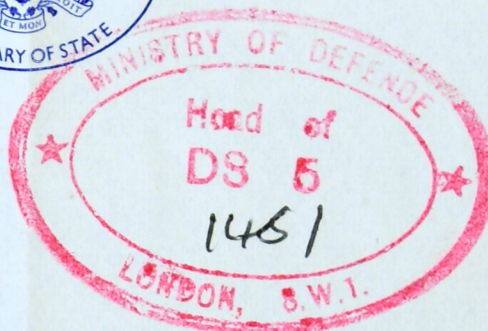


SECRET

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ACNS(O)



MO 5/21

Head of DS5

QE2

The Secretary of State would be grateful for a report on how it is proposed to use the QE2 once she has arrived at her holding point. Into which ships will her men and stores be embarked? What is the closest to the Falkland Islands that she will ever get, and when?

2. S of S would be grateful, if having consulted Northwood, you could let him know the answers to these questions.

24th May 1982

(D B OMAND)
PS/S of S

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ACNS(O)QE2

1. Thank you for your minute of 24 May. We have consulted Northwood on the points you raised.
2. On present plans, the QE2 will arrive off South Georgia on 28 May. There 5 Brigade will be transferred to other ships for passage to the Falkland Islands. Exactly which ships will be used will be a matter for the Task Group Commander, but it is expected that they will be CANBERRA, NORLAND and STROMNESS.
3. Separate arrangements will be made for Major General Moore and his staff to leave the QE2 before she reaches South Georgia and for them to be taken by escort vessel to his afloat headquarters in HMS FEARLESS.
4. As things now stand, it is likely that the QE2 will then return direct to the UK. Unless there is a change in the threat assessment, she will at no time approach nearer than 750 miles to the Falkland Islands.

25 May 1982

N H NICHOLLS
Head of DS 5

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