



FILE 514

Ask 2d

(31/10)

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

31 October, 1984

I enclose a copy of a recent letter which the Prime Minister has received from Tam Dalyell, M.P. about the Belgrano.

~~bf~~  
I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Dalyell by 14 November.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Richard Mottram, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence

Pt 38

CF



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rm (mod) PM

30/X/84

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher PC MP  
Prime Minister.

cc: MA  
C3110 R31

Dear Prime Minister,

There is an impression given in all the correspondence you have had with Neil Kimnock, David Owen, and George Foulkes, that even if Ministers had been told around 3 pm, on Sunday May 2nd 1982, when signals arrived, that there was no doubt about the intentions of the Belgrano, because it had reversed course, and had been sailing away from the Task Force, that Ministers would still have confirmed the order to sink the Belgrano. Is this so? Was the course and presumed intention of the Belgrano, ( which you knew from intercepted signals ), even relevant to the decision to the order to sink, sent to HMS Conqueror?

CONQUEROR

Is it not also the case that the reversal of course, and information about the reversal of course was essential, or could have been essential, in reaching a judgement on the matter, and that MoD officials and service chiefs, who had the information, should have told Ministers?

Yours sincerely  
James Doherty

Argentina A 38

Relating



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