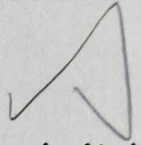


DS II DUTY OFFICER'S BRIEF - SUNDAY 2 MAY

1. The Agenda for the COS meeting at 1015 is on the left hand flap of the folder.
2. The minutes of the COS meeting held on Saturday 1 May are at Flag A.
3. Intelligence - the latest Intsum is at Flag B.
4. Own Forces - the Force Tote is at Flag C and the Maritime ROE State at Flag D.
5. PR - developments during the course of yesterday demonstrated continuing difficulties in handling press enquiries. The problems stem from two separate areas: lack of quick reporting on developments by the Task Force Commander and direct reporting of events by journalists on the spot. The problem is illustrated well by the signals at Flag E. The first is a pooled report from Mirincible describing the air engagements yesterday afternoon; it is date-time grouped 011615Z but only marked Priority. The signals following are the first reports we received from the Task Force on the engagements; the earliest is date-time grouped 012005Z. Although the pooled press report does not describe any Argentine aircraft which were shot down

it does describe air battles and naval bombardment. The first we got officially on the latter was at 012147Z and even then the object of the bombardment was wrongly described - it was Stanley Airport and not West Falkland. Matters were further complicated by direct radio reporting from journalists with the Task Force. From about 2115 last night we were reacting to stories passed out by these journalists, being forced to confirm them rather than announce them ourselves. We were not in a position to rebut stories put out by the Argentine Junta claiming that UK ships had been severely damaged until after 0100 this morning.

Details of the three press releases put out yesterday night are at Flag F. The Task Force Commander has been asked to control the journalists output in future. Details of how he proposes to do this are at Flag F.

6. Actions and Decisions Required - none notified.
7. Defence of Ascension Island - ACDS(ops) will give an oral report. The two man team sent to assess requirements for the defence of Ascension have yet to report.
8. Military Options for Repossession of Falklands - this is a paper by the Defence Secretariat which was meant to be circulated out

of Committee. CAS has asked for it to be tabled formally. As a Secretariat paper PUS will wish to introduce it. A speaking note, together with the paper, is at Flag G.

9. Op Corporate - SF Deployment - This is an item not mentioned on the agenda. The paper is at Flag H. The paper recommends that the SAS Air Troop currently in the UK be retained here rather than deployed forward as requested by CINCFLEET. This seems sensible; there is little to gain by forward deployment but much to lose.
10. Unforeseen Matters - CNS will raise the question of the letter from the FCS proposing that the Argentine carrier should be warned-off before any attack is carried through. The background papers are at Flag J. OD(SM) will discuss this later today - currently the Task Force are hunting the carrier and have orders to sink her. There is a problem with the co-ordinates of the 'safe' area proposed by the FCS. We believe that this could well be a typing error but if agreed it would give the Argentines a considerably larger range of action than we previously have been ready to consider. ROE's will need to be amended.
11. Other matters - a draft press statement in case of attack on

the Argentine carrier is at Flag K.

- A sitrep by ACNS(0) describing the actions round the Falklands yesterday is at Flag L together with a sitrep by CinCFleet. As will be seen the Task Force wish to call for a further Vulcan attack on Port Stanley airfield.