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PREM 19/646

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TOP SECRET COORDINORD

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PART 4

C

CABINET TWO FILE

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

ARGENTINA

THE HANDLING OF THE FALKLAND INVASION

PART 1: APRIL 1982

PART 4: APRIL 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
20.4.82							
4.5.82							
ends							
<p>X</p> <p>PREM 19/646</p>							

● PART 4 ends:-

4.5.82

● PART 5 begins:-

5.5.82

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

	Reference	Date
	07) (SA) (82) 36	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 37	30 Apr 82
Ref	070 (SA) (82) 33	30 Apr 82
	070 (SA) (82) 34	30 Apr 82
	070 (SA) (82) 35	30 Apr 82
	C (82) 18	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 21st Mtg	30 Apr 82
	07) (82) 32	30 Apr 82
	07) (82) 33	30 Apr 82
	07) (82) 34	30 Apr 82
	07) (82) 35	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 38	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 39	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 22nd Mtg	30 Apr 82
	07) (SA) (82) 40	1 May 82
	07) (SA) (82) 41	1 May 82
	07) (SA) (82) 23rd Mtg	1 May 82
	07) (SA) (82) 36	4 May 82
	07) (SA) (82) 24th Mtg	4 May 82
	CC (82) 22nd	4 May 82
	CC (82) 22nd — LCA	4 May 82
	07) (82) 7th Mtg	4 May 82
	07) (SA) (82) 25th Mtg	4 May 82

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed Wayland

Date 8 May 2012

PREM Records Team



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>646</i> (one piece/item number)	
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OO UKMIS NEW YORK

ADVANCE COPY

OO F C O DESKPY 032728Z

GR 900

Handwritten mark resembling 'MS'

DEBIP
GR 900
DEBIP
SECRET

SECRET

DESKPY 032728Z

FM WASHINGTON 022215Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1565 OF 2 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR PUS AND PRIVATE SECRETARY:

FALKLANDS: SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH HAIG FOR TWO HOURS THIS MORNING, 2 APRIL. NO-ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT.

MILITARY

2. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD SPOKEN TO MR HAIG BY TELEPHONE TODAY AND SAID THAT THE UK FORCES WERE QUOTE DOING THE WORK OF THE FREE WORLD UNQUOTE, WHICH WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY A BRITISH VICTORY. HAIG ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HE HAD GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE TASK FORCE AND WERE DELIGHTED WITH YESTERDAY'S EVENTS. HAIG ADDED THAT A LARGE SCALE LANDING ON THE ISLANDS WOULD BE UNNECESSARY (AND BY IMPLICATION VERY RISKY) ONCE WE HAD ESTABLISHED CONTROL OVER THE TER: WE COULD DO ALL THE DAMAGE WE WANTED TO WITHOUT A MAJOR ASSAULT.

3. HAIG WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPLAIN

3. HAIG WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPLAIN THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE LITERALLY A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THE EFFECT THAT US MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE UK WOULD BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF

US MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE UK WOULD BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS. THIS WAS SIMPLY NOT SO. THE AMERICANS WERE KEEN THAT OUR MILITARY EFFORTS SHOULD SUCCEED AND THEY WERE THEREFORE READY TO GIVE MORE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT THAN THAT COVERED BY EXISTING AGREEMENTS. HAIG OFFERED TO SPEAK TO WEINBERGER IF THIS WOULD HELP, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SURE THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOULD GIVE US EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WELCOMED THIS. HE EXPLAINED OUR THINKING IN GENERAL TERMS AND IT WAS LEFT THAT THE DETAILS WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY OFFICIALS THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS.

S E C R E T

15. THE

5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MENTIONED OUR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN ACTIONS AGAINST THE FLEET. HAIG REPLIED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION TO DISCOURAGE THE VENEZUELAN. HE THOUGHT HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

6. SECRETARY OF STATE REMINDED HAIG THAT IF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS WERE PROLONGED, THE PROBLEM OF AIR COVER WOULD INCREASE. HE SUGGESTED TO HAIG (WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC MENTION OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS) THAT HE MIGHT GIVE SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO THE QUESTION.

