

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE FOR THE FILE

GENERAL BELGRANO: SIR ANTHONY PARSONS

- 1. Sir Anthony Parsons telephoned at 1100 BST on 3 May asking for information on the fate of the General Belgrano. He said that he was meeting the President of the Security Council within the half-hour and wanted to be able to comment on a rumour being spread by the Argentinian Mission, that 500 Argentinian casualties had resulted from our attack on the General Belgrano.
- 2. I told him that, as Mr Nott had said in his television press conference that evening, we had no further information on the attack. Neither did we have any information on casualties. I also told him that according to communique no. 16, released by the Joint General Staff, the Argentinians now presumed the ship sunk.
- 3. UKMIS New York subsequently telephoned at 2.00 BST, Tuesday, 4th May, to ask whether there was any further information on the General Belgrano and whether a reply would be sent to Washington telegrams numbers 1574 and 1575 of 3 May.
- 4. I replied, on a secure line, that certain sources suggested that the ship had sunk at the coordinates given in the above communique. On the second point, I referred him to FCO telegram number 898 of 4 May to Washington which I expected he would receive in the next few minutes.

Peter, Hood

4 May, 1982

11 Martyn Warr
Emergency Unit