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Mr Wright

cc Mr Weston
Mr Mallaby, Planning Staff

1. In the course of a conversation with Mr Renwick on the secure line from Washington today on another subject, he told me that Mr Haig was now quite convinced that the Argentine action in taking the Falkland Islands dispute to the UN was nothing more than a manoeuvre. It seemed to him that a cease-fire was therefore most unlikely. Sir N Henderson agreed with this.
2. Mr Renwick said that the view amongst experts in the CIA and the DOD was that we would do well to press ahead as fast as possible with our plans to provide Nimrod aircraft with an in-flight refuelling capability and to get more Harriers down to the Fleet. Mr Renwick did not say whether this view was based on any specific intelligence, but clearly the submarine threat to our Task Force continues to be considerable and the absence of a Nimrod MPA capability is a serious disadvantage for the Fleet.
3. Mr Renwick mentioned, incidentally, that US experts were extremely surprised that HMS Sheffield was as far west when it was hit by the EXOCET missile. They did not understand why our Task Force did not stand to the east of the attack radius of Argentine land-based aircraft.

6 May 1982

D H Gillmore

12 MAY 1982		
PA	Action Taken	