

WONFO 18/06

RR FCO

RR CAB OFFICE

GRS 240

SECRET

UK EYES ALPHA

FM WASHINGTON 052100Z MAY 82
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER U/N OF 5 MAY
INFO CABINET OFFICE

FCO PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO MODUK, CAB OFFICE (FOR SECRETARY JIC)
AND PUSD (FOR FLOWER).

R 052100Z MAY 82
FM BDS WASHINGTON
TO MODUK

INFO CABINET OFFICE (FOR SECRETARY, JIC
FCO (FOR FLOWER, PUSD)
BT

SECRET UK EYES ALPHA
SIC AAA/UAY
UK CLASSIFIED

DMS: FROM HD BDILS(W).

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING ON US/UK INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION DURING THE
FALKLAND CRISIS.

1. DURING A CALL YESTERDAY ON DIRECTOR DIA BY DIRECTOR GCHQ, SIR
BRIAN TOVEY RAISED THE SUBJECT OF PRESS REPORTING ON INTELLIGENCE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US/UK, PARTICULARLY DURING THE CURRENT
CRISIS.

2 THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON THE ACTUAL IDENTIFICATION OF
QUOTE OFFICIAL SOURCES FROM EITHER MOD OR THE PENTAGON UNQUOTE.
GEN WILLIAMS GAVE AS AN ILLUSTRATION THE TECHNIQUE USED BY JOHN
MCWETHY OF ABC NEWS WHO PHONES AROUND SEVERAL DOD SOURCES, AND THEN
PIECES A STORY TOGETHER FROM THE FRAGMENTS THUS OBTAINED USING A
TAG OF OFFICIAL PENTAGON SOURCES.

Please send down to [unclear]
File under 51 - District

HEAD OF WATCH
SPECIAL HANDLING
RM 919 DOCL
MAIN BUILDING
MOD

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS ~~NOT~~
ADVANCED (462)

NO DISTRIBUTION

Slip K.29

OPC/86

(Mod UK)
KIS file
Pusa 2)
En Unit
5 Am 2
(x4)

TAG OF OFFICIAL PENTAGON SOURCES.

3. SIR BRIAN OUTLINED THE VERY SERIOUS VIEW TAKEN BY HMG OF THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF RECENT PRESS REPORTING IN THE UK ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE IN RETURN THAT DOD HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT SENSITIVE INFORMATION IS NOT GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF WHO DEAL WITH THE PRESS.

4. COMMENT. READERS OF THE BERNSTEIN/WOODWARD BOOK QUOTE ALL THE PRESIDENTS MEN UNQUOTE WILL BEGIN TO COMPREHEND HOW AMERICANS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY SPEAK WITH THE MOST REMARKABLE FREEDOM TO PRESS ENQUIRIES EVEN ON SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. THUS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND COOPERATION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE DAMPED DOWN BY THE ACTION DESCRIBED IN PARA 2.

BT

NNNN

END OF SPH