

PSO/A1

HANDOVER NOTES: 4 MAY 82

GENERAL

1. There is very little that has occurred which has not been reported accurately, often too accurately, in the Press and on TV. Though freedom of reporting alarms us, the impression abroad is that our Government communiquees must be balanced with the Argentine reports. SoFS, in his Press Conference last night, joined the counter propaganda battle to convince the world we are telling the truth.

INTELLIGENCE

2. You should read the 051200 JIC assessment attached, and my advanced impression of today's INTSUM. There are also wild reports that Galtieri will shortly be ousted (and will do the decent thing by committing suicide) and that the ARA will concentrate for a "Charge of the Light Brigade" into the TEZ to avenge the sinking of the GENERAL BELGRANO. In fact, they appear to be sprinting for the cover of the coast.

OPERATIONS

3. I attach yesterday's brief for ACDS(Ops) which gives a good idea of what went on over the last couple of days. You should also read the reports of our attack on the two patrol vessels. It now seems likely that one was a corvette.

4. You will have heard the announcement on the QE2 and the move of 5 Inf Bde.

5. The Vulcans should be in action shortly.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

6. Haig has become very alarmed about British "excessive use of force". He is floating the 7 Points peace plan in conjunction with Peru.

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FOI SECTION 27

8. Spain. Fallen off the fence on to Argentina's side.

9. Australia. May be expecting bids to assist us.

MEETINGS

10. OD(SA). Aim is to hear Pym's Washington experiences, but he has now promised to consider the 7 points plan. I suspect that there will be some rapid re-assessments of our political/military plans.

11. COS Meeting. Defence of Ascension paper not yet received. US Assistance paper included in OD(SA) pack as well. SofS will probably wish to co-ordinate his approach in Brussels with CDS.

4 May 82


MA/CDS