professor Kennedy's own department and the third was Dr R. Lemaitre from the British Museum (Natural History), a petrologist who had visited Tristan da Cunha when he was a member of the Gough Island Scientific Survey.

The Chairman said that it would be extremely valuable if a biologist could also visit the island and suggested that Dr M.W. Holdgate would be the ideal person since he already had some experience with the flora and fauna of both Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island. Dr Holdgate said that, in his view, the biological study was not so vital at this stage since the eruptions appeared to be fairly localised and, other than the effects which the gases might have produced, he anticipated few biological changes. He stated that he felt the biological study would certainly be important when the activity had quietened down and recolonization had commenced. He would, however, welcome the opportunity to visit the island at an early date in order to make a preliminary biological survey and also to collect peat cores with ash bands in order to obtain more data on past volcanic activity.

It was agreed that there was urgent need for a small party of geologists and vulcanologists to spend a short time on Tristan da Cunha during the current southern summer and that it might be desirable to consider establishing self-recording instruments and arranging for more comprehensive geological and biological studies in future years.

The main problem about mounting an expedition to Tristan da Cunha was that of transport and various possibilities were suggested. Sir Vivian Fuchs was asked whether it might be possible to divert one of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey ships returning from Antarctica and he agreed that this might be possible provided a strong case could be made. The Hydrographer agreed to the suggestion that H.M.S. Protector might help and undertook to investigate this as he agreed that a series of depth soundings around the island would be extremely useful. It was further reported that the South African research vessel Marionette would be visiting Gough Island early in the New Year to establish a weather station and that she might be prepared to divert to Tristan da Cunha. The Tristan da Cunha Development Company had some passages on this vessel and might be prepared to cancel them in favour of the scientists. It was reported that in addition to the interest of British scientists it was known that the Belgian Institute of Vulcanology and the United States Office of Naval Research were anxious that some action be taken and possible South African interest was also suggested. In considering the possible composition of the party it was agreed that the two geologists from Professor Kennedy's Department and Dr Lemaitre might usefully be supported by two Tristan Islanders and the Belgian vulcanologist, Dr Tasief might also be considered.

(h) Tilting.

(i) Extent of rock falls and stability of cliffs, recent fracturing.

(j) Effect on water supply and Settlement.

2. Past history

(a) Geological survey of island to establish volcanic chronology.

(b) Collection of specimens of K/A dating.

(c) Collection of specimens for palaeomagnetic work. It would be interesting to use the same specimens for both (a) and (b).

(d) Examination of the other secondary cones on the island.

(e) Re-examination of the nature of the Settlement platform.

(f) Collection of peat cores for C¹⁴ dating of any ash bands.

(g) Evidences of explosive activity in past geological history.

This programme would necessitate a field expedition including a geophysicist and a geochemist, in addition to geologists. In view of transport difficulties, the entire field party should not exceed from four to six scientists. There is reason to believe that the transportation difficulties to the island might be overcome.

Any action which may be taken, must be taken soon, i.e.:

1. While the eruption is still in progress.

2. Preferably during the summer season in the Southern Hemisphere.

There is some small element of danger as the eruption may develop into a violently explosive phase. The risk, however, is a calculated one which any volcanologist would accept.

This eruption on Tristan da Cunha presents a unique opportunity to investigate what is virtually a newly initiated volcano situated on one of the major structural features of the earth's surface (the Mid-Atlantic Ridge) and such an opportunity might not recur.

W.Q. KENNEDY

14 November 1961

TRISTAN DA CUNHA EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEEMemorandum Concerning the Desirability of a Scientific Investigation of the 1961 Volcanic Eruption on the Island of Tristan da Cunha

The island of Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic represents a lava volcano, of presumably Pleistocene to Recent age, which has been built up from the floor of the ocean, on the southern part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Something is known of the petrography of the island, but no very precise geological data are available concerning the detailed structure and volcanic chronology of the island.

There is no record of an eruption within historic times and, on the basis of the scant geochronological data, it would appear that the volcano has been completely inactive for a period of at least 2,500 years. At the beginning of August, 1961, manifestations of highly localized, seismic activity initiated a phase of recrudescient volcanism which culminated, at the beginning of October (8-10 October), with the development of an active volcanic centre in the area of the settlement Plateau at the northern end of the island. This led to the evacuation of the population.

It is apparent, from the eye-witness accounts, and from photographs taken during the early phases of the eruption, that the type of volcanicity involves the protrusion of a solid to viscous lava dome.

The eruption on Tristan is particularly interesting in view of:

1. The very long period of quiescence (probably several thousands of years) that preceded the present renewal of activity;
2. The nature of the volcanicity (i.e., protrusion of a lava dome rather than explosive activity or normal emission of lava);
3. The eccentric position of the new focus of activity relative to the main central crater.

A scientific study of the phenomena now being displayed is clearly desirable and must be regarded as the responsibility of British science. Such an investigation should include:

1. Present eruptive phase
 - (a) Detailed observations of the type, magnitude, rate of growth, etc., of the activity.
 - (b) Temperature and viscosity of the extruded material, nature and character of gas emission, etc.
 - (c) Critical examination of the rest of the island for any signs of activity elsewhere, e.g. fumarolic action, land slips, cracks, changes in shore-line, changes in water level in the lakes.
 - (d) Geochemical character of lava, gases, fluids, etc.
 - (e) Magnetometer survey.
 - (f) Gravity survey.
 - (g) Seismic survey.

likely to prove a positive contribution to South African goodwill in this country.

