

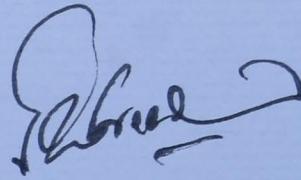
*Refer to Dept - pl. note and for.**Freeland  
Thankyou  
28  
Justice party  
30/4*

PS

## FALKLAND ISLANDS: ATTACKS ON THE ARGENTINE CARRIER

1. I understand that at OD(SA) this morning the Prime Minister asked whether the Argentine announcement of a 200 mile war zone measured from the coast around the Argentine mainland, the Falkland Islands and its dependencies affects the legality of an attack on the carrier if it is found anywhere at sea.

2. To meet this enquiry, after consulting Mr Weston (Defence Department), I suggest that the attached additional paragraphs should be added to the Secretary of State's Points to Make on ODSA (82) 36.



J R Freeland  
Second Legal Adviser

30 April 1982

cc PS/PUS  
Mr Wright  
Mr Gillmore  
Mr Weston, Defence Dept  
Mr Hulse, Emergency Unit  
Mr Darwin

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| ALQ 062/3    | 375 |
| - 5 MAY 1982 |     |
| Taken        |     |

## MEASURES TO NEUTRALISE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT CARRIER

## ADDITIONAL POINTS TO MAKE

If the Argentine declaration of a war zone is raised

4. A carrier remaining sufficiently far North and West of the TEZ and the supply route would not pose an immediate threat to the British forces, and since we are relying on our right of self defence, it should not be attacked in a place where it does not constitute such a threat. The Argentine declaration of today does not in principle affect this position. Option E remains, from a legal point of view, the most defensible course. If, however, the conclusion should go in favour of an attack on the aircraft carrier anywhere as soon as any British unit is attacked (Option B)
5. Whatever Option is taken, we should give an appropriate warning to the Argentines.