ECONOMIC

7. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THE AMERICANS TAKING ACTION AGAINST IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA, AS OUR EC PARTNERS HAD DONE. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THINKING OF WRITING TO PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT AND TO MAKE THE SAME POINT. HAIG MADE NO COMMITMENT ON SUBSTANCE, BUT VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE ACTION IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS (AND PARTICULARLY ROME) IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE EMBARGO EXTENDED. HE WOULD EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT THE AMERICANS HAD OFFERED TO DO BY WAY OF SUPPORT IN THE MILITARY FIELD.

DIPLOMATIC

8. HAIG MADE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT WANT TO CUT ACROSS OUR MILITARY ACTIONS (WHICH HE AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED TO HAVE AN ESSENTIAL PART IN THE BUILDING UP OF PRESSURE), HE REMAINED CONCERNED THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT. THE PRESIDENT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THIS FOR AMERICA. (IT WAS CLEAR ALSO

CONCERNED THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT. THE PRESIDENT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THIS BECAUSE OF THE US POSITION IN LATIN AMERICA. (IT WAS CLEAR ALSO FROM WHAT I WAS TOLD IN CONFIDENCE BY EAGLEBURGER THAT HAIG ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO HIS PERSONAL ROLE).

9. HAIG THEN EXPLAINED THE OUTLINE OF A POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, WHICH HAD ORIGINATED IN A PERUVIAN INITIATIVE, BUT HAD BEEN MODIFIED BY THE AMERICANS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR POSITION.

THE BASIC ELEMENTS WOULD COMPRISE:

(I) AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE

(II) A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES:

(III) THE INVOLVEMENT OF THIRD PARTIES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLANDS:

(IV) ACCEPTANCE BY BOTH PARTIES OF THE FACT THAT A DISPUTE OVER SOVEREIGNTY EXISTS:

(V) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF THE ISLANDERS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN REACHING A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT:

(VI) A CONTACT GROUP OF BRAZIL, PERU, THE FRG AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE FORMED, AND

(VII) A DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED BY 30 APRIL 1983, FOR WHICH THE CONTACT GROUP WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE.

10. HAIG ARGUED THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THESE BROAD LINES WOULD AMOUNT TO A HUMILIATION FOR ARGENTINA, BUT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE JUNTA AS OUR MILITARY PRESSURE INCREASED. PRESIDENT BELLAUSO HAD DISCUSSED THESE IDEAS WITH GALTIERI LAST NIGHT (THE US AMBASSADOR AT LIMA HAD BEEN IN THE ROOM AT THE TIME) AND THE AMERICANS HAD HEARD THIS MORNING VIA COSTA MENDEZ THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SOMETHING LIKE THEM.

11. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE NOT AT THE DRAFTING STAGE, BUT IT MIGHT WELL BE THAT SOMETHING ON THESE LINES COULD PROVE USEFUL AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. FURTHER PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE THEY WERE LIKELY TO AGREE TO OUR BASIC REQUIREMENTS. HAIG AGREED THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIAL - WE NEEDED ANOTHER DAY LIKE YESTERDAY. MR PYM ADDED THAT IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ESSENTIAL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THAT THE US SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE CONTACT GROUP (THE ARGENTINES HAVE APPARENTLY OBJECTED AND PROPOSED CANADA INSTEAD) AND THAT THEY SHOULD GUARANTEE THE SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD ACCEPT ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS quo OVER SOUTH GEORGIA AFTER ITS SUCCESSFUL RECAPTURE, AND THAT ANY SUCH

OBJECTED AND PROPOSED CANADA INSTEAD) AND THAT THEY SHOULD GUARANTEE THE SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD ACCEPT ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS QVO OVER SOUTH GEORGIA AFTER ITS SUCCESSFUL RECAPTURE, AND THAT ANY SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS APPLYING TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ONLY.

