

ALC 050/16

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| RECEIVED IN REGISTRY | | |
| DESK OFFICER | | REGISTRY |
| INDEX | PA | Action Taken |



pa
pa p44
(9)

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Mr. Gilmore

EXCLUSION ZONE AND SOUTH GEORGIA

One point which arose during a conversation which I had this morning with Sir Hermann Bondi of NERC was that the two hundred mile Exclusion Zone, as defined in the Order put out last night, excludes the island of South Georgia. I confess that I had not realised this before (although it should perhaps have been obvious to me).

2. During a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff which I attended on 7 April, there was some discussion about the Navy's preference for a plan involving the initial seizure of South Georgia, before any attempt was made to attack the Falkland Islands themselves. The problem is not imminent, but we shall need to bear in mind, as the Task Force approaches the area, whether an extension of the Exclusion Zone to cover South Georgia will be required. The point has presumably been grasped in the MOD though I have not heard any discussion of it, and they may favour the present arrangement on the grounds that it could conceal our subsequent intentions. For the moment, I regard it as a point to bear in mind.

3. Needless to say the Chiefs of Staff preference for an initial seizure of South Georgia is extremely delicate.

22 APR 1982

(P.R.H. Wright)
8 April, 1982.

cc PS/PUS
Sir A. Acland
Sir I. Sinclair

Mr. Wilson

You should see (with Sir I Sinclair's minute attached).
Must be very keen on X.

JL 9/4

SECRET AND PERSONAL