



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~2307822~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

30th April 1982

*Dear Mr.*

ENFORCING THE TEZ : PRESS STATEMENT

At their 21st meeting OD(SA) agreed the recommendation in Paragraph 4 of my Secretary of State's paper on the enforcement of the TEZ. The necessary authority has now been given to the Force Commander and we may hear as early as tomorrow morning that the Vulcan mission has been carried out. It will be some hours thereafter before we know the results of the attack, and what follow-up action by Harrier aircraft from the Task Force has been undertaken. The Argentine authorities in Buenos Aires are likely to know before we do of the results of the first attack, and it will be in our interest to issue as quickly as possible a short statement to the British Press, as soon as we have confirmation that any attack has taken place.

The draft in Annex has been prepared as a general first statement for immediate issue in those circumstances. The chain of reporting would be from the Ministry of Defence to No 10, FCO (Private Office/Emergency Room) and Cabinet Office, giving such details as we have of the attack and confirming that the Press Notice is being issued, and the intended time of issue. I understand that these arrangements have already been discussed between MOD and FCO officials.

The same reporting arrangement, and need for fast PR response, holds good for any other military engagement, for example involving naval forces. The permutations are rather greater but material is held in the MOD from which press statements can quickly be drawn up and cleared with the FCO (Emergency Room).

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office)

*\*Resident Clerk  
L. S. L. L. L.*

*Yours sincerely,  
D B Omand*  
(D B OMAND)

A J Coles Esq

FIRST PRESS STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY MOD

"We have been enforcing the TEZ since noon (London time) [~~yesterday~~]  
[on Friday 30th April] in exercise of the right of self-defence  
under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The notice issued on 28th April  
made it clear that after 48 hours warning the airport would be  
closed and that any aircraft on the ground would be liable to  
attack. Early this morning British aircraft took action to  
enforce the TEZ and to deny the Argentinians the use of the airstrip  
at Port Stanley. We are not yet able to give details but will  
do so as soon as we have authoritative information."