12. HAIG TOOK NOTE, AND AGREED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO BRING ANY GREATER PRECISION TO THE DISCUSSIONS. MEANWHILE HE HOPED (AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREED) THAT HE WOULD NOT GET EMBROILED IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

13. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE P.M. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON RETURN.

HENDERSON

NNNN



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ZCZ

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BBC B

B19/3 GALTIERI EXCERPTS 3: +PERSIST UNTIL VICTORY+ =

GALTIERI SAID:

+WE PRAY TO GOD TO GIVE US THE SERENITY AND STRENGTH FOR THIS NATIONAL ENTERPRISE WHICH TOGETHER WE BEGAN ON 2 APRIL AND IN WHICH WE WILL PERSIST IN SOLIDARITY UNTIL VICTORY...+

MF BBC MON 0351 2/5 G. T.

ZC

B19/4 GALTIERI EXCERPTS 4: +COSTING US MANY LIVES + =

+THIS IS COSTING US, AND WILL COST US CERTAINLY MANY LIVES AND MATERIAL LOSSES. BUT A MUCH HIGHER PRICE IS BEING PAID AND WILL BE PAID BY THE OUTRAGEOUS EFFRONTERY OF THE INVADER WHO HAS NOT LISTENED TO ANY REASON AND WHO COMMITTED THE UNFORGIVABLE POLITICAL SIN OF CONFUSING PRUDENCE WITH WEAKNESS. +

MF BBC MON 0354 2/5 G. T.

ZC

B19/5E GALTIERI EXCERPTS 5: CALL FOR FAITH AND COURAGE =

+AT THIS CRUCIAL INSTANT, I ASK THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC, MY PEOPLE, TO HAVE FAITH, COURAGE, AND FORTITUDE TO DEFEND, AS OUR ELDERS DID, THAT WHICH WITH JUSTICE BELONGS TO ALL ARGENTINE GENERATIONS, OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW. +

END BBC MON 0355 2/5 G. T. (ALL)

ZCZ

ZC

BBC B

B20/1 GALTIERI ADDRESS : TEXT =

(BUENOS AIRES RADIO: 0249 GMT) PEOPLE OF THE NATION: FROM THE WHITE ROOM OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LT-GEN. DON LEOPOLDO FORTUNATO, GALTIERI SPEAKS:

(ED: GALTIERI, VOICE): COMPATRIOTS: THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NATION HAVE TODAY RESPONDED TO A FRESH ACT OF WAR BY BRITAIN IN THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC. THEY HAVE USED AND THEY ARE CONTINUING AT THIS TIME TO USE FIRE AGAINST US. WE HAVE RESPONDED AND SHALL RESPOND WITH FIRE AND THAT WILL ALWAYS BE OUR RESPONSE IF THE ENEMY TRIES TO TURN ARGENTINE LAND INTO A COLONY AGAIN. PRIOR TO THIS ATTACK, FOR DAY AND WHOLE WEEKS, UNBELIEVABLE PRESSURES WERE EXERTED ON OUR NATIONAL WILL.

MF BBC MON 0359 GMT 2/5 EDP

10

1222
ZC

B20/2 GALTIERI (TEXT) 2: +WRONGED BY SANCTIONS+ =

ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PORTRAY US AS BLOODY AGGRESSORS WHEN THE TRUTH, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, IS THAT IN RECOVERING UNREDEEMED TERRITORY WE PREFER TO DIE THAT TO KILL, AND SO, IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MILITARY OPERATION, NEITHER THE ADVERSARY NOR THE MALVINAS POPULATION SUFFERED A SINGLE CASUALTY.

WE HAVE BEEN WRONGED BY SANCTIONS WHICH THE GREAT POWERS DO NOT APPLY TO THOSE THEY REGARD AS THEIR WORST ENEMIES, AS THOUGH OUR BEING A YOUNG NATION MADE US EASY PREY.