With regard to transport the Royal Society hopes to be able to arrange for a ship returning from Antarctic bases in the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey to call at Tristan da Cunha to uplift the members of the expedition. The Royal Society would be very willing to accommodate the expedition to any sailing date which can be arranged, but it is hoped that it will be able to leave as early as possible, and December has been suggested as a departure date. In order that it may move at short notice the Society plans to consign a lot of heavy equipment from their stores to their agents in Cape Town (Thomas Cook and Son, Ltd.). As a first rough estimate it is expected that the total weight of expedition equipment will be about five tons.

I look forward to hearing from you about the possibility of passages in the Gough Island relief expedition ship, or failing this, any other alternatives there may be. I may mention that Admiral Bierman, who is on an overseas visit, is at present in Germany but will return to London next week, and, if no other shipping is available, it is proposed that the possibility of sending a South African Naval ship should be discussed with him.

Mr. A.B. Crawford, whose name came up in the discussion at the Royal Society, is on the staff of the Weather Bureau and is stationed at Cape Town. There is probably no one better informed on Tristan da Cunha than he is and I am sure that it will be most helpful to have his advice on a wide variety of matters. I hope that the Director of the Weather Bureau will be agreeable to his services being used as a consultant and it would be very useful to have the Director's permission to write direct to Crawford if this can be arranged.

Mr. Gaggins of the Tristan Development Co. is over here at present, and he has promised all the assistance he can give to the Royal Society. I gather that he would be willing to transfer berths he has booked in the Marionette for the use of the Expedition. I understand he is due to leave for South Africa on Monday.

This expedition will, of course, have to be planned very quickly, and I should be most grateful to have information about the matters raised in this letter as soon as possible.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.A. King,
Chief Scientific Liaison Officer

JAK/PAA/SRF

- (1) Expedited character of issue, speed, flight, etc.
- (2) Expedited matter.
- (3) Security matter.
- (4) Exempt matter.

A.J. Drake Esq
South Africa House

Copy for information

Menni

6/19/R/4/1

URGENT:

17th November, 1961.

C.G. Hyde, Esq.,
I.S.S.D.,
C.S.I.R.,
P.O. Box 395,
PRETORIA, S.A.

Dear

Proposed Royal Society Expedition
to Tristan da Cunha

...
...
...
With reference to my letter of 10th November, Professor S.P. Jackson and I had a discussion with Mr. G.E. Hennen and Dr. D.C. Martin of the Royal Society on 15th November. Since then Dr. Martin has written to me formally and I enclose a copy of his letter. I also enclose, for your information, a copy of the minute of the South Pacific Expedition Committee (now reconstituted as the Southern Zone Expedition Committee) of the Royal Society and a copy of a memorandum prepared by Professor W.Q. Kennedy (Head of the Research Institute of African Geology at Leeds University) on the desirability of an expedition to Tristan da Cunha.

The Royal Society seeks South African co-operation in this expedition and in particular would be glad if we could assist in providing transport for the party to the island. It has been suggested that the Scientific party might include one or more South African members. It has been reported that Professor Simpson has been contemplating a visit to the island and, if this is correct, he may be willing to co-operate in a joint expedition. Another possibility is that a South African Geophysicist or Geochemist may be a useful addition to the team. It seems likely that specialists in either of these fields may be more valuable to the proposed expedition than Geologists, especially as there is the suggestion of including Dr. Tasief who is considered to be the leading volcanologist and has carried out investigations on all known active volcanoes.

Professor Jackson and I think it important that we should do all we can to assist the Royal Society in organising this expedition and I have spoken to Mr. John Oxley who is also in agreement and is sending a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs in to-day's diplomatic bag. Professor Jackson has, I believe, written a personal note to Dr. Naudé. With the loss of our Commonwealth scientific links I think that co-operation with the Royal Society in this venture affords a good opportunity for a practical demonstration of a wish on our part to continue to work in close collaboration with British scientists. I may say that the Royal Society continues to regard South Africa as an eligible participant in its Commonwealth co-operative undertakings and I am convinced that it will be very much in our scientific interests to foster and encourage the friendliness which has been made evident. Although it is outside my province to do so, I venture to remark that the proposed expedition to explore an active volcano on an isolated island has all the elements of popular appeal and that co-operation with the Royal Society is

With the Compliments of the
Scientific Liaison Officer

Dear Tony,

I am sorry that
the Thermofax copies are
not better but a difficulty
is that the Royal Society
uses both sides of the paper
for their report!

My

Expedition
Gimba

On 17th November, Professor
H. G. E. Hennen and
I left on the 15th November. Since
then I have been busy and I enclose a
copy of a memorandum prepared by
the Expedition Committee
(the Expedition Committee)
regarding the desirability of an

American co-operation in this
expedition. I am glad if we could assist

in providing transport for the party to the island. It has
been suggested that the Scientific party might include one or
more South African members. It has been reported that
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explore an active volcano on an isolated island has all the elements
of popular appeal and that co-operation with the Royal Society is

① Frs. Leung

For your information. You will note the
reference on page 2 of Mr King's letter, to
previous discussions with Admiral Bismarck.

Mr King has told me that he is
preparing a memorandum on the matter, for
the Ambassador's information. He thought the
Ambassador might usefully raise it when he
is in Pretoria.

M.D.

20/11

② BF 20/11

Noted

D. A.C.
20/11

Mr Drake: I had a talk about this with
Adm. Bismarck at a reception
last night. He said he was willing to help
as far as he could.

The Adm. is away again, but I have
made arrangements to see him as soon as
he returns to London.

C.F.B.
21/11

I did so
(on 24/11/61) and
handed him copies of
memoranda
C.F.B.

1/64/1

URGENT.

PRETORIA.

