



CDP
I agree. FERB
FERB 29.10.

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Since to GWR
=> subject to
official sanction
& clearance, it

That we are
covered.

Ref. A084/2857

29 October 1984

CDP
29/10.

Dear Clive,

You will have seen that Ministers gave speedy approval to your Secretary of State's proposal that Mr David Brown, the Head of the Naval Historical Branch, should be given access to the official records in order to write a private history of the naval campaign in the Falklands which will then be published commercially.

Given the continuing interest in the naval aspects of the Falklands campaign, no doubt this book will attract a great deal of interest, not all of it benevolent. Are you sure that it is right to go ahead?

I am sure that your people already have this in mind, but if it does go ahead it will be important to make clear that Mr Brown's work is not an official history and does not form part of the series commissioned and published through arrangements made by the Cabinet Office Official Histories Branch. As you may know, since about the middle 1960's official histories have tended to be commissioned by the Administration of the day on the advice of an all Party Committee of Privy Counsellors (although this has not been active for some time); or following correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Cabinet Office programme of official histories already includes one publication 'SOE in the Far East' which was written by a formally appointed official historian who was supported by a commercial publisher who arranged publication. As the book was issued some 40 years after the events it depicted took place, and as there was a significant commercial risk for the publisher, we decided not to seek royalties. I am not aware of the financial arrangements between the Head of the Naval Historical Branch and his publisher; but given the very recent nature of the events and the possibility that the book may be an attractive commercial proposition no doubt consideration has been given to the question of royalties. One possibility is that they should be paid to public

/funds

Sir Clive Whitmore KCB CVO

funds; another is that they should be paid, at any rate in part, to some naval welfare association.

If in due course when the book is about to be published, or when the project becomes public knowledge, questions are raised about its official status, the Cabinet Office Official Histories Branch will be very willing to give any help it can.

Copies go to Antony Acland and Robin Butler.

Yours ever

Robert

Relations: Argentina

Pc 38