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SECRETARY OF STATE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. The military options for defending the Falkland Islands and Dependencies were detailed in the Note (1) circulated by your office on 26 March. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Minister (AF), in their minute (2) of 30 March, reported on the actions already taken or contemplated in response to the situation in South Georgia. Before the meeting of OD tomorrow you may like a note of the Chiefs of Staffs views on where we now stand and the possibilities for further action.
2. The action we have already taken is significant:
 - a. HMS ENDURANCE has been at South Georgia since 24 March with an enhanced detachment of 22 Royal Marines;
 - b. The relief Royal Marine garrison has arrived at Port Stanley and the return of the outgoing garrison has been delayed. There are now 75 Royal Marines in the Port Stanley area whose task and capability would be limited to defending the seat of Government;

Notes:

1. MO 5/21 dated 26 March 1982.
2. D/MIN(AF)/PB/5/1/5 dated 30 March 1982.