

CABINET OFFICE
70 WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AS01-~~XXXXXXXX~~ 233 8378

Ref: B06499

19th May 1982

A.J.C. 20/5
f.a.

Dear David,

Robert Armstrong wrote to you on 13th May about post-OD(SA) discussion that day on a particular proposal for special action.

2. I should now record two further developments which for obvious reasons have not been minuted in the normal way.
 - a. On 14th May, OD(SA) authorised both phases of the operation in question, ie both intelligence gathering and offensive action, at the Force Commander's discretion.
 - b. On 18th May, at OD(SA), the Chiefs of Staff were asked whether their advice that the landing and repossession operations should proceed was conditional on the success of this special operation and/or of others of a comparable nature. They replied that it was not; ie that they would stand by their advice even if no success were achieved by special action of this kind.
3. There has also been discussion between Terry Lewin, Frank Cooper, Antony Acland and Robert Armstrong about a rather different method of carrying out the special operation in question; and about the possibility of applying that method elsewhere. No agreement was reached and nothing has been put to Ministers collectively. It was left that these ideas are still undergoing military evaluation and it will be for the Ministry of Defence to decide whether to put any of them forward for decision.
4. I am sending copies of this letter to John Coles and Brian Fall.

James *even*
Robert

R L WADE-GERY

D B Omand Esq.
Ministry of Defence,
SW1