

Thursday 13 May 82 1215

Q. Where were the ships in last night's incident?

A. I do not have that information.

Q. The damaged ship. There must be some more information you can give us about it. At the moment we are left very much in the air about this. Can you help us any further?

A. I am afraid not.

Q. Can you say anything more about casualties?

A. There are no casualties of any kind.

Q. Are we sure that they were Sky Hawks?

A. I am sure they were Sky Hawks. We are not sure where they came from.

Q. What kind of missiles are used in an attack?

A. If I say it for one it becomes illogical not to say it throughout all the reports.

Q. Are you able to go as far as to say whether the small amount of damage was caused operationally or not operationally.

A. It is not for me to go beyond what I have said.

Q. Why has Mr Knott gone to Northwood today?

A. He has gone on a routine briefing and visit <sup>AN MEETING</sup> made some time ago.

Q. How long for?

A. As long as a routine briefing takes.

Q. Do you not think it is your responsibility to reassure something like 6-7000 families?

A. I do, and I have made it clear that there are no casualties in the Task Force.

Q. Can you update us on the movements of the Argentine fleet?

A. No I cannot.

Q. You have said that there have been no further engagements. Have there been any contact with submarines of the kind that you have been able to report before and can you give us any information of a general kind?

A. In the course of its patrols there will be from time to time signs of a possible contact which may or may not materialise, which may or may not be followed up, which may or may not be identified. You cannot be sure of a situation you can

only keep watch and see if it develops into a contact.

Q. The minor damage to the ship. Was the damage accidental?

A. No. It is perfectly possible that there is minor damage which is not judged to be significant in statement terms.

Q. It must have happened as a result of an engagement (the damaged ship)?

A. In my statement I do not always mention particular damage or repairs which go on in the fleet all the time.

Q. Where is this war being run from? What is the set-up for running this operation?

A. The conflict is being run within political guidelines. And these guidelines are given by the Government in consultation with the Chief of Staffs.

Q. Is there some kind of Chief of Staffs/John Knott operation centre here at MOD?

A. There is certainly the cabinet. There is certainly the Chiefs of Staff and constant discussion going on. There is also close contact between here and Northwood. Beyond that there is close contact and communications from Northwood to the Task Force.

Q. The subsequent sorties that took place. Can we assume that they were made by Sky Hawks? Were they attacked at all. The Sea King, can you tell us where the Sea King had come from? Was Prince Andrew one of the 4.

A. They were engaged. I can tell you nothing more about the Sea King incident. We have no indication of Argentine action. The Sea King came from Hermes.

Q. What does engaged mean?

A. It means without detailing how they were shot at.

Q. How many sorties were involved totally?

A. Can I seek advice on that?

Q. There were no more aircraft shot down?

A. No.