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Pa
19/4

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Mr Wright

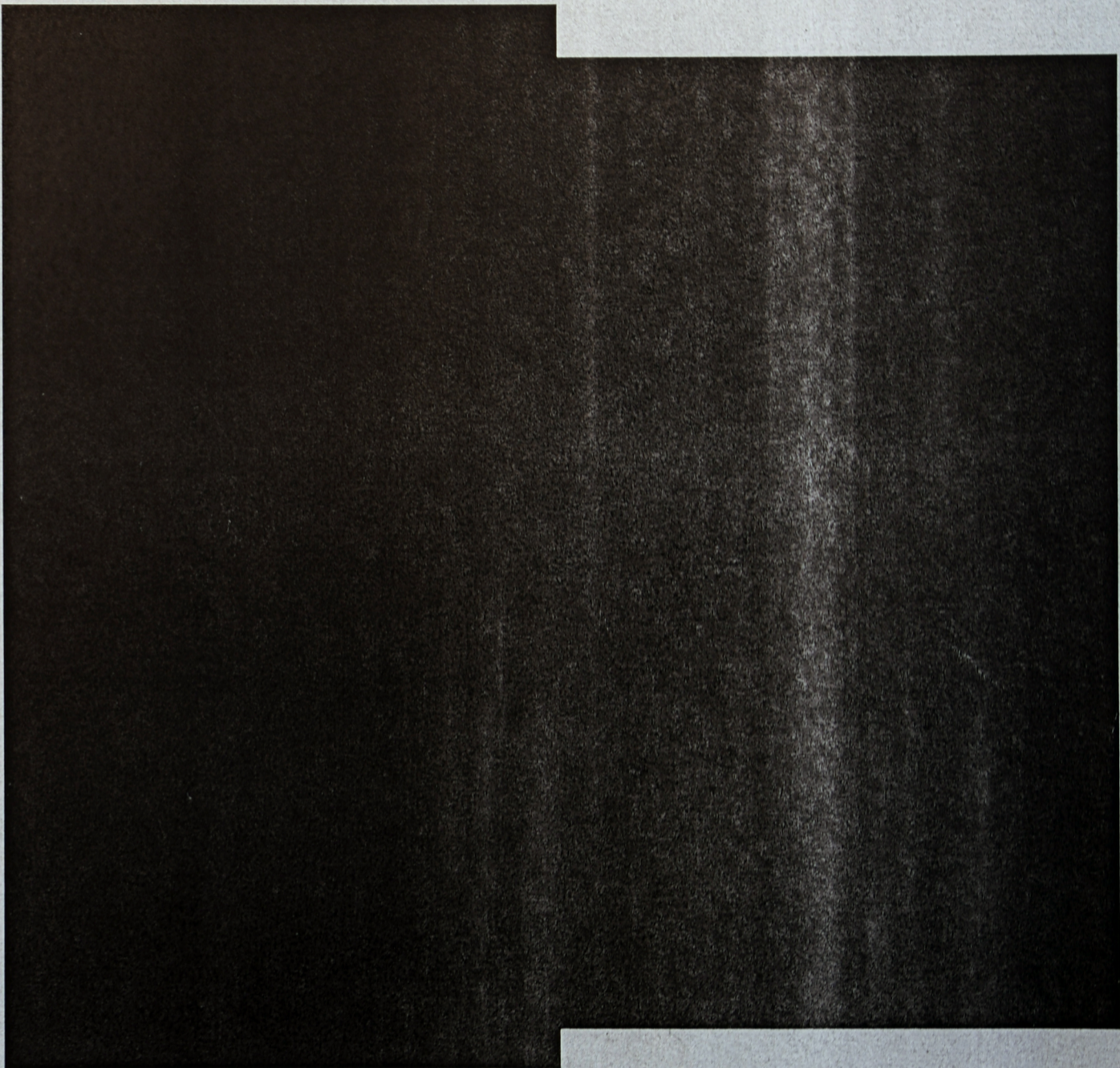
19/4

cc: Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Sir Ian Sinclair
Mr Weston

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 18 APRIL

1. I attended today's Chiefs of Staff meeting at 10 am.
Mr Nott was present.

2.



THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
CLOSED FOR
40 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 27(1)(a)(d)

(b) As requested yesterday the MOD have produced a 'flow chart' on the decision timetable. This is attached. It turns out however that because of bad weather, the Task Force designated for operation Paraquet (South Georgia) is now

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between 24 and 48 hours behind schedule. In this respect therefore the MOD flow chart is already inaccurate. There will however be a need for a decision on the rules of engagement for this task force and for the main group before they enter the Argentine 'Zone' and our own maritime exclusion zone around the Falklands respectively. CDS thought that this should be discussed at the Chiefs of Staff meeting tomorrow 19 April with a view to submission to Ministers on 20 April.

(c) The MOD are planning shortly a reconnaissance flight by Victors over the South Atlantic and ~~Falklands~~^{South Georgia} area. This involves the transit today to Ascension Island of two Victors aircraft with four more tomorrow. Thereafter when needed three aircraft will leave Ascension and, by a process of mutual refuelling, one ~~with~~^{will} overfly the ~~Falkland Islands~~^{South Georgia} area, with a further inflight refuelling on the return leg. [You will incidentally have noticed the story in today's Sunday Express that Vulcans are being positioned in the Ascension Islands in order to provide a strike capability against the Argentine mainland.]

