

Handwritten: EBR op
Falklands
; Part operations

DEDIP:SECRET

1823 - 1

ALQ 050/16		
28 APR 1982		

OO WASHINGTON
GRS 210
DEDIP
SECRET
FM FCO 231915Z APRIL 1982
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 824 OF 23 APRIL.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM PUS

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN OUR TELEGRAM TO BERNE, REPEATED TO WASHINGTON, TODAY ASKING THE SWISS TO CONVEY TO THE ARGENTINES A WARNING NOT TO APPROACH THE BRITISH TASK FORCE WITH SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT AND NOT TO CONDUCT AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF BRITISH SHIPS. I THOUGHT THE SECRETARY OF STATE MIGHT LIKE TO BE REASSURED THAT THE LANGUAGE USED IS LARGELY THAT ALREADY APPROVED BY ODSA AND HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED HERE BY ALL CONCERNED INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE NEED TO WARN THE ARGENTINES QUICKLY AROSE PARTICULARLY FROM THE NEED TO GIVE THE TASK FORCE DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO COPE WITH CONTINUED SURVEILLANCE BY ARGENTINE 707S. IT IS AGREED THAT THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO INTERCEPT, WARN OFF AND HARASS SUCH AIRCRAFT WITH OUR SEA HARRIERS, EVEN TO THE POINT OF FIRING ACROSS THEIR PATH. BUT A FURTHER PROPOSAL THAT IF THIS FAILS THERE SHOULD BE INSTRUCTIONS ACTUALLY TO ATTACK SUCH SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT REMAINS TO BE PUT TO MINISTERS AND I HAVE ENTIRELY RESERVED OUR POSITION ON THIS PENDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S RETURN, WHEN I CAN BRIEF HIM MORE FULLY.

PYM

LIMITED

- HEAD/DEFENCE D
- PS
- PS/PUS
- MR WRIGHT
- MR GILLMORE

DEDIP:SECRET