

Mr. Gillmore
19/4
309
15/4

Yes. I would like these
prints incorporated in my submission as per 1. the SPS (my explanation

I much agree with this. I gather the number of
Nott is getting increasingly cold feet
about operation Sutton.
13 April.

Mr Gillmore
Mr Wright

Submissions
15/4

LANDING OPERATIONS IN THE FALKLANDS

In his note on the military options to Mr Nott of 5 April CDS spoke of the final stage as "the progressive reoccupation of the islands", neither the scenario nor the outcome of which could be predicted with certainty.

2. In DP9/82, considered by the Chiefs of Staff this morning, a more detailed appreciation is given of the options for landing operations. I am sure it is right for the Chiefs of Staff to be exploring bullishly the possibilities, but I note that the aim is now somewhat more modestly expressed as "putting the force ashore with a view to repossessing the islands". My overall impression from this appreciation is that the difficulties confronting the UK amphibious force in establishing a successful bridge head on the Falklands will be considerable. The fitness to fight of our troops will diminish sharply after their arrival in the area if they remain at sea. Direct assault on, and military eviction of, Argentine forces in Port Stanley is precluded. The deployment of additional forces by way of reinforcement after a landing operation is evidently more likely to complicate logistics and resupply than to accelerate achievement of the objective. The whole concept seems to pre-suppose a significant chain of favourable circumstances both as regards local climatic and other conditions and in regard to Argentine capabilities; and ultimately to depend on collapse of morale within the Argentine garrison, despite the fact that this is militarily impregnable. I have no wish to sound like Cassandra, but frankly I hope we do not get to this point. There are precedents in our military history for Whitehall calculations about amphibious operations in less than ideal circumstances proving to be seriously wide of the mark.

Enter a pa

Mr Weston

Falklands - P J Weston
Defence Department

14 April, 1982

Unit Operations
of Para's

PJW 26/4