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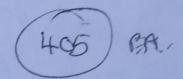
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 May 1982

Simon Fuller Esq
CABINET OFFICE

26 MAY 1982   5

My dear Simon

FALKLAND ISLANDS: POLITICO/MILITARY OPTIONS IN THE LONGER TERM

1.   As you may know, Julian Bullard spoke last evening to Sir Michael Palliser about our concerns over the lack of detailed analysis that has been carried out so far on the longer term consequences of a successful reoccupation of the Falkland Islands. I have been particularly worried about the fact that the politico/military implications of sustaining a British garrison have not received the attention which, I believe, they warrant.

2.   At Julian Bullard's suggestion, I am enclosing on a personal basis a copy of a submission which I put to our Private Secretary, together with an earlier paper (referred to in paragraph 3 of the submission).

3.   I ought perhaps to add that some people here feel that my analysis of the possible out-turn is too stark. This may be so, although personally I am not convinced. Furthermore, even if it is, there are other less obviously dramatic outcomes than maintenance by Argentina of active aggression against our forces which would pose problems almost as severe. I have in mind, for example, the possibility that Argentina may, following the expulsion of their garrison from the Islands, publicly declare that the state of war continues and that Argentina reserves the right to renew hostilities to regain the Falkland Islands at a time of its own choosing.

4.   It is worth noting, incidentally, that my concerns appear to be shared in some parts of the State Department. You will have seen Washington telegram no 1889 and Haig's reference to ''his nightmare''.

Yours ever
David

D H Gillmore

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