

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

TIDEPPOOL

1. The MOD will use the following on the record line at their press briefing at Noon today.

2. I said to you yesterday that the Tidepool was in the process of being delivered to the Chilean Government when its delivery was postponed. I should make very clear that at the time of the decision to postpone delivery, the vessel was flying the Blue Ensign and was under a UK Master. Chilean agreement was not required for the postponement of the delivery since there was an Emergency Provision in the contract of sale to cover such a contingency. The Chilean authorities were of course notified that the handover would be deferred.

3. As I said to you yesterday, the Tidepool is manned by a British crew and there are no Chileans on board.

4. If pressed on the question of whether the Chileans agreed to the deferment, the MOD will reply on the record as follows: There was no need for their agreement under the terms of the Emergency Provision in the contract.

29/4/82