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2038/1/1

PS/SofS

OP CORPORATE: COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

Ref:

A. MO 5/21 dated 7 Apr 82.

Herewith a revised version of your note on Command Arrangements which the Secretary of State might wish to use.

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7 Apr 82  
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CONFIDENTIAL

COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

Let me describe briefly the command arrangements for the Task Force which is now at sea.

The Commander in Chief Fleet is in overall command of all forces allocated to the Operation. This he exercises from his operational headquarters at Northwood where he controls all communications and has access to all available intelligence.

Similar arrangements would apply for any operations both out of area and in the Atlantic.

Operational command of the surface ships and embarked forces is vested in Rear Admiral Woodward, the Flag Officer First Flotilla. He is an officer of very wide experience including sea commands. He was Director of Naval Plans in the MOD until May 1981.

Commodore Clapp, the Commodore Amphibious Warfare will have delegated command of the ships of the Amphibious Group and Brigadier Thompson the Officer Commanding 3 Commando Brigade, will command the Landing Force.

I am satisfied that this normal and well tried command and control structure for maritime and amphibious operations works well and I see no reason to depart from it at this time.

CONFIDENTIAL

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*is the overall command of all forces allocated to the*  
The Commander in Chief Fleet ~~has full command of the Task Force~~ *Operative*. This he exercises from his operational headquarters at Northwood where he controls all communications and has access to all available intelligence. Similar arrangements would apply for any operations both out of area and in the Atlantic.

*the surface ships and embarked* Rear Admiral Woodward  
Operational command of the forces is vested in the Flag Officer First Flotilla ~~as Combined Commander of the Task Force.~~ Rear Admiral Woodward ~~has been appointed as Combined Commander~~. He is an officer of very wide experience including ~~two separate warring~~ *sea* commands. ~~And experience in the Ministry of Defence as Assistant Director of Naval Warfare Plans~~. *He was Director of Naval Plans in the MoD until May 1981.*

*Command the Landing Force.* Brigadier Thompson the Officer Commanding 3 Commando Brigade *Commodore Clapp, the Commodore Amphibious* will have delegated operational control from the Commander of the *will have delegated command of the Amphibious Group and* Amphibious Task Force. *ships of the*

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FC 006



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MO 5/21

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OP. CORPORATE: COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

/ If necessary may the Secretary of State speak on the lines of the attached note, if the subject is raised in the House this afternoon?

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF	
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RE SC	7th April 1982
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Operational command of the force is vested in the Flag Officer First Flotilla as Combined Commander of the Task Force. Rear Admiral Woodward has been appointed as Combined Commander. He is an officer of very wide experience including two separate warship commands. And experience in the Ministry of Defence as Assistant Director of Naval Warfare Plans.

Brigadier Thompson the Officer Commanding 3 Commando Brigade will have delegated operational control from the Commander of the Amphibious Task Force.

I am satisfied that this normal and well tried command and control structure for maritime and amphibious operations works well and I see no reason to depart from it at this time.

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