

23

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008/31

BT

S E C R E T
SIC ADA/19N

SECRET

OP SUTTON. PERSONAL FOR CINC FROM CLF.

1. FURTHER TO MY AAA/19F 302140Z MAY, I HAVE TODAY SPENT THE WHOLE OF DAYLIGHT HOURS WITH THE HQ AND SOME OF THE UNITS OF 3 CDOBDE. ALL RANKS GAVE AN OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION OF SOLDIERINESS. A GREAT DEAL HAD BEEN ASKED OF THEM AND THEY HAD CLEARLY RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY, THEY WERE DIRTY AND VERY WEARY BUT ALERT AND STOOD 10 FEET TALL
2. SEVERAL TACTICAL CONSTRAINTS SEVERLY AFFECT THE BATTLE. FIRSTLY THE GOING IS SOFT, WET, BROKEN, EXPOSED AND PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR HEAVILY LADEN TPS ON FOOT. IT IS LIKE FOX TOR MIRE AT ITS WORST EXCLAM. NEXT IS MOVEMENT ASSETS. THE TASK OF

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UNLOADING SHIPS, BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THE BRIDGEHEAD TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING SF IN THEIR TASKS HAS TAKEN THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR MOVEMENT ASSETS. THIS HAS GREATLY RESTRICTED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE IN SUPPORT OF THE CDOS/PARA BNS. FOR EXAMPLE IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE TAKING OF DARWIN/GOOSE GREEN WAS BALANCED ON A KNIFE EDGE MAINLY THROUGH OUR LACK OF ABILITY TO DEPLOY SUFFICIENT GUNS AND AMMO TO SUPPORT 2 PARA IN THEIR TASK. THEIR MAGNIFICENT COURAGE AND SHEER PROFESSIONALISM WERE ONLY JUST ENOUGH TO TIP THE BALANCE. FURTHERMORE HELS HAVE BEEN FLYING AT GREAT RISK OUTSIDE THE LIMITED ENVELOPE OF RAPIER COVER. THE FURTHER EAST THE BATTLE MOVES THE GREATER THE RISK WILL BE

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THIS, AS IN SO MANY CAMPAIGNS, THE MAJOR LIMITING FACTOR IN BRINGING THE MATTER TO A SPEEDY CONCLUSION IS LOGISTICS. THE CONSTRAINTS INCLUDE

- A. OFFLOADING AT ANCHOR, FOR ONLY FOUR HOURS IN EVERY 24 AND BY NIGHT BECAUSE OF NEED TO HAVE SHIPPING CLEAR TO THE EAST IN DAYLIGHT, THOUGH NECESSITY DICTATES DAYLIGHT UNLOADING OF SOME SHIPS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RISK
- B. WEATHER, WHICH FOR EXAMPLE HAS TONIGHT PREVENTED THE ARRIVAL

HQRM

TOP SECRET REGISTRY

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OF TWO SHIPS UPON WHICH WE ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT FOR FUTURE WORK

C. THE LOSS OF 3 CHINOOK AND 6 WX IN CONVEYOR TOGETHER WITH 11 FD SQN G1098 AND PLANT. USING THE MAXIMUM EFFORT WHICH I EXPECT TO BE AVAILABLE IT WILL TAKE APPROX 50 HRS TO MOVE THE COMBAT SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN 5BDE FOR THE MAIN BATTLE. AND THIS ONLY ONCE WE HAVE UNLOADED

4. DESPITE THESE DIFFICULTIES EVERYBODY IS VERY DETERMINED TO FORCE THE BATTLE TO AS SPEEDY A CONCLUSION AS CAN BE ACHIEVED. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MY UNIT COMMANDERS ARE PREPARED TO GO SHORT OF FOOD AND SOME HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. I CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO FIGHT WITHOUT ADEQUATE AMMUNITION AS IS EXPLAINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. THIS FEELING PERVADES THE WHOLE FORCE AND CAN BE ILLUSTRATED BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE MDS. DESPITE AIR ATTACKS A BOMB IN ONE END OF THE BUILDING AND TWO UXB STILL THERE, THEY HAVE IN THE PAST FEW DAYS COPEL WITH 246 CASUALTIES INCLUDING 79 MAJOR OPERATIONS. FURTHERMORE EVERY MAN BROUGHT IN ALIVE HAS LEFT ALIVE

5. IN SHORT THE MEN OF EVERY SERVICE, CAP BADGE, AND COLOUR OF BERET HAVE WORKED TOGETHER WITH GREAT PROFESSIONALISM AND COURAGE. I FIND IT A MOST INSPIRING PRIVILEGE TO COMMAND THEM AND

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I KNOW THEY ARE DEDICATED TO FINISHING THE TASK AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE BUT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. MY FUTURE INTENTIONS ARE IN AN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXCLUSIVE SIGNAL
BT

205126

DIST: AUTO + *CLFF1 + Cops*

RELO *CLFF1*

REF./NOTE */*

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