

Ref: B06500



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PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 20th MayMilitary Issues

The meeting should begin with the usual briefing from the Chief of the Defence Staff.

2. It should then tidy up two loose ends from today's meeting.

a. Public presentation of the Landing (OD(SA)(82) 55).

The Sub-Committee liked the Defence Secretary's plan for initially fluffing whether what happens is the Landing or merely a landing (like Pebble Island); but they wanted to consider it further. Internationally this plan should be helpful to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. The Chancellor of the Duchy may also have views. It would follow from the plan that no early statement would be made to Parliament. Does the Home Secretary consider that practicable?

b. Astiz. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should speak to a letter which his Private Secretary is expected to send yours tonight. This will support - on public relations grounds - the Defence Secretary's proposal to repatriate him soon, once it is clear that he is not going to answer questions emanating from the French or Swedes. The Defence Secretary, as you know, wants to be rid of an administrative nuisance; and is also worried about possible retaliation against any future British prisoners. But if it is decided to hang on to him, the Attorney General can confirm that this is legal up to the end of hostilities; and that extradition would not be. The Defence Secretary would then need to advise on where and how to accommodate him.

3. Finally, you should tell OD(SA) how far you intend to go in informing the Cabinet of the military prospects. If you are content with the advice in Sir Robert Armstrong's Cabinet brief, for a middle course between candour and disingenuousness, you will need to ensure



that no one (eg the Defence Secretary) goes further than that in answering the Cabinet's questions; ie they should not reveal that we expect the Landing tomorrow night or as soon thereafter as weather permits.

Diplomatic Issues

4. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary or Sir Antony Acland should report overnight developments in New York:

- whether the breakdown of negotiations was announced by the Secretary General late tonight as planned;
- whether we are still on track to publish our draft agreement at noon tomorrow, with a commentary;
- what Argentine documents have been published, or will be before the Parliamentary debate.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should also advise on Security Council prospects; and on whether any new peace initiative is to be expected.

19th May 1982

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R L Wade-Gery'.

R L WADE-GERY