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 Head of DS 11
 DCPR
The SANTA FE

5/21
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1. As you know, there was some confusion over the direction in which the Argentinian submarine SANTA FE was heading when she was attacked early in the morning of 25 April. Mrs McLoughlin spoke to you about this earlier in the week but I understand that you have asked for a short note.
2. The sequence of events was as follows. The submarine arrived in Grytviken harbour late on 24 April, when she disembarked her party of Argentinian Marines. When she was detected and attacked the following morning, she was some 5 miles off shore and heading for Argentina. But during the attack she turned and managed to return to harbour where she berthed alongside King Edward pier.
3. Unfortunately, the signals containing a detailed report were not available to the briefing officer who was summoned to the MOD Press Conference, at a few hours notice, on 26 April. His sitrep was based on a number of earlier radio telephone calls. And as you probably know, the Prime Minister's briefing on the matter was based on a phone call to CINCFLEET's office.
4. The submarine's change of course during the attack was confused, not altogether surprisingly, with her arrival in harbour the previous day. As you know, the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 26 April did not refer to the direction in which the submarine was heading at the moment of attack.
5. A defensive press brief is being prepared in case the matter should once again attract media interest.

30 April 1982

N H Nicholls
 N H NICHOLLS
 Head of DS 5