Petition to Secretary of State for Scotland signed by the islanders of St Kilda requesting government assistance to leave the island, 10 May 1930

National Records of Scotland, Agriculture and Fisheries files, AF57/26/3
St Kilda
Scotland
10 May 1930

The Right Hon. W. Adamson M.P.,
Secretary of State for Scotland,
Westminster,

Sir,

We the undersigned the natives of St Kilda, hereby respectfully pray and petition H.M. Government to assist us all to leave the island this year and to find homes and occupation for us on the mainland. For some years the man power has been decreasing, now the total population of the island is reduced to thirty six. Several men out of this number have definitely made up our minds to go away this year to such employment on the mainland. This will really cause a crisis as the present number are hardly sufficient to carry on the necessary work of the place. These men are the mainstay of the island at present, as they tend the sheep, do the weaving and look after the general welfare of the widows. Should they leave the conditions of the rest of the community would be such that it would be impossible for us to /to
remain on the island another winter.

The reason why assistance is necessary is, that for many years Saint Hilda has not been self-sustaining, and with no facilities to settle on our plantation, we are therefore without the means to pay for the costs of removing ourselves and furniture elsewhere.

We do not ask to be settled together as a separate community, but in meantime we would collectively be very grateful of assistance, and transplantation elsewhere, where there would be a better opportunity of securing our livelihood.

Yours Respectfully,

Lachlan McD. Donald
Finlay Mackinnon
Donald & McKinnon
Norman Mckinnon
Norman Mr. MacDonald Jan
Finlay Kirk Gillies
Finlay Kirk Mackenzie
Donald Johnston
Ewen Mr. Donald
John Macdonald
Neil Ferguson
Neil Ferguson
remain on the island another winter.

The reason why assistance is necessary is, that for many years Saint Kilda has not been self supporting, and with no facilities to better our position, we are therefore without the means to pay for the costs of removing ourselves and furniture elsewhere.

We do not ask to be settled together as a separate community, but in the meantime we would collectively be very grateful of assistance, and transference elsewhere, where there would be a better opportunity of securing our livelihood.

We are Sir

Yours Respectfully,

Lachlan McDonald no16
Finlay Mackinnon no 1
Donald E McKinnon no 1
Norman McKinnon Sen no 1
Norman McKinnon Jun no 1
Finlay His mark Gillies no 7
Finaly His mark MacQueen no 2
Donald Gillies no 13
Ewen McDonald no 16
John R MacDonald no 9
Neil Ferguson Jun no 8
Neil Ferguson no 5
Will Christina McJune No 11
Will Annie Gillies sen No 16
Will Annie D. Gillies No 14
Mrs Rachel Ann Gillies No 13
Mrs Rachel MacDonald No 16
Mrs Wilh T Gillies No 7
Mrs Isid Owen Gillies No 11
Mary Ann Gillies No 12

The undersigned Twenty that the foregoing statement is correct.

Signed

Chief Clerk (Secretary)

Wm. MacFarlane (Superintendent)
Wid Christina McQueen no 11
Wid Annie J. Gillies sen no 18
Wid Annie D. Gillies no 14
Mrs Rachel Ann Gillies no 14
Mrs Rachel MacDonald 16
Mrs Wid N Gillies no 7
Mrs Wid Ewen Gillies no 12
Mary Ann Gillies no 12

We the undersigned testify that the foregoing statement is correct.

Signed
Doug. Munro (Missionary)
Williamina M. Barclay (Queen’s Nurse)