

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL

~~41~~ 42

PS  
PS/MR HULL  
PS/MR ANSLOW  
PS/MR LFKIND  
PS/PUS  
~~MR. HANWAY~~  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
~~MR. DONALD~~  
MR WRIGHT  
~~MR. WHITE~~  
LORD BRIDGES  
MR URE  
~~MR. WHITE~~

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 )

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  
~~RESERVED~~

ROOM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

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

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 261300Z

FM PARIS 261200Z JUL 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 766 OF 26 JULY 1982

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

EXOCET: SUNDAY TIMES ALLEGATIONS

1. THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ISSUED LAST NIGHT (25 JULY) THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SUNDAY TIMES STORY:

"THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE RECALLS THAT AS SOON AS THE ARGENTINES INVADED THE FALKLANDS THE GOVERNMENT SUSPENDED ALL AUTHORISATION FOR SALES MISSIONS AND THE NEGOTIATION, SALE AND EXPORT OF WAR MATERIAL OR RELATED MATERIAL TO ARGENTINA. THIS TOTAL EMBARGO WAS FULLY RESPECTED AND NO DELIVERY OF WAR MATERIAL HAS BEEN MADE TO THIS COUNTRY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES.

IN ADDITION CHARLES HERNU, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH CLAUDE CHEYSSON, THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT NO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF A MILITARY NATURE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ARGENTINA AND IN PARTICULAR THAT NO WORK SHOULD

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ARGENTINA, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT NO WORK SHOULD BE DONE ON MATERIAL USED IN UNITS OPERATING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE FALKLANDS.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE FEELS THAT IT HAS ENTIRELY FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS DERIVING FROM ITS COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH OUR BRITISH FRIENDS.

AN ENQUIRY IS UNDER WAY TO SEE WHETHER THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS WERE RESPECTED."

2. THE SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE FRENCH PRESS WITH MOST PAPERS REPORTING FACTUALLY AND IN A NEUTRAL TONE THE ALLEGATIONS AND THE FRENCH MOD'S STATEMENT. THE EDITORIAL IN THIS MORNING'S MATIN (PRO-GOVERNMENT) SAYS THAT WHETHER THE ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE OR NOT THE EPISODE ILLUSTRATES THE PROBLEMS THAT CAN ARISE WHEN A COUNTRY BECOMES ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING ARMS SUPPLIERS.

FRETWELL

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 2691229Z JC/RJ