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E. Wright

Rules of Engagement

A



Mr Wright

*John J. [unclear]*  
*kg*

cc: Private Secretary  
 PS/PUS  
 Sir I Sinclair  
 Mr Giffard  
 Mr Weston  
 Mr Fearn

*Ph 24/4*

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 15 APRIL

1. The Chiefs of Staff meeting due to take place at 2.30 pm has been postponed. We are now on call for about 4 pm. As I told you, the Chiefs intend to take this afternoon the Rules of Engagement for Operation Paraquet.
2. As we agreed, there are a number of difficulties in these draft Rules of Engagement. I understand, moreover, that at Sir F Cooper's suggestion, Sir R Armstrong is calling a meeting of the PUS' group at 5.15 to discuss the same issue and that the Paraquet ROEs will be submitted to Ministers at OD(SA) tomorrow. Mr Weston has in hand a short note for the use of the PUS and Sir I Sinclair at Sir R Armstrong's meeting. Unless there is any change in the timing of this meeting, we may find that the Chiefs of Staff and the PUSs are discussing the same subject simultaneously and I may therefore be unable to brief the PUS on the outcome of the former before he goes to the latter.
3. This issue is being dealt with in great haste. I doubt whether such haste is necessary or sensible. There are those in the MOD who will want to bounce us into over-hasty decisions.
4. This afternoon the Chiefs of Staff meeting was postponed apparently because the CDS and the CNS were summoned to see the Prime Minister at short notice. My contacts in the MOD think that Mrs Thatcher is concerned about intelligence reports from the Commander of the Task Force suggesting that the Argentine submarine Santa Fe may now be in the MEZ and the San Luis will enter it at 0600Z on 18 April. The Commander of the Task Force has asked for a change in his Rules of Engagement inside the MEZ cancelling rule 2 (patrol and observe) and implementing rule 5 (described by the Task Force Commander as 'any submarines detected may be presumed to be Argentine and may be attacked'). A copy of Commander Task Force's signal attached.

*D Gillmore*  
 D H Gillmore

15 April 1982

*D Gillmore*

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY	
REGISTRY	Action Taken

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**RET**

1 REC 117

**FLASH**

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**UK EYES B**

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ToR 11517

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S E C R E T UK EYES BRAVO  
SIC AAA/19F/JEE  
OPERATION CORPORATE  
A. MODUK NAVY AAA/19F/JEE 071045Z APR 82  
B. MODUK AAA/19F/JEE 101448Z APR 82

SUBJECT ROE REQUEST  
1. INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS ARG SUBMARINE SANTE FE MAY BE IN FALKLAND MEZ NOW AND SAN LUIS WILL ENTER MEZ 180600Z. CONSIDER ARG SUBMARINE ON PATROL POSES SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO UK SSNS.  
2. IN VIEW SURVEILLANCE NATURE OF CURRENT ROES AND IN ORDER TO CLARIFY POSITION OF SSK COS ON PATROL REQUEST IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBMARINE RULE FIVE IN MEZ (ANY SUBMARINE DETECTED MAY BE PRESUMED TO BE ARGENTINIAN AND MAY BE ATTACKED)  
BT

DSC (Row)  
DNOT  
SC (NAVY) OLS  
NAW

**SECRET**

PARAPHASE NO

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**UK EYES B**