

MOD PRESS STATEMENT - 14.30, 2 June 1982

During air operations over the last few days, continued successful attacks have been made on Argentine military installations on the Falkland Islands, especially in the Port Stanley area. In the course of these operations, two of our Harriers sustained damage which caused them to ditch on their return to the Task Force. In both cases the pilots were safely recovered.

RAF Harriers have already been flown non-stop to Ascension Island for onward movement by ships to the operational area. The Task Force has now been reinforced by the deployment of further RAF Harriers from RAF Wittering. These Harriers flew directly to the area of operations via Ascension Island using air to air refuelling. The time in the air for the journey of over 8,000 miles was about 17 hours.

This is a new record for the RAF. Air to air refuelling was carried out with accompanying Victor tankers, while Nimrod aircraft provided search and rescue cover for the long overseas route.