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Covering UK SECRET/US TOP SECRET



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MO 5/21

23rd May 1982

A.J.C. 24/5  
h-a.

Dear John,

I attach a self-explanatory message from Mr Nott to Secretary Weinberger. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its onward transfer to Washington.

A copy goes to John Coles (No 10) and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever  
Nick Evans

(N H R EVANS)

J Holmes Esq

MO 5/21

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE NOTT  
TO SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE WEINBERGER

UK OPERATION CORPORATE

I am very grateful for the helpful way in which, following our talks in Brussels earlier this month, your Department has approached the question of material support for UK forces. In particular, my officials have been in touch with yours about the possible release of 150,000 square yards of AM2 Airfield Matting, which I understand the US Marine Corps hold as war reserve. I should be very grateful if you could agree to this release at a very early date, in which case our officials could jointly work out the details.

We would propose that the matting should be transported from the United States in a ship we would charter. We should also look to you for any special training required. As to the financial basis of the release, perhaps this could also be discussed between our officials: since you would need, I understand, to arrange for resupply you may wish to consider an arrangement under which you would supply to us initially on the basis that the matting would be returned if unused. If it were used, then when the Port Stanley airfield was permanently repaired we would recover it to become a useful enhancement of the UK's capability, for use either within NATO or out of area.