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COS(Misc) 162/742/1

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1. The attached paper (1) has been prepared by the Special Projects Group.
2. Unless the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee, hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6347) by noon on Tuesday 27 April 1982, it will be assumed that the Chiefs of Staff have agreed the recommendation at paragraph 4.

## Attachment:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 162/742/1 (1 page).

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26 April 1982

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ATTACHMENT TO  
COS(Misc) 162/742/1

B.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP - PAPER NO 5SUB HARPOONBACKGROUND

1. Sub Harpoon is an American submarine launched low level cruise anti surface ship missile with medium range capability (about 60 nm). It is a variant of a well proven missile which, in its surface and air launched form has been in service for some years, mainly with United States Forces. The UK is acquiring the missile for operational use. A phase of the trials has been successfully completed recently by a Royal Navy SSN. One platform is carrying Sub Harpoon and another platform will soon be able to. It is therefore entirely credible that British submarines are deployed with Sub Harpoon.

PROPOSAL

2. That it now be released that British submarines are deployed armed with Sub Harpoon.

DISCUSSION

3. If this information were to be received in Argentine Headquarters, there is little doubt its significance would be comprehended. It would be a powerful disincentive for them to risk any form of naval engagement where they believed risk of encountering an SSN existed, ie almost anywhere in the South Atlantic. We believe that there is much to be gained by passing this information to the Argentines. This could be done by:

- a. Press release in UK.
- b. At a slightly later date, insertion by covert channels whence receipt by Argentine Secret Intelligence could be reasonably assured.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that information be released, by covert channels, that British submarines are deployed armed with Sub Harpoon.

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30 Aug 1982  
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