

FOR DEFENSIVE USE

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT ON ENGAGEMENT WITH PATROL CRAFT


I am now able to give some additional information about the engagement (early this morning)(yesterday) in which British helicopters responded to attacks by 2 Argentine patrol craft on another helicopter. We described these vessels as "Argentine patrol type naval auxiliaries". We are now able to confirm that the vessels were armed ocean going tugs used by the Argentine Navy as patrol craft. One of these has provisionally been identified as the Alferez Sobral (listed in Janes Fighting Ships as being armed with 40mm and 20mm guns). I am not able to say whether it was the Alferez Sobral or the other vessel which was sunk.

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NORTHERN IRELAND - HELICOPTER MOVEMENT

There may be some press interest in helicopter movement at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland. There is some movement of helicopters to the United Kingdom but they are being replaced by others.

LINE: We do not discuss operational movements of ships or aircraft.


SBD/AJ
1630 3/5/82