

Sec/1SL

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DNW

DS11

C. APS/208
✓ 215.

Sandy 2/21

ATTACK ON ARGENTINIAN CARRIER

1. The attached letter to the Prime Minister from the FCS will be discussed at OD(SA) today. CDS has already minuted Secretary of State on the point of principle, namely the warning to the Argentinians.
2. There is a discrepancy between the following:
 - a. the letter from the Foreign Secretary to the PM which advocates a safe area for '25 May' as discussed at OD(SA) or within territorial waters SOUTH of 41° S, and
 - b. the FCO draft declaration which makes the safe zone within territorial waters NORTH of 41° S which would be more sensible.
3. Further, the FCO draft is at variance with the OD(SA) decisions to which the Foreign Secretary refers and which were used as the basis for the orders to CTF 317; copy of signal also attached. The OD(SA) minutes defined the safe area as an area both to the North of 35° S and to the West of 48° W or within Argentinian 12nm territorial limits; this was subsequently amended by the Cabinet Office to include Uruguayan and Brazilian 12nm territorial limits as well. The FCO draft refers to latitude 38° S and longitude 45° W which has the effect of extending the safe zone by 3° to the South and East.
4. The political implications of the FCO's proposals are as CDS has indicated largely a matter for Ministers to consider. However the Chiefs of Staff will wish to consider the operational implications of an extension of the safe area, if indeed that is the intention of the FCO. The main implication is that the carrier would be able to operate in an area some 200 miles nearer to our re-supply lines and 250 miles nearer to our operations within the TEZ.
5. If there is a political requirement to amend the '25 May' safe area then amended attack restrictions will need to be passed to CTF 317 as a matter of urgency as current ROE against the carrier were effective on receipt.
6. It is recommended that 1SL point out these discrepancies at the COS meeting on 2 May with a view to inviting CDS to raise the matter at OD(SA) to:
 - a. confirm that there is no requirement to adjust the safe zone already signalled to our Forces, thus avoiding counter-order.
 - b. advise that if a declaration is to be made that the safe area be as in the attached signal to CTF 317, changed only if necessary by further restricting '25 May' to territorial waters North of 41° S.
7. DS11 are briefing DUS(P).

M H Winter

2 May 1982

SECRET

M H Winter

Copy to: P50/CDS & CDS/01
 PC/PJS ACD/PA
 SC/CMS HD DSS
 PS/CAS AD DSII
 MA/CLS DSC ops
 DVS(P) + see
 AVS(DS/PA) desks



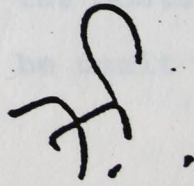
PM/82/31

PRIME MINISTERAttack on Argentine Aircraft Carrier

1. Following our decision in OD(SA) yesterday to authorise an attack without warning on the Argentine aircraft carrier outside our exclusion zone, I have been giving a further thought to the line we should take in public after the event.
2. After discussion with the Attorney General the way in which our action would have to be publicly justified and its legality defended, I believe our position would be immeasurably strengthened if we had given a warning to the Argentine Government, requiring the aircraft carrier to stay within the narrow zone which we discussed yesterday or within territorial ~~waters South of about 41° South.~~
3. I attach a draft of a possible warning message which we could ask the Swiss to convey urgently to the Argentine Government. This in no way alters the substance of the decision we took yesterday. But I believe it would greatly strengthen our hand in dealing with criticism at home and abroad once an attack on the carrier has been carried out.
4. I am copying this minute to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Home Secretary, the Attorney General and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1 May 1982


 (FRANCIS PYM)

NOTIFICATION TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

In announcing a Total Exclusion Zone around the Falklands on 28 April, HMG made it clear that these measures are without prejudice to the right of the UK to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the UN Charter. In the light of the Argentine statement of 30 April of an intention to consider hostile British vessels within 200 miles of the Argentine mainland, the Falklands and their dependencies, the British Government has decided on the following measures. The Argentine carrier quote THE 25TH OF MAY unquote is hereby warned not to ~~move East of a line ⁴⁶45° West or South of a line ³⁵38° South or outside a limit of 12 nautical miles from the coast of the mainland North of ⁴¹41° South~~. If the quote 25TH OF MAY unquote moves beyond these limits she will be regarded as constituting an immediate threat to British forces in the South Atlantic and will be liable to be dealt with accordingly. Further, if any attack anywhere in the South Atlantic is made upon British naval or air forces by an Argentine unit, all other Argentine naval units operating on the high seas, including the carrier quote THE 25TH OF MAY unquote, even if she is still inside the limits defined in this communication, and all Argentine military aircraft operating in air space over the South Atlantic will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly.

SECRET - UK EYES 'A'

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VV

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PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED

UNCLASSIFIED REPLY OR ACTION

ZP 09 30/1804 120E4196 SPECIAL HANDLING

FOR ZPA

FLASH/FLASH 301526Z APR 82

FLASH

307081

FROM: MODUK
TO: CTF 317
INFO: MODUK NAVY
MODUK AIR
HQSTC
FOSH-

UK EYES B



SECRET UK EYES BRAVO
SIC AAA/19F/JEF

~~OPERATION CORPORATE - ROE AGAINST ARGENTINIAN CVA (DESIG 25 MAY)~~

- MISSION: TO ATTACK ARGENTINIAN CVA DESIG 25 MAY AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT EXCEPT WHEN CVA IS BOTH NORTH OF 35(8) DEGREES SOUTH AND WEST 48(2) DEGREES WEST OR WITHIN 12(3) NM TERRITORIAL LIMITS.
- ROE APPLICABILITY: APPLICABLE TO ALL UK FORCES ENGAGED IN OPERATION CORPORATE.
- TIME LIMIT: ON RECEIPT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- RULE ONE TWO THREE (ARGENTINIAN CVA DESIG 25 MAY) AND SSN RULE THREE (ARGENTINIAN CVA DESIG 25 MAY ONLY) AUTHORIZED.
- AMENDMENTS TO FORMATTED ROE SIGNALS FOLLOW BUT RULES IN PARA FOUR TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY

ORIG: R ADM, D W BROWN, ACDS(OPS), NAVY OPS ROE CELL, EXT 2230
BT

DSC (ROW)
 DSC (AF OPS) ACTION
 DSC (NAVY OPS) ACTION
 DNOT ACTION
 DNAV ACTION
 ACDS (OPS)

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 ACNSO!

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PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED
UNCLASSIFIED REPLY OR ACTION

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