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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

1. Admiral Mosneron-Dupin (French Defence Attache in London) called this afternoon. He had had enquiries from the RAF on some Intelligence matters and at unit level from the RN asking for combat training: Sea Harrier against Super Etendard. He has been directed that the British Defence Attache in Paris is to be the sole point of contact between the French and ourselves, and he stressed to me that it was important to keep the French involvement in connection with the Falklands affair "secret". Their involvement is clearly a sensitive issue with the French Government. He added that it was not convenient for Super Etendard/Sea Harrier combat training at present.

2. The Admiral has considerable experience in flying high performance French naval aircraft and he made a number of points to me which had emerged from the French pilots taking part in the Anglo/French combat training:

- a. At 400kts and between 5,000 and 15,000 feet they found that the Super Etendard could out accelerate the Harrier G.55. The Harriers had proved to be vulnerable in steep climbing manoeuvres to the "Magic" dog fight missile. These manoeuvres were normally followed by a turn back into the attacking aircraft.
- b. He said that the Argentine Super Etendard were also equipped with the Magic missile, but their missile did not have as wide a field of acquisition as that supplied to the French Armed Forces.
- c. The Mirage was able to out-turn the Harrier at the beginning of a combat but it had problems following the Harrier in subsequent diving manoeuvres.

Initials:

1 of 2

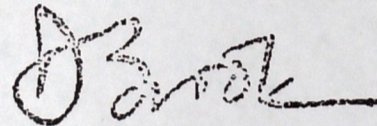
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d. He said that the Argentine pilots were considered by the French to be good.

28 Apr 82



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