



Secretary of State

673

*Handwritten initials*

SECRET

Private Secretary ✓

FALKLAND ISLANDS: MILITARY SITUATION AT 1900 LONDON TIME, 24 MAY

1. You asked me for an account of the military situation at 1900 London time. Reports from the task force are still coming in: what follows is therefore incomplete.
2. The Argentine airforce have attacked the task force again today. There have been several waves of Argentine aircraft attacking British units in the Falklands sound and in the San Carlos Water. According to the MOD seven aircraft were shot down. There is no breakdown of these aircraft between Skyhawks and Mirage.
3. Two RN LSL (landing craft), the Sir Galahad and the Sir Lancelot, were hit by bombs. Neither exploded. At the time of writing we know only that there have been some casualties but the numbers are not known.
4. Given the four hour time difference, it is likely that there will be further military action to report later this evening. I shall be grateful if you will let the Emergency Unit know if the Secretary of State wishes to have a further up-date on the military situation later this evening.

*Handwritten signature*

24 May 1982

D H Gillmore

20 MAY 1982	
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- cc: PS/PUS  
 Mr Wright  
 Mr Giffard  
 Mr Fenn, News Dept  
 Mr Weston, Defence Dept  
 Mr Fern, Emergency Unit  
 Mr Hulse, Emergency Unit

*Handwritten initials and date*

SECRET