

Mr Fearn *of*

cc: PS  
 PS/Mr Onslow  
 PS/PUS  
 Mr Day  
 PS/Sir Ian Gilmour  
 Mr Giffard  
 Mr Ure  
 Mr Gillmore  
 Mr Weston  
 Dr Wilson, SED

*CEB*  
*1074*

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DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING : 9 APRIL

I. The following points of interest arose at a long meeting of the Chiefs of Staff this morning.

a) Passage of Tidepool through the Panama Canal

I reported the advice in Panama City telegram number 35 that Tidepool should not berth at the United States Naval Base, since US Naval regulations require prior clearance of the Panama authorities which it would virtually be impossible to obtain this weekend even if the Panamanians were prepared to give it. This clearly creates some problems in the Navy but the Vice Chief of Naval Staff is aware of the advice. In response to my question he said that only one other ship (an LST) is due to pass through the Canal travelling South from Vancouver and I have asked that the details should be passed to us.

b) Gibraltar — see (12)

Reference was made to the Governor's latest requests for additional equipment and units to be sent to Gibraltar as soon as possible. The intention is to embark them on a frigate leaving within the next 24 hours and the Ministry of Defence assured me that every attempt would be made to present this in a low key way. I said that we continued to attach great importance to this (and that the Secretary of State had now minuted his colleagues on the question), and questioned whether some of the items (eg missiles) were really required to deal with what everyone has agreed to be a fairly low level threat. The Ministry of Defence have undertaken to send us the latest list.

c) Belize

There was a brief discussion on Belize, during which the Defence Policy Staff reported that Mr Nott still maintains his view that we should withdraw as soon as possible. I understand that the Private Secretary has minuted on this. Even if early withdrawal was agreed there would be problems about arranging

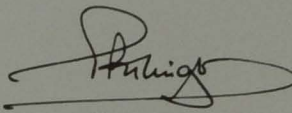
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transport without detriment to the Falkland Islands operation.

d) Political Adviser

I had earlier asked Mr Hastie-Smith whether the Ministry of Defence were yet able to give us any clearer picture on what type of political adviser might be required for the task force. He raised the question at the Chiefs of Staff meeting and the Vice Chief of Naval Staff reported that no such requirement existed. We should perhaps consider whether we are content to leave it at that.



9 April 1982

P R H Wright

Mr. Gilmartin 11/5/84.

na  
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- Mr Gillmore  
Mr Weston

1. You should see the three attached papers which were discussed at this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting.

2. They are:

- (20) a) a draft directive for Operation Corporate
- (21) b) a draft directive for Operation Parquet
- (22) c) a draft directive to CINCFLEET

3. On a) there was discussion about the need to declare an exclusion zone on which I have minuted separately to the Legal Adviser. Some drafting changes were agreed as follows:

3 c) comes out and is replaced by the following paragraph  
'Limitations'

- a) Civilian casualties must be kept to a minimum.
- b) Safeguarding property is a lesser but important consideration.

Otherwise some minor wording was agreed which is pencilled on the copy below.

4. On b) no major changes were agreed, but I am by no means certain that the draft below was actually the draft being considered! Here again there was discussion about exclusion zones (see my separate minute to the Legal Adviser).

5. The Vice Chief of Naval Staff was also asked to consider the timescale limitations on the operation and in particular to assess the earliest and latest times within which the landing operation could be conducted.

6. There was very limited discussion on c) and the Chiefs of Staff are likely to revert to this on Sunday.

P R H Wright

9 April 1982