

2

ALQ 050/25			
RECEIVED THE SECRETARY			
MESSAGE NO.		CC	FILE
INDEX	PA	AC	IN

3 - MAY 1982



## NOTE FOR THE RECORD

## REPORTED SINKING OF GENERAL BELGRANO AND SECOND ARGENTINE PATROL/NAVAL AUXILIARY VESSEL

1. UKMIS New York rang the Emergency Unit at approximately 6.30 pm to say that they had been told privately that the UN Secretariat had received a message from a Minister in the Argentine Mission to the UN to the effect that:

(a) The Argentine cruiser General Belgrano had now sunk with 500 people on board (there was no indication as to whether the 500 had all drowned or whether there were survivors).

(b) Two Argentine patrol/naval auxiliary vessels had also sunk (presumably the two that were attacked by Lynx helicopters).

2. UKMIS were concerned that if this report became current it might have an adverse effect on sentiment in the UN where consultations were now taking place.

3. After consulting with the MOD I told UKMIS New York that we had no information to substantiate this report; on the other hand we did not have either vessel under constant surveillance and they could have sunk without us knowing. I undertook to ring UKMIS again if and when we had any further news. There is no report on the News Agency tapes as yet about the sinking of these vessels.

3 May 1982

  
 I Knight-Smith

cc:  
 Private Secretary  
 PS/PUS  
 Mr Wright  
 Mr Giffard  
 Mr Gillmore

Mr Mallaby  
 Emergency Unit Distribution  
 CONFIDENTIAL

[No 10 also informed]