

This is ridiculous,



The matter
had not been
thought through
at

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

I don't think you
will find these options
very satisfactory. They
amount to saying that
we wouldn't actually
be able to do

anything. If that were
really the case, we have
no business trying to
establish an Exclusive Fisheries
Zone.

Agree to throw this under-size
fish back in the water?
Yes or no? CDP/24x

OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH INCURSIONS INTO THE FICZ BY ARGENTINE COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND NAVAL AUXILIARIES

1. Argentine vessels fishing in the FICZ will probably first be identified by aircraft. Where practicable they will be approached in the first instance by a civil enforcement vessel which would order them to leave the zone. Refusal to comply would set in train urgent diplomatic action via the Swiss Government. While such action would act as a warning the process would be slow to implement or to take effect. It need not hold up the next stage, in which a RAF aircraft (a Hercules in the first instance followed by a Phantom if operational considerations permitted) would make a low pass over the Argentine vessel in a further attempt to persuade it to leave. If this fails the civil enforcement vessel would order the Argentine vessel to Port Stanley.

2. If no civil enforcement vessel is available, a RN warship (if available) would attempt to persuade the Argentine vessel to leave the FICZ but to avoid a provocative appearance of "arrest" would not ask the latter to proceed to Port Stanley. It will always be preferable for the intervention of a RN warship to be reserved until the latest possible stage. The RN would similarly order a naval auxiliary to clear the zone. The RN vessel may be successful in persuading Argentine vessels to leave the FICZ (probably with consequent political reaction) but there is also a risk of our bluff being called.

3. In the event of refusal by an Argentine vessel to comply with instructions by a civil vessel to proceed to Port Stanley, or by a warship to quit the zone, reference for further instructions would be made to Ministers.

4. The possible military options that might be considered by Ministers are set out below:

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Effect on Argentine Vessels</u>	<u>Consequences</u>
1. <u>Harassment</u>		
a. Manoeuvre by RN warships designed to inconvenience or alarm.	Limited prospect of success. Scope for action limited by need to observe International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea.	Provocative and dangerous. Risk of collision.
b. Action to prevent vessel fishing eg cutting fishing gear.	Little prospect of success.	Doubtful legality, provocative and liable to endanger RN vessel.