



Prime Minister ³

Ref. A085/1551

MR POWELL

CDP
7/6.

With my minute of 28 May I sent you a copy of a paper prepared for Mr Tam Dalyell MP, setting out the evidence for thinking that a Polaris submarine was deployed to the South Atlantic during the Falklands conflict.

2. The Prime Minister may like to see the attached copy of a letter from Sir Clive Whitmore commenting on the paper.

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence

7 June 1985

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SIR CLIVE WHITMORE KCB CVO

PUS/S85/524
9/31/F

CABINET OFFICE	
A	4475
4 JUN 1985	
FILING INSTRUCTIONS	
FILE No.

3 June 1985

Dear Robert,

I have seen the letter from 'C' to you of 17 May 1985 concerning the paper written by Dr Rogers of Bradford University about the alleged deployment of a Polaris submarine in the South Atlantic during the Falklands conflict.

As you will be aware, this allegation is not new; it appears, for example, in the New Statesman article last August about the Ministry of Defence documents leaked by Mr Ponting. More recently - from about the beginning of April this year - Mr Dalyell has returned to the charge at party meetings and in Parliament in an attempt to prove that the SSN fleet was overstretched through the need to escort an SSBN in the South Atlantic. Mr Dalyell is clearly basing his latest claims at least in part on Dr Rogers' conclusions.

The vast majority of the "factual" information contained in the "Chronology" section of the paper can be directly traced to entries in the Sethia diary, substantial extracts from which have already appeared in the press. But it is not clear whether Dr Rogers has had access to the full Sethia manuscript, since there are some significant omissions in his paper, as well as minor discrepancies. Some of this information we would regard as classified, but the Rogers paper will do no more damage than has already been done by the leak of the diary. Most of the information not obviously derived from the diary is either already well known or could have reasonably been deduced from public sources.

As far as the main thrust of the Dalyell/Rogers argument is concerned, we have little option but to continue our standard line of refusing to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at particular locations or times, amplified by the statements already made by Ministers that there was no change in the standard deployment

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pattern of Polaris submarines during the conflict, and that the Government gave a categorical assurance at the time of the conflict that nuclear weapons would not be used.

I am sending copies of this letter to Antony Acland and 'C'.

Yours mvr,

Alvri .

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1

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