

D/DS11/10/6/16

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## PORT STANLEY AIRPORT - SUPPORT FOR AM2 MATTING SYSTEM

1. On 23 May, Secretary Weinberger approved the provision to us of a large amount of AM2 airfield matting. The supply of this equipment, not least because of its volume, will undoubtedly become known to the Press once its delivery commences. Loading will begin early next week at Yorktown. I attach a draft telegram to Washington which explores the response we should make to Press enquiries on both this and other specific items of equipment.
2. You will be aware that, although we had proposed a more forthcoming line, the US have stuck to a policy of neither confirming nor denying the nature of their assistance to us (Washington telnos 1838 of 21 May and 1855 of 22 May refer - copy attached). However, the State Department are now having to moderate this line (see Washington telno 1910 of 26 May - copy attached). As you will see from our draft telegram, however, the scale of matting requirement is such that special consideration needs to be given to the press line which both the US and ourselves should take. We would therefore be grateful if a telegram on the lines of the attached could be despatched as soon as possible.

pp C B J JENNINGS  
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28 May 82