

SECRET

ALQ050		6	26 APR 1982
RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY			
DESK OF THE SECRETARY		11 12 13 14	
INDEX	PA	10	11
		9	8
		7	6

44

Mr Weston
Defence Department

FALKLAND ISLANDS: SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

1. During the Prime Minister's meeting at Chequers yesterday afternoon, DSCS(I) reported that there had been a further surveillance overflight by an Argentine 707 on the morning of 24 April (i.e. about 12 hours after the warning conveyed via the Swiss on the previous evening).
2. In the light of this, it was thought that a private message should be sent to Berne, drawing the attention of the Swiss to this further overflight, and repeating again, in identical terms, the warning which had been conveyed to them on 23 April. The meeting took the view that a further warning on these lines was required in the interests of the security of our own forces.
3. A further decision was taken, in the context of the same incident, that a further rule of engagement should now be promulgated on the following lines:

''On the high seas, any positively identified Argentine military aircraft, or positively identified Argentine civil aircraft apparently engaged in surveillance, coming within 40 miles of British forces and not responding to harrassment, may be shot down.''
4. The second of these decisions will be recorded in summary of the meeting which Mr Wade-Geary will be circulating today. I should be grateful if you would draft a telegram on the lines of the first decision, checking first with Mr Wade-Geary that this accords with his understanding of the decision taken yesterday.

P R H Wright

26 April 1982
cc: Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Sir I Sinclair
Mr Gillmore

SECRET

Falklands:
Operations Centre
OPK

43
See left

Mr Wright

Yes. [Signature]
26/4

c.c. Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Sir Ian Sinclair
Mr Gillmore

FALKLANDS : SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

I have checked with Mr Wade-Gery the point raised in your minute of 26 April. Mr Wade-Gery has said that no decision as such was taken by Ministers that a further private message of warning be conveyed via Berne. The Prime Minister, summing up, left it to the discretion of Mr Pym whether such a further message should be sent.

2. In the light of discussion at the PUS' meeting this morning, I therefore assume that no further action is required.

[Signature]

P J Weston
Defence Department

26 April, 1982

ALQ 050/6		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
INDEX	REVISION	ACTION TAKEN