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OPERATION PARAQUET

The attached Note by the Navy Department will be tabled for consideration by the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting on Monday 19 April 1982.

Attachment:

Operation PARAQUET (1 page).

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18 April 1982

ATTACHMENT TO  
COS(Misc)133/742/1  
DATED 18 APRIL 1982

OPERATION PARAQUET  
(Note by the Navy Department)

A. Decision to Proceed

1. The Paraquet surface forces have made up some of the time lost in heavy weather and may now enter the South Georgia 200 nm exclusion zone declared by Argentina by p.m. 20 April. They could be in a position to start landing operations a.m. 21 April.

2. If it is desired to delay the execution of Paraquet the CinCFLEET should be informed today so that the Task Group can be held off in a suitable position, and outside the exclusion zone if the CinC prefers.

B. Rules of Engagement

3. The OD (SA) has authorised that the phase B Rules of Engagement should come into force when Paraquet forces enter the area within 200 nm of South Georgia, subject to no ministerial decision to rescind this authority being made on 19 April.

4. The submarine CONQUEROR is already on patrol in the exclusion zone. It is possible, but there is no evidence to support this, that the Argentine 'Guppy' submarine SANTA FE could be in the area of South Georgia. In view of what is known of Argentine Rules of Engagement it is important that CONQUEROR receives her phase B rules of engagement as soon as possible.

5. The need for the surface ships to have phase B rules will become pressing by noon 20 April. Therefore, subject to no "rescinding instruction" being received it is recommended that phase B rules be authorised for all Paraquet units within 200 nm of South Georgia from 191200Z.