

Pus Circ 14 6.82

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32/82/AT/1

CNS

PUS ←

SECRETARY OF STATEDISEMBARRASSMENT OF CORPORATE SHIPS

1. You asked me to let you know CINCFLFET's plan for the disembarrassment of CORPORATE ships.
2. It is planned to complete the task in two stages, with RFA FORT AUSTIN taking the first shipment. Transfers will be conducted on the edge of the TEZ and at a time that will not prejudice CORPORATE operations.
3. CINCFLFET has confirmed that INVINCIBLE and RFA RESOURCE have already transferred their total outfits to RFA FORT AUSTIN, and this has completed the first shipment. FORT AUSTIN has been routed well to the east to minimise the risk from Argentine long range aircraft. She passes Ascension Island on 18 June and arrives in UK on 28 June. On arrival the nuclear weapons in their containers will be offloaded into ammunition lighters at a buoy in Plymouth Sound. This is unlikely to attract attention but a defensive press-line is being prepared. The weapons will then be taken to the RNAD Ernesettle and then, over a period of some weeks, taken by road to RAF HONINGTON in accordance with our normal discreet procedures.
4. The second shipment will comprise the total outfit from HERMES. It is anticipated that this will be embarked on the RFA FORT GRANGE which has recently arrived within the TEZ; this ship is fully stored at present, and in the circumstances it may take at least a fortnight before the transfer of the full HERMES outfit can be completed. I will let you know when total disembarrassment has been achieved.

(I hope this will be  
made a high  
priority task  
nowadays. *un*

10th June 1982

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

TOP SECRET ATOMIC U.K. EYES A

TOP SECRET ATOMIC - UK EYES A

PERSONAL

*ETB*



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PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

PUS/82/694  
9/31/F

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Sir Antony Acland KCVO CMG  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

14 June 1982

*Sir Antony*

I thought you would like to know that the nuclear weapons formerly on board Invincible and RFA Resource (which had taken those on RFA Regent) have been transferred to RFA Fort Austin which is now on its way back to the UK by an easterly route.

On present plans, the weapons on Hermes will be transferred to another RFA for transport back to the UK, but we do not expect this will happen for perhaps a couple of weeks.

*Frank Cooper*

FRANK COOPER

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PERSONAL

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ATOMIC

1402  
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LOOSE MINUTE

UK EYES A

D/DS17/5/6

PS/PUS

Copy to:  
AUS(D Staff)  
Head of DS11

FALKLAND ISLANDS: NUCLEAR WEAPONS

You mentioned to me that PUS would like to tell Sir A Acland of the latest position on nuclear weapons in the Falklands Task Group ships. I attach a draft letter.

2. CDS is minuting S of S and PUS formally to put them in the picture.

*D. Brennan*

9 June 1982

D BRENNAN  
DS17  
MB9340 7917MB

TOP SECRET ATOMIC

TOP SECRET ATOMIC UK EYES A

UK EYES A



ETS

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DRAFT LETTER FROM PUS TO SIR A ACLAND

I thought you would like to know that the nuclear weapons formerly on board Invincible and RFA Resource (which had taken those on RFA Regent) have been transferred to RFA Fort Austin which is now on its way back to the UK. *by an easterly route.*

On present plans, the weapons on Hermes will be transferred to another RFA for transport back to the UK, but we do not expect this will happen for perhaps a couple of weeks.