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PSO/CDSFALKLAND ISLANDS - NATO ASPECTS

1. Yesterday at the COS Meeting (SofS in the Chair) CAS raised the question "what are we to tell NATO about our intentions towards the Falkland Islands". The SofS replied words to the effect that "it is nothing to do with NATO; we are not obliged to tell them anything until our NATO-committed forces have been outside the NATO area for 48 hours". The FCO confirmed that "NATO is not a problem".
2. I suggest that PERMREP should deliver a statement to the SECGEN. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by formally informing our NATO Allies what the Press has already reported: that under Article 51 of the UN Charter British forces may be used to protect our legitimate interests in the Falkland Islands.
3. I recommend that CDS should raise this point at the COS Meeting today.

5 Apr 82
Head SCDS(A)

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