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Secretary of State



28/6/82

Copy to:

CNS
PUS

seen by Mr Sewtwell
SP/RS

DISEMBARRASSMENT OF CORPORATE SHIPS

You will wish to know that the nuclear weapons on board HERMES, which are the only ones left in the Task Group, are all due to be transferred by tomorrow night to RFA RESOURCE. She will shortly depart the Falklands for the UK, and is expected to arrive here on or about 18 July.

Better late than....!

25 June 1982

CDS

letter to Splend!

TOP SECRET UK EYES A
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PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

PUS/82/800

9/31/F

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

1 July 1982

Sir Antony

I wrote to you on 14 June to say that the nuclear weapons aboard HMS INVINCIBLE were being returned to the United Kingdom. We have now arranged for those aboard HMS HERMES to be transferred to RFA Resource, which is now on passage to the United Kingdom, arriving in about 3 weeks' time. There are thus no longer any nuclear weapons or training rounds left with the Task Force.

2. I might add that we do not intend to embark nuclear weapons in HMS ILLUSTRIOUS when she deploys to the South Atlantic next month.

3. Separately, we shall be following up the remit from OD(SA) to look into the peacetime deployment of nuclear weapons aboard HM ships and aircraft. I think it would be helpful to involve one of your people in this exercise. Perhaps your office could let me know whom you would suggest?

From Sir

FC0 Usmanhan - John Weston

Frank Cooper

*Spoke to Miss Cassidy, D577
+ passed name on*

FRANK COOPER

NFA

*PK
ST*

9/31/r



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One Page Only

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No. 0.39/2

PJS CIRCULATION (2.7.82)

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DISEMBARRASSMENT OF CORPORATE SHIPS

Reference:

A. ACNS(O) 0.39/2 of 21 June 1982

1. HMS HERMES has transferred the balance of her outfit of special weapons to RFA RESOURCE. RFA RESOURCE is on passage to UK and on arrival at Plymouth in approximately 3 weeks time will offload the weapons to RNAD Ernesettle. There are now no nuclear weapons in either CVS.

2. It is not intended to embark special weapons in HMS ILLUSTRIOUS when she deploys to the South Atlantic next month.

f/

Alshelstone.
ACNS(O)
28 June 1982