

Private Secretary

SSN: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. Following his meeting with officials this morning, Mr Onslow understands that the SSN Captain has been given discretion to attack Argentine naval ships within the 200 mile zone when it comes into operation.

2. Mr Onslow hopes that the Captain would not use his discretion to attack Argentine ships for at least 48 hours after the zone has gone into operation. To attack Argentine shipping might well jeopardise the diplomatic moves which will be in train at the time: it would be a very serious mistake to do anything early next week that might prejudice our diplomatic moves unless there was an overriding military necessity to do so. Mr Onslow thinks it would be particularly wrong to attack any vessel which appeared to be leaving the zone: in these circumstances, it would scarcely seem necessary to engage such a ship.

McMillan
I have explained
again to Ambassador
that it is a
problem
hope.
The ROE
do not
give
him
back
sort
of
direction.
Burt
8/5

Success

8 April 1982

J M Cresswell
PS/MR ONSLOW

Mr Weston

Mr Giffard
Mr Wright
Mr Ure
Mr Gillmore
Mr Mallaby, Planning Staff
Mr Fearn SAmD (c/o Emergency Unit)
Mr Weston, Defence Department

Good. I've said
much the same to Mr
Wright. But you are
now working on the
"entry/exit" problem
& I gather Mr Wright
may mention this in the
minutes of COS today

8/4

SECRET

1. Following the declaration of an Exclusion Zone surrounding the Falkland Islands, it is necessary to issue instructions to HMS SPARTAN; she will be the first SSN to enter the Zone where her arrival

is expected to be late pm Sunday 11 April. These instructions will be applicable to the other ships or any units which are ordered to the area by the Admiralty.

2. The following instructions are proposed:

a. ^{Any} ~~All~~ vessels positively identified inside the Exclusion Zone as being ^eArgentinian warships, submarines ^{or} and naval auxiliaries may be attacked.

b. After the ^{the first} ~~first~~ successful attack on a vessel withdraw from scene of action and report. Having reported or, if unable to clear report after 12 hours, continue patrol.

c. Situation Reports are to be made at ^{yr.} ~~(designated)~~ intervals on ^{all Argentine} ~~(designated)~~ units detected.

d. Additionally, if attacked you are authorised to retaliate as necessary for your self defence both inside and outside the Exclusion Zone.

SECRET