(d) Mr Nott asked about alternatives to operation Paraquet. He said that he wished to be clear about what military action might be possible if, for political reasons, his colleagues were not prepared when the time came, to agree on the plan for an assault landing. The CNS said that, rather than attempt a landing elsewhere on South Georgia, he would prefer to hold back a landing, keeping the assault forces at sea if political circumstances made this desirable. CDS said that an RN SSN was now in the Argentine zone, though it was of course operating on 'high seas' rules of engagement.

18 April 1982

D H Gillmore
Emergency Unit

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DECISION FLOW CHART

SECRET UK EYES B

ANNEX B TO
COS (Misc) 131/742/1

CS

18 SUN

19 MON

20 TUES

21 WED

22 THUR

23 FRI

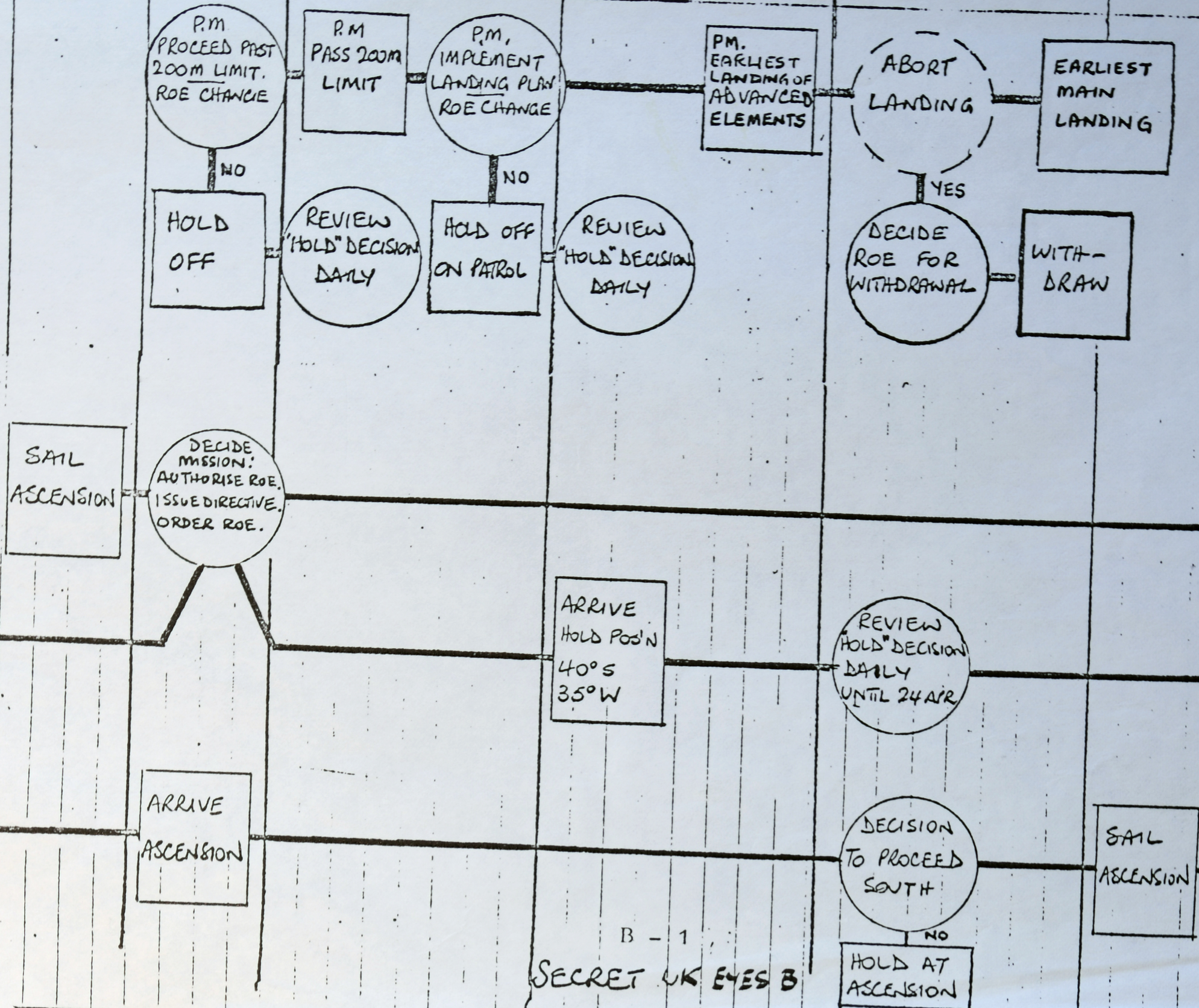
PARAKEET
GROUP
TG 317.9

A

CARRIER
BATTLE
GROUP
TG 317.8.1

ADVANCE
GROUP
TG 317.8.2

AMPHIBIOUS
GROUP
TG 7.0



BOTH GROUPS
JOIN
25 APR IF
ADVANCE
GROUP STILL
HELD.

B - 1

SECRET UK EYES B