

Ref: B06487

PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Falklands: OD(SA) on 2nd May

Your meeting at Chequers will of course need to review both diplomatic and military developments. Sir Antony Acland should cover the former, including any news from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in the United States; and the Chief of the Defence Staff the latter, including the airfield situation.

2. So far as we know at present you will have only two issues for decision -

a. Force Levels: Reinforcement. In OD(SA)(82) 39 the Defence Secretary seeks formal agreement for the deployment of a further Brigade. This was virtually agreed by the Sub-Committee this afternoon.

b. Reinforcement, Requisitioning of Shipping. In OD(SA)(82) 40 - not yet issued - the Ministry of Defence will be reporting on whether there is any real alternative to requisitioning the QE II. The Sub-Committee this afternoon were understandably reluctant to authorise this if it could possibly be avoided.

3. The absence of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary means that this will not be a good occasion to discuss Sir Michael Palliser's paper on a Longer Term Settlement (OD(SA)(82) 38).

4. The Sub-Committee will no doubt wish to meet again on 4th May before Cabinet. It is hard to tell at this stage whether a 3rd May meeting will also be needed.

R L WADE-GERY

30th April 1982