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PSO/CDS

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COS MEETING AT 1500 ON TUE 13 APR 82

1. The main discussion was whether the landing force for OP PARAQUET (one coy gp (135), 2 and 6 SBs (30 men) and one SAS Tp (16 men)) was sufficient to be sure of success.

a. CGS argued that success would be vital politically, militarily and psychologically and if there were 60 or more Argentinians in 2 places on South Georgia, one coy gp could be insufficient. AUS(DS) echoed CGS' concern and thought Ministers would want to be reassured that the COS were confident of its success.

b. CNS and COS/CGRM argued that the remit was to recover South Georgia as quickly as possible and without serious depletion of the main task-force. If the landing force was to be boosted by another coy gp, this would impose a delay of at least 4 days (a coy from the HERMES) or 10 days (a coy from a LSL). Redeploying HERMES to South Georgia would need a complete review of the options, since it would weaken the main task force's air and amphibious capability.

2. COS eventually agreed to take note of the CINCFLEET Op Order and COSSEC will draft a brief submission for CDS to send to S of S about Op PARAQUET.

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