22.11.1961

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.
THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH.

Royal Society Expedition to Tristan
da Cunha.

I enclose herewith for your urgent attention copies of the following documents:

1. Minute No. P.S. 37/3 of the 17th November, 1961, from the Minister in London.
2. Letter, TCE/GEH/PBW, dated the 15th November, 1961, and addressed to the Scientific Attaché in London by the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society.
3. Minutes of the Royal Society, reference C/158(61), of a meeting convened on the 7th November, 1961. Africa.
4. Royal Society Memorandum No. TCE/1(61) of the 14th November, 1961.

From these annexures, it will be observed that a small scientific expedition to Tristan da Cunha is being considered by the Royal Society, to observe the volcanic eruption there in action. You will note that the expedition is likely to consist of four scientists and possibly two Tristan Islanders, who would like to leave Cape Town for Tristan early in the new year.

The expedition is, however, faced with a transport problem, and the Royal Society has enquired whether South Africa could assist in this regard, possibly by making available the required accommodation in the South African research vessel "Marionette", which it is understood will be sailing for Gough Island early in January.

Although it is not mentioned in the attached request, it occurs to this Department that the "R.S.A." will also be sailing about that time for Antarctica.

/...

The return voyage from Tristan da Cunha evidently presents much less of a problem since there is a possibility that HMS "Protector" or RRS "Shackleton" may be able to call at the Island for this purpose.

The Minister in London has commented informally on this request that,

"It could, perhaps, serve to 'keep our foot in the door' for any possible re-establishment of our weather station, if we were to show this continued interest in the Island".

You will also doubtless be bearing in mind the fact that there are indications that Commonwealth scientists are showing a tendency to treat their South African counterparts, at the professional level, as if the Republic were still a part of the Commonwealth. There may be technical, and tactical, advantages in encouraging this tendency by going out of our way to be co-operative with them.

It would be appreciated if this request could be regarded as a matter of urgency, and if this Department could be informed as soon as possible what reply should be returned to London.

1. Minute No. P.S. 37/3
1961. Date 17 Nov 1961

P. H. Philp

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

Copy for your information. Your minute
No. P.S. 37/3 of the 17th November refers.

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Handwritten notes:
B/p 4/2
Noted A.C.
24/11
7
Mr. Deane
ST, 2
mfc



AIRMAIL

24th November, 1961.

With reference to my personal note of 17th November about the proposed expedition to Tristan da Cunha, I should like to let you know that we have taken advantage of his presence in London this week to acquaint Admiral Biermann with the plans of the Royal Society.

Admiral Biermann was interested to hear about the expedition and suggested that, if necessary, he would be available for consultation in Cape Town as from next week.

A. J. OXLEY

P. H. Philip, Esq.,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Pretoria.

S/F 4/2
D

AD/AG

See only
B/F 4/2
Noted A.C.
24/11
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m/k



SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC LIAISON OFFICE

Office of the South African
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Telephone ~~ANCERY~~ 9641
Cables & Telegrams NAVORS



CHICHESTER HOUSE
278 HIGH HOLBORN
LONDON WC1

Our Ref.
Your Ref.

6/19/R/4/1

27th November, 1961.

A.J. Oxley, Esq.,
South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON, W.C.2.

Dear Mr. Oxley,

Royal Society Expedition
to Tristan da Cunha

I enclose herewith my memorandum on the above,
which perhaps you will be good enough to pass to
the Ambassador, as discussed on the telephone to-day.

Yours sincerely,

J.A. King,
Chief Scientific Liaison Officer

17/3

er, 1961.

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da
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acquaint
ety.
about
he
as

Copy for your information. That minute
No. P.S. 100 of the 17th November 1961.

P. H. Philip, Esq.,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Pretoria.

~~S/F 4/2~~
D

AD/AG

Sum to me only
B/F 4/2 Noted A.C. 24/11
D
7
M. Swales
ST 1/2
MFE



29th November, 1961.

My dear Joe,

In accordance with the request in your letter (ref. 6/19/R/4/1) of the 27th November to me, I have handed to the Ambassador your memorandum about the proposed expedition to Tristan da Cunha.

As you know, Dr. Muller leaves London for South Africa this evening.

He will discuss the matter with the authorities in Pretoria.

Sincerely,

A. J. OXLEY

J. A. King, Esq.,
Chief South African Scientific Liaison Officer.

AJO/AG

P. H. Philip, Esq.,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Pretoria.

AJO/AG

~~S/F 4/2~~
D

Summ 8 M only
B/P 4/2
Noted A.C.
24/11
2
M. Deane
ST, 2
mpe



connection I would suggest that, if possible, Prof. Simpson and Prof. Gevers should be asked to join the expedition and, in addition, as the expedition requires the services of a geophysicist, we should ask Prof. A.L. Hales or one of his staff if they are prepared to go.

Finally, Mr. A.B. Crawford who is a member of the Weather Bureau and whose address is Port Meteorological Office, P.O. Box 2761, Cape Town, should be brought into any discussions concerning Tristan da Cunha as I gather he is most knowledgeable on this subject, and I would even go as far as to suggest that he should join the expedition.

S.M. Naudé

S.M. Naudé

PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

A further possibility investigated was the use of commercial vessels plying between Cape Town and South America. The Royal Inter-Ocean Line has only two passenger vessels sailing at convenient times and they are the "Staat Banka" leaving Cape Town on 31st December and the "Tjisidana" leaving Cape Town on about 31st January, both bound for Rio de Janeiro.

The "Tjisidana" will be returning from Rio de Janeiro for South Africa on about 8th March.

