

SECRET

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LOOSE MINUTE

- 5 MAY 1982

cc Mr. Wright

Mr. Giffmore

Mr. Weston

m s/s



D/DS11/10/6/16

Head of DS5  
 " " DS6  
 " " DS8  
 Head of IP2  
 DORS(1)A - Col Pugh  
 AD of DP(C)(Air)

Copy to:

PSO/CDS	DUS(FB)	AUS(D Staff)	<u>FCO Emergency Room</u>
PS/PUS	DUS(Pol)(PE)	ACDS(Sigs)	
PS/CDP	Head of DIS(CS)	ACNS(Ops)	
DCDS(OR)	Head of DS12	DMO	
DUS(P)	ACDS(Pol)	ACAS(Ops)	

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS: US ASSISTANCE

1. PS/SofS has requested a brief providing points for the Secretary of State to make on his meetings today and tomorrow with Mr Weinberger on the provision of US material assistance in the Falklands context.
2. Following yesterday's discussion by the Chiefs of Staff of COS(Misc)189/742/1, DCDS(OR) is drawing up a list of the equipment and spares which we would like to obtain from the US. DUS(Pol)(PE) is considering the terms under which we should obtain such equipment from the US, and has provided PS/SofS with a draft letter to send to Mr Weinberger on this. The Head of DIS(CS) has provided us with a note on the intelligence aspects. The intention is that in this, as in the logistic field, we should build on the existing cooperation and no intervention by S of S is therefore recommended other than to thank Mr Weinberger for the cooperation to date in these fields.
3. The main aim of the Secretary of State's meeting with Mr Weinberger should be to establish the right political climate for an early and favourable agreement on the terms with which the US will provide material to us, and to raise the possibility of indirect US operational assistance.
4. I attach a draft brief on which S of S might draw for this purpose. S of S should also, of course, have the benefit of a debriefing from CDS on his meeting with General Jones prior to seeing Mr Weinberger.
5. With apologies for the haste, any comments on this brief must be received by 1145 today if they are to be incorporated.

5 May 82

Encl

ALQ 050/304/2		
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C.B.J.

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 DS11  
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SECRET

BILATERAL WITH MR WEINBERGERUS ASSISTANCE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS OPERATIONSPOINTS TO MAKE

1. Very grateful for all the help which the US have provided so far in the military sphere, the generous use of US facilities at Ascension Island and the high priority accorded to our urgent requests for equipment and spares.
2. Cooperation in the intelligence and logistic fields has been, and will continue to be, invaluable, and we will wish actively to develop this.
3. As to the supply of equipment and spares, we shall wish to take up your offer, announced publicly by Secretary Haig to assist us further in this field. Admiral Lewin has discussed our needs in broad terms with General Jones, and we are now putting together a list of the equipment and spares whose early provision would help us. Our requirements are particularly pressing for missiles, and communications and electronic warfare equipment.
4. It would help tremendously if we could establish as soon as possible the terms under which both materiel and logistic support can be made available to us. We have considered this against our two overriding needs - to obtain the earliest possible provision of the equipment which would assist our operations while at the same time avoiding a long term imbalance in our war reserve stocks or long term distortion to our defence programme and priorities. The best way for us to avoid such penalties would be the loan or purchase of equipment from existing US stocks or production lines on the basis that any items used will be paid for but any items we do not in the event require will be returned to you. I have set out

our proposals in a letter to you<sup>7</sup>. We would not, of course, wish the need for you to consider this further to delay meeting our requests in the meantime.

5. If this sort of arrangement is acceptable, our officials could work out the details on the timing of payments and the need for any special mechanisms to handle our requirements. I understand that Mr Carlucci has already given some thought to the latter aspect.

6. Finally, we do not wish to make requests which would lead to direct US involvement in the military operations in the Falklands area. But some indirect operational assistance away from the immediate operational area, such as maritime reconnaissance and air-to-air refuelling of our planes, would be of great value to us. Grateful if you are able to agree that such support is in principle acceptable, although I appreciate that you will wish to consider any specific request on its merits.

#### Military Requirements

3. The latest assessment of our requirements is the paper at Annex A (Cos (MISC) 189/742/1), which the Chiefs of Staff broadly endorsed on Tuesday 8 May. Our needs arise basically in the

BILATERAL WITH MR WEINBERGER

US ASSISTANCE FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS OPERATIONS

BACKGROUND NOTE

1. The precise support which we would wish to seek from the Americans, the terms under which they are prepared to provide it to us, and the need for special mechanisms to handle our requirements, are all currently being examined as a matter of urgency. CDS will be able to report to S of S on his earlier discussions with General Jones, and this should provide useful background for S of S's discussions with Secretary Weinberger.

2. The character and scale of our likely requests does not imply that Operation Corporate cannot be sustained without US assistance; rather, it implies that such assistance will help us to conduct operations with greater dispatch and effectiveness, and help to bring about the earliest possible resolution of the conflict.

Military Requirements

3. The latest assessment of our requirements is the paper at Annex A (Cos (Misc) 189/742/1), which the Chiefs of Staff broadly endorsed on Tuesday 4 May. Our needs arise basically in the

following areas: US Requests

- a. Intelligence;
- b. Communications;
- c. Indirect operational support;
- d. Logistic support;
- e. Weapons, equipment and materiel supply.

Terms for Obtaining US Assistance

4. There is already considerable co-operation in the intelligence, communications and logistic fields, although we will wish to extend this. This can, however, best be done through our normal contacts. The Secretary of State is therefore recommended to focus in his discussions with Mr Weinberger on the broad terms under which the US are prepared to provide support to us. DUS (Pol) (PE) has recommended (see Annex B) that for equipment the Secretary of State should seek loan arrangements from the US or, failing that, sale and return arrangements. The note of 'Points to Make' reflects this. It may, however, be that a loan arrangement would be contrary to US law. S of S might wish therefore to indicate that we would not wish the need for the US to consider our proposals to delay the provision of materiel in the meantime.

Means of Handling UK Requests

5. At the Washington end, it has been proposed that the British Defence Staff, Washington, in liaison with HM Embassy, should co-ordinate UK requirements. Mr Carlucci at the US Department of Defence has already issued instructions about the means of transmitting and processing UK requests. At the London end, DUS (Pol) (PE) and DCDS (OR) are considering whether any special arrangements need to be instituted to deal with our requirements, or whether the normal departmental channels will suffice.

Indirect Operational Assistance

6. Direct American involvement in our operations in the Falklands area is neither desirable nor practicable at present. There are, however, certain areas in which operational assistance away from the Falklands area would be useful to us, such as in the maritime reconnaissance and air-to-air refuelling fields, and S of S is recommended to raise the principle of such activity with Secretary Weinberger.