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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref: A08068

7th April 1982

Sir Robert Armstrong has seen my copy of the letter which you sent to John Coles on 5th April about naval deployments in the area of the Falkland Isles in November and December 1977.

He recognises that former Ministers in Opposition have now publicly referred to those events, and it is understandable that Ministers should wish to know the facts lying behind those public statements. But he is concerned that your letter goes beyond a recital of facts and discloses information about the assessments available to those former Ministers. This would in other circumstances be regarded as at least stretching, if not breaking, the rules about disclosure to members of one Administration the documents of and advice given to members of a previous Administration. For this reason extreme caution would need to be exercised in making any public use of the material in your letter.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Coles.

D. J. WRIGHT

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R. A. Burns, Esq

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