

A.J.C. $\frac{4}{4}$
h-a.South American DeptNote for the File: Marines at Grytviken

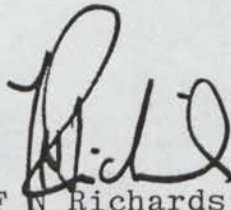
Mr Knight-Smith rang me from the Emergency Unit at 0400 hrs this morning to say that the Marine detachment at Grytviken had been given notice by the Argentinian ship 'Bahia Paraiso' that it would have an important message to transmit at 1000Z. This message was assumed by MOD to be a demand for the surrender of the detachment.

Mr Knight-Smith understood from 10 Downing Street that the Prime Minister was inclined to favour surrender, in order to prevent pointless loss of life. Mr Nott, however, favoured resistance. This was confirmed by a subsequent conversation with Mr Evans (APS/Mr Nott), who said that Mr Nott attached considerable importance to this; the orders would be the same as those given to the Marines at Port Stanley - to resist using minimum force.

I undertook to speak to Lord Carrington in the morning, and did so at 0710 hrs; he then spoke to the Prime Minister. He explained the situation at Grytviken and said that he favoured resistance with minimum force, as did Mr Nott. The Prime Minister said that while her initial instinct had been in favour of surrender, she accepted the contrary arguments, and would not wish to go counter to Mr Nott's advice.

I relayed this information to the Emergency Unit and to the Defence Situation Centre, and confirmed to the Defence Situation Centre our agreement to draft orders to this effect at 0850 hrs.

No No. 10 Private Secretary was listening to the Prime Minister's conversation with the Secretary of State, of which this is therefore the sole record.


(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

3 April 1982

cc: PS

PS/Mr Luce

Mr Ure
Defence Dept

→ A J Coles, Esq
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