

IAN
6 MAY

(c) Antrim/Tidespring (TU 317.8.5). Now 1850 miles SW of Ascension and will RV with Antelope tomorrow. Antrim then takes over TU 317.0.4, leaving Antelope to escort Tidespring back to Ascension with POWs/BAS.

(d) Plymouth. Airdrop due tomorrow, then joins TU 317.0.4.

(e) Endurance. S. Georgia Guardship.

(f) Ambuscade. Off Dakar en route to Ascension and has reported a display of "inordinate interest" by an East German merchant ship.

(g) QE2. Planned schedule:

10 May - load vehicles and freight.

11 May - load passengers.

12 May - sail.

b. Air.

(1) Offensive Operations. Eight Harrier GR3 aircraft have now deployed to Ascension. The ninth (and last) aircraft to be deployed failed to receive full fuel during tanking and diverted to BANJUL. The aircraft is now serviceable and will continue to Ascension today, supported by a Victor tanker operating out of BANJUL.

(2) Maritime. Two Operational Nimrod sorties were flown out of Ascension yesterday. One was in support of the Antelope Group, during which the Soviet AGI PRIMORYE was located. The other was a surface surveillance mission within 400 nms of Ascension. Two similar sorties are planned for today. A Mk 1 Nimrod sortie was flown out of Freetown on SAR duties for the Harrier GR3 deployment to Ascension. Similar cover will be given for the final Harrier's flight today.

Top page
to CDs!
OD(SA) files.

SECRET

(3) Aviation Fuel Stocks. Aviation fuel stocks at Ascension and key staging posts remain adequate to support all planned air operations. The next scheduled resupply tanker arrives at Ascension on 7 May, with a further tanker due by 17 May.

AGENDA ITEM 3 (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

4. No points are anticipated.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED)

5. There are no items for which you have responsibility under this heading.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (MILITARY OPTIONS)

6. Paper by ACDS(Pol) is at (3).

AGENDA ITEM 6 (UNFORESEEN MATTERS)

7. No points are known about.