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## U.S. PLANS SUPPLIES IF FIGHTING LASTS

### Air Tankers Assigned to Britain for Its Missions in Europe

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WASHINGTON, May 20 — The United States has earmarked a wide range of arms, including missiles and radar, for transfer to British forces if they get bogged down in a long winter struggle for the Falkland Islands, Administration officials said today.

In addition to this contingency planning, under which American matériel would go directly to the South Atlantic, the officials said that several KC-135 aerial tankers had already been assigned to Britain.

The American planes are intended to fly missions over the North Atlantic and in Europe that were previously handled by British tankers. The British planes have been sent to Ascension Island, where they provide in-flight refueling for Vulcan bombers and Nimrod radar planes participating in the Falkland operations.

#### Argentine Arms Data Passed On

The United States was also said to have increased its intelligence support by furnishing information on weapons sold to Argentina. This will enable the British to meet an Argentine threat more effectively, the officials said.

United States Marine officers asserted that the Royal Marines with the British task force would probably be able to gain a beachhead on the Falklands. But the Americans suggested that, once ashore, the British might face a long and costly fight.

This assessment, military officials said, was behind a contingency list that British and American officers have prepared. The officials said items on the list had been identified for rapid shipment to Ascension, where they would be loaded on British ships for transfer to the Falkland task force.