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In Hulse

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

Mr. Fearn ✓

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING, 8 APRIL

1. I attended the second Chiefs of Staff meeting today at 4 p.m., at which there was some discussion of planning for amphibious operations against both South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

2. The CDS said that Ministers had already indicated that they would like to go for an operation to re-possess South Georgia as soon as possible, and that planning should go ahead on the basis that this could be implemented by about 21 April. I received the clear impression that the Defence Staff have drawn a distinction between an operation against South Georgia (which they regard as certain) and operations against the Falkland Islands (which they regard as subject to parallel political or diplomatic activity).

3. There was also some discussion of possible psychological operations (Psyops), and a paper was circulated (but subsequently withdrawn) containing some fairly fanciful ideas. I said that we would wish to be closely consulted on any such operations, but that we would look to the Ministry of Defence for a clear indication of the military aim of any proposals they wished to put to us. I emphasised that any such planning needed to be handled by a very small circle.

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P.R.H. Wright

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AKQ 050/1

8 April 1982

Copies to: PS/PUS
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