



Prime Minister

Contract, subject to  
the views of colleagues in  
OD(SA)?

27

1/4/82  
22.14

Yes mb

MO 5/21

PRIME MINISTER

MARITIME RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Our Ambassador in Brazil has taken up with the Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff the question of possible deployment of Brazilian submarines outside Brazilian territorial waters where they might come into contact with units of the Naval Task Force. Admiral Aratanha has now assured our Ambassador that all Brazilian submarines will be held within 200 miles of the Brazilian coast. There is no likelihood of encountering conventional submarines from any other Navy in the area.

in folder

2. On Monday we considered (OD(SA) 10th Meeting) Rules of Engagement applicable on the high seas between 10° and 35° South (and West of 20° West.) These Rules authorised attack on any ship, submarine or aircraft demonstrating hostile intent by coming within 25 miles of a British ship or submarine. However, OD(SA) withheld approval of a Rule authorising our forces to presume that any conventional submarine encountered would be Argentinian. In light of the Brazilian undertaking I believe we can now safely promulgate this Rule. May I have your agreement to this. Yes mb

3. I am copying this minute to the members of OD(SA), and to Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Michael Palliser and Sir Ian Sinclair.

EW

PRESENTATION TO OD(SA) ON 22ND APRIL 1982

1. Resume of present position.
2. Outline Timing of Main Events.
3. Military Options.
  - a. Full enforcement of MEZ.
  - b. Use of land-based aircraft.
  - c. Use of Special Forces (SAS, SBS).
  - d. SSN operations outside the MEZ.
  - e. Likely Argentine Defence Plan of Falkland Islands.
  - f. Landing options in the Falkland Islands.
  - g. Operations against Mainland targets.
  - h. South Sandwich Islands.
4. Summary.
5. Decisions required (Attached).

ATTACHMENTDECISIONS REQUIRED

22 April Amphibious Group is assembled at Ascension Island and will be ready to sail tomorrow 23 April. Decision required to confirm sailing.

22 April Special Forces (SAS) with long range Hercules ready in UK. Decision needed if insertion into Falkland Islands to be effected on 25 April.

*Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(4).  
AWayland, 3 May 2012*

22 April Vulcan bombers ready to deploy to Ascension to be in position for tasking in the South Atlantic from 26/27 April. Decision needed on initial deployment to Ascension, and decision needed for public announcement of Exclusion Zone at least 24 hours before tasking.

26 April Photo-reconnaissance Canberras sold to Chile but flown by the RAF should be ready, subject to Chilean clearance, to fly missions over the Falkland Islands from 27 April. Decision needed to approve such missions.

27 April Rules of Engagement for implementation of air and maritime Exclusion Zone by Carrier Battle Group needs to be decided if Zone is to be established on 29 April. Decision needed for public announcement at least 48 hours before Zone is established.

27 April Special Forces (SAS and SBS) with Task Force ready for deployment for intelligence gathering and offensive operations on Falkland Islands. Decision required if earliest insertion date 29 April is to be met.