This shipping line has investigated the possibility of landing a party on Tristan da Cunha and I gather that as there are no harbour facilities at Tristan da Cunha, persons and equipment would have to be off loaded at sea and the company is prepared to do this only if one of the ships of the Tristan da Cunha Development Company, namely, the "Francis Repetto" or the "Tristania", or, better still, both, are in the vicinity at the time.

I have approached the Tristan da Cunha Development Company in this connexion and they have unfortunately indicated that their ships will not be in the vicinity of Tristan da Cunha until the end of February. This makes it rather late for the Royal Society Expedition.

Mention is made in your minute of the "Marionette" and as there is some confusion concerning the ownership of this vessel, I should like to point out that the "Marionette" has been chartered by the Tristan da Cunha Development Company to make voyages to the "Francis Repetto" and the "Tristania" fishing in the vicinity of Gough Island. This vessel is due to leave at the end of December and again in February, 1962, but unfortunately the company has indicated that no berths are available for extra passengers. However, the Department of Transport which is responsible for licensing these vessels, has indicated that they might be prepared to allow more passengers on the "Marionette" in the interests of the expedition.

In some further communications I have received, I understand that most of the recognised landing areas on Tristan da Cunha have been destroyed by the lava flows and this, no doubt, would make landing the party somewhat difficult. In view of the situation outlined above, and the fact that landing the party might be difficult, I would strongly recommend that we should ask the South African Navy for assistance in this project.

The South African Navy has no programme in the vicinity of Tristan da Cunha, but I understand that Admiral Bierman who was in London recently, has been informed of our requirements and is well disposed to the proposal to use a South African Naval frigate to take the party to the island. I gather, however, that permission for this to take place would have to be taken up with the Department of Defence and this is a matter which your Department should consider.

The latest information I have received concerning the Expedition is that it will now consist of from eight to ten persons and South African participation would be welcomed. In this latter

South African

COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(4)

1/64/1



URGEN

Our ref. 11/26/4

Your ref. 1/64/1



Office of the President

SCIENTIA
PRETORIA

29 NOV 1961

THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Proposed Royal Society Expedition to
Tristan da Cunha

I refer to your minute and enclosures of 22nd November, 1961.

At the outset I should like to say that we give our full support to the Royal Society's proposed expedition to Tristan da Cunha, both in the interests of science and our relations with the Royal Society and the United Kingdom.

We shall also do everything possible to help them in this venture and hope that it will be possible for two South African scientists to join the expedition, namely, Prof. E.S.W. Simpson, University of Cape Town, and Prof. T.W. Gevers of the University of the Witwatersrand. Both of these men are very much interested in the geology of Tristan da Cunha, and Prof. Gevers is probably South Africa's only volcanologist.

In the papers that accompanied your letter, the Royal Society stated that its main requirement was for transport to the island at the end of December, and it was hoped that the relief of the party might be effected by one of the vessels of the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey which will be returning from Antarctica about April of next year.

Subsequently, Mr. J.A. King, our scientific liaison officer in London, has reported that the Royal Society was considering the possibility of the expedition being transported direct to Tristan da Cunha from the United Kingdom in the "Kista Dan". This vessel has been chartered for the Royal Society expedition to Halley Bay and is due to leave at the end of December.

It is now learnt, however, that the "Kista Dan" will have to leave the United Kingdom on 2nd December, in which case it will be impossible to transport the Tristan da Cunha expedition, and, accordingly, we have investigated other possibilities.

The Department of Transport's vessel, the "RSA", unfortunately has a very definite schedule of commitments in relieving our Antarctic and island stations. I gather, however, that it might be possible to pick up the Royal Society party on its return voyage in April.

1/64/1

URGENT.

RECEIVED
30.11.1961
SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE

PRETORIA.

30. 11. 1961

12 NOV 1961

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE. (In duplicate).

Proposed Royal Society Expedition to
Royal Society Expedition to Tristan da
Cunha.

This Department has recently received an enquiry from our Embassy in London relating to a proposal by the Royal Society to send a small scientific expedition to Tristan da Cunha early in the new year to observe the volcanic phenomena at present taking place there. This enquiry was referred to the Secretary for Transport and the President of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for their comment. For your information I enclose copies of the following correspondence:

- (1) Minute from London, No. P.R. 37/3 of the 17th November, 1961. Both of these men are very well known in the geology of Tristan da Cunha, and Prof. ...
- (2) Letter to the Scientific Attaché in London from the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society, No. TCE/65H/FEW of the 15th November, 1961. The main requirement was for transport to the island in late November and early December, and it was hoped that the ...
- (3) Minute from this Department referred to above, No. 1/64/1 of the 22nd November, 1961.

We have now received a reply from the President of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, reference 11/26/4 of the 29th November, a copy of which is enclosed for your information and comment.

You will observe that the Royal Society has enquired whether South Africa could assist the expedition by providing transport for its members and their equipment from Cape Town to the island early in January, 1962. You will note also that the C.S.I.R. strongly recommends that such assistance be given if at all possible. This Department would support this recommendation. It would, however, appear that despite exhaustive enquiries regarding sea transport of various types no vessel is available for this purpose at that particular time. The Royal Society has explained that the expedition is particularly anxious not to delay its departure beyond early January firstly because the volcanic eruption will not last indefinitely and secondly because the tentative plans for their return voyage require departure from the island in March or early April.

/...

The C.S.I.R. states that Admiral Bierman has been informally approached and that some possibility exists that a South African naval frigate might be available to transport the party to Tristan.

Your comments on this possibility would be much appreciated as soon as possible.

