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ACDS(Ops)
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SECCOS

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. You raised at your meeting this morning the Argentine capability to fly helicopters direct from the mainland to the Falkland Islands, as blockade runners. Assuming the helicopters take off from the nearest air base, Rio Grande, the following could complete the journey:

	<u>Helicopter</u>	<u>Pay Load</u> <u>over 400nm</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	
			<u>Mainland</u>	<u>Stanley</u>
a.	Chinook	<u>13,845lbs</u>	-	2
b.	Puma	4,814lbs	5	5
c.	Bell 212	208lbs	8	-
d.	Sikorsky	Nil	2	-

for comparison Hercules = 30-40,000lb.

2. The validity of this option depends not only on the Argentine ability to avoid our Sea Harriers but also, of course, on there being adequate aviation fuel available at Stanley for the return flight.

3. I believe you may find it useful if I were to assess further the Argentine garrison's ability to withstand a blockade. I will, therefore, let you have, by 0900 hours tomorrow (21 April), a paper on the subject.

Jmg
DCDS(I)

20th April 1982