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Copy to:

ACDS(Ops)

*See 3, 1, 1*

SPECIAL FORCES

ACDS(Ops) has asked me to forward the attached paper to you which is a short factual statement that S of S might find useful as background briefing prior to the Meeting at Chequers tomorrow.



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Capt RN  
Acting PSO/CDS  
Ext 3353 MB

24 Apr 82

Att.

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FC 418  
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OP CORPORATE - SPECIAL FORCES (SBS AND SAS)

1. The Secretary of State will wish to be aware of the commitment of Special Forces to OP CORPORATE.
2. Three SBS Sections (70 men) and almost two SAS Squadrons (133 men) are currently available to CINCFLEET, who has Special Forces liaison officers at Northwood.
3. OP PARAQUET. D Squadron SAS (83 men) and 2 SBS (14 men) are currently committed to this operation. The anticipated timings will probably permit their redeployment to OP SUTTON after completion of OP PARAQUET.
4. OP SUTTON. Elements of G Squadron SAS (50 men) and 3 SBS (40 men) are in HMS HERMES and RESOURCE available for OP SUTTON. They will be in a position to make a landing on the Falklands by helicopter from 29 April.

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6. Special Forces, once landed, can undertake a variety of operations. Intelligence gathering is their primary role including reconnaissance of landing beaches, and this would be a high priority in advance of any Main Force landing. Other possibilities include direct action against Argentine headquarters and communications facilities; aircraft and the airfield; ammunition and fuel dumps. Specific action to support the enforcement of exclusion zones is a further option. Intelligence gathering patrols are not equipped for direct action, roles cannot easily be combined. The SBS can also undertake direct action against ships at sea or in port.

7. B Squadron SAS (44 men), based at Hereford, is available for other JTP operations, including Belize, and any direct action options planned for OP CORPORATE.

8. Special Forces earmarked to meet Counter Terrorist tasks will not be deployed outside the UK.

9. A wide range of possible tasks and methods of delivery for Special Forces have been identified and CINCFLEET has been invited to forward his concept of operations. The bulk of the Special Forces committed to OP CORPORATE have already been deployed forward because the most likely means of inserting patrols is by helicopter. After CINCFLEET's requirements have been met, there should be sufficient Special Forces assets readily available for other Op CORPORATE tasks.