MORE AS AVAILABLE BBC MON 0401 GMT 2/5 EDP

1222
ZC

B20/4 GALTIERI TEXT 4: LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY =

+THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA GAVE US A DEFINITE AND CLEAR REPLY, A REPLY OF SOLIDARITY AND FRATERNITY. THIS WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO ALWAYS BELIEVED HONESTLY AND WITHOUT ULTERIOR INTERESTS THAT THERE IS A FUTURE AND A DESTINY FOR THIS CONTINENT, AND THAT ITS COLONIAL PAST WAS DEAD AND TURNED TO DUST OR CONSIGNED TO HISTORY. +

MF BBC MON 0420 2/5 G. T.

ZCC
ZC
BBC B

B20/3 GALTIERI TEXT 3: SLANDER, INTIMIDATION AND THREATS =

+WE HAVE BEEN INSULTED: WE HAVE BEEN SLANDERED: AND INTIMIDATION HAS BEEN USED AGAINST US, ALONG WITH THREATS, INTRIGUE AND ALL IMAGINABLE MANOEUVRES TO DISCREDIT US. WE HAVE GIVEN OUR REASONS. WE HAVE SAID THAT FOR ALMOST A CENTURY AND A HALF WE HAVE OBTAINED ONLY INTEMPERATE REFUSALS OR THE MOST CYNICAL SILENCE IN RESPONSE TO OUR PERSISTENT CLAIMS FOR OUR PROVEN RIGHTS.

+WE HAVE SEEN HOW BRITAIN RESPONDED WITH THE DESPATCH OF WARSHIPS TO THE PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED PRESENCE OF ARGENTINE WORKERS IN THE GEORGIAS. WE FELT THE CERTAINTY THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY OF RECOVERING OUR UNRENOUNCEABLE SOVEREIGNTY THAN BY ACTING AS WE DID, AND WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT TO THE WORLD.

MF BBC MON 0419 2/5 G. T.

ZCZ .

BBC B

020/5 GALTIERI TEXT -5- NON ALIGNED SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING=

+WE ALSO COUNT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE SUPPORT OF THOSE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH THEIR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD THE RIGOURS OF THE ANTI-COLONIAL WARS AND THAT UNDERSTAND THE COURAGE AND DEMANDS INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING VICTORY IN THIS STRUGGLE.

MF BBC MON 0427 GMT 2/5 EDP

NNNN

ZCZ

ZC

BBC B

020/6 GALTIERI TEXT -6- U.S. SANCTIONS + ILLEGITIMATE+ AND +UNJUST+ =

+OUR CAUSE HAS THUS CEASED TO BE AN ARGENTINE PROBLEM. IT HAS BECOME A CURSE OF AMERICA AND OF THE WORLD, WHICH DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE COLONIALISM AS A SITUATION WHICH CAN BE TOLERATED IN THIS CENTURY.

+TO ALL THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED THERE IS NOW ADDED THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS NOT ONLY DISREGARDED WHAT WAS DECIDED WITHIN THE FRAMEOWRK OF THE OAS - THEREBY DENYING PRINCIPLES TO WHICH IT FORMALLY LEANT ADHERENCE MORE THAT 35 YEARS AGO- BUT WHICH IS ALSO SUPPORTING WITH ACTIONS THE COLONIAL PRETENSIONS IN AMERICA OF A EUROPEAN POWER, BY IMPOSING ON US ILLEGITIMATE AND UNJUST MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. IN THIS WAY IT IS ATTACKING THE EXPRESS SENTIMENTS OF ALMOST THE WHOLE OF AMERICA, OF WHICH IT FORMS A MAJOR PART.

MF BBC MON 0436 GMT 2/5 EDP

ZCZ

ZC

020/7 GALTIERI TEXT -7- BRITAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKING PEACE =

+NOW, THE BRITISH EMPIRE, EMBOLDENED BY THE SUPPOSED RESULTS OF ITS CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE, IS RESORTING TO THE DIRECT AND OVERT USE OF FORCE. THERE REMAINS NO OTHER RECOURSE BUT TO RESPOND WITH MILITARY ACTION TO THIS VIOLENCE.

+THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING BROKEN THE PEACE IN AMERICA AND FOR HAVING PUT IN JEOPARDY WORLD SECURITY WILL FALL ON THOSE WHO ATTACK US. IT WILL FALL ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT: AND ON THOSE WHO ACCOMPANY THEM WILL FALL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HAVING COMPROMISED INTERNATIONAL HARMONY. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET CONCILIATION AND PEACE BY EVERY MEANS. THE OUTRAGEOUS ATTACK WHICH WE HAVE SUFFERED WILL NOT LESSEN THIS VOCATION FOR PEACE WHICH HAS ALWAYS INSPIRED US. +

MF BBC MON 0442 GMT 2/5 EDP

14

B20/8 GALTIERI TEXT -8- =

+WE PREY TO GOD TO GIVE US THE SERENITY AND STRENGTH FOR THIS NATIONAL ENTERPRISE WHICH TOGETHER WE BEGAN ON 2 APRIL AND IN WHICH WE WILL PERSIST IN SOLIDARITY UNTIL VICTORY. LET US PRAY TO HIM ALSO THAT HE ENLIGHTENS THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO PLACE THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR PERSONAL POLITICAL POSITIONS BEFORE THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE, THE DESIRE OF ALL PEOPLES.

+TODAY, THE FIRST OF MAY, THE UNIVERSAL DAY OF LABOUR, ARGENTINE MEN AND WOMEN ARE AT THEIR PEACEFUL POSTS WITH THEIR SPIRIT READY FOR GREAT SACRIFICES. MEANWHILE, IN THE SOUTH, IN THE SOUTH OF THE ARGENTINE NATION, MEN OF ALL AGES AT THEIR POSTS OF STRUGGLE ARE STEADFASTLY DEFENDING THE HONOUR AND HERITAGE OF THE NATION.

MF BBC MON 0445 GMT 2/5 EDP

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ZC

B20/9 GALTIERE TEXT -9- + OUTRAGEOUS EFFRONTERY OF THE INVADER+ =

+THIS IS COSTING US, AND WILL COST US, CERTAINLY, MANY LIVES AND MATERIAL LOSSES. BUT A MUCH HIGHER PRICE IS BEING PAID AND WILL BE PAID BY THE OUTRAGEOUS EFFRONTERY OF THE INVADER WHO HAS NOT LISTENED TO ANY REASON AND WHO COMMITTED THE UNFORGIVABLE POLITICAL SIN OF CONFUSING PRUDENCE WITH WEAKNESS.

+AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT, I ASK THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC, MY PEOPLE, TO HAVE FAITH, COURAGE, AND FORTITUDE TO DEFEND, AS OUR ELDERS DID, THAT WHICH WITH JUSTICE BELONGS TO ALL ARGENTINE GENERATIONS, OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND OF TOMORROW.
GOOD NIGHT.

END BBC MON 0449 GMT 2/5 EDP

MBDE

ZC

BBC B

B21/1E GALTIERI ADDRESS GREETED BY ARTILLERY SALVO ON ISLANDS =

A DISPATCH FROM THE ARGENTINE NEWS AGENCY TELAM DATED LINED PUERTO ARGENTINO (PORT STANLEY) SAID THAT PRESIDENT GALTIERI'S ADDRESS WAS RECEIVED THERE WITH +GREAT EMOTION+. THE END OF THE ADDRESS WAS GREETED WITH A SALVO FROM ARGENTINE BATTERIES, THE AGENCY SAID.

