

20/01/9

TOP SECRET UK EYES B

Derek - 44

DSB's background note for the PM - you said you would decide whether to pass anything on.

Albert

Jane handed me this. Pse destroy

if we have the original. Dp

BACKGROUND NOTE

1. As the Prime Minister will be aware, CINCFLEET decided that it was necessary to mount a further Vulcan bombing raid on Port Stanley airfield this morning.
2. The raid took place at about 0830 and the crew signalled that they had successfully discharged their bombs. The Vulcan aircraft is due to rendezvous with a Victor tanker at about 1300 BST and is due to return to Ascension at about 1600 BST.
3. The decision to mount a further Vulcan attack was taken because reconnaissance had revealed that while the runway at Port Stanley was cratered, it was still possible for light aircraft, such as the Pucara, to use it.
4. It is a fact that however much an airfield is bombed it will generally be possible to make repairs so that light aircraft can operate from it. For this reason the MOD spokesman when he made the announcement of this latest raid, mentioned that it was not impossible that further air attacks would be necessary from time to time.
5. As the Vulcan aircraft is not due into Ascension until 1600 and we will only know shortly before Prime Minister's question time that a successful refuelling rendezvous has taken place, we believe that it would be inadvisable for the Prime Minister to go any further in the House than the statement made by the MOD spokesman at noon today.

will be overtaken by North piece