

Ref: B06504

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MS

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 21st May

Your meeting tomorrow morning will of course be largely concerned with any overnight military news, diplomatic developments eg in the Security Council and political reactions to the House of Commons debate. But there are also two comparatively minor items of business which it would be useful to tidy up.

a. Administration of the Falklands. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's paper OD(SA)(82) 44 proposed that the Financial Secretary (an Islander) should be sworn in as Officer Administering the Government as soon as possible after Argentine rule is brought to an end by surrender or withdrawal. Mr Pym would like to settle the point soon; but he will be in Brussels early next week and could of course also need to go to New York.

b. Astiz. The expected letter from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's Private Secretary commenting on the Defence Secretary's Private Secretary's letter to Mr Coles of 18th May, has been delayed but should issue tonight. It is now uncertain whether this will advocate his early repatriation or holding him a bit longer; there are public relations arguments either way. The Attorney General's view is that it would be legal to hold him until the end of hostilities, if we so wish, and to do so in the United Kingdom; but not to extradite him. The Defence Secretary will need to devise the practical arrangements either for holding him or for repatriation.

2. Finally, the Sub-Committee will need to decide on any weekend meeting plans.

RLG.

20th May 1982

R L WADE-GERY