

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. COLES

I had a round up with David Omand at about 1900 tonight. It may be helpful to record the following points.

Mr. Nott's plans for Sunday:

0930	Session with <u>Chiefs of Staff</u> , going over <u>operational plans</u> , etc.
Late morning	Weekend World Interview with <u>Brian Walden</u> .
Early p.m.	Fly to <u>Portsmouth</u> to visit <u>HMS Hermes</u> (BBC mute filming arranged).
1700 approx.	Depart <u>Portsmouth</u> , returning to London by 1800 hours.

PM
knows
of this

Next steps. I asked David when Mr. Nott expected to be able to put on paper some proposals to allow colleagues to begin to focus on issues beyond the departure of the fleet. He said that work on this was already well in hand with the Chiefs of Staff, but would need to be translated from operational language to political language. He took the point that some initial paper very early next week was needed, particularly after a weekend in which various groups of Ministers will be talking privately and informally without any common starting point.

Arising from what I reported to him of this afternoon's conversations, he made three points.

Paragraph (1) deleted and retained under
Section 3(4)

CP Wayland

11 September 2012

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(2) It was misleading for colleagues to think in black and white terms about some major engagement some weeks away. Planning needed to envisage a combination of some diplomatic and military incidents which, over the next few days would allow the UK to wrong foot the Argentines militarily. This was what would be considered at Mr. Nott's meeting with Chiefs of Staff tomorrow.

(3) Mr. Nott had got the message from today's discussions about the intentions of colleagues, and the MOD was now effectively on a "war footing". This meant that the operations staff would increasingly be in the lead, but political input would always be available whenever we wanted it. (I think David was trying to hint that we might find the Services attempting to cut out the political offices in dealings with us.) Through tomorrow, the MOD Private Office would be ~~around~~^{manned} as if for a normal working day, perhaps with an earlier than usual evening finish. John Nott and the Duty Private Secretary were always available on bleeper, but they would continue to rely primarily on the Resident Clerk through the silent hours.

MA

3 April 1982