



Prime Minister

✓
 Content that I should
 write as proposed?

Ref. A08332

MR COLES ✓

Yes please
 me

A.J.C. 7/5

A conversation which I had this morning suggested that there were a couple of questions that the Ministry of Defence could usefully be asked about possible electronic counter-measures against Exocet missiles. I think that these questions would come best from No 10. If the Prime Minister agrees, I suggest --- that you might write on the lines of the draft attached.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 May 1982

Overlaken.

AR 7/5

p.a.



DRAFT LETTER FROM A J COLES ESQ TO
D B OMAND ESQ, Priv Sec to Secretary of State for Defence

There was some discussion at OD(SA) ^[yesterday] this morning about defence against Argentine use of Exocet missiles, during the course of which the Chief of the Defence Staff referred, without detail, to electronic counter-measures (ECM).

The Prime Minister has asked two questions on this aspect of the matter:

- (1) Exocet is a French-designed and made missile. The French therefore presumably know what ECM would stop it; they may even have developed a jamming device. Should we, through the existing defence contacts, see if there is anything they could suggest or offer to help? The French Government has been very supportive so far.
- (2) Are there any ECM devices being produced in other contexts - for instance, for aircraft - which could be effectively used against Exocet missiles and might be sufficiently mobile to be got out quickly to the task force?

I should be grateful if you could let me have early answers to the Prime Minister's questions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Fall.