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from the Director-General

CABINET OFFICE
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23 JUN 1982
FILE INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No. _____

21st June 1982

cc Sir A. Juff
M. Broadall

by Sir Robert

I was very surprised to get your letter about the "Falklands Special" programme on BBC-1 on 15th June. We were not at all happy about several aspects of it ourselves, including the intelligence section, but for programme and journalistic reasons.

Throughout the Falklands crisis we have obviously been very much aware of the need to avoid broadcasting anything which might put the operations at risk. Before broadcasting the intelligence item on 15th June, Alan Protheroe consulted Bill Ash on the more sensitive points, and as a result of this and other enquiries it was our belief, and so remains, that we broadcast nothing which was not already available to the Argentines. Indeed, we have, throughout the conflict, been meticulous in our consultations when any sensitive material appeared likely to be broadcast.

I am sure you appreciate that "Panorama" is not, to put it mildly, the only source of information out of London available to the Junta.

Yours etc



(Ian Trethowan)

Sir Robert Armstrong, K.C.B., C.V.O.,
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