

MR. POWELL

Sir Percy Cradock telephoned with details of an incident which occurred this morning at 0800 hours GMT. Details as follows. At 0800 hours GMT, there was an incident off the southern tip of Crimea involving an American cruiser and an American destroyer. Both ships were rammed by a Soviet frigate, that is one frigate to each ship. Investigations are still continuing as to the circumstances surrounding the incident. It is possible that the Americans were carrying out a right of navigation exercise, (these are carried out periodically to establish the American right to cruise close to Soviet waters), and may have accidentally strayed into Soviet waters. Sir Percy Cradock will keep us informed of any further details.

Sally

PP P. A. BEARPARK

12 February 1988

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COP.

10 DOWNING STREET

NIGEL

Sir Percy Cradock telephoned with details of an incident which occurred this morning at 0800 GMT involving American and Soviet ships.

At 0800 there was an incident off the southern tip of Crimea involving an American Cruiser and an American Destroyer. Both ships have been rammed by a Soviet frigate (1 frigate to each ship).

Investigations are still continuing as to the circumstances surrounding the

incident. It is possible that the Americans were carrying out a Rights of Navigation exercise (these are carried out periodically to establish the Americans' rights to cruise close to Soviet waters) and have accidentally strayed into Soviet Waters.

Sir P. Cradock will keep us informed of any new details.

Telephed by P

Amanda
12.2.88