

CRITICAL MILITARY PATHS

I am grateful for the assistance which you provided at short notice last night to meet a request from the Prime Minister to have on a single piece of paper some of the important military dates of present operations. I attach a copy of the letter and enclosure which I sent to No 10 last night.

- 2. With a little more time it would have been possible to have produced a rather more useful paper, and I suggest that we now set this in hand. I understand that there was a brief discussion of this same point at the Chiefs of Staff's meeting this morning and agreement that this should be actioned.
- J. I have had a first discussion of the requirement with Captain Lord and have explained that what I believe is needed is a critical path analysis of the key political decisions required to implement various military options. The chart would be most helpful if it identified the dates which "go decisions" should be given by Ministers, and the latest dates at which they could issue "no-go" orders. The chart should also help to identify for Ministers those "windows" through which certain military operations may be possible a point to which the Prime Minister attached some importance when she was briefed by the Chiefs of Staff on Thursday.
- 4. The Secretary of State is aware of the note sent over to No 10 last night and fully supports the proposal to draw-up a more comprehensive flow chart identifying the time-scale for these crucial Ministerial decisions. Perhaps you could let me know when you think you will be in a position to let S of S have such a chart.

17th April 1982

(DB OMAND) PS/S of S

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Egh.

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16th April 1982



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.

16. em.

(D B OMAND)

:5

A J Coles Esq

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	SOUTH GEORGIA	CARRIER BATTLE GROUP	ADVANCE	AMPHIBIOUS FORCE	
	ANTRIM PLYMOUTH ENDURANCE	HERMES	BRILLIANT + 5 ships	FEARLESS CANBERRA + LS Ls	
ARRIVE		Friday 16 APR AM		Saturday 17 APR (FEARLESS) Monday 19 APR (REMAINDER	
LEAVE		Sunday 18 APR AM		? Friday 23 APR AM	
ARRIVE AT 35' SOUTH	Friday 16 APR	Saturday 24 APR AM	Monday 19 APR PM	? Friday 3,0 APR PM	
ARRIVE AT 200 MILE DISTANCE	· Tuesday · 20 APR LATE PM	Tuesday 27 APR -	→	? Tuesday 4 MAY AM	
ARRIVE AT	Wednesday. 21 APR	Establish Sen Control and Air Superiority in MEZ from Wednesday 28 APR	3	? From Friday 7MAY	

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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

LOOSE MINUTE

D Ops Staff 7/10/2

A/CDS

Copy to:

PSO/CDS NA/CNS MA/CGS PS/CAS PS/PUS SECCOS

> DS SEC TIME AND SPACE PLANNING

(OP3)

S (POL)

35 (P&L)

ACDS (3)

Reference:

OP CORPORATE

ASSUMPTIONS

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

17 April 82

D W BROWN Rear Admiral ACDS(Ops)

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OP CORPORATE - PLANNING DATA

	SOUTH GEORGIA GROUP ANTRIM PLYMOUTH ENDURANCE T'SPRING	CARRIER BATTLE GROUP HERMES (FLAG) INVINCIBLE +8	BRILLIANT	AMPHIBIOUS GROUP FEARLESS CANBERRA + 9	MRR/PR I	CANBERRA PRO AIRCRAFT AND EQUIP
LEAVE ASCENSION		AM 18 APR	Lieve At short of a formal ar that short all a formal ar the powerner and the powerner are per secretarial and per secre	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 vicini 40°S 35°W from AM 21 Apr.7		the postibition of the transfer of the transfe	The second secon
ARRIVE AT 200 MILE BOUNDARY	PM 20 APR	AM 27 APR	ry of St disition would li for leve srs (and	PM 6 MAY	STATE OF THE STATE	Arrive Operating Base 27 Apr.
ARRIVE AT POINT TO MOUNT LANDING	PM 21 APR	Secret On the re no o	Secret to to re- the re- the re-	7 MAY	Sales of the sales	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.	TG-BIT N

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