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*EM*  
*or*  
 Chiefs of Staff  
 CDS

SECRET

Mr. Weston  
 Defence Dept.

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 28 APRIL

I have minuted separately on discussion at this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting on the Argentine carrier and on prisoners of war. The following additional subjects of concern to the FCO were also mentioned:

(a) OD(SA). The Chief of Defence Staff gave an account of the decisions taken at ODSA. Following our discussion, I think that the only point of uncertainty is whether Ministers decided to publicise our warning through the Swiss about Argentine fishing vessels. The CDS gave the clear impression that publication had been agreed, and asked that appropriate coordination should take place between the MOD and FCO.

*Checked with Cds Staff MOD. Day 28/4*

(b) Intelligence Assessment. The main point of interest was that the Argentine carrier is now believed to be some way off shore (having been in port for repairs) but about 200 miles from the Maritime Exclusion Zone.

I reported on action which we had taken with Mr. Haig about reports of the movement of the Argentine submarine, and been in particular on Mr. Haig's suggestion that the report might have "disinformation". I said that it had also occurred to me that the report might have been specifically designed to test whether Argentine cyphers were secure, but thought this unlikely; DCDSI agreed.

I reported on action taken with the Israeli Ambassador on reports of Israeli arms supplies to Argentina, and also told the meeting that a PQ on the subject was down for reply today.

I also quoted Madrid telegram No. 226 reporting a Spanish press headline claiming that "a known torturer" had been in command of the Argentine troops which had surrendered on South Georgia. I said that if the MOD could confirm that Captain Astiz was among those captured, this could be extremely useful propaganda.

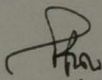
(c) Public Relations. Sir F. Cooper raised the question in Santiago telegram 199 that someone might speak to the Daily Star about their reports of Chilean/UK military cooperation. I said that this had been discussed at a meeting this morning, at which the Head of News Department had been present, and thought that there should be further discussion between the FCO and the MOD on what action, if any, to take.

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I hope that Mr. McDonald may speak to Mr. Fenn about this.



(P.R.H. Wright)  
28 April, 1982.

cc PS/FUS  
Mr. Giffard  
Mr. Gillmore  
Mr. Fenn

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