

From: T C McKane, DS11

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CONFIDENTIAL covering SECRET



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*ja Rep*

Your reference

Peter Gregory-Hood Esq  
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FCO

Our reference

D/DS11/10/6/16  
Date

**LASI PAPER**

10 June 1982

*Dear Peter,*

FALKLAND ISLANDS:US/UK COOPERATION

1. In response to your letter to Desmond Bowen dated 8 June I attach a brief which was prepared for Mr Pattie's visit to the US and an annex prepared for Mr Nott's office. (Annexes A and B).
2. You should note that certain of the items in the list of materiel assistance are very sensitive and should not be aired freely in the US. Items b. and d. of the list at Annex B are particularly sensitive.
3. You should also be aware that Mr Haig has suggested that the US might be able to provide assistance in repatriating Argentine POWs after the repossession of the whole of the islands. This is something that we would be keen to pursue with the US authorities, although clearly any detailed arrangements will have to be worked out at a later stage.

*Yours,  
Jan*

AQ 050/304/2

22 JUN 1982

DESK OFFICER

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OPERATION CORPORATE - US ASSISTANCE

MATERIEL ASSISTANCE

The following are the major items of equipment being supplied to the UK by the USA for Operation CORPORATE. Costings are very approximate.

Items asterisked not normally procured from US:

- a. 100 x AIM 9L SIDEWINDER Air to Air Missiles  
[~~8~~8.5M Approved by Sec of Def]
- \*b. 150,000 sq yds AM2 Airfield Matting and ancillaries  
[~~5~~ 530M Approved by Sec of Def]
- \*c. Certain Anti Aircraft weapons and missiles [details very sensitive - 3.2M Approved by Sec of Def]
- \*d. Certain Mines [details very sensitive - \$183,500 Approved by JCS provided they are not used in Argentina]
- e. HARRIER spares (\$890,000)
- \*f. 13 Super Rapid Blooming/<sup>Chaff</sup>Dispensers (SRBOC) with 3000 rounds  
(2.8M)
- g. 15 CHINOOK helicopter engines (ordered pre-Falklands, but delivery hastened)
- \*h. 34 DLQ3/ALQ31 lightweight offset jammers for helicopters  
v EXOCET missiles
- \*i. 2 x VULCAN/P~~H~~ALANX close in defence system for ships  
(\$12.5) (4 more may be ordered)
- \*j. 16 x Motorola Tactical Satellite Communication sets,  
plus 12 NESTOR secure speech equipment
- \*k. 64 sets of NORTON Body Armour for helicopter crews
- \*l. 10 x AGM 45 A-9 SHRIKE Anti-radar missiles
- m. 24 x O5 Browning machine gun mountings
- \*n. 4 x 60 mm mortars, 1000 HE and 200 illuminating rounds
- \*o. 22 sets of Passive Night Goggles for pilots (ordered pre-Falklands, but delivery hastened)
- p. 4,000 rounds of M433 grenades for M203/M79 grenade launchers

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LOGISTIC SUPPORT

- a. At Ascension Island, use of US-administered airfield including access to US fuel facilities, which have been replenished to meet our requirements. In addition, accommodation and water purification units for our use have been flown to Ascension Island by US C141 aircraft;
- b. 150,000 square yards of AM2 Airfield Matting and ancillary equipment for use on the Falklands;
- c. Conversion of SS Stena Inspector at Charleston shipyard;
- d. provision of 2 KC 130 tankers in the UK to substitute for VICTOR tankers being used from Ascension Island.

INTELLIGENCE

Continuing close cooperation between US and UK intelligence agencies, including the provision of a wide range of crucial additional intelligence material and the exchange of intelligence assessments.

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Annex A

US OF S(DP)'s VISIT TO THE USA - 7-14 JUNE 1982

US ASSISTANCE IN THE FALKLANDS CONTEXT

LINE TO TAKE

IN PUBLIC

We are not prepared to comment on the nature or provision of US materiel support to the UK in the Falklands context.

