

LOOSE MINUTE

L C/19/1/2

PS4(Cas)(A)
 AR9(RAF)
 CM(GC)
 DGST(N)

Copy to:
 DS5
 CGRM
 DNSC

7307



FALKLAND ISLANDS OPERATION - REPATRIATION OF BODIES

1. Under the provisions of QRRN it is within the competence of Commanders-in-Chief and other Flag Officers to decide, having regard to the practicalities, whether the remains of Servicemen who die overseas, in peace or war, should be repatriated, be buried locally or be given a burial at sea. CINC Fleet has been informed by the Task Force that because of major logistic problems it would be impractical to repatriate remains; they will, therefore, be buried at sea.
2. The purpose of this minute is to inform addressees so that they may thus avoid entering into commitments with next of kin which may in the event be difficult to honour.
3. I should add however that DS5 are of the opinion that it may be advisable for political reasons for bodies to be repatriated whenever possible. DS5 are consulting the FCO about the possible availability of various logistic facilities in the area, and I understand that their discussions will explore the question of some (limited?) repatriation of remains.

H NICHOLSON
 NLC2
 NA 216 7621 MB

15 Apr 82

ENCL No. 130

LOOSE MINUTE

D/NLC/19/1/2

DS5a Mr C McLaughlin

Copy to:
DGNPS)
DNSC) without copy of reference
CGRM)

7302

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FALKLAND ISLANDS - REPATRIATION OF BODIES

Reference: Task Forces CTU 317.02 HMS FEARLESS 131106Z Apr

- As discussed orally Barrett/McLaughlin pm 14 April when the former visited DS5 with the reference (copy attached hereto), CINC Fleet has been informed by DNSC, after consultation with CGRM, that the line proposed by FEARLESS is agreed. However, as agreed, CINC Fleet has also been informed that a letter is about to be sent by DS5 to the FCO seeking to negotiate fueling rights, casevac etc with certain South American countries and Repatriation of bodies could also be considered at the same time.
- Our existing regulations, which are laid down in QRRN Chapter 16 and Appendix 40 make provision for repatriation where practicable. It is however, a privilege rather than a right and it is clearly for the Commander-in-Chief of the Task Force to decide whether repatriation or burial at sea (where bodies are recovered from a land operation) are a practical proposition. Baker Britt are the sole UK contractors responsible for the transportation of bodies within the UK and they have agents throughout the world. There are for example agents in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay who might be able to make the necessary arrangements. In discussions it was apparent that DS5 held the view that, politically, repatriation should take place wherever possible. However, if in the event it transpires that a considerable number of deaths occur and bodies were to be repatriated to any large extent, financial approval would be required to cover DGST(N) Air Freight vote for the transportation of the body to the UK and MDG(N)'s vote for transportation within the UK. These two Directorates will need to be informed, therefore, should large scale repatriation be proposed. In the case of Army, RAF and Civilian personnel other voteholders would of course need to be involved.

Michelson

NLC2
NA 213 7839 MB

15 Apr 82
 Telexon
 informed the Port fueling program will not assist
 advancing this case; however, would still mean
 transfer was impossible of taking up to reach
 available port, with no self-sufficiency. Have
 asked it to make Minister aware of
 issue. He agreed.
 MCB
 14/4

gyle NLC;
 M. to be made
 above or req.
 cop DS5