

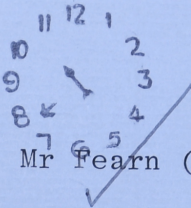
20 APR 1982

SECRET

4

Mr Gillmore

6



Mr Fearn (not for distribution in Emergency Unit)

Weymouth. Tel despatched with deletion of wording in para 3 of the draft from sentence beginning "on present plans"

*N/T
T.S
7.6.84.*

VICTOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER SOUTH GEORGIA

1. Following my minute earlier today to Mr Giffard on the planned Victor reconnaissance flights over South Georgia, I have heard again from the MOD about the Task Force Commander's plans. He has asked for the reconnaissance flights to be planned on a contingency basis on 20 April, and thereafter on even dates up to 28 April.

[Signature]

2. I pressed MOD to be more exact about timing. They thought however that it was unlikely that MOD would get advance warning of a decision to fly the reconnaissance; indeed they might not be aware that the reconnaissance was 'on' until it had taken place.

3. We discussed over the weekend the need to forewarn HM Ambassador at Brazil, given the possibility (MOD think it extremely remote) that the Victor aircraft on its return leg from South Georgia might have to divert to Brazil if the third refuelling was not successful. We agreed that Mr Harding should be informed but that it would be best to do this only shortly before the operation took place.

4. In the new circumstances, I think we should consider sending him a telegram at start of play tomorrow morning, explaining that we shall probably not be able to let him know exactly when the flight will take place.

*N/T
T.Simons
7.6.84.*

5. I attach a draft. If you agree, this could be sent first thing tomorrow morning.

(now see 8)

[Signature]

D H Gillmore

19 April 1982

cc:

- PS/PUS
- Mr Giffard
- Mr Wright
- Mr Ure
- Mr Mallaby
- Mr Weston

ALQ 06213		
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*pa.
[Signature]*

SECRET



Defence Dept

(5)

a copy to pa

22 APR 1982

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 01-218 -7543

(Switchboard) 01-218 9000

Reference: AUS(AS)/S9/5494

19 April 82

D H Gillmore, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London, SW1

*Minute to the Force
re drop tel to Brasilia*

pa.

JH 19/4

Dear David,

23 APR 1982

OPERATION PARAQUET - RECONNAISSANCE BY VICTOR AIRCRAFT

*N/H
T. Simons
7.6.84.*

1. Thank you for your letter of 18 April about the plan for reconnaissance by Victor aircraft operating out of Ascension Island.
2. We spoke about this. As I explained, these aircraft are now under the orders of the Force Commander; he has asked for the first operation to take place tomorrow, subsequent sorties may take place at two-day intervals thereafter. Each time there will be a small risk that the aircraft may have to divert to Brazil, in which case the crew would state that their aircraft had become unserviceable while on a training flight from Ascension. In the nature of things, warning that such a diversion is about to happen, will be very short, if indeed it is possible to give the Ambassador in Brasilia any warning at all.
3. In these circumstances, you thought it would probably be best to send the Ambassador a general warning telegram at the outset so that he and his Air Attaché know the background and are ready to come to the rescue if need be.

Your ever,

John

JOHN PETERS

ALQ 062/3		
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