

SECRET



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MO 5/21

*Not quite what CGS  
 reported!*

MA/CGSOPERATION CORPORATE: GURKHA INVOLVEMENT

The Secretary of State has seen your minute of 7th April and had a short discussion this afternoon with CGS about it. The Secretary of State explained that he was the last person to want to place unnecessary restrictions on the use of the Brigade of Gurkhas which he regarded as an integral part of the British Army. Nevertheless, there were clear difficulties in agreeing to their use in the Falklands and he would need to be convinced that such a deployment was the right thing in all the circumstances of the time that any such decision had to be taken. In any case there was a more immediate concern which was that, given the delicate state of the Falklands question over the next 10 days or so, nothing should be done which carried the slightest risk of upsetting world opinion, particularly in the non-aligned countries. Any hint or suggestion that Gurkhas might be involved in operations in the area might have such an effect. There were certainly no intention of removing the Gurkhas from 5 Brigade nor of excluding them from the collective training which was planned. But the Secretary of State was most anxious to stipulate that no opportunity for speculation about Gurkha involvement in the Falklands should be given. CGS agreed to take account of the Secretary of State's views.

15th April 1982

ARMY OPERATIONS ROOM	
FILE.....	REG No.....
DMO	
DSG (T/O)	
COL GS	
ASST COL	
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WFO	
CHIEF CLERK	

M H Evans  
 (N H R EVANS)  
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