

Mr Wright

13/4

Mr. Weston

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 13 APRIL

See 31

1. As you requested, I attended the Chiefs of Staff meeting this afternoon to discuss the operational order for Paraquet.
2. Most of the discussion was a debate about whether the level of forces designated for the assault landing were adequate for the purpose. In spite of some doubts expressed by CGS, it was agreed that the operational order should go forward to Mr Nott (under cover of a minute from CDS) as drafted, but with a reference to the extreme importance, both politically and militarily, of carrying out a successful operation.
3. I raised the question of the rules of engagement for the SSN (Page 8 paragraph d. (2)). It was agreed that detailed ROEs (yet to be drafted) would have to be precise about the territorial limitations and specific as regards the freedom to attack merchant ships if this was thought necessary. I said that I well understood that any Argentine effort to reinforce South Georgia by merchant ships could not be allowed to proceed once the attack had begun. But we would want to see and agree the ROEs in detail when these were drawn up.
4. I subsequently went over the ground personally with CNS afterwards. He well understood the need for territorial constraints on the submarines' freedom of action.
5. As agreed with you, I did not raise the point in paragraph 3 (8)(c): "capturing or killing Argentine Armed Forces personnel." We agreed that this was unchallengeable. Force would probably be necessary and we could not place constraints on our own forces which would endanger their lives.
6. Knowledge of Operation Paraquet has to be kept on a strict need-to-know basis. I should be grateful if Mr Weston would consider whether anybody else should see these papers.

D H Gillmore

13 April

cc:

Mr Weston

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