

5/21

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2038/1/1

~~S/S~~
 You will need to look
 carefully at these. An extra
 category required to meet your
 plan or set out at lunch time.

Do/

~~PSO~~ CDS
~~RA~~ CNS
~~RA~~ CGS
~~PS~~ CAS
~~PS~~ PUS
~~RA~~ VCDS(P&L)
 DCDS(I)
 ACDS(Pol)
 ACDS(Ops)
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 AUS(D Staff)
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SECRETARY OF STATERULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SSN'S

1. Rules of engagement are the means by which political control can be exercised in a position of military confrontation. They explain and define the scope for action by the Military Commander who is confronting the enemy. To be successful they must define with precision the limits of the action authorised and, at the same time, allow the commander on the spot the maximum freedom to achieve the aim encompassed by the rules.
2. This is best achieved by establishing in advance a broad selection of rules giving a variety of options from which the political directive may be selected and authorised. These rules should be promulgated in advance of the operation so that the Military Commander concerned is familiar with them.
3. The basic rules are those which will preserve the status quo. From these a series of rules is developed defining the escalatory steps by which military forces can achieve usually on a selection basis the expanded political aim when the rules are authorised for implementation by Ministers or by anyone to whom they delegate authority.
4. The rules set out in the attached paper are specifically for use by SSNs employed on OPERATION CORPORATE. Rules of engagement for other forces will be developed and submitted separately.

5. The rules proposed for the SSNs are thus a catalogue of options defining the military consequences which the submarines are required to achieve to meet the political aim. At the lowest end of the scale the rules need not be invoked at all and the SSN held clear. As the political and military aims expand individual rules can be invoked to achieve the desired effect after clearance by Ministers at the appropriate time.

6. In order to be certain that SPARTAN will have the rules and have studied them carefully by the time she arrives in the operational area, we need to issue them by tomorrow mid-day. The actual implementation of any of the measures covered by these rules will be a matter your will wish to clear with the Prime Minister and your colleagues. However, the issue of these rules is a matter which I believe lies within your authority and I should be grateful for your early approval of them.

6th April 1982


CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Attachment:

Operation CORPORATE - Proposed Rules of Engagements for SSNs.



Copy to:

NA/CNS
 MA/CGS
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 MA/VCDS(P&L)
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MO 5/21

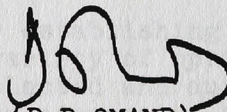
PSO/CDSRULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SSNs

The Secretary of State was grateful for CDS's minute of 6th April submitting the rules of engagement for SSNs. S of S has approved the rules subject to one amendment being made.

2. S of S has asked that the rules of engagement Three should be sub-divided so as to allow instructions to be given for attacks on Argentinian warships and submarines on the one hand; and Argentinian warships, submarines and naval auxiliaries on the other. S of S wishes these separate categories to be available for the Operation.

3. S of S discussed this point with CNS this morning and it was agreed the amendment would be made.

7th April 1982


 (D B OMAND)
 PS/S of S