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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~930 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

16th April 1982

Dear John,

Discussed in OD (SA)

today.

A.J.C. 16/4.

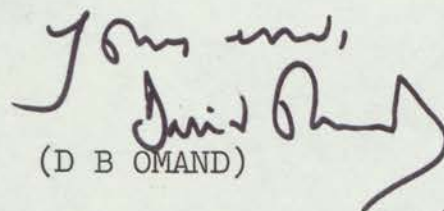
OPERATION CORPORATE: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

OD(SA) agreed this morning Rules of Engagement for Operation PARAQUET as set out in OD(SA)(82)13. The next part of our Naval forces requiring Rules of Engagement are the leading elements of the Carrier Battle Group. These are 5 frigates and destroyers led by HMS BRILLIANT. As was explained at yesterday's briefing by the Chiefs of Staff in the MOD they are making best speed at present so that, if in order to assist the negotiating process the force is halted, they will be as far south as possible.

For operational reasons they will not attempt to approach the 200 mile MEZ around the Falkland Islands until the slower Carriers join them. On present plans the leading elements will reach the vicinity of 35° West 35° South - which is about 1000 miles from the northern-most part of Argentine Coast - by 5 p.m GMT Monday 19th April. They will then, (just) be within the range of reconnaissance flights from the Argentine mainland. At this point the Defence Secretary believes that they should adopt Rules of Engagement for the high seas exactly the same as those already agreed and in force for the Operation PARAQUET force when it is outside a 200 mile radius of South Georgia, as the risk from Argentine Forces will be similar although of course low.

The Defence Secretary would be grateful for agreement, by lunchtime on Monday, to authorise the issue of these high seas Rules of Engagement, for the leading elements of the Carrier Battle Group (as set out in Annex A to OD(SA)(82)13). The Defence Secretary suggests that if necessary the matter could be discussed at the meeting of OD(SA) which has been arranged for 1130 on Monday morning. He also suggests that these low level high seas Rules of Engagement could be agreed in principle for all Naval Forces on arriving in the South Atlantic to avoid returning on each occasion to OD(SA) for specific authority.

I am copying this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), Brian Fall (FCO), Keith Long (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and to Sir Antony Acland and Sir Michael Palliser (FCO).

Yours sincerely,

(D B OMAND)

A J Coles Esq

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