

Mr Weinger: I couldn't agree. I told her
 Fall today that we would keep our heads
 down and not ask Mob's views; but then
 came to us. But I am worried that CWS
 also agrees. **TOP COPY**
 J 6/5
 Hd / Defence Dept. E.

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GPS 350A
 D E Y O U
 SECRET AND PERSONAL
 FM WASHINGTON 031645Z MAY 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NO 1572 OF 3 MAY

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
 FALKLANDS

Mr Giffard
 I think this is crazy
 and so, only through,
 does CWS to make

1. IN THE FEW MINUTES I HAD WITH WEINBERGER WHILE THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS CALLED AWAY TO TALK TO MAIG HE SPOKE TO ME OF HIS EAGERNESS TO GIVE US MAXIMUM SUPPORT. HE WAS REALLY WAITING TO HEAR WHETHER HE COULD HELP BY SENDING DOWN A CARRIER. IT WOULD TAKE 15 DAYS FOR IT TO GET TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. HE HAD THE EISENHOWER MARKED FOR THE TASK. IT WAS NOW JUST OFF GIBRALTAR, WHAT HE WAS THINKING WAS THAT IT MIGHT SERVE AS A MOBILE RUNWAY FOR US. THIS WOULD NOT MEAN THAT THE US FORCES WERE GOING TO BE ENGAGED AGAINST THE ARGENTINIANS. I SAID THAT I SUPPOSED US RECONNAISSANCE PLANES COULD FLY OFF THE CARRIER AND PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR US, AS REGARDS OUR OWN LANDING REQUIREMENTS I WAS SURE IT COULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HAVE AS IT WERE A MOBILE LANDING STRIP. HOW WOULD HE VIEW THE IDEA OF BUCCANEERS USING THE CARRIER, MANNED OF COURSE BY THE RAF? WEINBERGER SEEMED TO HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THIS IDEA.

turn
 his
 minutes
 have
 morning
 Mr
 4/5

2 I THINK WEINBERGER SPOKE IN SIMILAR SORT OF TERMS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. HE HAD EXPRESSED HIS EAGERNESS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT. REGARDING THE POSSIBLE TROUBLE WE MIGHT HAVE OVER AIR COVER HE HAD BEEN THINKING WHICH CARRIER MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE. WE WILL HAVE TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY HOW BEST TO FOLLOW THIS UP, IF WE WISH TO DO SO. AS YOU SUGGESTED IT DOES HAVE A BEARING UPON THE IDEA THAT WE SHOULD PRESSURISE THE AMERICANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO GET THEM TO CUT OFF IMPORTS TO ARGENTINA. FOR THEM TO MAKE A CARRIER AVAILABLE AS A RUNWAY WOULD BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANYTHING THEY COULD DO IN THE REALM OF IMPORTS.

HENDERSON [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

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 HD/DEFENCE D
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 HD/PLANNING STAFF
 PS
 PS/PUS
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR GILLMORE

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 PS/DEFENCE SECRETARY
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7 26
 - 7 MAY 1982
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