

Copy No 1 of 5 Copies

PUS/82/521
9/31/F

5/21

Secretary of State

Note Text passed over
save link to softs; party
in Brussels.
2 5/5

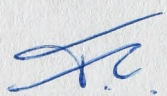
Copy to:
CDS
CNS
AUS(D Staff)

CNS and I have been discussing this afternoon in the Cabinet Office the next steps following this morning's Cabinet meeting. Instructions are on their way to Nicko Henderson and are fully in accord with the decisions taken. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be sending a minute round shortly asking that we should not sink the carrier (though we remain free to sink anything else) for the next few days.

2. On special forces, we are content. The problem about the timescale can be dealt with because the cease-fire would not take effect until 24 hours after a written agreement had been concluded and there is no need to remove them.

3. The request about the Argentinian carrier is purely political on the grounds that its sinking now would be more than the world market could bear. We insisted that the request should come from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and be cleared by Ministers. CNS and I are content that you should accept on a temporary basis for the period of the present political initiative.

4. I have deliberately not gone into detail on the most sensitive areas in relation to both these issues but CNS and I covered them fully in our discussions and are satisfied.



FRANK COOPER
5 May 1982