

CONFIDENTIAL



(23)

ALQ050/16		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		DISTRICT
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Wright ✓

[Handwritten signature]
174

PRESS LINE ON THE ZONE

1. I telephoned Mr Pakenham in Washington at midday to give him the following press line, after I had discussed it with you and Mr Fenn.

(a) Have any incidents occurred in the Zone since 0400 GMT?

There have been no reports of any incidents so far.

(b) Location of Argentine ships?

In the light of our statement that naval ships and auxiliaries in the Zone are liable to be attacked by British forces, we would certainly expect Argentina to withdraw any ships which had been there before the Zone came into operation. Indeed, this seems to be the case, since we have noted a report put out last night by the Argentine News Agency to the effect that a decision had been taken to withdraw the ships which had been patrolling the Falklands zone since 2 April. This statement was subsequently changed to suggest that ships were concentrating in the area.

2. I told Mr Pakenham that the Ambassador should stick closely to the terms of the Secretary of State's answer on "The World This Weekend". But he could also refer to the MOD's statement at their midday press conference that no reports of ships in the Zone had been received.

[Handwritten signature]

C Hulse
Emergency Unit

12 April 1982

cc Mr Fenn
Mr Jay
Mr Fearn
Mr Gillmore

CONFIDENTIAL

ALGOSOM		
RECEIVED BY REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		AGENCY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Mr Hulse ✓

See Minnt 8 (27)
 Et to Washington
 m stop press line.
 pe m 12/4.

BRIEFING FOR WASHINGTON

1. The Duty Officer on the British defence staff in Washington called at about 0430 this morning to inform us that the Ambassador would be giving a television interview to day, 12 April, and wished to know beforehand whether there had been any military clashes between British and Argentine naval forces in the Falklands area since the expiry of our deadline for imposition of the maritime exclusion zone. They would also like to have information on the number of Argentine ships in the area and guidance as to whether this information could be used with the press. I promised that we would be ready with this information when the Embassy called us again at 0600 Washington time, midday London time.

H J S Pearce

H J S Pearce
 Emergency Unit

12 April 1982

RESTRICTED



ALQ 050/16		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK	DATE	PRIORITY
INDEX	FILE	NO. TAKEN

25

Mr Hulse

LOCATION OF ARGENTINE SHIPS

1. The BBC monitoring services called during the night to inform us about a report put out by 'Noticias Argentinas', the Argentine News Agency, the main points of which were as follows: it had been learnt from naval sources on Sunday night that the Argentine navy's fleet was at anchor in an unspecified port and that its crews were ready to begin operations at any moment. The decision to draw back the ships which were patrolling the Malvinas Islands zone from 2 April had been taken today (Sunday) following a meeting which the commander of the South Atlantic Operations theatre, Rear Admiral Juan Jose Lombardo, had held with senior naval chiefs. Nevertheless, the navy was continuing its patrols in the disputed zones. These were being carried out by naval ~~at~~ units and smaller boats.
2. The BBC subsequently 'phoned back that Noticias Argentinas had put out a correction to the report to the effect that the words 'drawback', in the second sentence of the report as recorded above, should read 'concentrate'!

H Pearce

H J S ~~Hulse~~ Pearce
Emergency Unit

12 April 1982

cc: Defence Situation Centre, MOD
Defence Intelligence Centre, MOD
Mr Gillmore

RESTRICTED