END BBC MON 0447 2/5 G. T. (ALL)



The National Archives

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PM/82/31
PRIME MINISTER

Th. Colby ✓ *WA 5/5*
we spoke! *f-a.*
Revis 2/5

19A
cc Sir M. Pelling
M. Wedderburn
M. Facer

Attack on Argentine Aircraft Carrier

1. Following our decision in OD(SA) yesterday to authorise an attack without warning on the Argentine aircraft carrier outside our exclusion zone, I have been giving a further thought to the line we should take in public after the event.
2. After discussion with the Attorney General the way in which our action would have to be publicly justified and its legality defended, I believe our position would be immeasurably strengthened if we had given a warning to the Argentine Government, requiring the aircraft carrier to stay within the narrow zone which we discussed yesterday or within territorial waters South of about 41° South.
3. I attach a draft of a possible warning message which we could ask the Swiss to convey urgently to the Argentine Government. This in no way alters the substance of the decision we took yesterday. But I believe it would greatly strengthen our hand in dealing with criticism at home and abroad once an attack on the carrier has been carried out.
4. I am copying this minute to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Home Secretary, the Attorney General and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1 May 1982

FF
(FRANCIS PYM)

NOTIFICATION TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

In announcing a Total Exclusion Zone around the Falklands on 28 April, HMG made it clear that these measures are without prejudice to the right of the UK to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. In the light of the Argentine statement of 30 April of an intention to consider hostile British vessels within 200 miles of the Argentine mainland, the Falklands and their dependencies, the British Government has decided on the following measures. The Argentine carrier quote THE 25TH OF MAY unquote is hereby warned not to move East of a line [45° West] or South of a line [38° South] or outside a limit of 12 nautical miles from the coast of the mainland North of [41° South]. If the quote 25TH OF MAY unquote moves beyond these limits she will be regarded as constituting an immediate threat to British forces in the South Atlantic and will be liable to be dealt with accordingly. Further, if any attack anywhere in the South Atlantic is made upon British naval or air forces by an Argentine unit, all other Argentine naval units operating on the high seas, including the carrier quote THE 25TH OF MAY unquote, even if she is still inside the limits defined in this communication, and all Argentine military aircraft operating in air space over the South Atlantic will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly.

SECRET - UK EYES 'A'



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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
 Telephone 01-~~2307822~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

30th April 1982

Dear Mr.

ENFORCING THE TEZ : PRESS STATEMENT

At their 21st meeting OD(SA) agreed the recommendation in Paragraph 4 of my Secretary of State's paper on the enforcement of the TEZ. The necessary authority has now been given to the Force Commander and we may hear as early as tomorrow morning that the Vulcan mission has been carried out. It will be some hours thereafter before we know the results of the attack, and what follow-up action by Harrier aircraft from the Task Force has been undertaken. The Argentine authorities in Buenos Aires are likely to know before we do of the results of the first attack, and it will be in our interest to issue as quickly as possible a short statement to the British Press, as soon as we have confirmation that any attack has taken place.

The draft in Annex has been prepared as a general first statement for immediate issue in those circumstances. The chain of reporting would be from the Ministry of Defence to No 10, FCO (Private Office/Emergency Room) and Cabinet Office, giving such details as we have of the attack and confirming that the Press Notice is being issued, and the intended time of issue. I understand that these arrangements have already been discussed between MOD and FCO officials.

The same reporting arrangement, and need for fast PR response, holds good for any other military engagement, for example involving naval forces. The permutations are rather greater but material is held in the MOD from which press statements can quickly be drawn up and cleared with the FCO (Emergency Room).

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office)

**Resident Clerk
 & silent alarm*

*Yours sincerely,
 [Signature]*
 (D B OMAND)

A J Coles Esq

FIRST PRESS STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY MOD


"We have been enforcing the TEZ since noon (London time) [~~yesterday~~]
[on Friday 30th April] in exercise of the right of self-defence
under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The notice issued on 28th April
made it clear that after 48 hours warning the airport would be
closed and that any aircraft on the ground would be liable to
attack. Early this morning British aircraft took action to
enforce the TEZ and to deny the Argentinians the use of the airstrip
at Port Stanley. We are not yet able to give details but will
do so as soon as we have authoritative information."

