

17

Pa Bw^{27/4}

[Handwritten signature]

DEPLOYMENT OF VULCANS TO ASCENSION ISLAND

Line to Take

1. If this subject comes up at Chequers, it is recommended that the Secretary of State should approve the deployment to Ascension Island of 2 Vulcan aircraft immediately. This would be without prejudice to a later decision whether or not to authorise attacks by the Vulcan on Port Stanley Airfield.

Background

15

2. The background is set out in CDS minute of 23 April to Mr Nott. The early deployment to Ascension would hold open an interesting option which may otherwise be lost. Although a surgical strike on Port Stanley airfield by the Vulcans would not be easy, it is by no means the most fanciful militarily of options under consideration. It would have the advantage of early execution and surprise. Since we would only be ~~bombing~~ ^{mb} British territory, it should not give rise to great problems internationally and would be a valuable adjunct to our policy on a TEZ. If carried out accurately it should only involve minimum casualties.

24 April 1982

ALQ 062/3		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
30 APR 1982		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken