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Private Secretary

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 11 JUNE

The following points of interest to the FCO arose at this morning's meeting of the Chiefs of Staff.

(a) Super Etendards. DCDSI reported on the telegram from Paris claiming that three Super Etendard aircraft had been seen outside the Marcel Dassault factory at Bordeaux, carrying Peruvian markings, and said that the FCO were already arranging for action to be taken on this report by HM Ambassador in Paris. The Chief of Defence Staff asked how the original five Super Etendard aircraft in the Argentine Air Force had been delivered? DCDSI said that he would find out, but thought it inconceivable that Super Etendards could be airfreighted (the Assessments Staff are not so sure about this).



(c) Argentine Navy. As reported elsewhere in the JIC Daily Assessments, DCDSI reported that the Navy are increasingly being used on the interception of HF/radio voice, both on British ships and on the Falkland Islands itself.

(d) West Falkland. DCDSI also reported that there were signs of malnutrition and other problems among the Argentine Armed Forces on West Falkland. There were indications that these forces are being effectively used to monitor the movement of British ships in San Carlos water.

(e) Attack on LSLs at Fitzroy. DCDSI said that the Argentines appeared to have confirmed the likelihood of an LSL landing at Fitzroy and Bluff Cove from our naval gunfire support. The Argentine Air Force had made good use of a break in the weather, and appeared now to believe that their attack will have led to a delay in our attack on Port Stanley. DCDSI commented that the longer we delayed, the greater boost there would be for Argentine morale.

41%

(f) Argentine Air Force losses. DCDSI reported that Argentine losses of aircraft now totalled about 38% of their total holdings as follows:

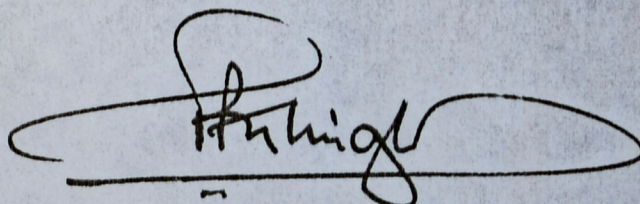
Type of Aircraft	Original Holding	Losses
Mirage	39	24
A4 Skyhawk	64	34
Canberra	8	1
Puccara	60	12

/(g)

TOP SECRET

(g) Own Forces and Casualties. ACDS(Ops) reported that our patrols were still moving eastwards towards Port Stanley and that two Commando Companies at San Carlos might also now be moving east to reinforce the Welsh Guards. The only other information was that one Gazelle helicopter was yesterday lost by accident.

There was no report or discussion of casualties, although the Chief of Defence Staff reported to the meeting that ODSA had decided that there would be no release of casualty figures today. A contact in the Ministry of Defence later gave me the following details, which in some respects are rather less alarming than figures mentioned at the Secretary of State's meeting this morning. These are as follows:- a total of 7 dead or missing on TRISTRAM and GALAHAD (2 Chinese dead on TRISTRAM, 3 officers dead on GALAHAD and 2 Chinese crew missing on GALAHAD). In addition, 9 Chinese, 2 officers and 1 NCO were injured on GALAHAD. Casualty figures from the Army (Welsh Guards, Field Ambulance and Royal Engineers) are now alleged to be 41 missing, one confirmed dead and 95 wounded. These figures are in addition to the 4 Marines and 2 naval personnel killed during the attack on the small landing craft on 8 June (and already announced). The statement drafted for Mr. Nott yesterday had originally included a passage to say that about 50 were missing and up to 120 wounded. As you know, it was decided not to include any figures. I have queried privately whether it is wise to take the line that casualty figures are being withheld because these might be of use to the enemy; I understand that the military were particularly keen that Mr. Nott should take this line on the grounds that we might thereby mislead the Argentine Armed Forces with an exaggerated view of the results of their attacks. I am not myself convinced that this is wise.



(P.R.H. Wright)  
11 June, 1982.

cc PS/PUS  
Mr. Giffard  
Mr. Fenn  
Mr. Gillmore  
Mr. Weston