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92 - 1

ZZ WASHINGTON

GRS 349

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FM FCO 041800Z APR 82

TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 634 OF 4 APRIL 1982

INFO ASCENSION (FOR ADMINISTRATOR)

LIKELY UK REQUIREMENTS AT ASCENSION ISLAND

1. PLEASE THANK THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR OFFER RECORDED IN YOUR TELNO 623. ON PRESENT PLANS WE SHALL BE IMPOSING CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS ON US FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND. PLEASE PASS ON THE FOLLOWING DETAILS AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL. THEY ONLY DEAL WITH GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: SOME ADDITIONAL DETAIL HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO THE US ON SERVICE CHANNELS.

2.(A) SHIPS:

RFA FORT AUSTIN IS ARRIVING AT 0800Z 6 APRIL WITH STORES AND PASSENGERS FOR TRANSFER TO HMS ENDURANCE.

(B) AIR:

13 HERCULES FLIGHTS ARE PLANNED FOR 3-6 APRIL TRANSPORTING 3 HELICOPTERS, SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT, COMS EQUIPMENT AND A ROYAL MARINE BLOW-PIPE DETACHMENT.

A CHARTERED BELFAST WILL ARRIVE NIGHT OF 5-6 APRIL WITH TWO LYNX HELICOPTERS.

HANGAR SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ALL FIVE HELICOPTERS, 15 TONS OF STORES AND AMMUNITION AND ACCOMMODATION FOR SOME 146 ALL RANKS BETWEEN 4-6 APRIL UNTIL DEPARTURE IN FORT AUSTIN.

(C) OPERATIONAL SUPPORT:

THE ISLAND IS EXPECTED TO BE THE FORWARD OPERATING BASE FOR 3RD COMMANDO BRIGADE WITH 3 PARA UNDER COMMAND - ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED FOR 25 PERSONNEL AND 4,000 SQ METRES OF STORAGE. A SATELLITE COMS TERMINAL OPERATED BY SEVEN MEN IS REQUIRED TO OPERATE THERE FROM 6 APRIL.

IN THE LONGER TERM, THERE COULD BE A REQUIREMENT FOR THE

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RECEPTION AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OF CASUALTIES.

LATER EXPANSION OF FORCES COULD REQUIRE RECEPTION AND STAGING FACILITIES FOR 3,500 MEN: A LOGISTIC BASE WOULD REQUIRE 200 MEN FOR THE RECEPTION, STORAGE AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OF COMBAT SUPPLIES.

(D) LONGER TERM REQUIREMENTS:

THESE ARE, AT PRESENT, DIFFICULT TO DEFINE AND DETAILED RECONNAISSANCE IS NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE ISLAND'S CAPACITY TO PROVIDE A FORWARD OPERATING BASE FOR UP TO TWO BRIGADES.

3. SPECIFIC DETAILS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EG ACCOMMODATION, LIFTING GEAR, LIGHTERAGE AND REFUELLERS, WILL NEED DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON SERVICE CHANNELS. ONE PARTICULAR REQUIREMENT WILL BE FOR ADDITIONAL AIR CONTROLLERS TO ALLOW FOR 24 HOUR OPERATIONS.

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