

(29)

TOP
SECRET

E HH
O P 031521Z JUN 82
FM CTG 317.1
TO CTF 317
INFO CTG 317.8
CTG 317.0

BT

TOP SECRET

SIC AAA/I9N

PERSONAL FOR CINC FROM CLF.

1. I HAVE NATURALLY DISCUSSED YOUR AAA/I9N (29 021600Z) WITH CTG 317.0 WHO AGREES WITH THIS SIGNAL.
2. PRESENCE ON WEST FALKLANDS. IT IS ALREADY INDISPUTABLE THAT THE ENEMY HAS CONTROL OVER EACH OF THE MAIN SETTLEMENTS. TO TAKE ON EITHER SERIOUSLY, OR TO MAINTAIN PRESENCE OURSELVES, COULD ONLY DIVERT SOME OF OUR SLENDER RESOURCES (SEE MY ADA/I9N 030100Z) FROM THE MAIN AIM. FOR HIM TO LAND FURTHER TROOPS BY PARACHUTE OR EVEN BY SOME DESPARATE LANDING OPERATION IN EITHER EAST OR WEST FALKLAND WOULD ACHIEVE NOTHING IN MILITARY TERMS. FROM POLITICAL OR NEGOTIATING POINT OF VIEW I QUITE UNDERSTAND THAT AN INCREASE OF ARGENTINE PRESENCE IN WEST FALKLAND IS UNDESIRABLE. HOWEVER TO COUNTER THIS, I COULD INSERT A TOKEN FORCE, UNOPPOSED TO QUOTE FLY THE FLAG UNQUOTE IN WEST FALKLAND IF THIS BECOMES NECESSARY FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES. THE JUNTA ARE ALL MILITARY MEN AND MUST SURELY CALCULATE THAT IF THEY CANNOT PREVENT US FROM LANDING ON EAST FALKLAND WITH FLEET SUPPORT ONLY OVER A RANGE OF 7,000 MILES WE WOULD NOT FIND UNDUE DIFFICULTY IN CROSSING FALKLAND SOUND WITH AN AIRFIELD AT OUR BACK.
3. AIR DEFENCE OF SAN CARLOS. WE ARE PRESENTLY IMPROVING OUR LAND BASED CAPABILITY. WITH BLINDFIRE RAPIER WE SHOULD BE PRETTY EFFECTIVE PROVIDED WE HAVE WARNING MUCH OF WHICH CAN ONLY BE PROVIDED BY ESCORTS. MAINTENANCE STOCKS ARE BEING STACKED TO PROVIDE MINIMAL TARGETS. PORT SAN CARLOS AIRFIELD IS NOW OPERATING AND SHOULD FURTHER IMPROVE OUR AIR DEFENCE AS WELL AS GROUND ATTACK CAPABILITY BY OFFERING TURNROUND OR EVEN ALERT FACILITIES TO SHAR AND GRS.
4. SPECIAL FORCE OPS. SEE PARA 3 OF MY ADA/I9N OF 030100Z JUN 82.
5. GENERAL. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT THE MOST ATTRACTIVE ARG OPTION WOULD BE TO MAKE AN ALL OUT AIR, AND PERHAPS NAVAL EFFORT AGAINST OUR FORCES ON AND AROUND EAST FALKLAND WITH A VIEW TO DRAWING THE MAIN BATTLE GROUP NEAR ENOUGH FOR A SUCCESSFUL STRIKE USING EXOCET. THE CORNERING OF A SUBSTANTIAL SAG OR CONVOY WHERE A4/MIRAGE COULD TAKE OUT SEVERAL SHIPS MIGHT DO. I BELIEVE THAT CTG 317.0 AND I CAN WITHSTAND SUCH AN EFFORT PROVIDED THAT WE TAKE SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS IN SHIPPING DISPOSITIONS AND REFUSE TO BE DRAWN

BT

NNNNZ

HQRM

TOP SECRET REGISTRY

MOD FORM 102 No.

SERIAL NUMBER.....29.....

DATE.....03 JUN 82.....