

DO To see VCDs (D+L) / PADS are 41
gripping the purely log aspects - don't the line is:
what can we do to help? I have asked R. Hardy
to make sure that we take over his at para 5 & 6
in handover is carefully given. Any sensitive
it would be discussed
to the de them by
not being handovered

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REC'D

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HH
OO RBDWCR
DE RBDECR 868 1121818
ZNY SSSSS
O 221803Z APR 82
FM CINCFLEET
TO RBDWCR/MODUK
INFO RBDWCR/MODUK NAVY
RBDWCR/MODUK AIR
RBDTY1/HQSTC
RBDAPW/CBFSU ASCENSION
BT

UK EYES B 237009

SECRET UK EYES BRAVO
SIC AAA719F/KAA/LAA/A2Z

OPERATION CORPORATE. STATUS OF ASCENSION ISLAND.
1. I AM BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT STATUS OF
ASCENSION ISLAND AND APPARENT MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PROBLEMS IT
FACES AS AIR HEAD AND MAIN MOUNTING BASE FOR OPERATION CORPORATE.
WIDEAWAKE AIRFIELD IS LEASED BY THE USAF AND OPERATED UNDER CONTRACT
BY PAN AM. THE ENTIRE FUNCTIONING OF THIS SINGLE RUNWAY SMALL
PARKING AND UNLOADING PAN, 3800 MILES FROM UK AND 3300 MILES FROM
FALKLANDS, IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE GOOD WILL OF THE USAF
CDR AND HANDFUL OF PAN AM EMPLOYEES, ALL OF WHOME HAVE BEEN
WORKING MAGNIFICENTLY BUT UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE. ALL RESIDENT

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INHABITANTS, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION BBC AND CW ARE DEPENDENT OF
US AIRLIFT FOR EVERYTHING EXCEPT FUEL WATER.

2. DESPITE CONTINUOUS CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THIS HQ ON SUCH
FUNDAMENTAL MATTERS AS:
- A. FUEL, WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO STORE AND REDELIVER AND IS ENTIRELY
DEPENDENT ON US FACILITIES.
 - B. WATER, WHICH IS ALREADY RATIONED.
 - C. ACCOMODATION AND SEWORAGE WHICH ARE OVER FULL. LITTLE APPARENTLY
HAS BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES OF THIS BASE AND
AIRFIELD ON WHICH WE DEPEND FOR ALL AIR OPERATIONS AND AIR TRANSPORT
SUPPORT INTO AND OUT OF THE OPERATING AREA.
3. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING MRR AND LRMP OPERATIONS BY 9 VICTORS
AND 3 HIMRODS AND THE CONSIDERABLE AIR TRANSPORT AND VERTREP TASKS,
PLANNED REINFORCEMENTS INCLUDE:
- A. VULCANS WITH INCREASED TANKER SUPPORT.
 - B. 17 RN/RAF HARRIERS FOR EMBARKATION IN ATLANTIC CONVEYOR DEMANDING
2/3 DAYS PREPARATION.
 - C. HERCULES FOR VITAL AIR DROPS TO SHIPS.
4. THE USAF BASE COMMANDER HAS SO FAR ALLOWED UNINTERRUPTED USE OF

PAGE 3 RBDECR 858 S E C R E T UK EYES BRAVO
AIRFIELD PREVIOUSLY EQUIPPED FOR ONLY 3 MOVEMENTS EACH WEEK BY ARMED
LMP AIRCRAFT AND PASSED STORAGE OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION BUT
IS NOW QUESTIONING USE OF AIRFIELD BY ARMED VULCANS AS OUTSIDE
UK/US AGREEMENT AND PAN AM EMPLOYEES QUESTIONING THEIR LEGAL
ASPECTS OF CONTRACTS AS INSURANCE NOT VALID IN EVENT OF WAR OR
ACT ASSOCIATED WITH WAR.

5. I THEREFORE CONSIDER TIME HAS COME TO URGENTLY RE-EXAMINE
LEASE OF ALF L TO ENSURE WE HAVE FULL CONTROL FOR THE DURATION
OF THIS OPERATION. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS IN
PARA 2 VE AND CHANGE EXISTING COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS.
6. MY PROPOSAL IS TO MAKE CBFSU OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE ISLAND
BASE AND SRAFO THE AIRFIELD COMMANDER. CBFSU WOULD CONTINUE TO BE
RESPONSIBLE TO VCDS (P AND L) FOR THE OVLL COMMAND AND
ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLAND BASE, WHILST SRAFO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE
TO ME THROUGH MY AIR COMMANDER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE AIRFIELD'S
BT

DSC (ROM) ACTION
DSC (NAVY OPS) ACTION
DSC (AF OPS) ACTION

DSC
DNOT (DO)
COSSEC

NNNN

DSC CO-ORD ACTION
DNAN ACTION
ACAS (OPS) ACTION
DSC (NATO) ACTION
DNOT ACTION
DA OPS (M) (RAF) ACTION

SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED

~~NO DISSEMINATION BEYOND OR ABOVE~~

UK EYES B

Copy to
MA/VCDS (Parad)

SCPL

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