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OD(SA): PRESS FACILITIES POST RE-POSSESSION

The minutes of this morning's OD(SA) are not yet available but I have been given an informal read-out by the Cabinet Secretariat about the discussion of the FCS' proposal for facilities for foreign journalists after re-possession.

2. There was a general political endorsement of the concept of providing such facilities and specific approval for planning by MOD to go ahead. The risks of an uncontrolled approach were appreciated. It was accepted that there should be provision for the foreign Press; further British media representation was not excluded. Amongst more detailed points were:

a. There should be a pause after re-possession before journalists arrived, possibly of one week [though the minutes should not tie us to this] 7.

b. All arrangements and timing would be subject to the military situation and views of the local commander.

c. No interviews of Argentine POW should be allowed.

d. Requests for visits by MPs should be played long!

3. On this basis PUS believes the way is clear for us to begin detailed planning and to have informal and uncommitted discussions with Editors this evening (of which some general warning might be given in advance). Please could you make arrangements accordingly.

4. There was an expectation that the Defence Secretary would report back to OD(SA) before putting any plans into action.

S Webb

S WEBB
PS/PUS

9 June 1982

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