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OPERATION CORPORATE : RULES OF ENGAGEMENT CURRENTLY IN FORCE

1. At the FCO's request, we produced last night the attached summary of the Rules of Engagement currently in force for Operation Corporate.
2. Apart from the fact that Operation Paraquet has now been authorised, these are still correct and are attached for your information.

21 April 1982

C.B.T.
C B JENNINGS
DS11
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CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

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DS11 SITREP ON OPERATION CORPORATE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IN FORCE

AT 201800A

1. This note outlines the rule of engagement currently in force. The main actions which these entail are summarised at Annex.

2. SSN's Within Maritime Exclusion Zone

SSN Rules 3

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3. Operation PARAQUET. OD(SA) will take a final decision on whether to authorise Operation PARAQUET at their meeting planned for 201800A. They nonetheless agreed yesterday that the ROE's at 3(b) below would apply forthwith.

a. All Units on Operation PARAQUET outside the 200 n.m. Argentinian Defence Zone around South Georgia.

(1) Surface Ships and Aircraft.

102

103

207

208

302

403

506

(2) SSN's.

1

13

b. All units on Operation PARAQUET once inside the 200 n.m. Argentinian Defence Zone around South Georgia and when executing Operation PARAQUET.

(1) Surface Ships and Aircraft.

104 (JULIETT, MIKE, NOVEMBER)

202 (Merchant Ships)

205 (Argentinian)

207

208

403

506

(2) SSN's.

4

5

15

4. Surface Ships and Aircraft Enroute to Falklands.

a. North of Latitude 35° South.

102 (HOTEL, INDIA) /not yet JULIETT pending outcome of communication with Brazil/

103

205 (INDIA, 25 miles range equals hostile intent)

/ditto JULIETT/

207

208

302

403

506

b. South of Latitude 35° South.

104 (HOTEL, INDIA, JULIETT)

202

205 (INDIA, JULIETT, 25 miles range equals hostile intent)

206 (ARGENTINIAN)

207

208

403

506

SSN'S WITHIN MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE

1. All positively identified Argentinian warships (including submarines) may be attacked. All non-nuclear submarines may be presumed to be Argentinian and may therefore be attacked.

OPERATION PARAQUET

2. a. Transit towards South Georgia - Overriding aim is to avoid provocation but respond to aggression with firmness.

- (1) Surface Vessels. Minimum force to be used in response to any clear intent to engage. All units may assist in defence of any unit which is attacked. Maritime International Law is not to be broken unless necessary in order to achieve aim.

- (2) SSNs. Surveillance to be covert, evading if detected. Engagement of enemy only if attacked first.

- b. Transit within Argentinian "Defence Zone". Aim is to achieve transit and, when ordered, to repossess South Georgia.

- (1) Surface Vessels. Any action necessary to achieve aim may be taken against positively identified Argentinian ships, whether naval or merchant, and Argentinian aircraft. Non-Argentinian merchant ships should be warned off.

You may attack any submarines which demonstrate hostile intent. Instructions on mutual defence and Maritime International Law as at 2(a)(2) above.

- (2) SSNs. Any conventional submarine detected may be presumed to be Argentinian and may be attacked. All Argentinian warships and naval auxiliaries positively identified may be attacked.

3. Enroute to Falklands.

a. North of Latitude 35° South. Aim to take sufficient action to ensure transit towards United Kingdom MEZ around Falklands. To achieve transit you may attack any positively identified Argentine naval ship, combat aircraft or submarine which demonstrates hostile intent by coming within 25 miles of a British unit. All units of an Argentine Force may be attacked if one of them initiates an attack on a British unit. Merchant ships may not be attacked. Maritime International Law is not to be broken unless necessary in order to achieve aim.

b. South of Latitude 35° South. Aim to avoid provocation but to respond to aggression with sufficient firmness to ensure safe transit. To achieve transit you may attack any positively identified Argentine naval ship, combat aircraft or submarine which demonstrates hostile intent by coming within 25 miles of a British unit. Minimum force is to be used. All units may assist in defence of any unit which is attacked. Merchant ships may not be attacked. Maritime International Law is not to be broken unless necessary in order to achieve aim.

Note: Until IIMG has effectively warned the Brazilian Government of the risks involved, no submarine is to be attacked first North of 35 degrees South. Therefore suffix JULIETT is not to be authorised.