

Mr Wright ✓

A. 1/6

ALG 050/1

A. 7/6

cc: Private Secretary
 PS/PUS
 Mr Giffard
 Mr Weston o/r
 Mr Fearn
 Mr Hulse, Emergency Unit

DEK OFFICER		REGISTER	
INDEX	PA	ACCOMMODATION	

CHIEFS OF STAFF MEETING: 1 JUNE

1. I have reported separately on intelligence items discussed at this morning's Chiefs of Staff meeting. The following subjects also came up:

a. DCDSI reported that an Argentine merchant ship, the *Missiones II*, had been diverted on its passage across the Atlantic so that it passed close to Ascension Island. The Chiefs of Staff expressed concern about the activity of Argentine merchant ships around Ascension. They sought to draw some linkage with the events reported in Mr Wright's minute of 30 May of an attack on the British tanker, *British Wye*. The Chiefs of Staff were obviously anxious to draw a link between this attack and possible moves by British forces against Argentine merchant ships. I said that I thought such escalation would be quite unwarranted. Mr Hulse, however, has now told me that the *British Wye* is a tanker which has been used throughout Operation Corporate for the resupply of the British fleet (a kind of stationary petrol pump). If so, it differs as far as I can see, in no way from the ships defined as auxiliaries in our own list of Argentine vessels liable to attack. It is somewhat vexing that the Chiefs of Staff did not make this clear when the discussion took place this morning. I have told Mr Hulse that on no account should we therefore lodge with the Argentines any protest about the attack on the *British Wye*.

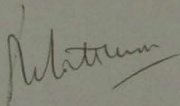
b. Own Forces

There was not much to report on our own forces that is not already in the press! The MOD confirmed that the two companies of 42 Commando, a tactical headquarters and a half RA battery were now in control of Mount Kent. There had been a short engagement in which 4 Argentine soldiers were believed killed. 42 Commando had sustained 5 walking casualties.

c. Bahia Paraiso

The Chiefs questioned whether the *Bahia Paraiso* had observed the rules of due warning when entering the TEZ over the weekend. It was confirmed that a warning had been given, although because of probable delays in transmission through the protecting power, the warning had not reached us until about the same time as the ship was located.

- d. ACDS Ops thought greater use might be made in PR terms of the fact that the Argentines had kept a number of civilians at Goose Green in virtual imprisonment for 30 days. Mr Stewart was more cautious. As he pointed out, there had been no reports of any violence against civilians and, with a couple of exceptions, those concerned appeared to be in reasonable health.



D H Gillmore

1 June 1982