

Private Secretary

OPERATION JOURNEYMANS 1977

1. You asked me for a talking point for use defensively at this evening's press conference on measures taken in 1977 by the previous Government to forestall indications that the Argentines might be considering intervention in the Falkland Islands (Operation Journeyman).
2. I submit a defensive talking point and a background note. The latter is based on what information is available to the MOD.

D H Gillmore

2 April 1982

cc:

PS/LPS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/PUS
Sir A Acland
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure
SAmD
Defence Dept
News Dept

Sally has
ticket for RAB
reminiscent

2195099

Syn +
trans of LPS letter.

trans
copy + modification
of handling.

0993 842551
Catterton

x 548.

W/Cat ...

11 45 in office.

1969

Extra Member + 4 brown in NY breakfast.
anything public on this. [Research]

Trisberg - Corvulus Dept - what they
doing ...

MS 3981392

TALKING POINTS

1. HMG, in light of indications of possible Argentine intervention in Falklands in autumn 1977, took precautionary measures to deploy naval forces in South Atlantic. These measures were precautionary and covert and did not involve the deployment of surface ships in the immediate vicinity of the Falklands. There was no reason then (or since) to believe that Argentina was aware of this deployment.

2. In the event no action was taken by Argentina. No evidence that Argentina was dissuaded from action because of deployment of HM ships.

1000 miles away

BACKGROUND NOTE - NOT FOR USE

1. In November 1977, in the light of reports that Argentina was considering an invasion of the Falkland Islands, HMG despatched two frigates and one SSN (HMS Dreadnought) to the South Atlantic. HMS Endurance was at the time on station in the Falklands.
2. The two frigates were kept on station well away from the Falkland Islands themselves, 1000 miles to the North East. The SSN carried out patrols off Port Stanley but did not surface.
3. In the event, Argentina took no action against the Falkland Islands. There is no evidence to show that they were aware of the deployment of HM ships and therefore nothing to suggest that the deployment of this force was instrumental in deterring the Argentines from military action against the Falkland Islands.
4. The ships were ordered back, ~~returning~~ to the UK in January 1978.