

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 041030Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE CERTAIN MISSIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES
GUIDANCE TELEGRAM NUMBER 85 OF 4 MAY 1982

FALKLANDS: SINKING OF GENERAL BELGRANO

1. IN COUNTERING CRITICISM OF THE FACT THAT THIS SHIP WAS SUNK OUTSIDE THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE (TEZ), YOU SHOULD DRAW ON MR NOTT'S STATEMENT OF 3 MAY (VERBATIM NO 059 REPEATING TELNO 899 TO WASHINGTON (NOT TO ALL)). YOU SHOULD ADD THAT:

A. ON 23 APRIL THE SWISS EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES PASSED A MESSAGE FROM HMG TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: 'ANY APPROACH ON THE PART OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS, INCLUDING SUBMARINES, NAVAL AUXILIARIES OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO A THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, WILL ENCOUNTER THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE'.

B. THIS MESSAGE WAS IMMEDIATELY CIRCULATED IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELEASED PUBLICLY.

C. MOD SPOKESMEN HAVE EXPLAINED THAT EACH COMMANDER IN OUR TASK FORCE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CAPABILITIES OF ANY ARGENTINE VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT, IN CONSIDERING WHETHER IT CONSTITUTES A THREAT, WHICH CALLS FOR A RESPONSE. ONCE SUCH A THREAT IS IDENTIFIED, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF MODERN WEAPONS, BRITISH COMMANDERS CANNOT WAIT FOR THE OTHER SIDE TO FIRE FIRST. THUS THE PRESENCE IN ITSELF IS A THREAT.

PYM

BY TELEGRAPH:

BRUSSELS (UKREP,EEG)
BRUSSELS (UKDEL,NATO)
STOCKHOLM
MOSCOWCARACAS
MEXICO CITY
BRASILIAMONTEVIDEO
CANBERRA
WELLINGTON

[ALL IMMEDIATE]

ANKARA
ISTANBUL
ATHENS
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
LISBON
LUXEMBOURG
OSLO
STRASBOURG (UKDEL)
ROME
BERNE
GENEVA (UKMIS)
DUBLIN
HELSINKI
MADRID
VIENNA (UKMIS IAEA)
WARSAW
SAO PAULO
RIO DE JANEIRO
BOGOTAHAVANA
LIMA
SANTIAGO
ASUNCION
LA PAZ
PANAMA
QUITO
SAN JOSE
SANTO DOMINGO
TEGUCIGALPA
AMMAN
JEDDA
KUWAIT
TEL AVIV
CAIRO
DAKAR
KINSHASA
CAPE TOWN
PRETORIA
ISLAMABADPEKING
TOKYO
NEW DELHI
DACCA
COLOMBO
ACCRA
LAGOS
NAIROBI
SALISBURY
LUSAKA
KINGSTON
PORT OF SPAIN
GEORGETOWN
BRIDGETOWN
NASSAU
BELMOPAN
HONG KONG
GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)
ASCENSION ISLAND
ST HELENA

[ALL PRIORITY]

AND SAVING TO CERTAIN OTHER POSTS

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