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C O N F I D E N T I A L

OXL137 18/1805 10881393 *****

FOR CXK

@FLASH 181720Z APR 82

✓ 4/1/82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK
CINCFLEET

C O N F I D E N T I A L
SIC A3A/A2H/U2J/I9F

CONFIDENTIAL
FROM MONTEVIDEO 181720Z APR 82
TO F L A S H MODUK
TELEGRAM NUMBER 181720Z OF 18 APRIL 1982

SIC U2J/I9F
FROM BRITDEFAT MONTEVIDEO

FALKLAND CRISIS -
DA DEBRIEFING RM AND BAS PARTY 18 APR MONTEVIDEO

1. IN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE AND AFTER INITIAL QUESTIONING I
ELECTED TO DEBRIEF THE FOLLOWING

FALKLAND ISLANDS

2. EAST FALKLAND STAY BEHIND PARTY - CPL YORK SC WHO TOGETHER
WITH HIS PATROL MADE HIS WAY TO LONG ISLAND FROM WHERE HE WAS
TAKEN TO STANLEY POLICE STATION (SEE MR LAMMIS REPORT ALREADY
FWD) AND AIR EVAC AM 6 APR TO COMODORO RIVADAVIA. THEN NIGHT
AIR MOV 17 APR TO MONTEVIDEO.

3. LEADING SEAMAN BROOK DS OF NAVAL SUY PARTY WHO WAS AT GREEN
PATCH OVER PERIOD OF INVASION BUT JOINED YORK'S PARTY
AT STANLEY POLICE STATION FROM WHICH POINT THEY MOVED TOGETHER.

4. INTELLIGENCE IS THEREFORE OF COURSE BACKGROUND AND NOT CURRENT

A. LOCAL MORALE AS AT DEPARTURE RESIDENTS AT GREEN PATCH, JOHNSON
HARBOUR, RINCON AND ESTANCIA HOUSE WERE SAID TO BE HARD LINE
IE THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY UK MILITARY OPERATION IN
THE AREA WHILST THEY FELT CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS. IF NOT THEY INTEND-
ED TO KILL ALL THEIR ANIMALS AND DEMAND TO GO

B. PERFORMANCE OF ARGENTINE MARINES. ATTACK ON TUSSOCK
POINT WAS DESCRIBED AS WELL ORGANIZED AND CARRIED THROUGH BUT
2XLUTP 71S WERE BOGGED

C. ARMS LEFT BEHIND

(1) AT LONG ISLAND (WITH MR WATSON) 5XSLR PLUS 1200 RDS

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(2) NAVY POINT (ABANDONED)

GPMG

CARL GUSTAV

66 MM

ALL PLUS AMMO

STARLIGHTSCOPE

D. PRISONER HANDLING. DESCRIBED AS NERVOUS THROUGHOUT.

E. DEPLOYMENT AND ARMS. NOTHING TO ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

SOUTH GEORGIA PARTY

5. LT KP MILLS RM AND BAS MEMBERS MR RK HEADLAND AND MR SJ MARTIN WHO TOGETHER WITH REST OF THEIR PARTIES WERE EVACUATED FROM S GEORGIA BY MV BAHIA PARAISO 1800 HOURS LOCAL 3 APRIL. THEN AT SEA TILL LANDED PUERTO BELGRANO 13 APRIL AND THEREAFTER HELD IN THAT BASE TILL NIGHT AIR MOVE 17 APRIL TO MONTEVIDEO.

6. MY QUESTIONING WAS PRIMARILY AIMED AT DISCOVERING WHAT GARRISON HAS LEFT AT GRYTVIKEN WHEN CORVETTE AND MV BAHIA PARAISO SAILED EVENING 3 APR. ANSWER WAS ABOUT 50 INCL.

A. APPROX 10 MEMBERS OF SPECIAL FORCES DESCRIBED AS OBVIOUSLY WELL TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED.

B. SOME WHO ALTHOUGH NOT IN MILITARY UNIFORM WERE UNIFORMLY DRESSED.

C. A NUMBER OF CONSCRIPTS WHO (NOT SURPRISINGLY) WERE REPORTED NOT RPT NOT TO HAVE APPEARED HIGHLY MOTIVATED OR TRAINED.

7. NO RPT NO HELICOPTERS WERE LEFT ON ISLAND.

8. FROM RM PARTY THE ARGENTINES WILL HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ARMS ABANDONED AT KING EDWARD PT.

A 1X2 IN MORTAR WITH 24 HE AND 24 S MK.

B 1X CARL GUSTAV WITH 7HE

C 2X GPMG WITH 6,000RDS BELT

D 2X LNG

E 3X SMC

F 20X SLR WITH 4,000 RDS BALL

G 1X L42

H 1X9MM PISTOL WITH 2000 RDS

J 20 LBS PE

9. FROM BAS TEAM THEY WILL HAVE BENEFITTED FROM RATIONS, WINTER CLOTHING AND DETAILED LOGISTIC INTELLIGENCE ON SOUTH GEORGIA.

10. ON LONG VOYAGE TO PUERTO BELGRANO (COMMENT WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN INTENTIONALLY LENGTHENED) SOME OPINION HAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF LEADERSHIP AND PLAN WHICH HAD LED TO SUCH HIGH CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE BEING INCURRED.

11. DURING STAY IN PUERTO BELGRANO THE PARTY REPORTED:

A. HEARING MUCH FIRING AND SOME HEAVY EXPLOSIONS EXPLAINED BY GUARDS AS TRAINING.

B. ARGENTINE NAVY OFFICER VIEW THAT SOUTH GEORGIA MIGHT BE RELINQUISHED IN FACE OF ARMED ATTACK BUT QUOTE MALVINAS NEVER UNQUOTE.

HUTCHINSON

BT

41/3

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