

S E C R E T

THIS IS A COPY

6

22 PORT STANLEY

GRS 221

SECRET

FM FCG 212215Z MAR 82

TO FLASH PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 45 OF 31 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK NAVY, CINCFLEET

THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN RETAINED
IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER
SECTION 3 (4) OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958.

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND THAT OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL MARINE DETACHMENT ONLY. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ARGENTINE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASSEMBLING OF A SEABORNE FORCE WHICH COULD BE USED TO INVADE THE FALKLANDS. CURRENT EVIDENCE IS THAT THIS COULD BE ASSEMBLED IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS. WE HAVE NO DEFINITE INDICATION AS TO ARGENTINE INTENTIONS. WE HAVE ASKED THE AMERICANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. WE HOPE THAT THIS APPROACH WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
2. NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMS PRUDENT TO REVIEW OUR CURRENT CONTINGENCY PLANS. WE HAVE AS A PRECAUTIONARY MOVE ORDERED HMS ENDURANCE BACK TO PORT STANLEY. WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE IN GENERAL TERMS OF YOUR PLANS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND RESISTANCE TO ANY KIND OF INCURSION SHOULD ONE TAKE PLACE. THE CONDUCT OF ANY OPERATION IS, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR YOU AND THE FORCES UNDER YOUR COMMAND. BUT IS THERE ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE YOU WISH TO HAVE RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXTRA ROYAL MARINE FORCES AT YOUR DISPOSAL OR ABOUT SPECIFIC RULES OF ENGAGEMENT?
3. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, KEEP YOU CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH DEVELOPMENTS.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

STANDARD

S AM D

SED

UND

ES & SD

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR URE

CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

S E C R E T