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Se refiere a:

03MAY82 – Nota de Knight-Smith sobre el ataque al Belgrano.

(FCO 7/4522) (desclasificado DIC 2012)

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3 - MAY 1982



NOTE FOR THE RECORD

REPORTED SINKING OF GENERAL BELGRANO AND SECOND ARGENTINE
PATROL/NAVAL AUXILIARY VESSEL

1. UKMIS New York rang the Emergency Unit at approximately 6.30 pm to say that they had been told privately that the UN Secretariat had received a message from a Minister in the Argentine Mission to the UN to the effect that:

(a) The Argentine cruiser General Belgrano had now sunk with 500 people on board (there was no indication as to whether the 500 had all drowned or whether there were survivors).

(b) Two Argentine patrol/naval auxiliary vessels had also sunk (presumably the two that were attacked by Lynx helicopters).

2. UKMIS were concerned that if this report became current it might have an adverse effect on sentiment in the UN where consultations were now taking place.

3. After consulting with the MOD I told UKMIS New York that we had no information to substantiate this report; on the other hand we did not have either vessel under constant surveillance and they could have sunk without us knowing. I undertook to ring UKMIS again if and when we had any further news. There is no report on the News Agency tapes as yet about the sinking of these vessels.

3 May 1982


I Knight-Smith

cc:
Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Mr Wright
Mr Giffard
Mr Gillmore

Mr Mallaby
Emergency Unit Distribution
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[No 10 also reformed]