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SECRET UK EYES A

Mr. Weston ✓

FALKLAND ISLANDS: US ASSISTANCE

ALQ 050/1 (C)

There was a brief discussion at this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting about the attached paper on what assistance we might ask the Americans to make available to us in the context of the Falkland Islands.

X

2. Mr. Nott had initially commented (before his departure) that he thought the proposals in the paper should be looked at with great caution. The CDS said that he thought that the paper was in any case entirely on the wrong lines. CNS agreed and thought that equipment requirements should be handled on a single service basis. He doubted whether we should ask for combat or operational assistance, which would "spell the death knell" for any form of British influence in the future.

3. I said that my main reservations about the paper were about how it would be handled. On intelligence, it was vitally important that additional requests were not put forward if we already knew that the United States would be unable, on technical grounds, to meet them. It could seriously affect our relationship with the intelligence agencies if requests for such support were made through either the military or political channel. I also reminded the Committee of the extreme importance which Mr. Eagleburger had attached to non-publicity about the supply of STINGER. This showed the importance of handling any further requests with extreme care and discretion. The meeting concluded that the paper would need to be rewritten.

ALQ 050/304/2
-6 MAY 1982

(P.R.H. Wright)
26 April, 1982.

cc Mr. Gillmore
(without enclosure)

Even if X is the way we actually lodge specific requests, we shall need an overall view of what we are doing. I do not quite understand the anticipation to ACOS (PM)'s paper.

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P. Wright
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