REPORTS ON THE VISITS TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN JUNE AND QUEBEC IN JULY

The 30th Anniversary Events Commemorating the conclusion of the Falklands War: 10 to 16 June, 2012 which took place in the Falkland Islands

1. A copy of the visit report, written by Murdo Fraser MSP, for the 30th anniversary events commemorating the conclusion of the Falklands War is attached at Annex A.

2. Members of the Branch Executive Committee are invited to note the contents of the report and the suggestions for possible follow up activity contained therein. The suggestions for follow-up activity, by Murdo Fraser MSP, contained within the report were as follows (Annex A, p.2-3):

   “It is anticipated that the Falkland Islanders will have carried out their Referendum on the Islanders’ views on their constitutional future by the end of 2012. Given that we in Scotland are facing our own Referendum in 2014, it would be useful to see what could be learnt from the Falkland Islanders’ experience of conducting the Referendum. In particular, it would be useful to understand how a fair question was set, how rules for fair conduct of the Referendum campaign were established, and how in practice the Referendum campaign was fought, e.g. were there funded campaigns on both sides of the argument (although it should be recognised that the outcome of the Referendum in the Falkland Islands is expected to be far less uncertain than the one in Scotland)“.

   The Falkland Islanders hope that they will develop a new oil and gas industry in coming years. Given Scotland’s, and in particular the North-East’s, experience of an oil and gas boom it would be useful to see whether there could be a sharing of information from us with the Falkland Islanders in terms of how best to develop an oil and gas industry. It would also be worth exploring whether there are opportunities for Scottish companies in the oil and gas sector to be involved in the Falkland Islands’ developments”.

3. Murdo Fraser MSP will attend the meeting and answer any questions in relation to the report.
50th CPA Canada Region Conference: 15-21 July Québec

4. A copy of the visit report by Alison McInnes MSP, relating to her attendance, as a member of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region delegation, at the 50th CPA Canada Region Conference is attached at Annex B. Please note that Annex B is not formally numbered as a paper having been received in a PDF format.

5. Members of the Branch Executive Committee are invited to note the contents of the report.

6. The report contains information in relation to proposed activities by Canadian Speakers and clerks. If Members of the Branch agree, the report will be passed to the Clerk/Chief Executive for information.

7. Ms McInnes has also indicated that the Presiding Officer would be welcome to visit the National Assembly of Québec at some point in the future.

8. Alison McInnes will attend the meeting and answer any questions in relation to the report.

9. Members are invited to:
   - Note the contents of the report by Murdo Fraser MSP
   - Consider the suggestions, contained within Murdo Fraser MSP’s report, for possible follow-up activity
   - Note the contents of the report by Alison McInnes MSP
   - Decide whether to pass on the report by Alison McInnes MSP to the Clerk / Chief Executive

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