



LOOSE MINUTE

TO. 2346/343/5/82

ACNS(O)

## SURFACE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO FALKLANDS - ASSESSMENT OF FORCE CURRENTLY NOMINATED.

1. I attach for your information a first and somewhat superficial assessment of the force nominated by CINCFLEET for the Surface Ships option.

Van mei

J. GARNIER
Captain, Royal Navy
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND TRADE.

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## SURFACE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO FALKLANDS - ASSESSMENT OF FORCE CURRENTLY NOMINATED.

- The force sent must:
  - (a) have a clear aim.
  - (b) Be of such a size and composition that it can win against whatever threats develop.
- As a sea fighting force the force currently nominated provides a good balance of offence and defence. It has a good communications fit and reasonable stand-off weapon fit.
- It should be stressed that CINCFLEET is currently producing a comprehensive plan. However, there are still a few loose ends which bear investigation and this is in hand with Northwood. The main area is the relative advantages of HERMES or INVINCIBLE and the implications, in the latter selection, for overload and problems in achieving a good balance between RMs, ASW helicopters, Commando helicopters and Sea Harriers.

3.	SUMMARY	OF	SYSTEM	FITS.
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an ampha	NUMBERS/REMARKS
SYSTEMS	NOTIDERS/ REMARKS
Communications	9 SATCOM SSNs - SSIX
	2 MARISAT VLF
<u>EW</u>	7 UAA1
Area SAM	2 Seaslug
	4 Sea Dart
SSM	6 EXOCET
Gun Armament	9 4.5"
AAW Self Defence	7 Sea Cat
ASW MRS	All fitted except FEARLESS
STWS	5 ships
Helicopters + Weapons	All except FEARLESS
(See comment above on ASW Helos in	n CVS)

153 Kts - LEAFs. RFAs limiting factor: Speed

## SHIPS ALLOCATED BY CINCFLEET AT PRESENT/30 Mar

INVINCIBLE	ANTRIM	BRILLIANT	TIDESPRING SSN
FEARLESS	GLAMORGAN	ARROW	PEARLEAF 2 ?
	GLASGOW	ALACRITY	BRAMBLELEAF
	COVENTRY	ANTELOPE	APPLELEAF
	SHEFFIELD	ARDENT	FORT AUSTIN (already sailed) (RESOURCE not yet but ?)

CONFIDENTIAL DEPT. OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND TRADE WORLD CHARTLET. SHIP DISPOSITIONS VALID AT [160W] 120W 40W 120E 2 ¢-12 MINERVA Z. Mi Hong Kong Squadron: Un Harbour O FORT AUSTIN VLISSINGEN OORKHEY M (SAILS TODAY) Local Running SANDROHEDA. OHELCA NORFOLK \$ CARDIFF & DANAE (SNFL MOZAMA PORT CANALERAL BRAMBELEAS-L'AEXETER OGREEN ROVER North ANJO & VALIANT Gibtaltai OHERALD EX SPRING TRAIN ANTRIM OCLAMORGAN SHEFFIELD COVENTRY 00 OTIDEPOOL C) GLASGOW & Blogo Sword & BRILLIANT South & BATTLE AXE TALCAHUANA & ARROW & ACTIVE € NORFOLK 8 RHYL 40-A DIDO & BIDO BEURYALUS OPLUM LEAR 50 X YARMOUTH & ORACLE O BLUE ROVER GRYTVIKEN O ENDURANCE O GREY ROULTION 160W MOON ! 80E 40E 120E Not shown: SSBNs, SSNs on operational patrol; ships in UK waters. [ (inc., Offshore patrols)] CONFIDENTIAL