

44 40

PS
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR SNOW
 PS/MR RIFKIND
 PS/PUS

~~SIR J BULLARD~~ Goodison

SIR I SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD URE

MR WRIGHT

~~MR ADAMS~~

~~LORD N G LENNOX~~

LORD BRIDGES

MR URE

~~MR GILLMORE~~

HD/PUSD (2)

HD/S AM D

HD/FALKLANDS UNIT (2)

HD/DEFENCE DEPT

HD/NEWS DEPT

HD/ERD

HD/ECD(E)

HD/UND

HD/PLANNING STAFF

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)

MR ILETT) TREASURY

MR LITTLER)

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG)

SIR M PALLISER)

MR A D S-GOODALL)

CABINET OFFICE

DIO

ROOM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

Mr. COLIN ROTH, LACPD, ODA
 MR. BORDEN, LACPD, ODA.

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 261315Z

FM PARIS 261232Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 767 OF 26 JULY 1982

MIPT: EXOCETS

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

1. HERNU, FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE, SPOKE TO MY MILITARY ATTACHE ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS LAST NIGHT AT THE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL ST CYR PASSING OUT PARADE. HERNU, CLEARLY CONCERNED AT THE SUNDAY TIMES STORY, SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE EMBARGO OF SUPPLIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE. HE CONFIRMED THAT DASSAULT TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN IN ARGENTINA WHEN HOSTILITIES BEGAN AND SAID THAT DASSAULT AND THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD REMAINED IN TOUCH WITH THEM. HE STATED THAT THE STORY TOLD BY COLEN (THE LEADER OF THE DASSAULT TEAM QUOTED BY THE SUNDAY TIMES) WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE: THE WORK WHICH THE TECHNICIANS WERE DOING HAD BEEN STOPPED. HERNU SURMISED THAT COLEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN BRIBED TO SPEAK AS HE DID OR JUST WANTED TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE WAS EITHER MAD, DRUNK, OR IN SEARCH OF FAME OR MONEY. THIS WOULD EMERGE FROM THE ENQUIRY.