Ref: B06488

Prime Minister 157AA & C. $\frac{4}{5}$.MR COLESFalklands: Spanish Text of Haig Proposals

The Prime Minister was asking earlier this week about the Spanish text of the Haig proposals (ie of the documents at OD(SA)(82) 31 and 28). In case the Plan is ever revived, you may like to know that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have obtained the Spanish text from the Americans and confirm that it introduces no ambiguities and no departures from the meaning of the English original.

2. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries of other members of OD(SA) and to David Wright.

30th April 1982
R L WADE-GERY

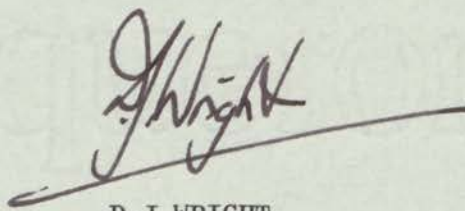
Ref. A08290

Searched now

MR WHITMORE

You asked me this morning if I could let you have a list of those who would be attending the lunch at Chequers on Sunday 2nd May, to be followed by a meeting of OD(SA).

2. In addition to the Prime Minister the other members of OD(SA) will be present, the Home Secretary, ~~the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary~~, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Paymaster General. The regular attenders of OD(SA) and a restricted secretariat will also be there: the Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir Antony Acland, Sir Michael Palliser, Sir Robert Armstrong, Mr Wade-Gery and Brigadier Eyre. (The Chief of the Defence Staff and the Chiefs of Staff are anxious that Brigadier Eyre should not miss this meeting.) Finally, I have invited the following additional participants: the three individual Chiefs of Staff, the Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, Sir John Fieldhouse and Sir Frank Cooper. With ~~yourself~~ and Mr Coles, this makes a total of eighteen people.



D J WRIGHT

30th April 1982



The National Archives

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PIECE/ITEM <i>646</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details: <i>MODUK INTREP supplementing INTSUM No. 53 - (folio 15)</i>	
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Ref: B06487

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 2nd May

Your meeting at Chequers will of course need to review both diplomatic and military developments. Sir Antony Acland should cover the former, including any news from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in the United States; and the Chief of the Defence Staff the latter, including the airfield situation.

2. So far as we know at present you will have only two issues for decision -

a. Force Levels: Reinforcement. In OD(SA)(82) 39 the Defence Secretary seeks formal agreement for the deployment of a further Brigade. This was virtually agreed by the Sub-Committee this afternoon.

b. Reinforcement, Requisitioning of Shipping. In OD(SA)(82) 40 - not yet issued - the Ministry of Defence will be reporting on whether there is any real alternative to requisitioning the QE II. The Sub-Committee this afternoon were understandably reluctant to authorise this if it could possibly be avoided.

3. The absence of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary means that this will not be a good occasion to discuss Sir Michael Palliser's paper on a Longer Term Settlement (OD(SA)(82) 38).

4. The Sub-Committee will no doubt wish to meet again on 4th May before Cabinet. It is hard to tell at this stage whether a 3rd May meeting will also be needed.

R L WADE-GERY

30th April 1982



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>646</i> (one piece/item number)	
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Ref: B06486

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) at 1430 on 30th April

The meeting is to consider

- a. The argentine aircraft carrier, ie OD(SA)(82) 36 on which the Defence Secretary should be asked to make a recommendation;
 - b. sailing the rest of the Amphibious Group (including Canberra) from Ascension, on which the Chief of the Defence Staff should be asked for a recommendation.
2. The Chief of the Defence Staff may also press for an urgent decision on requisitioning the QE2 for the reinforcement Brigade. Since there is no paper before the Sub-Committee, and the Chiefs of Staff were unable to make up their minds on the subject until 1300 today, you could reasonably ask that this should wait until Sunday.
3. The next meeting, barring emergencies, is arranged for Sunday, ~~2nd~~ May, at Chequers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RLW' or similar initials.

30th April 1982

R L WADE-GERY

PART 3 ends:-

Wash Tel 1509 29/4 40

PART 4 begins:-

Wade Gery 5 PM 306 486 30/4 1

