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CXK285 14/1733 104B3925 \*\*\*\*\*

FOR-CXK

IMMEDIATE/ROUTINE 141629Z APR 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK  
INFO CINCFLEET

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FM WASHINGTON 141629Z APR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1272 OF 14 APRIL  
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK  
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO MOSCOW UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TEL NO 1270: FALKLANDS: US ASSISTANCE

1. AS REPORTED BY TELEPHONE TO THE FALKLANDS EMERGENCY UNIT  
LAST NIGHT, THE NSC CONTACTED US URGENTLY ABOUT THE REPORTS  
IN PARA 2 OF MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE TO STATE THAT ALL US  
SPOKESMEN TODAY WILL REFUSE TO COMMENT. WE ASSURED THEM THAT  
YOU WOULD BE TAKING THE SAME LINE.

HENDERSON

BT

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MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM US

There is no military assistance to the British Army provided by the US which affects Operation CORPORATE. So far no special assistance has been provided as a result of the Falklands crisis.

The Army have one proposal for special assistance from the US. This is the purchase of STINGER missiles. STINGER is an anti-aircraft weapon similar to BLOWPIPE but with better operating characteristics. There is no alternative source from which a similar weapon could be procured, and it cannot be substituted from British stocks.

The US provides normal aircraft handling, refuelling, and base facilities during the airfield's operating hours (8 hours a day, weekdays only). In the normal way the RAF use Ascension infrequently - about one flight per month.

Since Operation Corporate began we have used some 286,300 UK gallons of fuel. Currently there are 829,400 UK galls still available to us. This will sustain projected Hercules, VC 10 and Nimrod sorties until May (at the current level of operations). Resupply of 1,570,000 UK galls is due on 24 April.

If the use of US refuelling facilities was withdrawn RAF operations in Ascension would have to cease as it would be impractical to bring bulk storage tanks from the UK. It might be argued that to withhold supplies would constitute a veto which would be against the spirit of the agreement, although it is not