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THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN RETAINED

IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER

SECTION 3 (4) OF THE

PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958

REC'D 050/304/2

REC'D 13/14

13/14

Mr Wright

1 agr.

Mr Weston

Mr Hulse

13/14

27

13/14

13/14

Mr Wright

STINGER

24

1. It appears that BDS Washington have, presumably on instructions received from MOD, floated with the Americans the idea of acquiring the US Stinger SAM missile. Washington telegram no 1242 (personal to me) is being circulated separately. This shows that information about our interest in Stinger has not been confined to the military channel and has already been the subject of a conversation between Mr Eagleburger and Mr Thomas.

2. Stinger is a lightweight hand-held fire-and-forget anti-aircraft missile. It is similar to the British Blowpipe but has the advantage of being considerably lighter and therefore more easy to use in SAS operations. It is, however, considerably more expensive than Blowpipe. The MOD, with whom I discussed this this afternoon, told me that any assault operation on the Falkland Islands themselves would require advance deployment of SAS forces (possibly by helicopter from the Task Force, but other ideas are under consideration: see below) in order to provide, first, tactical intelligence for the Task Force itself and, second, sabotage and similar operations immediately before the main landing. It is for an operation of this type that Stinger is required and its lightweight by comparison with Blowpipe, in addition to certain operational advantages, makes it a better bet than Blowpipe.

26

3. Mr Stewart is forwarding a submission to Sir F Cooper recommending that we should approach the Americans more formally than we have hitherto. \* This submission makes clear that the C in C Fleet has established the requirement for this equipment (cf your minute of 13 April to Mr Weston). I said that, subject to further clearance in the MOD, we would consider the political aspects. There are of course, as the CGS pointed out at your meeting this morning, potential difficulties with the Americans. But provided we could acquire this without it becoming public knowledge that we had done so since the emergency started and provided there was a clear requirement for it, we would be inclined to recommend putting a proposition more formally to the Americans.

\* See for you

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[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

5.

[REDACTED]

6.

[REDACTED]

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*D H Gillmore*

D H Gillmore

13 April 1982

\* Sir F Cooper has now agreed. Unless you see anything  
I will let the Mob process this through the BCS law  
So inform the Embassy so that both channels are kept  
in the picture