

Ref: B06483

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 30th AprilDiplomatic Issues

1. Your colleagues will have seen your message to President Reagan (OD(SA)(82) 34). The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should report on American reactions; on any further news from Buenos Aires; and on the diplomatic future. On the last point he is circulating a paper tonight (OD(SA)(82) 35) on the need to fill the gap left by the collapse of the Haig Plan, in order to forestall unacceptable initiatives, maintain support for our position and provide a means of progress if the Argentines start to crack.

Military Issues

2. The Defence Secretary will be asking for two military decisions tomorrow.

(i) OD(SA)(82) 32, on the Enforcement of the TEZ, seeks freedom of action to attack Stanley airfield; ie the reinstatement of Suffixes SIERRA and TANGO in the ROE for the TEZ (OD(SA)(82) 24, Annex A, page 5). This is unlikely to be opposed. But it would be as well to ask for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's assessment of the effect on the Islanders and on world opinion. He may also have the answer to your query on the Islanders' medical helicopters.

(ii) OD(SA)(82) 33, on Special Forces' Direct Action Operations, seeks freedom at this stage to attack only military installations. This should cause no difficulty.

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3. Orally, the Chief of the Defence Staff will seek authority for the remainder of the Amphibious Group, including the big ships, to sail from Ascension if no decisions has been taken to the contrary by midnight on Sunday, 2nd May. You will wish to make sure that the

\* See now Washington telegram no. 1509

Defence Secretary has no objection, given his past worries about the political difficulty of turning the Group back without either a settlement or an invasion.

4. The Defence Secretary expects to circulate later tomorrow, for consideration on Saturday, a paper on the Argentine aircraft-carrier. This will be a difficult issue, where military and legal requirements may conflict. In the same timetable, the Chief of the Defence Staff hopes to get to the Sub-Committee a paper on Force Levels, ie the reinforcement Brigade and its need for shipping.

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Next Meetings

5. The Defence Secretary would like the Sub-Committee to meet on Saturday, 2nd May. At present, no operational need is foreseen for meetings on Sunday or (Bank Holiday) Monday.

*RLW*

R L WADE-GERY

29th April 1982

\* ~ \* Passages deleted and retained  
under Section 3(4).

*CAWayland*  
8 May 2012