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LIVE REPORTING FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

At this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting the Secretary of State expressed his serious concern at the apparent low level of control over the access by correspondents in the San Carlos area to voice communications with London. The correspondents were now giving live reportage of operations and giving details of incidents before official confirmation was available and before any consideration had been given to the security implications for our own forces of the information in the reports.

2. The Secretary of State was under the impression that before the landing took place careful arrangements had been made to cover this very problem, based on tight control on the spot. This appears to have broken down. He would like the Commanders on the spot reminded of the dangers to their own security of allowing live or near-live reporting without adequate control. If shortage of supervising officers is the problem he suggests that volunteers are sought from the officers of the ships which have been put out of action.

3. The Secretary of State would like an early report on how it is proposed to improve the local control of correspondents.

25th May 1982

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