

held as at 1020.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 January, 1983

Franks Debate

Paragraph 110 of the Franks Report refers to a paper which was formally approved by the Chiefs of Staff on 14 September, 1981.

I should be grateful if a copy of that paper could be obtained for the Prime Minister urgently.

The Prime Minister would be grateful to know the procedure by which that paper was approved, which Ministers saw it and why it was not brought to the Prime Minister's attention. (The answer may be that such papers by the Chiefs of Staff are not normally brought to the attention of the Prime Minister).

Paragraph 112 of the Franks Report describes part of the Chiefs of Staff paper and states that, to deter a full-scale invasion, a large balanced force would be required, comprising an Invincible class carrier with four destroyers or frigates, etc. Although this paper is said by Franks to be similar to a paper prepared in 1977, the Prime Minister has observed that assessments made available to her in, for example, September, 1979, did not mention an aircraft carrier as a necessary component of the force which would be required. Is there any explanation for this?

I should be grateful for a reply by lunchtime on Monday.

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

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