

TOP SECRET

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CDS SPEAKING NOTE

OD(SA) THURSDAY 20 MAY 1982

ENEMY FORCES

1. Soviet.

- RORSAT and EORSAT surveillance of FI/South Georgia area continued.
- No Bear D recce flights in area

2. Exocet Sales.

- Peruvian ship due to sail Le Havre ETA Bilbao 21 May with 4 Surface and 4 Air Launch Exocets.
- LONDONDERRY and Nimrod search
- Intense diplomatic activity to prevent sailing

*Amb. went
to Chef de Cab.
Min Def.*

3. Argentinian Surface Ships

- No intelligence on Carrier's whereabouts.
- Commodore Py delayed with defects in Puerto Belgrano
- PIEDRA BUENA and BOUCHARD entered Ushuaia early 19 May. May be ready to leave am today.
- Attack on BUEN SUCESSO caused some damage and possibly 5 casualties.

4. Submarines.

- San Luis at Puerto Belgrano
- Salta presumed in TEZ

} only 1 s/m at sea.

5. Army

- Warning issued that PUCARA will patrol to search for and fire on unidentified personnel outside base areas on FI.
- Minor redispositions being undertaken.

6. Air

- Argentinian concern over vulnerability of Rio Grande Air Base.
- Some evidence of resupply flights Rio Grande to FI which may have included 5500 KG (25 drums) of JP1 and 6500 KG of provisions.
- Radar intercept of Neptune on 19 May. No position but quite possible in TEZ area.

6 hrs

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Own Forces (Dispositions and Actions)

a. Surface Forces (North to South)

- (1) QE2. Arrives at RV 50nm West of Ascension at 1000Z today. Additional passengers at Ascension including CLF FI and staff, transfer via Guardship.
- (2) Bristol Gp. 600nm SW Ascension. ETA TEZ 25 May
- (3) MCM Gp. 1400nm NE TEZ. ETA holding area 500nm ENE of TEZ 24 May.
- (4) Exeter. 900nm NE TEZ. ETA TEZ approx 23 May.
- (5) Antelope/Ambuscade. 750nm NE TEZ. ETA approx 25 May.
- (6) Amphibious Gp. Remains outside Eastern edge of TEZ. No significant change.
- (7) Battle Gp. Presumed operating Eastern edge TEZ between Amphibious Gp and Falklands:
 - (a) Harriers from INVINCIBLE carried out high level bombing on suspected Argentine helo Operating Base in the vicinity of Two Sisters, 7½ miles West of Port Stanley. Results not known due to very high cloud.
 - (b) INVINCIBLE Rvd with HECLA at 191600Z for transfer of NARWAL POW. HECLA to transfer POW to UAGANDA in holding area.
 - (c) Loss of Sea King 4, press embargo.

enters air
threat zone
at 1100A.
Weather OK
giving heads.
cross deck
complete.

b. Submarines. Nil contacts

- (1) Spartan. Moving inshore N of C Blanco
- (2) Valiant. Patrolling between Spartan and Falklands
- (3) Conqueror. Remain NE of Falklands
- (4) Splendid. Patrolling SW of Falklands
- (5) Onyx. 1300 nm SW of Ascension
- (6) Courageous. NW of Cap Verde.

SK loss
9 Surv, 20 missing
1 body
Not being
released to press
at this stage

c. Air

- (1) Nimrod. One 19 hour surface surveillance sortie supported by 9 Victor tankers, to 47°S closed to 150nm off Argentine Coast at medium level. Visual contact with a contrailing Boeing 707, 450nm North of Falklands. A second sortie within 400nm of Ascension located PRIMORYE class AGI 60nm South of Ascension. A third air test and cooperation sortie with BRISTOL also flown.

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(2) Victor. 16 currently at Ascension

d. Land. NTR

7. Special Forces Operations.

a. 9 SAS patrols are deployed on Intelligence gathering tasks. Another squadron is preparing for direct action tasks on night 20/21 May.

b. 5 SBS patrols deployed for Intelligence gathering. Remainder SBS on standby to join for direct action tasks.

8. CTF's Intentions.

14 patrols on F.I.'s

a. Battle Group. Operate between Amphibious Gp and Falklands on edge of TEZ.

b. RAF.

(1) Long Range Nimrod Sortie, ETD Ascension 201900Z with Victor tankers in Support, plus daily Ascension Surveillance.

(2) Hercules supply drop to MV IRIS. ETD Ascension 201200Z.

*Int gathering of great value.
off. action tonight.*