We would point out that this matter has not yet been submitted to our Minister since we wished first of all to obtain the views of the Departments most directly concerned and of their Ministers where necessary.

We understand that the Department of Transport will also be furnishing their comments in due course and these will be transmitted to you as soon as they are received.

P. H. Philip

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

THE PRESIDENT: COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of South Africa,
→ LONDON.

Copy for your information.

W. Malan

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

B/F noted mge 11/12
M. D. D. 11/12
M. D. D. 11/12
Noted 18/12
A.C. 5/12



I am interested to hear of the success you have had with the weather coder which you have developed and especially that its manufacture is in the hands of Tellurometer Limited, which has been so successful in the practical development of a C.S.I.R. invention. I hope that this venture may bring you over here soon. At the moment the Tristan refugees are very much in the news and you may be interested in the enclosed cuttings from the Telegraph, which is organising a fund for their benefit.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J.A. King.

JAK/PAA

P. H. Philip

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B/P 4/11
M. J. J.
A.C.
27/12

[Handwritten signature]

COPY.

Mr. G.G. Hide - for your information.

6/19/R/4/1

28th November, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL.

A.B. Crawford, Esq.,
Port Meteorological Office,
P.O. Box 2761,
CAPE TOWN.
S. Africa.

Dear

Proposed Royal Society Expedition
to Tristan da Cunha

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter and for the very considerable information which you have given. I have also heard from Mr. Hide, who is Head of the Science Co-operation Division in the C.S.I.R., who, I believe, has been in touch with you.

I believe that negotiations for the possible diversion of the Staat Banka to Tristan da Cunha are being carried out and Mr. Hide mentioned the 29th December as a possible departure date. I think that there would be a good deal of difficulty in arranging for the expedition to be ready to leave by then, but I am sure that, if a firm offer could be made, everything possible would be done to do so. You may be interested to know that during his recent visit to London Admiral Riermann expressed his interest and willingness to arrange to discuss the possible use of a South African Naval vessel on his return to South Africa. If such a discussion takes place, I hope you will be in on it, as I am sure that you will be able to contribute useful advice, particularly in regard to landing conditions, as I understand from Mr. Gaggins that the two recognised landing beaches have been affected. Landing may thus be a major difficulty, but I am sure your advice in this matter will be very useful.

The Royal Society have also arranged for two members of the expedition (le Maitre is one of them) to visit the island in H.M.S. Jaguar, due to sail from Dakar on the 6th December. The intention is that the ship will spend a short time at the island so that reconnaissance can be made, and then proceed to Simonstown, where she is due to arrive about the 22nd December.

Thank you for the information you have given about radio-communications from Tristan da Cunha. I think personally that the most satisfactory arrangement would be for the expedition to have fixed schedules with Gough Island, from where messages for onward transmission could be relayed. The Royal Society is looking into the question of the provision of radio-transmitting equipment for the expedition and it is probable that a 50 watt transmitter will be supplied. With it there will have to be a storage battery and a small generator.

/...

... your information.

29th December, 1941

The Royal Society had proposed to include two Tristan refugees in the party to act as guides and to assist in the landing operations, in which they would be particularly experienced. I agree with you that there would be very considerable advantage if Crawford could accompany the expedition, as his knowledge and experience would undoubtedly be of high value. This would probably necessitate the elimination of the islanders from the party, though, as it would be undesirable to send only one, who would have nothing in common with any other member of the party. I may say that it is a moot point of policy whether the islanders should be included in the party, as their experience on the island may influence remaining refugees on their return to this country.

Proposed Royal Society Expedition

I have informed the Royal Society of your negotiations regarding the possible diversion of the Staat Banka, leaving Cape Town on the 29th December, to Tristan da Cunha. Although Mr. Hennen is anxious to accommodate the expedition to any departure date which can be arranged, he was, however, somewhat concerned about the very great difficulty in arranging to leave by that date.

I shall keep you informed of developments as they come to my notice, and in the meanwhile wish once again to thank you for all the help you are giving in this matter.

I have heard from Crawford, and am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which I have written to him separately.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Joe.

J.A. King,

Chief Scientific Liaison Officer

DH

Thank you for the information you have given about the proposed expedition to Tristan da Cunha. I think it is probable that the best scientific arrangement would be for the expedition to have three or four men with enough inland, from their experience for making the expedition itself. The Royal Society is looking for the assistance of the Government of South Africa in connection with the expedition and it is probable that a 30 man expedition will be supplied. With it there will also be a 30 man landing party and a small party.

COPY.

SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC LIAISON OFFICE.
Office of the South African
Council for Scientific and Industrial
Research

Chichester House

278 High Holborn

LONDON W.C.1.

Telephone Chancery 9641
Cables & Telegrams Navors

29th November, 1961.

Our Ref: 6/19/R/4/1
Your Ref: 11/26/4

C.G.Hide, Esq.,
I.S.S.D., C.S.I.R.,
P.O. Box 395, PRETORIA.

Dear Cyril,

Proposed Royal Society Expedition
to Tristan da Cunha.

Thank you very much for your letter of the 24th November. I can assure you that Dr. Martin is very appreciative indeed of all that is being done in South Africa in attempting to arrange transport for this expedition. I am sorry if I have complicated the position by referring the matter through more than one channel, but I thought in this case it would be of advantage to have the co-operation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. I may mention that the Ambassador (Dr. H. Muller) is due to leave on the 29th for a visit to South Africa, and I have recently given him a memorandum on the subject of this expedition. A copy has been posted to you and should be in your possession.

