

Sir Ian Sinclair

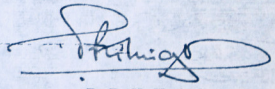
cc: Mr Gillmore  
Mr Weston  
Mr Fearn ✓

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EXCLUSION ZONES

1. At this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting there was some discussion (in restricted session) about possible amphibious operations against South Georgia. In the course of attempting to draft a planning directive, the question arose whether we would need to declare an exclusion zone around the Island. The Vice Chief of Naval Staff said that he would be against such a proposal, since any such declaration would inevitably direct attention towards the possibility of such an operation. On the other hand, he recognised that the failure to have announced an exclusion zone might create difficulties in drafting Rules of Engagement. I thought that this would require Ministerial consideration, but that a decision on the question would have to rely both on legal advice and on the situation at the time - eg the presence of the Polish fishing fleet. I said that I had consulted you on a personal basis, and that your initial reaction had been that there need not necessarily be a prior declaration of an exclusion zone before any operations against South Georgia. We noted at the meeting this morning that the Argentines themselves have declared such a zone, which should in theory deter third party shipping from entering the area.

2. There was also discussion of whether we would need to declare an air exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands before an invasion, in order to avert the risk of an innocent aircraft being shot down. I should be grateful for any advice you have on this point. Ministers will again need to be consulted in due course on the Rules of Engagement for any invasion plan.



P R H Wright

9 April 1982