



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
 Telephone 01-~~XXXXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

7th June 1982

Dear John,

AUTHORITY TO ATTACK ARGENTINE NAVAL AUXILIARIES  
WHICH FORM PART OF A RESUPPLY FORCE

You will wish to be aware that CINCFLEET has requested, and my Secretary of State has agreed, an amplification of the present ROE governing attacks on Argentinian Naval Auxiliaries outside the TEZ.

The basic principle underlying the ROE currently in force is that, in order to ensure that any attack by our forces falls within the scope of self-defence, Argentine forces must pose a clear threat if they are to be attacked. Since naval auxiliaries do not, in themselves, pose a military threat to SSN's, SSN's are only at present authorised to attack them once they are approaching the Falkland Islands (i.e. within the TEZ). Surface ships and aircraft may, on the other hand, attack Argentine naval auxiliaries outside the TEZ if they demonstrate hostile intent.

Any naval auxiliary which forms part of an Argentine force en route to resupply or reinforce their forces on the Falkland Islands could clearly play a key role in such an effort. As part of such a force, it could palpably be deemed to be demonstrating hostile intent. Mr Nott has therefore agreed that the following caveat should be added to the existing ROE 205 for surface ships and aircraft outside the TEZ, and also that ROE 4 should be introduced for SSN's outside the TEZ, with the same caveat applying to it:

"Any Argentine naval auxiliary which is escorted by Argentine warships as part of a force believed to be engaged in resupply of the Falkland Islands is deemed to be demonstrating hostile intent and may be attacked."

I am copying this letter to John Coles, Private Secretaries to other members of OD(SA), and to David Wright.

Yours ever  
 Nick Evans

(N H R EVANS)

John Holmes Esq