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Se refiere a:

13MAY82 – Nota de Nott al Ministro de Defensa Francés, Monsieur Hernu. Relación con Francia.

(PREM 19/647) (desclasificado DIC 2012)

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000

DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 5/21

13th May 1982

Dear Minister

I sincerely regret that certain reports in London newspapers have recently criticised France for providing the weapons which were responsible for the sinking of HMS SHEFFIELD. These allegations are a considerable embarrassment to me and my colleagues and we are treating them with the contempt they deserve.

In my letter of 22nd April, I made clear how much we appreciated your agreement to provide us with information on French manufactured equipment in service with the Argentine armed forces. I can now say that this information has been of the greatest possible value. I am also most grateful for your Government's recent help in the field of export controls.

I will, of course, continue to ensure that the extent of your assistance, and the information provided, is treated with the utmost discretion. However, at an early opportunity I intend to make clear publicly that I believe that the recent press criticisms of France to be disgraceful and entirely without foundation.

Your generous help in this whole matter has marked France out as a true ally, with a mutual understanding of the need for all nations to stand firm against military aggression.

Kind est regards
John Nott
John Nott

Monsieur Charles Hernu
Le Ministre de la Defense

SECRET

OP-045FL/47
SPL
141101Z MAY 82
FROM COMCOMA FOO LONDON
TO NOBOK

141101Z

SECRET EXCLUSIVE UP COMMS ONLY
SIC A2P
CEDIP
SECRET EXCLUSIVE UP COMMS ONLY

COMMS ONLY

SECRET
FM PARIS
TO IMMEDIATE NOBOK
DTG 140530Z MAY 82

PERSONAL FOR APS/SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE FROM AMBASSADOR
YOUR SICA2P OF 121730Z MAY 82

1. THE TEXT OF MR NOTT'S LETTER WAS PASSED TO M. HERNU YESTERDAY
MORNING UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM ME TO THE MINISTER. M. HERNU
SENT ME A REPLY YESTERDAY EVENING CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF MR NOTT'S
LETTER. HE ASKED ME TO PASS HIS WARMEST THANKS TO MR NOTT AND STRESSE
D
HOW TOUCHED HE HAD BEEN BY HIS MESSAGE. HE SAID THAT, WHILE RECOGNIS-
ING THAT THE LETTER HAD BEEN ADDRESSED PERSONALLY TO HIM, HE HAD
TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF TRANSMITTING THE TEXT TO M. MITTERRAND

FRETWELL..
BT

APS/S OF S ACTION

SECRET

Covering SECRET AND PERSONAL UK COMMS



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 5/21

14th May 1982

Dear Francis,

Defence Dept for
action
(received here 142100hr)

As we discussed over the 'phone I am sending over to you the letter my Secretary of State has sent to M. Hernu. The text was signalled to Paris in advance and I am also enclosing the signal reply we have since received from HMA which indicates that the message has to some extent achieved its purpose.

While the letter is marked Secret and Personal I do not think that there would be any objection to showing it to the French Ambassador on an "In Confidence" basis. Perhaps you would then forward it to Paris in the normal way.

Yours,
J. Ridley
(J RIDLEY) (MISS)

F N Richards Esq

Covering SECRET AND PERSONAL UK COMMS