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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~9207022~~ 218 2111/3

16th April 1982

Dear John,

CRITICAL DATES

You asked us to set down on paper some of the critical dates which emerged from the briefing given by the Chiefs of Staff in MOD yesterday morning. These are set out in the attached chart.

I should make the obvious point that these dates are subject to a measure of uncertainty due to factors such as weather. Looking further ahead than the chart, in terms of fuel, food and stores the Task Force is self-sufficient in the South Atlantic until the last half of May. This estimate of course would be reduced in the event of casualties and plans are being drawn up from the resupply of the force to sustain it for at least a six month period, (necessitating taking up further ships from trade).

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office) with a request that they ensure that the attachment to the letter is kept securely under lock and key.

Yours ever,

David Omand

(D B OMAND)

A J Coles Esq

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SOUTH GEORGIA
GROUP

CARRIER BATTLE
GROUP

ADVANCE
GROUP

AMPHIBIOUS
FORCE

ANTRIM
PLYMOUTH
ENDURANCE

HERMES
INVINCIBLE

BRILLIANT
+ 5 ships

FEARLESS
CANBERRA
+ LSLs

ARRIVE
ASCENSION

Friday
16 APR
AM

Saturday
17 APR (FEARLESS)
Monday
19 APR (REMAINDER)

LEAVE
ASCENSION

Sunday
18 APR
AM

? Friday
23 APR
AM

ARRIVE AT
35' SOUTH

Friday
16 APR

Saturday
24 APR
AM

Monday
19 APR
PM

? Friday
30 APR
PM

ARRIVE AT
200 MILE
DISTANCE

Tuesday
20 APR
LATE PM

Tuesday
27 APR
AM

? Tuesday
4 MAY
AM

ARRIVE AT
LANDING
POINT

Wednesday
21 APR
PM

Establish Sea Control
and Air Superiority
in MEZ from
Wednesday 28 APR

? From
Friday 7 MAY

SECRET

DRAFT

SECRETARY OF STATE

OP CORPORATE - TIME AND SPACE PLANNING DATA

The attached sheet gives basic planning data for the major units involved in Operation CORPORATE. The dates given make reasonable allowance for expected overall weather conditions and represent the target dates at which we are aiming. However, they should not be regarded as firm commitments particularly those which are still some way off.

ACTING CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE STAFF

Apr 82

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FC 213

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File

CHIEF OF DEFENCE

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OP CORPORATE - TIME AND SPACE PLANNING
ASSUMPTIONS

Reference:

A. COS 22/82.

The attached chart has been prepared in conjunction with the service departments in accordance with the remit to ACDS(Ops) at the reference



D W BROWN
 Rear Admiral
 ACDS(Ops)

17 April 82

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OP CORPORATE - PLANNING DATA

	<u>SOUTH GEORGIA GROUP</u> ANTRIM PLYMOUTH ENDURANCE T'SPRING	<u>CARRIER BATTLE GROUP</u> HERMES (FLAG) INVINCIBLE + 8	<u>ADVANCE GROUP</u> BRILLIANT + 5 SHIPS	<u>AMPHIBIOUS GROUP</u> FEARLESS CANBERRA + 9	<u>VICTOR MR/PR AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>CANBERRA PR AIRCRAFT AND EQUIP</u>
LEAVE ASCENSION	-	AM 18 APR	-	AM 23 APR	Available for operations from Ascension from 20 Apr	Available for despatch from UK 22 Apr
CROSS LATITUDE 35° S	PM 16 APR	AM 24 APR	PM 19 APR /Note: Directed to hold vicinity 40° S 35° W from AM 21 Apr.7	AM 2 MAY	-	-
ARRIVE AT 200 MILE BOUNDARY	PM 20 APR	AM 27 APR		PM 6 MAY	-	Arrive Operating Base 27 Apr.
ARRIVE AT POINT TO MOUNT LANDING	PM 21 APR			7 MAY	-	Available to begin PR Ops 28 Apr.
PLANNED SPEED OF ADVANCE (SOA)	11 KNOTS	15 KNOTS	15 KNOTS	10 KNOTS	Sortie length 17 Hours approx.	