With regard to the use of a small boat, it is proposed that the expedition should take one as part of their equipment, but no decision as to the size and type has been made and it was thought that it would be advisable to consult Mr. Crawford on this point. No more precise information about the weight of equipment to be taken, beyond the indication I gave you previously (5 tons), is yet available, but it is not thought that the total weight will exceed this figure.

The Royal Society say now that it is almost certain that H.M.S. Protector, returning from the Antarctic, will be able to call at Tristan da Cunha in April. If South African scientists accompany the expedition it would, however, be very useful if they could return to Cape Town in the "RSA", otherwise they would have to return via the United Kingdom. I think, too, that if the ship can visit the island in March, there may be some considerable advantage if a part of the party who may have completed their observations could then be withdrawn. The Royal Society were pleased to hear of the interest of Professors Simpson and Gevers and it is understood that Professor Kennedy, who is Chairman of the Sub-Committee set up or organise this expedition, is writing personally to Professor Simpson.

/...

PRETORIA.

21. 12. 1961



DIE SEKRETARIS VAN VERDEDIGING.
(in tweevoud)

"Royal Society" Ekspedisie na Tristan da Cunha.

In opvolging van my enersgenommerde diensbriewe van 20 November 1961, en 15 Desember 1961, heg ek vir u inligting 'n afskrif aan van skrywe nr. 6/19/2/4/1 van 29 November 1961, van die Suid-Afrikaanse Wetenskaplike Skakel-beampte in Londen aan 'n beampte van die Wetenskaplike en Nywerheidsnavorsingsraad, Pretoria.

Die onderhandelinge vir die verkryging van die dienste van die "Staat Bank", waarvan in bladny twee van die aanhangsels melding gemaak word, het sedertdien misluk.

Aangesien die Ekspedisie graag in Januarie 1962 wil vertrek is die aangeleentheid nou dringend en u speedige antwoord op my bogenoemde skrywes sal dus op prysgestel word.

P. H. Philip

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

DIE SEKRETARIS VAN VERVOER.
(U diensbrief nr. A 11/45/1 van 30 November 1961, verwys)

DIE PRESIDENT, WETENSKAPLIKE EN NYWERHEIDNAVORSINGSRAAD.
(U diensbrief nr. 11/26/4 van 29 November 1961 verwys)

→ Die Buitengewone en Gevolmagtigde Ambassadeur van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, LONDEN.
(U diensbrief nr. P.S. 37/3 van 17 November 1961, verwys)

Afskrif ter inligting asseblief.

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

B/F 4/1/62
Noted A.G.
27/12

CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON.

TO: SECXTERN PRETORIA.

D: 28.12.61.

No. 247.

Reference your minute 1/64/1 of 21 December to Defence.

Scientific Attache advised that five members Royal Society expedition to Tristan da Cunha scheduled to leave for Cape Town next week. Decision regarding use of South African naval vessel now urgently required. If affirmative, information is requested regarding maximum accommodation available as any space limitation will entail urgent changes in structure of expedition party.

Aangesien die Ekspedisie gaan in Januarie 1962 wil vertrek is die aangeleentheid nou dringend en u speedige antwoord op my begenoepte skrywe sal dus op pryse gestel word.

11

I may mention that the Ambassador (Dr. W. Haller) is due to leave on the 29th for a visit to South Africa, and I have recently written him a memorandum on the subject of this expedition. I hope he has been able to see and should be in your possession.

P. H. Philip

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

DIE SEKRETARIS VAN VERVOER.

(U diensbrief nr. A 11/45/1 van 30 November 1961, verwys)

DIE PRESIDENT, WETENSKAPLIKE EN NYWERHEIDNAVORSINGSRAAD.

(U diensbrief nr. 11/26/4 van 29 November 1961 verwys)

→ Die Buitengewone en Gevolmagtigde Ambassadeur van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, LONDEN.

(U diensbrief nr. P.S. 37/3 van 17 November 1961, verwys)

Afskrif ter inligting asseblief.

SEKRETARIS VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.

B/F 4/1/62
Noted A.G.
27/12

CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: SECXTERN PRETORIA.

D: 28.12.61.

TO: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON.

R: 28.12.61.

No. 240.

Your despatch 17th November re Tristan da Cunha expedition.

Approval has been obtained for the conveyance by means of South African Frigate Good Hope, a party of approximately 6 members from Simonstown to Tristan da Cunha, sailing from Simonstown on Jan 11th or Jan 12th 1962. The party will be charged 70 cents per person per day for messing.

If party is to consist of more than 6 members this could be considered on receipt further information from you.

Please convey foregoing offer to Royal Society and telegraph their reply. Please also obtain clearance for Good Hope call at Tristan da Cunha and to make routine call at Gough Island with stores.

TONY:

Mr. King telephoned to say that he has passed on to the Royal Society the message about the South African frigate. They are grateful to us for making the offer and the expedition committee will consider it at a meeting this afternoon. In view of that fact that we shall be able to telegraph their reply only on Monday, and as that day is a holiday in South Africa, Mr. King wondered whether you might wish to send an interim reply today, saying that the offer is being considered and that we shall telegraph on Monday.

If you wish to speak to Mr. King you can get him at home within the next hour. After that he will not be available.

*Discuss with
Mr King - he
appears we have
the Monday. P
29/12*

Ann

9.45 a.m.
29.12.61

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Gunha,
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for
e call

LUGPOS
AIRMAIL

E.A. 37.



1/64/1



DEPARTEMENT VAN BUITELANDSE SAKE.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

PRETORIA.

29. 12. 1961

he has passed
message about
They are grateful
off The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
consider of the Republic of South Africa,
LONDON.

