

HH
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BT

T O P S E C R E T EXCLUSIVE
SIC AAA/19F
EXCL FOR CINC FROM CLF
OP CORPORATE

A. CTF AAA/19F OF 041637Z JUN 82.

1. IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT THE RISK OF MOVE OF 5 INF BDE FORWARD BY SEA TO BLUFF COVE, I AND COMAW SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND HAVE GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION TO HAZARDS INVOLVED AND POSSIBLE WAYS OF MITIGATING THEM. HOWEVER AFTER DETAILED ANALYSIS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IF AIM REMAINS TO START STANLEY BATTLE EARLY WITH ALL POLITICAL ADVANTAGES WHICH ACCRUE, SEA MOVE FORWARD OF 5 BDE DESPITE RISKS, REMAINS BEST OPTION.

2. UNDER PRESENT WEATHER AND FLYING CONDITIONS A HEL AND FOOT APPROACH MARCH WOULD AT A MINIMUM, DELAY START OF MAIN BATTLE BY 5 DAYS, WITH ALMOST CERTAINLY A PENALTY TO 3 CDO BDES AMMO STOCKS AND QUITE CERTAINLY THE DETERIORATION OF SOLDIERS STAMINA RESULTING FROM EXTRA DAYS HOLDING GROUND IN MOUNTAINS IN ATROCIOUS WEATHER PRIOR TO START OF MAIN BATTLE.

3. SO FAR AS SUGGESTION OF LANDING FROM POINT ON SAN SALVADOR WATER IS CONCERNED I SEE NO ADVANTAGE. 3 CDO BDE IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED ON NORTHERN ROUTE AND WOULD SURRENDER INITIATIVE AS WELL AS LOSING A LOT OF TIME IF SWITCHED TO SOUTH AXIS. WERE 5 BDE TO BE LANDED NORTH THEREFORE THEY WOULD HAVE APPROACH MARCH ACROSS 3 CDO BDE'S L OF C THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY OF SOME TWENTY MILES AND THIS WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT IN 5 INF BDE STARTING MAIN BATTLE HAVING SACRIFICED ALL ADVANTAGES OF FRESHNESS WHICH THEY NOW ENJOY.

4. THE POINT YOU MAKE ABOUT WEST FALKLAND IS WELL TAKEN. HOWEVER I STILL CONSIDER THAT EASIEST, CHEAPEST AND MOST SURE WAY OF MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT, IF NEEDED, IS TO LAND APPROPRIATE SIZE FORCE, UNOPPOSED AT POINT OF OUR CHOOSING ON WEST FALKLAND IN RESPONSE TO YOUR STEER ON DEVELOPING DIPLOMATIC SCENE. BUT IT STILL REMAINS THAT SUCH AN INSERTION WOULD BE TO DETRIMENT OF MAIN BATTLE AND (SEE MY AA/19N OF 031521Z JUN 82) COULD INVOLVE ME HOLDING GROUND OF NO TACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD IN ANTICIPATION OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT. THEREFORE PREFER TO HOLD OFF THIS OPTION UNTIL ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AND AS A YARDSTICK BELIEVE THAT IN RESPONSE TO YOUR TRIGGER COULD INSERT ONE COY AT 12 HOURS NOTICE. BUT YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT OVER THE NEXT TEN DAYS OR SO THERE WILL BE UP TO FIVE SEPARATE SF PARTIES OPERATING THROUGHOUT WEST FALKLAND.

5. SO FAR AS POSSIBLE EN PARA LANDING AS SPECTACULAR AT CASTLE IS CONCERNED BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOULD BE TREATED AS SEPARATE ISSUE. ON THIS ASSUMPTION HAVE PLAN FOR SUITABLE SPECIAL FORCES RECEPTION TO BE WAITING IF FLYING CONDITIONS SUGGEST THAT THIS EN OPERATION MIGHT BE IMMINENT

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SECRET
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TOP SECRET REGISTRY	
MOB FORM 102 No.	
SERIAL NUMBER.....	33
DATE.....	05 JUN 82