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1944 - 1

No. 1

Draft destroyed
Europa
Falklands:

Operation PARAQUET

GRS 341

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FM FCO 232240Z APRIL 82
TO FLASH WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 829 OF 23 APRIL.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM HOLMES
FCO TELNO 824

1. ARGENTINE 707S ENGAGED IN SURVEILLANCE WERE TODAY OBSERVED
BY THE NAVAL FORCE OFF SOUTH GEORGIA.

[REDACTED]

THAT AN ARGENTINE SUBMARINE MAY
BE IN THE AREA. THE MOD FEAR THAT THE SUBMARINE MAY BE TAKING
DIRECTIONS FROM THE SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT AND MAY THEREFORE BE
IN A POSITION TO ATTACK ELEMENTS OF THE NAVAL FORCE. THE
ORDER TO ATTACK COULD BE GIVEN ONCE THE NAVAL FORCE GETS INTO
POSITION TO BEGIN THE MAIN SOUTH GEORGIA OPERATION (THE WEATHER
IS NOW GOOD IN THE AREA SO THAT THE OPERATION MAY BEGIN VERY
SOON).

2. FOR THE MOMENT THE NAVAL FORCE IS MOVING UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS
AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO THROW ANY
SUBMARINE OFF THE SCENT. HOWEVER IF THE 707S APPEAR AGAIN ON
24 APRIL WHEN IT GETS LIGHT WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THE LOCAL
COMMANDER ALREADY HAS DISCRETION UNDER THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
AGREED BY MINISTERS FOR OPERATION PARAQUET TO TAKE ANY
NECESSARY ACTION. SINCE THE FORCE OFF SOUTH GEORGIA HAS NO
AIRCRAFT, THE MOD SAY THAT IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO WARN
OFF THE SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT EFFECTIVELY AND THAT THEREFORE THE

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THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN RETAINED
IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER
SECTION 3 (4) OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958

ONLY REALISTIC OPTION AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL COMMANDER MAY BE TO SHOOT THE AIRCRAFT DOWN WITH SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES. HE WILL OF COURSE AVOID HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WITHIN THE LIMITS SET BY THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE FORCE UNDER HIS COMMAND.

3. THE VIEW OF THE PUS IS THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS TO CHALLENGE THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED. IT IS RELEVANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WARNING IN FCO TELNO 64 TO BERNE WAS PASSED TO THE ARGENTINE MFA BY THE SWISS AT 2020Z ON 23 APRIL.

4. NO ACTION IN ANY CASE IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN UNTIL FIRST LIGHT IN THE AREA WHICH SHOULD BE AT ABOUT MIDDAY LONDON TIME.

PYM

LIMITEI)
HD/DEFENCEI)
PS
PS/PUS
MR WRIGHT
MR GIFFARI)
MR GILLMORE