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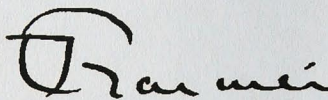
LOOSE MINUTE

TO. 2346/343/5/82

ACNS(O)

SURFACE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO FALKLANDS - ASSESSMENT OF  
FORCE CURRENTLY NOMINATED.

1. I attach for your information a first and somewhat superficial assessment of the force nominated by CINCFLEET for the Surface Ships option.



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DIRECTOR OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND TRADE.

31 March, 1982.

SURFACE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO FALKLANDS - ASSESSMENT OF FORCE  
CURRENTLY NOMINATED.

1. The force sent must:
  - (a) have a clear aim.
  - (b) Be of such a size and composition that it can win against whatever threats develop.
  
2. As a sea fighting force the force currently nominated provides a good balance of offence and defence. It has a good communications fit and reasonable stand-off weapon fit.
  
3. It should be stressed that CINCFLEET is currently producing a comprehensive plan. However, there are still a few loose ends which bear investigation and this is in hand with Northwood. The main area is the relative advantages of HERMES or INVINCIBLE and the implications, in the latter selection, for overload and problems in achieving a good balance between RMS, ASW helicopters, Commando helicopters and Sea Harriers.

3. SUMMARY OF SYSTEM FITS.

<u>SYSTEMS</u>	<u>NUMBERS/REMARKS</u>
<u>Communications</u>	9 SATCOM                      SSNs - SSIX 2 MARISAT                      VLF
<u>EW</u>	7 UAA1
<u>Area SAM</u>	2 Seaslug 4 Sea Dart
<u>SSM</u>	6 EXOCET
<u>Gun Armament</u>	9 4.5"
<u>AAW Self Defence</u>	7 Sea Cat
<u>ASW</u> MRS	All fitted except FEARLESS
STWS	5 ships
Helicopters + Weapons	All except FEARLESS
(See comment above on ASW Helos in CVS)	
<u>Speed</u> RFAs limiting factor:	15½ Kts      - LEAFs.

SHIPS ALLOCATED BY CINCFLEET AT PRESENT/30 Mar

<u>INVINCIBLE</u>	<u>ANTRIM</u>	<u>BRILLIANT</u>	<u>TIDESPRING</u>	<u>SSN</u>
<u>FEARLESS</u>	GLAMORGAN	ARROW	PEARLEAF	2 ?
	GLASGOW	ALACRITY	BRAMBLELEAF	
	COVENTRY	ANTELOPE	APPLELEAF	
	SHEFFIELD	ARDENT	FORT AUSTIN (already sailed)	
			(RESOURCE not yet but ?)	

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DEPT. OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND TRADE

WORLD CHARTLET

SHIP DISPOSITIONS VALID AT:



Not shown: SSBNs, SSNs on operational patrol; ships in UK waters. (inc. Offshore patrols)

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