

Typist

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(30)

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

HD/S AM D (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
HD/DEF D
HD/NEWS D
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
RESIDENT CLERK

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PS/CHANCELLOR)
SIR K COUZENS)
MR LITTLER)
MR HAWTIN)
MR PERETZ) TREASURY
MR ILETT)
MR McINTYRE)

MISS DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO " "
SIR M PALLISER CABINET OFFICE
SIR R ARMSTRONG " "

(Copy passed to Emergency Staff)

GR 180
RESTRICTED
FM WASHINGTON 302322Z APR 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1550 OF 30 APRIL 1982

ADVANCE COPY

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FALKLANDS: NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. ON THE NATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME QUOTE GOOD MORNING AMERICA UNQUOTE THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST JACK ANDERSON ALLEGED TODAY THAT THE BRITISH TASK FORCE HEADING FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WAS ARMED WITH TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THAT THE COMMANDER HAD AUTHORITY TO USE THEM.

2. ANDERSON CLAIMED THAT, IN ANSWER TO AN URGENT US INQUIRY, THE BRITISH HAD SENT A QUOTE TOP SECRET COMMUNICATION UNQUOTE TO WASHINGTON ACKNOWLEDGING THE PRESENCE IN THE TASK FORCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE AUTHORITY PROVIDED TO ADMIRAL WOODWARD TO USE THE WEAPONS QUOTE UNDER GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES UNQUOTE.

3. ANDERSON ALSO QUOTED A BRITISH SPOKESMAN AS ISSUING THE ASSURANCE THAT THE BRITISH WOULD NEVER USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE

3. ANDERSON ALSO QUOTED A BRITISH SPOKESMAN AS ISSUING THE ASSURANCE THAT THE BRITISH WOULD NEVER USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE FALKLANDS.

4. ANDERSON IS WELL KNOWN AS A CHANNEL BOTH FOR LEAKS OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND AS THE PURVEYOR OF FANCIFUL INACCURACIES. IN ANSWER TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE FALKLANDS, WE HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO OUR RESPECT FOR OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TILATELOCO TREATY, AND, MOST RECENTLY, TO LORD TRENCHARD'S ANSWER IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON 27 APRIL.

HENDERSON

NNNN