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7 April 1982

CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

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POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION OF EXCLUSION ZONE

Note by the Secretaries

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In accordance with the Sub-Committee's instructions this morning OD(SA)(82) 1st Meeting, Conclusion. 2), the attached draft form of words had been prepared by the Secretary of the Cabinet in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, for use if Ministers decide that they wish to announce the establishment of an Exclusion Zone round the Falkland Islands. The draft has been agreed with the Chief of the Defence Staff and with the Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is recommended that an identical form of words should be used both for any announcement in Parliament and for subsequent formal notification to interested parties (eg to overseas Governments, mariners and Lloyds).

Signed ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
R L WADE-GERY  
D H COLVIN

Cabinet Office

7 April 1982

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NOTICE OF AN EXCLUSION ZONE

From 0400 Greenwich Mean time on Monday 12 April 1982, a maritime exclusion zone will be established around the Falkland Islands. The outer limit of this zone is a circle of 200 nautical mile radius from Latitude 51 degrees 40 minutes South, 59 degrees 30 minutes West, which is approximately the centre of the Falkland Islands. From the time indicated, all Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries entering or found within this zone will be treated as hostile and are liable to be attacked by British forces. This measure is without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

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