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Mr. Weston  
Defence Dept.

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 14 MAY

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The following points of interest arose at this morning's meeting of the Chiefs of Staff at which the Minister of State, Mr. Peter Blaker, was present.

(a) Intelligence Briefing. DCDSI reported our latest estimates of Argentine air losses during the Falklands crisis as follows:

- 3 Mirage III
- 1 Mirage V
- 2 Canberra
- 6 Skyhawk
- 5 Pucara
- 2 Puma
- 1 Skyvan

(b) Gurkhas. There was some discussion of the publicity given already to the inclusion of Gurkhas in the embarked forces and the possibility that Argentina might try to make capital at the United Nations on the use of "mercenaries". I have asked the Emergency Unit to discuss this with South Asia Department and to prepare guidance for UKMIS New York and other posts.

(c) The Chief of Air Staff read a report which had just been received on the results of photo reconnaissance of Stanley Airfield. This showed that the airfield was badly cratered and that no attempt appeared to have been made to repair it since the beginning of this month. Damaged aircraft are also still lining the grass verges of the runway. I have asked the Assessments Staff to include a report on this in an early Daily Assessment.

(d) Prisoners from Narwal. I have warned the Emergency Unit that we can expect an early approach from the MOD on a proposal to repatriate the Argentine prisoners from the fishing vessel Narwal on board HMS Hekla (a Red Cross designated ship) via Brazil.

(P.R.H. Wright)  
14 May, 1982.

cc Private Secretary  
PS/FUS  
Mr. Giffard  
Mr. Gillmore

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