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24MAY82 – Wade-Gery a Omand. Selección de blancos.

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24th May 1982

Ref: B06506

Dear David,

I wrote to you on 19th May about OD(SA)'s consideration of special operations.

2. At OD(SA) on 21st May Ministers were told of a possible plan to supplement the means of reconnoitring and attacking the target already approved. They gave the CDS discretion to approve this plan or other comparable variants of the current operation.
3. Ministers should be consulted further if the Ministry of Defence wish to recommend moving against a different target altogether (one further north was mentioned in earlier discussion at official level); or varying the method of attacking the approved target so radically as to alter the whole nature of the operation (the possibility of such radical alteration has also been aired at official level, see paragraph 3 of my earlier letter, but not put to Ministers collectively).
4. If necessary I am sure Ministers would be willing to respond very rapidly indeed. I cannot predict what they would or would not agree to; but they would certainly not want any operation held up for lack of a clear answer one way or the other.
5. Since the above was written OD(SA) have this morning considered a wholly different approach to the same target. It was agreed that discussion would resume tomorrow. Meanwhile one preliminary deployment, well outside the area of operations, was approved.
6. I am copying this letter to John Coles (No.10) and Brian Fall (FCO).

James Owen
Robert

R L WADE-GERY

D B Omand Esq.
Ministry of Defence