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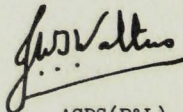
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FALKLAND ISLANDS

Reference A. DOE 1st Mtg/82

1. There is no doubt that there would be considerable difficulties in maintaining a presence in the Falkland Islands for a prolonged period but I consider that the logistic and other difficulties as set out in para 9 of the attachment to the Minutes have been considerably overstated. I would stress the point made by AUS(D Staff) at yesterday's meeting that the Ministry of Defence does itself no credit by magnifying administrative and exercise difficulties when asked by Ministers to mount a modest operation. We must not drive Ministers into the position where they say to themselves what value are we getting for £13,000M per year.
2. I would therefore recommend that para 9 be redrafted as follows:
 - a. "Which ever of the options are pursued, the maintenance of a presence in the Falkland Islands for a prolonged period will necessarily make heavy demands on our resources and this will be aggravated by the distance from the UK. Our ability to meet our other commitments worldwide will also be restricted."



31 Mar 82

ACDS(P&L)