

ALQ 50/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
SECRET FICUK EYES REGISTRY		
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr. Wright

John Day

1- pa

PS/PS

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 19 APRIL

The following points of concern to the FCO (some of which will be pursued at Sir R. Armstrong's meeting of senior officials this afternoon) were raised at the Chiefs of Staff meeting this morning, at which Mr. Nott was present.

(a) Intelligence. No significant points on Argentine deployments were raised this morning. On our own forces, it was reported that three Nimrods had already arrived at Ascension together with five Victor reconnaissance aircraft. Four more Victors are expected to arrive later today.

A
attached

(b) Timetable for the Task Force. The meeting took note of the attached forecast of the Task Force timetable and agreed that it was useful to have this both in tabular and in prose form.

(c) Operation Parquet. I have recorded discussion on this separately, in the form of a note for the Ministerial Meeting at 11.30 this morning.

B
103

(d) Rules of Engagement for the High Seas. I attach (not for all) a copy of a draft submission to the Defence Secretary on Rules of Engagement for the Task Force on the High Seas. The main points discussed were the Navy's proposal that new rules should be promulgated for the Task Force as soon as they have passed 35° S. As the paper states, these are broadly similar to Phase B of the ROE already proposed for Operation Parquet, but also ask for delegated authority to assume that a single attack by an enemy unit is the first of a series of military moves and thus permits all threatening units to be attacked. In response to a question I said that this had not yet been discussed in the FCO by Ministers, but that the Legal Adviser's initial view was that, in strictly legal terms, any such action would be justifiable as an act of self-defence, under Article 51. There was also some discussion of the proposal in paragraph 5 which, as amended, provides that any Argentine unit, including conventional submarines, combat aircraft or vessels fitted with EXOCET, should be deemed to be demonstrating hostile intent. The Chief of Naval Staff explained that this proposal was designed to give a greater measure of insurance against submarine attack.

On the proposal in paragraph 7 that a general announcement should be made before Argentine forces were engaged, I was asked for an FCO opinion. I said that our initial view was that the more general announcement, which Ministers had agreed in principle on 17 April, might be more suitable than one specifically referring to Argentine units found within 25 miles of UK warships.

C
107

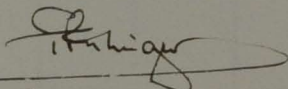
/The

SECRET UK EYES A

The Ministry of Defence are preparing a paper for OD(SA) which will be taken at Sir R. Armstrong's meeting later today.

(e) British Antarctic Territory. I took the opportunity of this discussion to ask the Chiefs to bear in mind the undesirability, if this could be avoided, of any military activity south of 60° S, since this could cause legal and practical problems in terms of the Antarctic Treaty. The CNS assured me that this point had already been taken fully into account in drafting directives, and that he foresaw no military requirement to operate south of that point.

(f) Scope for delaying landing operations. I am minuting separately on a Top Secret paper on this subject.



(P.R.H. Wright)
19 April, 1982.

cc PS
PS/Mr. Onslow
Sir I. Sinclair
Mr. Giffard
Mr. Gillmore
Mr. Weston

RA-3
13/10

SECRET UK EYES A