

EX-100 MEMO

D/DS13/215/38
D/DS13/215

D Sales 2

Copy to:
FCO (Def Dept)
FCO (SAMD) ←

*Sensible for us to say anything
to say that it's been said
that they are now...
the fact...
perhaps...
explanation from...
and...
3/12*

*Mr Fearn
Mr Clarke 122 32
Miss Coombs
Good
3/12*

ARGENTINA - VULCAN AIRCRAFT

See ③

1. Your letter D/Sales/303/73/9 of 18 January 1982 to Robin Fearn refers.
2. I have been asked to draw the views of the Defence Planning Staff to your notice. Their comments are:

"References:

- A. D/DS13/215/38 dated 25 Jan 82
- B. OD(79)31 dated 79

1. Following our telephone conversation of yesterday, Air Plans have confirmed doubts on the validity of the Defence Attache's assessment "... the aircraft, would not be appropriate for use against the Falkland Islands". On the contrary, they are particularly suitable for such an operation in terms of range and weapon carrying capability.
2. Argentinian intentions for the Vulcans are of course a separate judgement and one on which the DA appears not to be able to shed any light.
3. As you are aware, policy guidelines on sales to Argentina are set out in Reference B - "It is our policy still, where possible, not to supply equipment to Argentina with which they could threaten the Falkland Islands". It is our contention that these aircraft fall quite clearly into the category prohibited by this Ministerial guideline and therefore clearance can only be given by Ministers. Pending a submission we are bound to oppose the sale.
4. A further policy consideration is the impact such a sale could have on Argentine/Chile relations. We are in the process of mending our fences with the latter and a sale of strategic bombers to Argentina would bound to be misunderstood or at least misinterpreted. On this issue the FCO would need to be consulted."

3. AUS(Sales) is aware of these views.

2nd Feb 82

AIA 087/1	
RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT NO. 13	
-3 FEB 1982	
DEBR OFFR.	DEPT
INDEX	For Taken

D MacLennan
D A M MACLENNAN
DS13b
MB 0204 7226 MB