



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Monday 19 March 1984

Rt Hon Michael Helestone
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

Dan Nicholas,

In view of Cecil Parkinson's interview on TV-AM last Sunday week, and the Prime Minister's reply to my question on the matter (Wednesday 14 March), I would be most grateful if you would respond to the following questions.

1. At what time on 30 April 1982 did HMS Conqueror first detect the Belgrano on its sonar? What was the estimated position, course and speed of the Belgrano at the time?
2. At what time did HMS Conqueror come into visual contact with the Belgrano on 1 May 1982 and what was the course, speed and position of the Belgrano at the time?
3. At what time on 1 May 1982 did HMS Conqueror observe the RAS involving the Belgrano and an oiler and what was the course, speed and position of the Belgrano at the time?
4. What was the course followed by the Belgrano throughout the period in which it was being tracked by HMS Conqueror?
5. What was its speed when it was attacked?
6. Why were Mk 8 torpedoes used in preference to Mk 24s and can both of these weapons be set for proximity detonation?
7. At what time was the order to sink the Belgrano sent from Northwood on 2 May? Were any signals sent or received by HMS Conqueror between the issuing of that order and its execution?
8. When did HMS Splendid first detect the Argentinian CVA on 1 May, for how long did it maintain contact and what was the course and speed of the CVA during this time?
9. Was the CVA under surveillance by aircraft or satellite at any time on 30 April to 2 May? If so, what information concerning course, speed and signals exchanges was obtained during this period?

Yours sincerely

Tam Dalyell

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