



*P.K.*

[Mr Wright]

*approved by PUS  
for dispatch  
with amendment  
of final approval  
clean with  
Legal Advisor*

c.c. PS/PUS  
Mr Gillmore  
Mr Darwin (Legal  
Advisers)  
Mr Wade-Gery  
Mr Giffard  
Mr Ure  
Mr Fearn  
Mr Westbrook  
Mr Jackling (MOD)  
DSC Duty Officer

*Brw 23/4*

WARNING ABOUT PROTECTION OF THE FLEET

As the PUS told us, there was general agreement this morning at the mandarins' meeting that we should move ahead with the warning to the Argentines about surveillance of the Fleet by Argentine aircraft and that Ministers do not need to be further consulted. (I have confirmed this with Mr Wade-Gery).

2. I have also discussed with Mr Darwin. We believe the best way to do this would be to combine the text of the draft announcement already approved by ODSA and the Attorney General (though not for public release) on general protection of the Fleet with an additional sentence specifically on the air surveillance point. I would propose that this be conveyed forthwith to the Argentines via the Swiss, since the terms of the warning would stand, regardless of the decision Ministers still have to take on whether in the final analysis such surveillance aircraft may be shot down.

3. It is for subsequent Ministerial consideration whether the terms of this warning should be made public and/or conveyed via the diplomatic channel to other recipients, Governments or international organisations. We also need to prepare a press line, in case the Argentines try to make propaganda out of an incident in which warning shots are fired across the bows of an Argentine surveillance aircraft. But in order to protect the Fleet and our own international position, the important thing is to deliver the warning soon to the Argentines.

4. I submit a draft telegram.

*(now see (33))*

*P. J. Weston*

P J Weston  
Defence Department

23 April, 1982

ALQ 5016
Revised
- 5 AUG 1982

(33)

SEE (37)

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*ER*

CONFIDENTIAL

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ALQ 050/6		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

GRS 250  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 FM FCO 23 445Z APR 82  
 TO FLASH BERNE  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 64 OF 23 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE TO WASHINGTON (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)  
 UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN,  
 DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO, SANTIAGO, OTHER  
 NATO POSTS, MODUK, PARIS, ROME AND UKREP BRUSSELS.

1. PLEASE ASK THE SWISS TO CONVEY URGENTLY TO THE ARGENTINE  
 GOVERNMENT THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION FROM HMG:-  
 BEGINS

IN ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE  
 AROUND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, HMG MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS MEASURE  
 WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF THE UK TO TAKE WHATEVER  
 ADDITIONAL MEASURES MAY BE NEEDED IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS RIGHT  
 OF SELF-DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.  
 IN THIS CONNECTION, HMG NOW WISHES TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ANY  
 APPROACH ON THE PART OF ARGENTINE WARSHIPS, INCLUDING SUBMARINES,  
 NAVAL AUXILIARIES, OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO A  
 THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE  
 SOUTH ATLANTIC WILL ENCOUNTER THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.  
 ALL ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT INCLUDING CIVIL AIRCRAFT ENGAGING IN  
 SURVEILLANCE OF THESE BRITISH FORCES WILL BE REGARDED AS  
 HOSTILE AND ARE LIABLE TO BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.  
 ENDS

2. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT HMG REGARD THE TERMS OF THIS  
 COMMUNICATION AS HAVING IMMEDIATE EFFECT. PLEASE REPORT  
 WHEN THE SWISS HAVE DELIVERED THE COMMUNICATION TO THE  
 ARGENTINES. WE SHALL THEREAFTER CONSIDER WHETHER TO ANNOUNCE  
 IT PUBLICLY AND TO DELIVER IT MORE WIDELY VIA THE DIPLOMATIC  
 CHANNEL.

PYM