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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO

Ref. A08194

22 April 1982

You will have seen Antony Acland's letter of 22 April, conveying the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's views on, and disagreement with, the decision to send an SSN out of the Falkland Islands Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ) in the direction of the Argentine naval force which includes the aircraft carrier.

I have discussed this with the Prime Minister, who has decided that the manoeuvre described in the first paragraph of my letter of 21 April to David Omand should be suspended until further notice, and that instructions should be sent forthwith to the SSN in question not to leave the MEZ on such a manoeuvre, or, if she is already outside the MEZ, to change her course and return within it.

I tried to get hold of you to convey this decision to you in person; as you were not available I spoke to David Omand, and asked him to make sure that the necessary instructions were conveyed to the submarine at the earliest possible moment.

I am sending copies of this letter to Antony Acland, and to John Coles and David Omand.

D. J. WRIGHT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin GCB MVO DSC