In view of that
able to telegraph
Monday. and Royal Society Expedition to Tristan
South Africa, da Cunha.

you might wish
today, saying
In reply to your minute No. P.S. 37/3 of the
17th November, 1961, and in amplification of my telegram
No. 240, dated the 28th December, 1961, I should explain
that the South African frigate "Good Hope" is scheduled
to carry out a combined training cruise and routine voyage
to Gough Island with stores in January, 1962. She will
sail from Simonstown on the 11th or 12th January.

hour. After
The Secretary for Defence has agreed (and the
Treasury has approved) that the frigate may at the same
time embark the Royal Society expedition to the number of
approximately six persons at Simonstown, and convey them
to Tristan da Cunha. The Royal Society will be charged only
for the costs of messing, amounting to 70 cents per day per
expedition member.

As requested in my telegram under reference, you
will presumably be arranging clearance for Good Hope to
call at Tristan and Gough Islands.

We understand that the return voyage from Tristan
to Cape Town presents no problems, and that our assistance
in this regard is not required.

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

WJH James to
Mr King.

MD 2/1/62

Mr D. de
Vergest

6/19/R/4/1

1st January, 1962.

LETTER TELEGRAM

SECEXTERN, PRETORIA.

YOUR NUMBER 240. ROYAL SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS OFFER
GOOD HOPE IF MINIMUM PARTY OF EIGHT MEN CAN BE ACCOMMODATED
AND STORES ACCUMULATED IN CAPE TOWN TRANSPORTED STOP
ROYAL SOCIETY INVITES CRAWFORD DEPARTMENT TRANSPORT TO JOIN
EXPEDITION AND IF HE IS AVAILABLE PARTY WILL COMPRISE
ADDITIONALLY FOUR GEOLOGISTS ONE RADIO OPERATOR AND TWO
TRISTAN ISLANDERS STOP SOCIETY WOULD NEVERTHELESS STRONGLY
PREFER OFFER ALTERNATIVE DATE LATER IN JANUARY AND PASSAGE
FOR TWELVE STOP DEPARTURE BEFORE EIGHTEENTH WOULD
NECESSITATE LEAVING AT CAPE TOWN SMALL QUANTITY IMPORTANT
EQUIPMENT NOW IN TRANSIT AND LIMITATION OF NUMBER TO EIGHT
WOULD EXCLUDE BIOLOGISTS AND OTHERS STOP GRATEFUL URGENT
REPLY

OPPOSITELY

*disputat above by
Mr King on our behalf
as our office closed early
on account of South African war
D
1/1/62*

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

*Copy forwarded to
Mr King.*

PD 2/1/62

*Mr Dudge
urgent*

OFFICE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Telephone: CHAncery 9541

SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC LIAISON OFFICE
CHICHESTER HOUSE
278 HIGH HOLBORN
LONDON WC1

1. 1. 1962

With the Compliments of the
Scientific Liaison Officer

A. F. Drake Esq.

Herewith copy of cable
dispatched on your behalf.

J.A. King

1st January, 1962.

GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS OFFER
IF MEN CAN BE ACCOMMODATED
AND TRANSPORTED STOP
DEPARTMENT TRANSPORT TO JOIN
PARTY WILL COMPRISE
RADIO OPERATOR AND TWO
WOULD NEVERTHELESS STRONGLY
REQUEST IN JANUARY AND PASSAGE
EIGHTEENTH WOULD
SMALL QUANTITY IMPORTANT
MATTER OF NUMBER TO EIGHT
STOP GRATEFUL URGENT

OPPOSITELY

dispatched by
Mr King on our behalf
as our office closed early
on 1/1/62
Sincerely yours
J.A. King

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

copy forwarded to
Mr King.

AD 2/1/62

Mr Drake
urgent

EN CLAIR TELEGRAM

FROM: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON
TO: SECEXTERN PRETORIA
D: 1.1.62.

Your no. 240.

Royal Society gratefully accepts offer Good Hope if minimum party eight men can be accommodated and stores accumulated in Cape Town transported. Royal Society invites Crawford Department Transport to join expedition and if he is available party will comprise additionally four geologists, one radio-operator and two Tristan islanders. Society would nevertheless strongly prefer offer of alternative date later in January and passages for twelve. Departure before 18th would necessitate leaving at Cape Town small quantity important equipment now in transit and limitation of number to eight would exclude biologists and others. Grateful for urgent reply.

*disputable by
Mr King on our behalf
as an necessary
office closed early
Swiss bank wire
D 1/1/62*

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

*copy forwarded to
Mr King.*

RD 2/1/62

*Mr King
urgent*

IMMEDIATE CODE TELEGRAM.

FROM: SECEXTERN PRETORIA

D: 2.1.62

TO: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON

R: 2.1.62

No. 2.2.

Having regard to contents of your telegram no. 240. Arrangements have been amended as follows. South African Frigate Transvaal which is larger than Good Hope will sail from Simonstown on January 22nd. and can accommodate Tristan da Cunha expedition consisting of not more than 12 persons with equipment. Messing charges as before 70 cents will be required from expedition members. Please inform Royal Society.

2. Not yet known whether CRAWFORD (2) can accompany expedition. Will telegraph soonest.

3. Assume you will arrange clearance for Tristan and Gogh for Transvaal instead of Good Hope.

91 and Mr King
today

2/1/62

Worham to
Mr King

2/1/62

despatched by
Mr King on our behalf
as our office closed early
on morning of 21/1/62
S.A. Emb. Ldn

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Worham to
Mr King.

2/1/62

Mr D. King
urgent

CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON
TO: SECEXTERN PRETORIA
D: 2.1.62

No. 2.

Your no. 2.

