

Ref: B06467



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PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

OD(SA) Meeting: 9.30 am, 15th April

The business this meeting needs to cover could be taken in the following order:-

- (i) Sir Michael Palliser is attending as an invitee. You should tell your colleagues that he has now taken up his temporary post as Special Adviser in the Cabinet Office.
- (ii) Diplomatic Negotiations. The Sub-Committee need to agree on the substance of a message to Mr Haig. This should go from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, unless you want to send it yourself. It should reach him by 16th April ie before the earliest he may leave for Buenos Aires. It should deal with his unacceptable redraft of paragraph 8 of the draft Agreed Memorandum ("decolonisation"); and should suggest one or more alternatives. The redrafts commissioned from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be available at the meeting if not circulated beforehand\* and he should introduce them. Officials ~~will~~ have studied them today. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should also say whether he recommends any other British moves to alter the draft Memorandum, eg in the light of the mood in Parliament today.
- (iii) Military Decisions. The Defence Secretary should cover the following:-
- (a) Rules of Engagement for the Task Group. When do we need to agree these? Will he circulate a draft? The Chief of the Defence Staff suggested last week that a decision would be needed towards the end of this week. Advance elements of the Task Group (ie the fast group aimed at South Georgia) are already well south of Ascension.



(b) When do we need to authorise (or decide to hold back) the seizure of South Georgia?

(c) Is any decision needed on attacking the Argentine Navy outside the Exclusion Zone (eg as it leaves port; or if it came near South Georgia, which is 600 miles from the Zone)?

(d) Are there any other immediate military problems?  
Eg over the Russians; or over a possible attack on Stanley airfield.

(iv) Emergency Legislation. The Cabinet this morning left open a decision on when this may need to be introduced. The draft Bill is now available (see C(82) 12). You will probably need an ad hoc meeting early next week on this to include other Ministers concerned, eg the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Trade, and the Business Managers. But OD(SA) should take a preliminary view tomorrow on when the "window" is likely to be between collapse of the Haig negotiations (if they do collapse) and the possible outbreak of hostilities (the view of Departments is that the Bill should be introduced after the former but before the latter). The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Defence Secretary should advise. The Home Secretary will also have views.

(v) Next Meeting. The Sub-Committee will probably wish to agree to meet again on 16th April, unless it is clear that all outstanding decisions foreseeable can wait until next week.

R L WADE-GERY

14th April 1982