

DPP0619

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CLASSIFICATION	OFFICER	PROBATIONARY
GRADE	PA	Assistant

Mr Fearn
South America Dept

c.c. PS/LPS
PS/Mr Luce
Mr Ure
Mr Gillmore
→ Mr Hulse

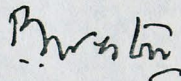
THE FALKLANDS

I attended a further meeting of the Defence Operations Executive in the MOD this afternoon. DIS have produced a further piece of intelligence, which I mentioned to you orally, which could be interpreted as an ominous move by the Argentines. It was perhaps this which caused the rather prolonged discussion on the point also raised this morning at Mr Luce's meeting with Mr Blaker: If we assess there is a real threat against Port Stanley, should HMS 'ENDURANCE' be allowed to remain in South Georgia? There is some feeling, particularly on the part of Navy Ops, that the military advantage lies in recalling ENDURANCE early to the Falklands. The meeting decided, since ENDURANCE is at present at sea anyway on local patrol, to tell her to remain at sea in the area rather than putting back into Grytviken, because if she did need to move in a hurry this would save a few hours (her current orders will be not to move more than 100 miles West of Grytviken, which is, I think, compatible with the Secretary of State's description in Parliament that she is standing by in the area). This point may well come up in OD tomorrow, and it is also the intention to ask the Governor, in the telegram which it was agreed this morning we should send to him, what his own advice would be about the movement of HMS ENDURANCE in the event of an enhanced threat.

2. The meeting also considered a request from Mr Nott to look at the possibility of us lifting a Rapier detachment to Ascension to be picked up from there by the support ship (RFA) passing Ascension on 6 to 8 April en route to resupply HMS ENDURANCE and arriving at Port Stanley on 13 April. It appears that this idea may not be viable because there is probably no way of transferring the Rapiers from the airstrip at Ascension to the RFA.

3. A further option of which I had not previously been aware, would be to fly a company group of troops (up to 150 men plus stores) to Ascension, to be picked up by the RFA in the same timeframe as indicated above for arrival in Port Stanley the same day as the first SSN is due to reach there. But there is of course plenty of time in hand before we would need to make a decision on that.

4. AUS (D Staff) is drafting a telegram for the Governor for despatch this evening. I will of course compare notes with you on the draft when I receive it.



P J Weston
Defence Department

31 March, 1982

~~SECRET~~

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pa
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LOOSE MINUTE

D Ops Staff 7/10/2

SECCOS

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

Reference:

A. DOE 1st Meeting/82 Minutes.

1. In clearing the draft submission attached to the minutes at Reference, on behalf of ACDS (Ops) I suggest the following minor amendments:-

- a. para 3 sixth line; insert "officially" before "declared".
- b. para 8 seventh line; insert "by OD" after "anticipated".
- c. para 8 ninth line insert "by Sec" after "force".

2. It is also considered that paragraph 11 does not fit in with the main thrust of the submission and it is suggested that it should be deleted.

H J Goodson

H J GOODSON
Brigadier
D of D Ops
MB 5183 3854 MB

31 Mar 82

One Page Only

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