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OD(SA)(82) 3rd Meeting

### CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

MINUTES of a Meeting held at 10 Downing Street on THURSDAY 8 APRIL 1982 at 11.00 am

### PRESENT

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP Prime Minister

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon John Nott MP Secretary of State for Defence The Rt Hon Francis Pym MP Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General

### ALSO PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin Chief of the Defence Staff

### SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong Mr R L Wade-Gery Mr D H Colvin Brigadier J A C G Eyre

SUBJECT

SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

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SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC
Previous Reference OD(SA)(82) 2nd Meeting

The Sub-Committee had before them a note by the Secretaries (OD(SA)(82) 5) setting out draft Rules of Engagement for British submarines in the crisis area; and a minute of 8 April to the Prime Minister from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (PM/82/26) about nuclear weapons on board ships of the Task Force for Operation Corporate.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that the proposed Rules of Engagement were acceptable. The commanding officer of a submarine would naturally have the right to exercise his discretion in any matter relating to the safety of his vessel. The Sub-Committee sympathised with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's proposal

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In their

meetings with the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig, that evening, she and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Defence Secretary would make clear that the immediate requirement was for Argentine troops to leave the Falkland Islands and for British administration to be restored; thereafter, Britain would be willing to resume negotiations with Argentina; but she would be guided by the wishes of the islanders, which could clearly not be ascertained in present circumstances. Further thought would need to be given to the diplomatic and political options which might be possible in the future; and she would consider, in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, whether a full-time Special Adviser should be temporarily appointed for this purpose.

The Sub-Committee -

- 1. Approved the Rules of Engagement for British submarines proposed in OD(SA)(82) 5.
- 2. Took note with approval of the approach suggested by the Prime Minister for the forthcoming discussions with the United States Secretary of State.

3.

Cabinet Office 8 April 1982

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