

SECRET



ME 62

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MO 5/21

PSO/CDS

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT - ATTACK ON NAVAL AUXILIARIES

Thank you for your minute 2038/1/4. CDS spoke to the Secretary of State on this subject, and it was agreed at OD(SA) not to make any alteration to the current ROE.

2. By all means let us stick to the procedure for varying ROE as set out in COS MISC 173/742/1 dated 29th April. This was not however sent to Defence Secretariat 5, the appropriate single service point for this particular ROE, so perhaps I can ask SECCOS to ensure that copies of the COS MISC paper and future such papers go to the Heads of the relevant Divisions DS 5, 6 and 8.

(D B OMAND)
PS/S of S

5th May 1982

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2038/1/4

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RULES OF ENGAGEMENT - ATTACK ON NAVAL AUXILIARIES

References:

- A. D/DS 5/9/9/9 dated 3 May 82.
- B. COS Misc 173/742/1 dated 29 Apr 82. - Attached

1. CDS does not, at present, support the request to include Argentine Naval Auxiliaries in current ROE, put to S of S in Reference A.

2. I would be grateful if we could stick to the procedure for varying ROE as set out in Reference B.

J Brook

D C G BROOK
Air Cdre
PSO/CDS
Ext 3353 MB

4 May 82

Loose Minute

D/DS 5/9/9/9

- PS/S of S

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Head of DS 11
ROE Cell

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT - ATTACK ON NAVAL AUXILIARIES

1. At the Prime Minister's ad-hoc meeting on 2 May it was agreed that British forces should forthwith be authorised to attack any Argentine naval vessel (but not naval auxiliaries) on the same basis as had been approved by OD(SA) on 29 April in the case of the Argentine aircraft carrier. Naval auxiliaries were duly excluded in the implementing signal to CINCFLEET.
2. At the subsequent OD(SA) meeting at 1430 on 2 May Secretary of State was authorised at his discretion to bring Argentine naval auxiliaries within the scope of the earlier decision. The Naval Staff see the urgent addition of this class of vessel as important, as there are Argentine support ships lying some distance outside the TEZ to replenish warships directly threatening our units enforcing the Zone. At present only auxiliaries inside the TEZ are to be attacked.
3. I should be grateful if you would seek Secretary of State's early agreement to bring Argentine naval auxiliaries within the scope of the OD(SA) decision.

3 May 1982

JL Inmenger
fa Head of DS 5