

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

The Falklands: Military Briefing  
Friday 14th May, 8 am in the  
Cabinet Office Briefing Room

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## ATTENDANCE

1. The briefing will be given by the staff of Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Commander in Chief Fleet. The list of those taking part is at Annex.
2. All members of OD(SA) and the Attorney General will be present. The Chiefs of Staff, Sir Antony Acland, Sir Frank Cooper, Sir Michael Palliser and Mr Patrick Wright (Chairman of the JIC) will be in attendance.

## HANDLING

3. The Chief of the Defence Staff will make a brief introduction; Admiral Fieldhouse and his team will then give a presentation, lasting about 45 minutes, on the preferred military option for re-taking the Falklands. While you and your colleagues may wish to ask questions on specific points in the briefing, it might be best to leave most questions and discussion until the end; there should be 45 minutes available for this before the regular meeting of OD(SA) is due to start (in No. 10) at 9.30 am, though it would be possible to delay the start of OD(SA) until 10 am. The Defence Secretary has to leave London by 11.30 am.
4. The briefing is likely to set out the implications of the preferred option, an assault landing on East Falkland by the Amphibious Group as soon as the Task Force Commander judges that conditions are right; the preferred date is likely to be the night of 20th/21st May but this could be delayed by bad weather either before then (which would delay the arrival of the Amphibious Group at the rendezvous with the Task Force) or at the time.



5. You will not wish to take any military decisions at this briefing, but it will be important to ensure that the professional views of each of the Chiefs of Staff are obtained on the full implications of repossessing the Islands by force; particularly on

- how long it is likely to take;
- what British military losses, in men and major equipment, are to be expected;
- the probable damage to civilian lives and property;
- the risk of failure.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RLW', is written in the lower right quadrant of the page.

13th May 1982

R L WADE-GERY



ANNEX

List of Military Participants

Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Commander in Chief Fleet

Air Marshal Curtis, Air Officer Commanding, 18 Group RAF

Major General Moore, Royal Marines

Vice Admiral Herbert, Flag Officer Submarines

Captain Walwyn, RN

Lieut. Colonel Stevenson

Group Captain Tinley, RAF

Captain Read, RN