

2 Sops

24

PS/S of S

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You should be aware that the FCO are a little worried by the orders at X1, questioning whether it would be better for Endurance to stand off. Mr Huce feels strongly that Endurance's priorities should be to a) avoid detection b) capture c) sinking. ACNS(O)'s operational assessment is that these guidelines are best served by orders at X1 - standing off would increase the risks. But they are looking at the possibilities of getting further away under cover of darkness.

SOUTH GEORGIA

1. A satellite telephone call was received from the Captain of HMS ENDURANCE at 1530. ACNS(O) and DNOT spoke to him between 1530 and 1545. The local times in South Georgia are four hours earlier (ie 1120, 1130, 1145).
2. He reported that the Captain of the BAHIA PARAISO has informed the BAS Commander that the Falkland Islands had surrendered unconditionally and that he should do the same. The BAS Commander declined and the Captain of the BAHIA PARAISO intimated that he was considering sending Marines ashore. The BAS Commander replied that this would be a provocative act, and he would prefer to discuss the situation with a representative of the BAHIA PARAISO if one could come ashore. The Captain of the BAHIA PARAISO said that his helicopter would bring a representative ashore.
3. The Captain of HMS ENDURANCE has advised the Royal Marines detached in GRITVIKEN not to fire on the helicopter. However in accordance with current ROE it was made clear that the Royal Marines should resist a takeover of the base by force until it became pointless.
4. ACNS(O) agreed his proposed movements as follows. He intends to conceal himself in one of the many fjords in South Georgia where he would be less liable to detection than on the open sea. He would be less vulnerable to attack by surface ships. He intends to defend himself by all means including the use of anti-ship missiles from his helicopters.

Whetstone
 A J WHETSTONE
 Rear-Admiral
 ACNS(O)

3 April 1982

PS: A rather Gibbatic note was lent to this when the Captain of the ENDURANCE told me that the BAHIA PARAISO had called him and offered to relay messages to his shore party if he had difficulty in communication.