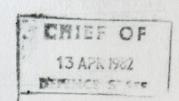
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SECRET

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EQUIPMENT FOR SPECIAL FORCES OPERATIONS

- 1. CINCELET plans to deploy special forces to the Falkland Islands, in advance of any landing, together intelligence can be available to undertake offensive operations.
- 2. It is assessed that particularly valuable tasks, apart from self defence, will be the destruction of offensive Argentinian aircraft, or helicopters that may be deploying reinforcements. The best weapon available for these tasks is the American STINGER system which is an improved version of the REDEYE heat seeking missile and which require no special training. The UK BLOWPIPE lacks the range, is heavier, and the SAS are not trained in its use.
- 3. We understand from Head of BDS Washington that the Americans are likely to give a favourable response to any request. More work is now being undertaken to assess the requirement for this weapon. CINCFLEET's official request is awaited.

13 Apr 82

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