

SECRET



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 5/21

28th April 1982

Dear Sir,

MILITARY COMMENTS ON DRAFT "MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT"

The amended text of the draft "Memorandum of Agreement" was circulated last night under cover of OD(SA)(82)31. ^{below} The Chief of the Defence Staff has now sent us the attached note giving his view on the military implications of aspects of the draft Agreement. You will wish to be aware of these and they may be drawn on if it is decided to produce any further commentary on the proposals.

2. I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Coles (No 10) and to Brian Fall (FCO)

John Coles
Brian Fall
(D B OMAND)

David Wright Esq

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2038/1

CDS NOTECOMMENTARY ON DRAFT HAIG AGREEMENT : WITHDRAWAL2.2.1 "within seven days each withdraws half of forces inside MEZs"

not even-handed:

- we have two SSNs
- they have over 7,000 troops and ancillary equipment

in addition:

- the UK TF withdraws to 2,000 nm (7 days at 12k)
- the Argentinians withdraw to the mainland (400 nm) and place themselves in a condition such that they cannot be reinserted in 7 days. How? How can this be verified?

It would be acceptable if the timing was two days steaming at 12k (570 nm) and the same period applied to Argentinian reinsertion.

2.2.2 "within 15 days each withdraws remaining forces to usual operating areas or normal duties"

Acceptable depending on our interpretation of usual operating areas or normal duties. We would take this as the high seas.

It might be argued that these proposals are acceptable because the Reagan letter provides a US guarantee of withdrawal and against reintroduction (para iii). This guarantee is not part of the agreement (which is bilateral) and has no legality.