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Milton
P/W



Mr Gillmore

c.c. SAMD

FALKLANDS

I have spoken to Mr Nicholls (DS5). The following is the MOD view.

2. ENDURANCE will be out-gunned if intercepted, therefore we should avoid using her if possible, but keep her at Grytviken. However she will run out of food and provisions after a fortnight. The question is how to sustain her. Destroyers plus RFA would be escalatory. An RFA only would take three weeks from Gibraltar but there may be a problem with the RFA's fuel oil since it is a different type from warships and may not be stocked at Falklands, so the RFA might be on a one-way ticket. If destroyers or frigates were called up, they would take 16 days from Gibraltar. Another long shot would be to send an SSN covertly, which would take about two and a half weeks, and of course avoid the fuel problem. Whichever way we look at it the Argentine navy, which evidently has the bit between its teeth, can always outnumber us. At present no OD discussion of the defence implications of Argentinian action against the Falklands seems likely before 27 April.

P. Weston

P J Weston

25 March, 1982

Mr Weston

Thank you

Alas Britanica!

Jr 25/13

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