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Mr Wright

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cc: Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Weston, Defence Department

[Handwritten initials]

1 - JUN 1982

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DOE MEETING: 29 MAY

1. There was no meeting today of Chiefs of Staff. However, I attended a meeting of the Defence Operations Executive. The following points may be of interest:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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4. 3 unidentified Argentine aircraft had carried out a bombing raid over the Port San Carlos area. The bombs had fallen in open country and done no damage.

Own Forces

5. All radar trace had been lost of the Atlantic Conveyor following the breaking of the tow-line to a tug which had been towing the ship eastwards. The Atlantic Conveyor is therefore believed to have sunk. The unexploded bomb on HMS Argonaut had now been defused.

6. A Vulcan attack on Stanley Airport had been planned for last night. This had not taken place due to air-to-air refuelling problems.

7. On the ground 2 Para. had secured Darwin. As of 0600Z this morning Argentine forces at Goose Green had been surrounded. The engagement was continuing while mopping-up operations went on in outlying areas. Between 80 and 100 Argentine prisoners had already been taken. British casualties were thought to be light; about 10 killed and injured. There were unconfirmed reports (not to be released until confirmation is received and next of kin informed) that the Commanding Officer of 2 Para. and the Adjutant had been killed. We had lost one Scout helicopter.

/8. 45 Commando

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PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958**



8. 45 Commando had taken Douglas. 3 Para. was expected to have secured Teal Inlet by 1500Z this afternoon.

9. At San Carlos the Harrier pad was now complete and fuel storage in place. Harrier operations from the bridgehead were expected to start today.

Public Relations

10. There was a long discussion of the MOD's problems in its relations with the media. The MOD had received reports from British units on the ground of the anger felt by our men at the irresponsible and damaging way in which news of our operations was being reported. Meanwhile, the MOD was being accused by the media of holding back information in London when in fact no information was available. This brought about damaging speculation on the part of the press. I mentioned, in this connection, that we had taken up with the Governor of the Falkland Islands the substance of his broadcasts last night to the Islanders. I understand that Sir F Cooper is incensed at what he said. It seems to me essential that the Governor should be required unfailingly to clear with us the text of his broadcasts before these are delivered.

29 May 1982

D H Gillmore