PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT - FRIDAY 7 MAY

Last Friday I was able to announce that air-to-air refuelling probes had been fitted to a number of RAF Nimrods for trial purposes. This was done to broaden the operational options open to us. I can now tell you that thanks to the efforts of those engaged in this work - civilian and military - these trials have been successfully concluded and that Nimrods using this new capability will shortly be deployed to the South Atlantic.

I also told you previously about the arming of the RAF Harrier with the air-to-air missile Sidewinder for air defence purposes in support of the Task Force. I can now tell you that a significant number of these aircraft together with additional Sea Harriers have deployed with air-to-air refuelling to the South Atlantic.