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RESTRICTED
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108/11

PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

PUS/82/565
9/31/F

Sir Ian Trethowan
Director-General
British Broadcasting Corporation
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
LONDON W1

19 May 1982

Ian Ian.

In the circumstances of the present Falkland Islands operations, I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence to say that Her Majesty's Government require the use of a transmitter number 302 at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station, between the hours of 0815 to 0945 and 2300 to 0200 GMT daily, from 2300 GMT on 19 May 1982 until further notice.

2. In accordance with Article 19 of the Licence and Agreement of 2 April 1981 between Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Corporation are hereby directed to permit the use of the said transmitter by Her Majesty's Government for the periods stated in the preceding paragraph.

3. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

*Your sincerely
Frank Cooper*

FRANK COOPER

E8/2
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1/31/F

BBC Broadcasting House London W1A IAA

Telephone 01-580 4468 Telex: 265781 Telegrams and Cables: Broadcasts London Telex

from the Director-General

19th May 1982

Dear Frank

I am in receipt of your letter of today's date informing me that Her Majesty's Government require the use of transmitter number 302 at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station at the specified times of day until further notice.

We will, of course, comply.

*Yours
I*

(Ian Trethowan)

Sir Frank Cooper, G.C.B., C.M.G.,
Permanent Under-Secretary of
State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

PUS DIST (19.5.82)
PS/S of S
PSO/CDS
CPR
DCPR
Head of DS6

FLUAT

DS6/7/48/24/2

59

APS/S of S

- PS/Minister (AF)
- PSO/SCD
- PS/PUS
- PS/2nd PUS
- PSO/DGI
- DUS (P)
- ACDS (Ops)
- AUS (D Staff)
- AUS (GS)
- DCPR
- Head of DS11

RADIO ATLANTICO DEL SUR

Reference:

A. SW/82/726 dated 19 May 1982.

1. The reference provided a press statement and Q and A brief on Radio Atlantico del Sur (RadS). Although these cover most of the points that are likely to be raised in the House this afternoon, I said that I would provide a supplementary Q and A brief after gauging press reaction to the new station. The brief, which has been prepared in consultation with the Home Office and the FCO is attached. Some answers are an expansion of ones already supplied with the reference, and the others are new points which might be raised as a result of media reports.

A W McClelland

A W McCLELLAND
 DS6c
 MB 6308 2487 MB

20 May 1982

5. Q. Were the BBC consulted before the formal demand was made for their transmitter?

A. The BBC were told well in advance that such an approach was being considered. If prepared: There were informal consultations about arrangements regarding the use of the transmitter.

SUPPLEMENTARY Q AND A BRIEF FOR PM'S QUESTION TIME AND FALKLAND'S DEBATE

1. Q. Who is running the station? Where is it located?

A. The operation is the responsibility of the MOD and station policy will be for the Department to decide. Some of the people involved in the broadcasting have South American connections, and I am not willing, therefore, to compromise their position by revealing details of the staff or the location of the station.

2. Q. Is it psychological operations (psyops)?

A. Psyops, like propaganda, is an emotive term. The aim of establishing the station is consistent with government policy to resolve the present crisis with the minimum use of force.

3. Q. How will news be selected? Will it be biased towards the British point of view?

A. A wide variety of sources will be used, to give the Argentine garrison the opportunity of hearing world views and opinions; an opportunity which has been denied them by the Argentine media.

4. Q. Doesn't Article 19 of the License and Agreement with the BBC enable the Government to take complete control of the Corporation's transmissions?

A. Hypothetically, yes, but I find it hard to envisage the circumstances in which this might happen. I should point out that the provision has been in existence since 1922, and the BBC hasn't been taken over yet.

5. Q. Were the BBC consulted before the formal demand was made for their transmitter?

A. The BBC were told well in advance that such an approach was being considered

[If pressed: There were informal consultations about arrangements regarding the use of the transmitter]