



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR THE ARMED FORCES  
29 MAR 1982

(24)

LOOSE MINUTE

D/US of S (AF)/JW/25/5/7  
[93/82]

Head of DS5

Copy to:

APS/SofS

PS/Minister(AF)

PSO/CDS

Sec/CNS

ACNS(O)

AUS(D Staff)

AUS(NS)

DNOT

CGRM

D Ops (ROW)

Head of DS8

Head of DS11

DPR(N)

Resident Clerk

ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA

US of S (AF) was grateful for the SITREP in your minute D/DS5/3/5/71 of 26 March, which he has noted and agreed. He has approved the FCS's request that the retiring Royal Marines party should remain in the Falklands for the time being, thus doubling the size of the Garrison; this decision was passed to your division by telephone on Friday evening.

US of S (AF) telephoned Richard Luce on Friday 26 March to pass on the contents of the final paragraph of his minute of that date to Lord Carrington. He concluded his call by stressing his discontent with the operational implications of the decision, contrary to his own, to deprive Endurance's captain of the use of his helicopter. His views on this were reinforced yesterday by the fact that Endurance was unable to find out whether the Argentinian corvettes, reported by the media to be in the area, were in the vicinity of Endurance over the horizon.

He was therefore pleased to learn that an air search from Leith to St Andrews Bay was eventually carried out late yesterday. He believes that Endurance should be given considerable discretion to use her available means of gaining intelligence, and fully supports the more extensive air search proposed in her signal of 2245 yesterday. He has Richard Luce's agreement that non-provocative intelligence gathering activities can be carried out and trusts that you will ensure that this MOD operational view is not ignored by the FCO.

March 1982

D O ARNOLD-FORSPER  
PS/US of S (AF)