



bc Sir P. Cradock

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 May 1984

Submarine Operations in the  
South Atlantic

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your Secretary of State's minute of 4 May setting out the plan for HMS VALIANT to be on patrol in the South Atlantic by 28 May.

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence

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For information

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PRIME MINISTERSUBMARINE OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

In my minute of 26th April I informed you that HMS VALIANT's departure for the South Atlantic was delayed by her involvement in surveillance operations in the North West Approaches. This activity is now complete and VALIANT's retention on the task has enabled us to obtain valuable intelligence, from a rarely presented opportunity to observe Soviet submarine activity near the Clyde exits.

2. Following urgent defect rectification and storing at Faslane, VALIANT is expected to be on patrol in the South Atlantic by 28th May, some 12 days after HMS COURAGEOUS comes off task. The gap in cover will therefore in the event be five days longer than the minimum possible when I wrote last week.

3. I am copying this minute as before.

Ministry of Defence

4th May 1984

Argentina: Defence of Falklands Pt 14.

