

ALQ 050/1		
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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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Mr Gillmore *GW*

MEETING OF THE DEFENCE OPERATIONS EXECUTIVES: 3 MAY

### Intelligence

1. The Argentine carrier, The 25th of May, was reported to be some 60 miles south of Puerto Deseado. The whereabouts of the second Argentine submarine are still unknown: it was last reported at sea on 24 April. Attention was drawn to two recent pieces of intelligence suggesting Venezuela might be contemplating military action in pursuit of her territorial claim against Guyana.

### Own Forces

*the* 2. The Argentine POWs and the BAS personnel on HMS Anterim are due to arrive in Ascension on 11 May. As for the Royal Marines formerly captured during the Argentine invasion, some of these are on Canberra, others are scattered about ~~forces~~ *forces*, while the party from South Georgia are still at Poole. DS11 are pursuing with the Navy the ~~option of~~ practicality of removing these repatriated Royal Marines from the Forces, in the light of the FCO letter to Mr Nott's office, it being understood that whether to do so or not must remain a matter of political judgement.

### Ascension

3. A preliminary report has now been received in London on how to protect Ascension Island against possible attack. The main needs are radar, a defence command structure and some ground forces for quick reaction purposes. Although the RAF regiment and its associated portable radar is on twenty-four hours' notice to move, further information from Ascension Island is required before Chiefs of Staff will be in a position to decide what exactly to send. Meanwhile CNS is known to be concerned at the delay.

### QE2

4. There was concern at any further delay in an announcement of HMG's decision to requisition the QE2, since passengers will be assembling today for the scheduled civilian trip. The question of an announcement and the degree to which it refers to the movement of ~~Five Infantry Brigade~~ *Five Infantry Brigade* is complicated by apparent decision at Chequers yesterday that no announcement should be made before 4 May. Nevertheless an announcement in the course of the day seems almost certain. I made the point about keeping the FCO involved since we need to send a telegram to Kathmandu about the Gurkhas.

*P J Weston*

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Defence Dept (Emergency Unit)

3 May 1982  
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Mr Emsley, Defence Dept