

MOD PRESS STATEMENT - 1220 HOURS, 2 MAY

As you know yesterday before dawn VULCAN aircraft attacked Port Stanley airfield. Subsequently there was a follow up attack by a substantial number of Sea Harriers. The result was a severely damaged runway at Port Stanley airfield and considerable damage to ^{military} surrounding installations and stores. Goose Green was also attacked by a number of Sea Harriers. This local air strip was ~~also~~ damaged together with a number of Argentinian military aircraft parked in its vicinity. All our aircraft and crews returned safely. There was only minor damage to one aircraft which did not affect its capability and which has now in any case been repaired. There were no Task Force casualties.

In the late afternoon of the same day elements of the Task Force situated within the Total Exclusion Zone bombarded Port Stanley airfield to reinforce the effects of the bombing and to deter repair work. While this bombardment was taking place Argentinian fighter and bomber aircraft attacked the ships. They were engaged by Sea Harriers which shot down one Mirage aircraft. Another of the Argentinian Mirage aircraft is believed to have been shot down by Argentinian gun fire from around the airport. During the evening the Argentinians mounted a bombing raid on our Task Force. One of their Canberras was shot down by a Sea Harrier. Another was severely damaged. The raid was ineffective. Only one ship was damaged and that was only superficial splinter damage.

The frigate is continuing to perform its operational task.

The only casualty was Able Seaman Ian Britnell from Teignmouth, Devon, who sustained a splinter wound. He is only slightly wounded and able to walk."

We have no report of further engagements to date.

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ATTACKS ON FALKLANDS ISLANDS: INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS AT
AS AT 0730 Hours 3 MAY

BRAZIL

In an official statement, Brazil 'disagrees' with the armed attack which it describes as a violation of SCR 502. It calls upon the Security Council to ensure the fulfilment of SCR 502.

CUBA

Aggressive statement condemning UK, supporting the Argentine cause and calling for full solidarity from all Latin American countries.

SPAIN

Statement describes attacks as a 'serious escalation' in the conflict; more generalised British action would signify a great responsibility and an historic error. Statement reaffirms Spanish opposition to the use of force and deplores the fact the colonial nature of the problem has been overlooked.

USSR

Moscow Radio has condemned Britain in predictable terms for attempting to restore the Falklands' colonial status by force.

MEXICO

The Mexican Foreign Minister regretted that hostilities had broken out.

VENEZUELA

President Herrera condemned this 'British aggression' and called for a review by Latin America of policies of integration and collective security.

CHINA

The MFA deeply regrets this grave development since the resort to military attacks against the 'Malvinas Islands', thus intensifying the conflict of bloodshed, makes a peaceful settlement more difficult.

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