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7A Mufaxed to Chequers
at 1000, 17/4



MO 5/21

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~9207022~~ 218 2111/3

16th April 1982

Dear John,

M.A.
M 25.
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CRITICAL DATES

You asked us to set down on paper some of the critical dates which emerged from the briefing given by the Chiefs of Staff in MOD yesterday morning. These are set out in the attached chart.

I should make the obvious point that these dates are subject to a measure of uncertainty due to factors such as weather. Looking further ahead than the chart, in terms of fuel, food and stores the Task Force is self-sufficient in the South Atlantic until the last half of May. This estimate of course would be reduced in the event of casualties and plans are being drawn up from the resupply of the force to sustain it for at least a six month period, (necessitating taking up further ships from trade).

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office) with a request that they ensure that the attachment to the letter is kept securely under lock and key.

Yours ever,

(D B OMAND)

A J Coles Esq

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	SOUTH GEORGIA GROUP	CARRIER BATTLE GROUP	ADVANCE GROUP	AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
	ANTRIM PLYMOUTH ENDURANCE	HERMES INVINCIBLE	BRILLIANT + 5 ships	FEARLESS CANBERRA + LSLs
ARRIVE ASCENSION		Friday 16 APR AM		Saturday 17 APR (FEARLESS) Monday 19 APR (REMAINDER)
LEAVE ASCENSION		Sunday 18 APR AM		? Friday 23 APR AM
ARRIVE AT 35° SOUTH	Friday 16 APR	Saturday 24 APR AM	Monday 19 APR PM	? Friday 30 APR PM
ARRIVE AT 200 MILE DISTANCE	Tuesday 20 APR LATE PM	Tuesday 27 APR AM		? Tuesday 4 MAY AM
ARRIVE AT LANDING POINT	Wednesday 21 APR PM	Establish Sea Control and Air Superiority in MEZ from Wednesday 28 APR		? From Friday 7 MAY

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