

120/82

PRESS BRIEFING AT
NORTHWOOD AT 1530 ON 7 MAY 82



1. The following papers are enclosed:

Press Googlies

FLAG A

Announcement of the MEZ

FLAG B

Announcement of the TEZ

FLAG C

Debrief of Lt Mills (South Georgia)

FLAG D

Debrief of Majors Norman and Noott (FI)

FLAG E

2. PR confirm that no public announcements other than FLAGS B and C have been made.

3. DCPR briefed you what to expect and the extent to which the Press will be physically controlled. You intended to conduct the interview outside the tunnel.

Drafted by: SCDS
Dated: 7 May 82

(Maj I M Walden)

Name of wounded seaman.

PRESS GOOGLIES

1. Why do our gold-plated ships burst into flame when hit by a single French missile? What's wrong with our bloody ships today?
2. Why aren't all our ships equipped with the life-saving Sea Wolf Anti-Missile system?
3. Do you now consider that the Royal Navy has been shamefully neglected in relation to the other two Services?
4. Where do you fit in to the command structure between the Prime Minister and the Fleet Commander?
5. Do you regret the policy of phasing out the big carriers which would have prevented the tragic loss of HMS SHEFFIELD?
6. Do you think that less than 10p a day pay increase for young sailors and marines is fair in view of the sacrifices which they are being called upon to make?
7. Are you satisfied with the military judgement of Admiral Woodward in the light of his erratic press briefings and the mistaken sinking of the General Bellgrano?

8. How is it possible for Admiral Fieldhouse to be a Major NATO Commander and control a vast operation out of the NATO area at the same time?

9. Who wields the power in Cabinet, you or Mr Nott?

10. Can you see any future for the defence policy announced in Command 8288?

11. Why does our Navy have to go to war in a rag-bag of chartered and requisitioned merchant ships?

12. How long do you think this Task Force can be kept at sea?

13. Can we take the Falklands without casualties?

14. How good are the Argentinian armed forces?

15. How much help are we getting from American intelligence?