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FALKLANDS: MILITARY OPTIONS

1. I have spoken again today to the MOD about the paper on military options on which they are now working. They hope to have a first draft ready early on 5 April.
2. As you know, I have been concerned to ensure that the men and equipment embarked on the Task Force will provide Ministers with the widest possible range of military options when the Force arrives near the Falklands. The MOD assure me that our concern on this is well understood and that they have taken the necessary steps.
3. These steps include the embarkation of special forces (SAS and SBS - the Special Boat Squadron). The military options paper will for reasons of security not refer to these forces. I hope, however, to obtain more details from MOD.
4. We do not, of course, know what will be the political and military circumstances in two weeks time. But it will, I think, be essential to be able to offer Ministers a possibility of military action at a low level of intensity (eg in connection with some form of blockade) which does not necessarily involve direct ship-to-ship, or man-to-man confrontation.

*D Gillmore*

4 April 1982

D H Gillmore

cc:

- Mr Wright
- Mr Giffard
- Mr Weston *W*