



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS15(L)/632/7/4

APS/S of S

Copy to:  
PS/PUS  
PSO/CDS  
VCDS(P&L)  
AUS(PL)  
AUS(D Staff)  
Head of DS6 ←  
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DS11  
CSO(P)

LT CDR ASTIZ

I understand that there was a brief discussion about Lt Cdr Astiz at OD(SA) this morning and that it is hoped to reach a decision at OD(SA) tomorrow.

2. I spoke to the Secretary of OD(SA) this afternoon and he suggested that it might be possible after Astiz had been brought to the UK, to send him out via Paris with the inevitable consequences. However, the UK's responsibilities under the Geneva Convention as the detaining power apply not just until the time that Astiz leaves the UK but up until the time he is handed over to either Argentina or Brazil as the Protecting Power. Flying him out via Paris would therefore still be a breach of the Geneva Convention. The ICRC would in any case almost certainly wish to accompany Astiz during his repatriation.

3. I understand that the COS are investigating the possibility of bringing Astiz back to the UK on board a convenient ship if one can be found. This would not be a breach of the Convention and would give more time for a decision to be reached about his future. However, if there is any question of providing the special facilities that would be required if he were to be held as a long term POW in the UK the earlier this decision is reached the better. Nevertheless the arguments for returning him to Argentina, as soon as possible, which you set out in your letter to No 10, still apply.

AUS(05)

DS6

Asst Sec .....  
Pcpl (a) .....  
SEO .....  
GSO2 .....  
HEO (A) .....  
AT .....  
GSO1 (b) .....  
GSO1 .....  
Pcpl (c) .....  
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DS7

Asst Sec .....  
Pcpl (a) .....  
GSO2 .....  
AT .....  
Pcpl (b) .....  
GSO2 .....  
AT .....  
CC .....  
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RS

19 May 1982

C S PONTING  
Head of DS15(L)