

F HH
O 291635Z JUN 82 ZPW N/A
FM CTF 317
TO CTG 317.1
BT

SECRET EXCLUSIVE

SIC AAA/19F

EXCLUSIVE FOR CLF FROM CINC

REF A. YOUR AAA/19F 272105Z JUN

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR FURTHER HELPFUL THOUGHTS ON FORCE LEVELS.

1 FULLY TAKE YOUR POINT AND AM IN FULL ACCORD WITH IT

2. I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO COS THAT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE RESIDUAL GARRISON SHOULD BE OF TWO BATTALION GROUP STRENGTH

AND IT IS MY INTENTION THAT WE SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS AT THE TIME

1 QO HLDRS ARRIVE IN FI, BY WITHDRAWING SIMULTANEOUSLY 1 WG,

1/7 GR AND HQ 5 INF BDE. HOWEVER, THIS IS SUBJECT TO COS

AGREEMENT NOT YET RECEIVED, BUT WHICH I AM CONFIDENT I SHALL

HAVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. UNTIL I HAVE THIS, IT WOULD BE

AS WELL NOT TO PUBLICIZE THE EARLIER WITHDRAWAL OF 1/7 GR,

ALTHOUGH 1 WG AND HQ 5 INF BDE MOVES ARE AGREED

3. SUBSEQUENTLY I HOPE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO GET AGREEMENT TO A FURTHER REDUCTION TO A ONE BATTALION GROUP LEVEL BY NOT REPLACING

2 SG ON THEIR RETURN TO UK IN EARLY AUGUST. BUT THIS MUST DEPEND

UPON ARGENTINE POLITICAL INTENTIONS. I ASSESS THE CURRENT

SIGNS AS HOPEFUL IN THIS RESPECT. BUT A FIRM DECISION TO COME DOWN

TO THE LOWER FORCE LEVEL MUST AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THESE,

AND THE RESPONSE OF COS TO MY CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS AND LONGER TERM

FORCE LEVELS NOW IN THE MAKING

4. SIMILARLY, IT IS MY INTENTION THAT NAVAL AND AIR FORCE LEVELS

SHALL BE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COMMENSURATE WITH THE THREAT,

ALL BACKED UP BY REALLY GOOD AND TIMELY INTELLIGENCE, WITH AN

ADEQUATE STOCKPILE OF EQUIPMENT AND COMBAT SUPPLIES IN PLACE

AND A FAST REINFORCEMENT EX UK CAPABILITY

5. AS TO THE LEVEL OF COMMAND AND WHICH SERVICE SHOULD PROVIDE THE

COMMANDER, WHILE THE IMMEDIATE PRIMARY THREAT MAY BE FROM THE

AIR, IT WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP INTO A LAND THREAT PROJECTED

BY SEA OR AIR TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE. THEREFORE I BELIEVE THE OVERALL

COMMANDER, SINCE THE BULK OF CTG 317.8'S FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN,

SHOULD BE FOUND BY THE ARMY. GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEMS

TO BE OVERCOME IN FORTHCOMING MONTHS, AND IF HIS VOICE IS

TO BE PROPERLY HEARD IN MODUK ONCE THE CHANNEL OF COMMAND IS

DIRECT FROM FI TO MOD, HE MUST BE TWO STAR. THAT IS NOT TO SAY

THAT IDC THIS SHOULD NOT BE FOR REVIEW

6. REST ASSURED I AM FULLY SEIZED OF THE ESSENTIAL NEED TO

KEEP THE NUMBER OF SERVICEMEN OF FI TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AND

YOUR SIGNAL IS FURTHER POWER TO BY ELBOW WHICH HAS BEEN USED

VERY FIRMLY ON THIS SUBJECT

BT

CAN FURTHER REDUCTION

WE SHOULD PROVIDE

SECRET
EXCLUSIVE

46

EXCLUSIVE
SECRET

TOP SECRET REGISTRY

FORM 102 No.

SERIAL NUMBER 46

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