

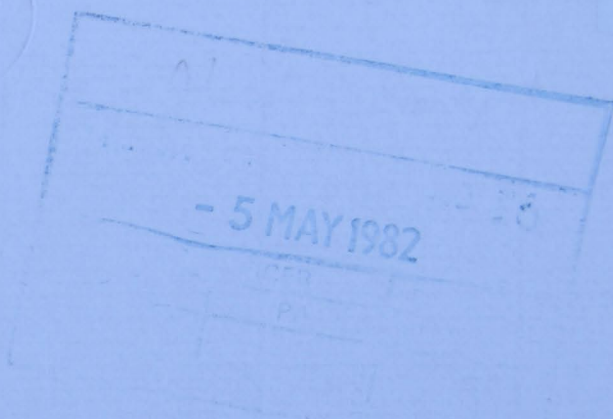
48



Mr Wright

*[Handwritten signature]*  
2/5

pa



PARAQUET - PRESS LINE

1. I attach a press line which has been prepared by the MOD for contingency use over the weekend. The MOD expect that when news comes through, rapid clearance by telephone will be needed. Paragraph 3 will have to be adjusted in the light of developments and the information available. The MOD therefore suggest that those who are likely to be consulted should have the text to hand.

2. The draft has not been approved by Mr Nott; I understand that he would probably want to shorten the reference to a negotiated settlement in paragraph 4 and to insert it at the beginning of the statement.

*[Handwritten signature: C Hulse]*

C Hulse  
Emergency Unit

23 April 1982

- cc PS
- PS/PUS
- Mr Giffard
- Mr Gillmore
- Mr Weston
- Mr Fenn
- Mr Fearn
- Emergency Room (Duty Officer)

ALQ050/7		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS11/10/6

PS/Secretary of State  
DCPR

Copy to:

PS/Minister (AF)

PSO/CDS

Sec/CNS

MA/CGS

PS/CAS

PS/PUS

DUS(P)

DUS(N)

AUS(D Staff)

ACDS(Ops)

Hd of DS5

Hd of DS6

Hd of DS8

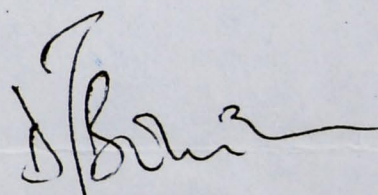
Hd of DS15(L)

CPO

DS11 Duty Officer

FCO (Emergency Unit - Mr Hulse)PR FACILITIES FOR OPERATION PARAQUET

In the light of DCPR's minute of 19 April and the Private Office's reply of 20 April, and of comments by single Service Secretariats, I attach a further draft of the sort of press announcement which might be suitable following the successful repossession of South Georgia. The draft will of course need amendment to take account of what eventually happens and the information available to us at that time. Both action and copy addressees may have views on the attached draft; I would be grateful to receive these.



23 Apr 82

Encl

D J BOWEN  
DS11

MB 9346 2466 MB

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

1. An element of the British Task Force in the South Atlantic today conducted a successful operation to re-possess the British sovereign territory of South Georgia, a dependency of the Falkland Islands, and so restore British protection to those of our citizens engaged on scientific work there.
2. Royal Marines and soldiers were landed on the Islands as early as 21 April. The action involved three warships [including HMS Endurance] and was supported by a Royal Fleet Auxiliary. A Company Group of Royal Marines with other supporting forces were later landed by helicopter and assault craft.
3. The Argentine force in occupation of the British dependency of South Georgia since their invasion on 3 April was rapidly overcome following the assault landing in the vicinity of Grytviken and \_\_\_\_\_. We believe that all fighting has now ceased. The action lasted about \_\_\_\_\_. [\_\_\_\_\_ casualties were sustained to our own forces; Argentine casualties number \_\_\_\_\_.] Further information will be given when it becomes available.
4. HMG remains committed to the continuing and intensive search for a solution by negotiation, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 502, to the crisis provoked by Argentine aggression against the Falkland Islands. Mr Pym, the Foreign Secretary, is at present in Washington for discussions with the US Administration. But we have throughout made clear - and the repossession of South Georgia demonstrates this - that we are prepared to use force if this is necessary, in pursuance of our inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.