

pa

1830

~~AS/S/S~~ E79.

D/DPR/243/19

PS/PUS

Copy to:  
PS/S of S  
AUS(D Staff)

PUS would be grateful to know whether S/S would be content for him to appear in a Panorama interview. PUS agrees that most appropriate should be limited to himself. JAF.

PS/PUS

INTERVIEW FOR PANORAMA

1 275

You asked for my comments on the invitation from the BBC for PUS to take part in a Panorama programme about MOD information policy during the Falkland Islands crisis. I believe that there is everything to be gained from PUS accepting the invitation, but would not recommend any interview with Mr Ian McDonald. Firstly to interview Mr McDonald would not add to the programme, as the real information handling policy improvements only took place after CPR had assumed responsibility and applied information handling procedures that had been delayed for all too long, and secondly Mr McDonald is no longer part of the DPRS. I believe that PUS, who after all has given evidence to the HCDC, and is responsible for the DPRS, is the right person to appear. If anyone else appeared with him it should be CPR, but again he was not in the driving seat throughout and therefore would be reporting hearsay in the all important early days when many of the mistakes were made and the PR dye was cast.

*D J Ramsbotham*

D J RAMSBOTHAM  
Brigadier  
DPR(A)

27 Jul 82