

27

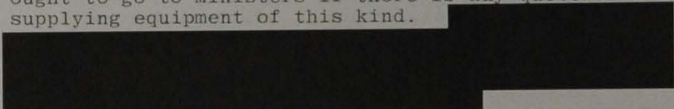
SECRET

PA.
JL 3/14
PB 12/4

Mr Wright

Thank you. Action taken on all points.

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, 10 APRIL

1. I attach a copy of Mr Weston's record of the Chiefs of Staff meeting this morning.
2. Since you will be attending the Chiefs of Staff meeting on 11 April you might like the following comments on points raised in Mr Weston's minute.
 - (a) I am minuting separately on 'off-loading'. News Department have a slightly fuller line than the 'neither confirm nor deny' formula which I gave to them yesterday. I will ensure that this is in hand.
 - (b) The question of Bofors and Bloodhound for Chile is a difficult one. I discussed it briefly this morning with Mr Hastie-Smith. He agreed with me that this ought to go to Ministers if there is any question of supplying equipment of this kind. 
 - (c) I am still trying to find out from the Director-General of Intelligence whether there is anything we can say to Santiago about the PR7 Canberra. I will report separately if I get any more information on the MOD's views before you arrive tomorrow.
 - (d) The Chiefs of Staff meeting tomorrow, forecast as 'long and difficult' will deal, I understand, with the 'off-loading' question. See my separate minute.

D H Gillmore

D H Gillmore

10 April 1982

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
CLOSED FOR
40 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 27(1)(a)(d)

ALC 0506	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY	
DESK OFFICER	SECRET
INDEX	P4

SECRET

26

ALQ 050/11		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Gillmore ✓

PA. JH 11/4

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, 10 APRIL

I attended the Chiefs of Staff meeting this morning. The following points are worth noting:-

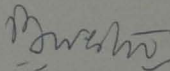
- (1) the intelligence information about the whereabouts of Argentine ships was described by DCDSI as very vague and about 3 days old. There was some talk by CAS of asking for a one-off RAF photo reconnaissance flight all the way from the UK: this, however, would require use of the entire air tanker fleet for in-flight refuelling as well as uplifting a large amount of air fuel on Ascension. I asked whether the two Argentine polar ships are classed as naval auxiliaries. The Chiefs of Staff Committee appeared not to know the answer, and VCMS said he would find out (this point has obvious operational implications, not least for analogous ships on our side such as Endurance and Gransfield).
- (2) There was no further discussion of off-loading but the Daily Mirror reported that Invincible was carrying these items was noted. MOD and News Department have been questioned on the point and answered in terms of the stock: "Neither confirm nor deny" ~~the~~ formula.
- (3.) There was some discussion in restricted session, for which I was invited to stay, about Santiago telno 89 ~~of~~ the new request by Bofers and Bloodhound for airfield defence in Chile. Both these weapon types are likely to prove unavailable but the Air Force department and the Army department are to look into it further.
- [REDACTED]
- I asked the Committee to ensure that the FCO were kept informed of what kind of offer MOD would come up with, but if CAS has his way, the matter will not be brought again to Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- (4) Another point on Chile, VCAS reported the Air Force department's readiness to despatch a Spanish speaking air attaché to our Embassy in Santiago at 48 hours notice to support the existing defence staff.

SECRET

/ I asked

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
CLOSED FOR
40 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 27(1)(a)(d)

- (5) I asked about progress on the PR7 Canberra proposal and was told that this was still being looked at. I reported that the Foreign Secretary was content that this idea should proceed, if workable.
- (6) The secretary to the committee forecast that tomorrow's meeting of the Chiefs of Staff was likely to be 'long and difficult'.



P J Weston
Emergency Unit

10 April 1982

cc: PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure
Mr Fearn
Mr Hulse