

SECRET

②



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

2392

Telephone 01-218 ..... (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

Assistant Private Secretary/  
PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

Prime Minister

DJSA/83/66  
9/31/F

A.J.C.  $\frac{24}{1}$

A J Coles Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

21 January 1983

ARGENTINE INVASION FORCES - 2 APRIL 1982

You asked for details of the composition of the Argentine invasion forces on 2 April 1982.

It is difficult to provide precise information for two reasons. The first is that our information is somewhat sketchy. It was clear that Argentine forces were attacking in strength and on a scale which would clearly overwhelm our small Garrison, and there was no provision at the time for a detailed scrutiny of the exact composition and equipment of the invasion forces. Our intelligence efforts following the invasion were of course concentrated on the Argentine order of battle prior to our own assault, and this would of course have reflected many movements of Argentine men and materials both in and out of the Islands following the initial assault.

The second difficulty is that much of the information we have been able to deduce about the composition of the invasion force comes from covert sources about which it would be unwise to give details in public. We would suggest therefore that the information be given in terms of what might have been seen by the marines present on the Island at the time of the invasion, and that the Prime Minister might use the following form of words:

"The Argentine landing was carried out with a destroyer, two corvettes, two transports, a landing ship and helicopters. It is estimated that over a thousand men were involved, equipped with tracked vehicles, mortars, rifles and transport vehicles."

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,  
Daniel Applegate

D J S APPLGATE