

6/10/8

29

5/21

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS11/10/6

Hd of DS5
Hd of DS6
Hd of DS8
Hd of DS15 (L)
DD Ops (RoW)

Copied to:

DCPR
PS/S of S ✓
PS/PUS
DUS (N)
ACDS (Ops) ✓

PR FACILITIES FOR OPERATION PARAQUET

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1. I have seen DCPR's minute of 19 April and the Private Office's reply of 20 April (copies attached for action addressees). I now attach a first shot of the draft announcement. I should be grateful for comments from the Defence Secretariat (consulting the Service Departments as necessary) and DD Ops (RoW) on the general shape of the announcement, and on the following specific questions:-

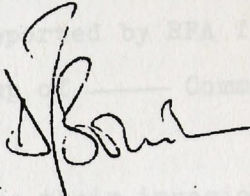
- a. Are there objections to mentioning SBS and SAS;
- b. Is there a reason for not listing the ships involved;
- c. What else could be included (please add what detail you can to fill the blanks).

2. You will appreciate that the announcement has been drafted on the assumption of quick and easy victory and may need to be re-shaped in the light of events. I will prepare a separate piece on

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

our solid claim to sovereignty over South Georgia.
Subject to your views, I see no reason why a
Press announcement should not be couched in the
same terms as a Parliamentary statement, suitably
topped and tailed.

3. I should be grateful for comments by close of
play today.



21 April 1982

D BOWEN
DS11
MB 9346 2466 MB

78
266

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The British Task Force in the South Atlantic to-day conducted a successful operation to repossess South Georgia, a dependency of the Falkland Islands.
2. Leading elements of the Task Force landed Royal Marines and soldiers on the island as early as _____. The action involved HMS ANTRIM, PLYMOUTH, ENDURANCE and was supported by RFA TIDESPRING. Elements of the SBS, SAS and a Company Group of _____ Commando were landed by helicopter and assault craft.
3. The Argentine force in occupation since their invasion of 3 April was rapidly overcome following the assault landing, commanded by Major _____ RM, in the vicinity of Grytewiken and _____. We believe that all fighting has now ceased. The action lasted about _____. - Casualties were sustained to our own forces; Argentine casualties number _____ [including _____ dead.] The captured Argentine servicemen are being treated as prisoners of war.