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- ① Options - stay or veer ^{by}
- ② postpone
- ③ warning out-?

~~copy APS/sofs -~~

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS11/10/6

DUS (P)
AUS (D Staff)

FALKLAND ISLANDS : EXCLUSION ZONE

1. I attach an internal Foreign Office minute which I discussed this afternoon with ACNS (O), Mr Gillmore and Mr Weston. I had earlier discussed it with VCNS, who undertook to discover from Cincfleet the latest time by which any instruction to the submarine commander to postpone implementation of the exclusion zone would have to be transmitted.

2. ACNS (O) explained the procedure followed by SSNs to receive messages. Out-going signals are transmitted in "routines", which may contain a large number of messages for a number of different submarines. The routine is repeated a number of times at each broadcast and the broadcasts themselves are repeated at intervals of say 4 hours. Each submarine commander has instructions to listen for routines at a certain periodicity, eg every 30 hours, or 12, or 6.

3. At the time I am dictating this note, VCNS has not yet discovered from Cincfleet the details of the regime being observed by the first SSN. The first estimate he was given by his staff was that under its current regime, we should need to transmit a counter-order by noon on Sunday to be sure that the submarine commander received it. I agreed with the FCO that if it were possible to arrange for a later deadline than this, it would be desirable. This VCNS is exploring, and I will make sure that you are told the answer. (holding)

4. The alternative to arranging for the submarine to listen at a certain time to receive a counter-order if one is given, would be to issue revised Rules of Engagement now. I agreed with the FCO that this was undesirable both politically and bureaucratically:

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politically because it would convey the wrong signal around this building and to the submarine commander, and bureaucratically because it would require collective Ministerial approval. The Naval Staff would prefer this course, but recognise the considerations which militate against it.

R. T. Jackling

9 April 1982

R T JACKLING
Hd of DS11
MB 9326 3287 MB

Ps. VENS adheres to the view that 10 am our time on Sunday morning is the latest moment when we can issue a holding order without asking the SSN to reduce from 12 to say 3 hours the interval at which it comes up to receive messages. To do this would slow him down, make him vulnerable just as he enters the zone, and distract him from gathering the information and making the preparations he needs to be ready for H hour. PCO says 10 am is too early

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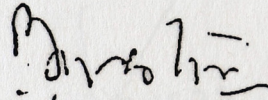
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Mr Gillmore

cc PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Wright
Mr Fearn

THE POSSIBLE NEED TO DELAY ACTIVATION OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE.

We discussed this at this morning's meeting under the PUS. I attach a form of words on the basis of which it might be worth exploring the idea quickly with the MOD, in the first instance with Mr Jackling (DS 11).



P J Weston
Emergency Unit

9 April 1982