IN PRIVATE

Most grateful for all the help provided. It provides a tangible demonstration of US willingness to help us in the most practical possible way, based on a recognition by the US of the inherent justice of our cause. We value this support most highly, and greatly appreciate the efforts by senior members of the Administration to meet our needs.

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US OF S(DP)'s VISIT TO THE USA - 7-14 JUNE 1982

US ASSISTANCE IN THE FALKLANDS CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

FORMS OF ASSISTANCE

1. Extensive assistance has been received in the provision of materiel, logistic support and access to communications and intelligence facilities. The details, which are sensitive, are set out at Annex. No requests have been turned down, and both Secretary Weinberger and Secretary Haig have intervened personally to ensure the rapid delivery of certain items.

TERMS OF ASSISTANCE

2. The US have been very helpful in setting up arrangements for handling materiel requests quickly and these have worked well. To minimise our expenditure on consumables which may not ultimately be needed (munitions, spares etc) they have also agreed to hold stocks forward in US depots in Europe and on Ascension Island, with charges for the equipment being raised only as we draw items from store.

POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

3. Despite the extensive support which has been provided, the US Administration are very sensitive about either the details of our requests or the nature of the US response being made public. This concern derives from both the short-term effect on US flexibility to play a constructive role during the period immediately after British repossession of the Falklands and the long term effects on US relations with Latin America. We have therefore agreed with the US that no public comment will be made on the details of US assistance. Nonetheless, on a strictly unattributable basis we are making it clear when asked by the press that we are pleased with the efforts the US are making to meet our requests, and have no complaints.

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4. The political background is set out in Washington telegram  
1977 of 1 June (copy attached). The Secretary of State's office  
have it in mind to advise the Prime Minister to thank President  
Reagan for the assistance provided when he visits London on  
8 and 9 June.

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ANNEX

MAIN FEATURES OF US MATERIEL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE  
IN THE FALKLANDS CONTEXT

1. US assistance falls into three main categories: materiel assistance, logistic support and intelligence. The main features of each are outlined below. Those at paras 2.b. and d. are particularly sensitive.

2. Materiel Assistance

The following items either have been supplied or are being obtained from the US:

a. Anti-missile defences

2 VULCAN PHALANX close in defence systems for ships;

13 Chaff Dispensers, with 3,000 rounds.

b. Anti-aircraft defences

100 SIDEWINDER air-to-air missiles (further 200 missiles held in Europe for use if absolutely necessary);

8 STINGER surface-to-air weapons with 60 missiles.

c. Communications

16 MOTOROLA tactical satellite communication sets;

12 NESTOR secure speech sets.

d. Mines

50 LIMPET mines (provided subject to not being used in Argentina itself).

- e. Ground weapons and ammunition  
4 Mortars, with 1,000 High Explosive and 200 illuminating rounds;  
4,000 grenades;  
24 BROWNING machine-gun mountings.
- f. Anti-radar missiles  
10 SHRIKE anti-radar missiles.
- g. Personnel Protection  
64 sets of NORTON body armour for helicopter crews.
- h. Night vision  
22 sets of Passive Night Goggles for pilots (ordered pre-Falklands, but delivery accelerated).
- i. Engineering spares and equipment  
HARRIER spares;  
15 CHINOOK helicopter engines (ordered pre-Falklands, but delivery accelerated).

### 3. Logistic Support

- a. Ascension Island  
Use of US-administered airfield and access to US fuel facilities, which have been replenished to meet our requirements. In addition, US C141 aircraft have flown accommodation and water purification units to Ascension Island for our use.
- b. Airfield matting  
150,000 square yards of AM2 Airfield Matting and ancillary equipment.



c. Sea transport capacity

Conversion of the repair ship,  
SS STENA INSPECTOR, at a US  
shipyard.

d. Air-to-air refuelling

Provision of 2 KC 130 tankers in  
the UK to substitute for VICTOR  
tankers being used from Ascension  
Island.

4. Intelligence

Continuing close co-operation between our  
respective intelligence agencies, including the  
provision of a wide range of crucial additional  
intelligence material, and the exchange of  
intelligence assessments.