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Mr Wright

DS.11

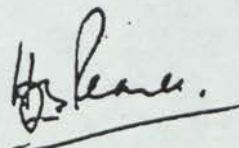
DSC, MOD

MILITARY OPTIONS FOR REPOSSESSION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. Here are the promised comments on the paper on this subject which was taken by the Chiefs of Staff this morning:
- (a) first, a general point. Some of the comments under the pros and cons columns, particularly on the political side, struck me as somewhat indiscriminate, e.g. some of the options were described as likely to lose us international support while others which might equally be so described were not so characterised. Perhaps you might look at the paper to check that we are being consistent in this regard;
 - (b) Option 2: Repossession of South Sandwich: The pro column includes the statement that this would be relevant to the UK stake in Antarctica. In our view this point should not be over-emphasised, since legally it is open to question. Perhaps the point might be slightly softened by saying 'might have some relevance';
 - (c) Option 9: Mining/Blockading Mainland Argentine Ports: This is one case where we might have included the point about losing international support in the cons column;
 - (d) Option 10: Attack Argentine mainland targets: While the fourth point of the political pros might be a comment worth making, is it really a pro? The third point of the political cons might be made more strongly; the action proposed could well gravely damage international support for HMG;
 - (e) Option 11: Landing in Southern Argentina: Again, the second political con should be expressed more strongly - this too could gravely damage our international support.

2 May, 1982

cc. Mr. Ambery.


H J S Pearce
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