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SOME POINTS ARISING FROM CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING TODAY

INTELLIGENCE

X 1. Task Group 79.1 (carrier plus two destroyers) and 79.3 (two destroyers) staying in territorial waters to north of TEZ. Commander has complained of lack of resources, restricted reconnaissance, and only six serviceable aircraft. Task Group 79.3 (ex-BELGRANO, now two destroyers): Bouchard to Ushuaia weather damaged and carrying survivors. PIEDRO BUENA still picking up survivors ex BELGRANO.

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range?

2. One destroyer (or frigate) plus a tanker reported to be approaching position to threaten our logistic supply. This report from US ELINT and is possibly ~~confusing~~ with ANTRIM and TIDESPRING W. an Argentine group.

A 3. Submarine SALTA and some other Naval units may have new cypher which we cannot read. GUPPY last seen in port 2 May. Thus two submarines whose position is unknown. SAN LUIS thought to be proceeding to patrol off the Falklands.

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OOA

4. Track of NEPTUNE sortie yesterday suggests it located SHEFFIELD for attack by two (or possibly three) Super Etendards from RIO GRANDE. NEPTUNE evaded detection by flying at low level and radiating intermitently. Super Etendard attack was from low level at close range with two (or possibly three) Exocets. Unburnt rocket fuel contributed to fire in HMS SHEFFIELD.

always over.

OWN FORCES

5. Until report of possible Argentine destroyer threatening our logistic supply is resolved, ANTRIM is remaining in that area with the LSLs.

6. ARROW may be exchanged with PLYMOUTH off South Georgia as ARROW sustained damage while picking up survivors from SHEFFIELD.

SPECIAL FORCES

✓ 7. Chiefs of Staff agreed that the SAS air troop should remain in the UK. The stretched Hercules has a radius of action of 2,500 miles from Ascension so parachuting to the fleet is one option. Moreover, by end of May, Victor and buddy-buddy in-flight refuelling for Hercules will be possible. Therefore greatest flexibility will come from retaining air troop in UK.

IN CLOSED SESSION

8. CNS debriefed on the OD he was asked to attend at the last moment yesterday evening. This was mainly concerned with

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HMS SHEFFIELD; and the definition of coastal waters with reference to the Argentine CVA. Last night ~~SSNs were~~ ^{SSNs were} informed that coastal waters ^{are} 12 miles from the shore, and not straight lines between headlands.

9. CNS also was asked to attend OD(SA) at 0900 this morning. He reported that SHEFFIELD had not sunk overnight; and because submarine SAN LUIS was thought to be in the vicinity the order to sink by gunfire was cancelled to maximise efforts to seek and destroy SAN LUIS. For political reasons the PM is keen to tow SHEFFIELD perhaps to GRÝTVIKEN; CNS expressed grave doubts about this since her damage is only 6 feet above sea level.

10. The Attorney General raised ROE for SSNs against Task Group 79.1 and 79.4 now going north in, or close to, coastal waters. CNS smelt some wavering and he was robust: our rules of engagement exclude territorial waters and the "white triangle" to the north; these are clear instructions already issued and should not be qualified. He was supported by S of S who judged it necessary to take out the carrier. *This could well be raised again in OD(SA).*

11. The possibility of S of S having delegated authority to authorise special force action in category 2 (civilian installation) and category 3 (personnel) was raised. The PM was cool to this but connived at turning a blind eye to the special forces taking prisoners (instead of killing them) for interrogation aboard Task Force ships. No extra authority has been granted for this: it is being considered as part of the existing authorisation.

12. ACDS(Ops) mentioned that DS 6 is preparing an OD(SA) paper to extend special force operations to Categories 2 and 3. The Chiefs of Staff agreed that it was useful to have such a paper in the ready-use locker, perhaps to be considered in two days time but not during the current rush of diplomatic efforts. The PM is anxious to avoid any Falklanders being involved in a hostage situation.

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