Royal Society gratefully confirms acceptance.

*Copy forwarded to Mr King
2/1/62*

*distributed by Mr King on our behalf
as our office closed early
on account of Swiss bank crisis
2/1/62*

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Copy forwarded to Mr King.

2/1/62

*Mr Drake
urgent*

IMMEDIATE CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: SECEXTERN PRETORIA.

D: 5.1.62.

TO: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON.

R: 5.1.62.

No.4.

Your telegram No.2.

Understand that Royal Society propose to hold
press conference on Tristan Expedition. Please indicate when
conference will take place as we propose to issue short factual
press statement on South African co-operation simultaneously.

*copy to Mr King
P
1/1*

*distributed by
Mr King on our behalf
as an account of
the office closed early
Swiss committee visit
P
1/1/62*

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

*copy furnished to
Mr King.*

AD 2/1/62

*Mr Drake
urgent*

IMMEDIATE CODE TELEGRAM

FROM: S.A. EMBASSY LONDON.

TO: SECXTERN PRETORIA.

D: 5.1.62.

No.4.

Your No.4.

Royal Society press conference scheduled for Monday
8th January at 14.30 Hours G.M.T.

*W/ King
D 5/1*

*destroyed by
Mr King in our
office closed
early
Snowdon visit
D 1/1/62*

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

*W/ King to
Mr King.*

PD 2/1/62

*Mr Drake
agent*

3rd January, 1962.

Dr. D.C. Martin,
Assistant Secretary,
Royal Society,
Burlington House,
London, W.1.

Dear Martin,

With further reference to your letter of 15th November, I have much pleasure in informing you that the South African Frigate Transvaal will sail from Simonstown on 22nd January and will be able to embark the members of the Royal Society Expedition to Tristan da Cunha to the number of twelve persons, and convey them with their equipment to the island. Members of the expedition will be required to meet messing charges amounting to 70 cents (7/-) each per day while accommodated in the ship.

I take this opportunity of wishing the members of the Expedition success in every aspect of this enterprise and an enjoyable voyage in Transvaal.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.A. King,
Chief Scientific Liaison Officer

✓ JAK/MRF
c. A.F. Drake, Esq.
South Africa House.

SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

WJH forwards to
Mr King.

MD 2/1/62

Mr Drake
urgent

COPY

VISITS OF COMMONWEALTH NAVAL UNITS TO COLONIAL PORTS

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Formal Visits

Through diplomatic channels i.e. United Kingdom or Commonwealth High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Government (representing the Colony to be visited).

Informal Visits

Notification to be sent by the Commonwealth country concerned, or by the appropriate naval authority, direct to the Colonial Secretary of the Colony. Acknowledgment to be sent by the Colonial Secretary through the same channel. The United Kingdom High Commissioner and the appropriate Naval Commander-in-Chief or Naval Headquarters to be informed at the same time.

Operational Visits

Notification to be sent by the appropriate naval authority of the Commonwealth country concerned to the local naval authority, where one exists, otherwise to the Colonial Secretary, copy to the Naval Commander-in-Chief or Naval Headquarters in whose area the Colony lies.

Notes (i)

It will be assumed that the local naval authority will keep the Colonial Secretary and (if considered necessary) the appropriate Naval Commander-in-Chief or Naval Headquarters informed.

(ii)

For both informal and operational visits by S.A.N. Ships to Colonial ports, the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic, will be regarded as the "Commander-in-Chief in whose area the Colony lies".

Definition of Visits

(a) Formal visits are those of a formal nature requiring special honours and ceremonies to be rendered. The visits are normally made when important personages are embarked, when participating in National Ceremonies or on other special occasions.

(b) Informal visits are those involving participation in local ceremonies in which formalities normally are restricted to the customary salutes and exchanges of calls; they may, and usually do, include the objectives of operational visits.

(c) Operational visits are those made primarily for logistics, repairs, search and rescue, transport of personnel, recreation, passage through territorial waters, combined exercises, material trials, or in connection with other operational tasks. Calls and other formalities are restricted to those necessary.

7.5.37/3
PS 14/11/52 - 1/100
South African Embassy,
London

clearance be obtained gave rise immediately to the wider issue of whether the code of procedure agreed in 1954 would still be applicable now that South Africa is no longer a member of the Commonwealth.

5. We accordingly discussed the matter informally with the Foreign Office. The United Kingdom view, as expressed to us by the official consulted (who is on temporary secondment to the Foreign Office from the C.R.O. and is currently concerned with questions arising from South Africa's departure from the Commonwealth) is that, in the spirit of the defence arrangements between South Africa and the United Kingdom, there was no reason to assume that any change in the agreed notification procedure was implicit in consequence of the new constitutional position. He suggested that we should continue to work on the basis of the procedure outlined in the memorandum referred to above. Thus, assuming that the "Transvaal's" visit to Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island is "operational", it is in this instance necessary only that the South African Naval Chief of Staff should notify the British Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic and South America, Youngsfield, of it. As a matter of courtesy, the Naval Liaison Officer at this Embassy is also informing the British Admiralty.

6. We have gone into this matter at some length in that it raises wider issues than the specific visit of the "Transvaal" to Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island. Extra copies of this minute are therefore enclosed for the Secretary for Defence and other interested authorities. They will no doubt be able to judge whether it is at all necessary to look further into the matter with a view to formalising the arrangements governing the notification of visits by South African naval units to Colonial ports, to meet the new constitutional position.

A. F. DRAKE

Minister.

AD/AG

The proposed visit of the "Transvaal" to Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island would already fall within the provisions of the 1954 Code of Procedure, which provides that...