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PS/PBS

I have since shown Mr Wright  
the detailed OBSA minutes

cc:- PS  
Sir I Sinclair  
Mr Gillmore  
Mr Weston, Defence Dept

ALQ050/6	
MAY 1982	

## FALKLAND ISLANDS: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

(a) Operation Paraquet

1. There was a brief discussion at this morning's meeting of the Chiefs of Staff on Rules of Engagement for Operation Paraquet, following the discussion in OD(SA) yesterday. ACNS(OPs), who was representing the Chief of Naval Staff (in the chair), said that Rules of Engagement for Operation Paraquet had now been sent and that the ROE for all three Phases were now regarded as fully in operation. Having not myself had a full account of yesterday's discussions, I questioned this, saying that I had understood that only the ROE for Phase A ~~for~~ (Open Seas) had been approved for operation, and that the following two Phases were subject to further decision.

2. I later discovered that my remarks had caused a flurry in the Ministry of Defence, and that the instructions already sent had been rescinded. I have told the Ministry of Defence that it had certainly not been my intention that this should be done, and that it was in any case not for me to interpret Ministerial decisions. The Ministry of Defence have told me that it is not a bad thing that I had spoken as I did; they have now discovered that the timing on which Ministers based their decision yesterday is incorrect. For the moment therefore only the ROE for Phase A are regarded as in operation, and the Navy are reconsidering how to submit to Ministers.

(b) Operation Sutton (OS)

3. Following my minute of 16 April, Mr Wade-Gery of the Cabinet Office telephoned me last night to say that it was not acceptable for Phase A of OS to be agreed out of Committee, and that the Ministry of Defence had been asked to prepare a paper on the subject for Ministers to take in OD(SA) on 19 April. As recorded elsewhere in my comments of this morning's /meeting



meeting with Chiefs of Staff, the Ministry of Defence have also been asked to prepare for Ministers a forecast of the timetable for the Task Force.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'P R H Wright'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

17 April 1982

P R H Wright