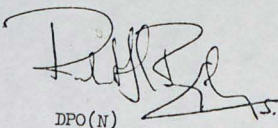


FALKLAND ISLANDS - ADMIRAL WOODWARD

PR LINE: "Admiral Woodward earlier this week gave a Press Briefing to journalists aboard HMS HERMES. He outlined the general situation to them and emphasised the capability and determination of his Task Force.

In particular he referred to the importance of the Argentinians firing first in his present situation. That is certainly true but of course as he moves further south, his Rules of Engagement will in the normal way continue to be kept under political review. The Rules of Engagement for vessels in the Maritime Exclusion Zone are different. They remain as stated by the Secretary of State for Defence. He said in another context that we would certainly be prepared to fire first.

Admiral Woodward also referred to various military options including the presence of frigates off Port Stanley and an air blockade. These are certainly military options but no decision on their implementation has yet been taken".



DPO(N)
1600 22.4.82

Source: DCPR