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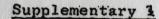
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PRESS STATEMENT

FALKLAND ISLANDS: ILLEGAL ARGENTINE LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA

The Commander of the British Antartic Survey based at Grytviken on South Georgia (one of the Falkland Islands Dependencies) reported on 19 March that an Argentine commercial party had established a camp at Leith. They had been put ashore by a cargo vessel, operated by the Argentine Nawy without having obtained the necessary clearance from the British authorities. An Argentine flag was hoisted. The Base Commander requested the party to leave Leith immediately and, if they wished to continue their work, to seek the appropriate permission by British authorities. HMG sought immediately clarification of this incident from the Argentine authorities in Buenos Aires and the Argentine Embassy in London. The Argentine Government have since said that both the ship and the party will be leaving South Georgia soon. We are awaiting confirmation of this from he Best Commander.



. What will you do if they do not leave?

The presence of Argentine personnel on British territory without authority is not acceptable to us. If they do not leave we should take whatever action is necessary.

- 2. What is HMS'Endurance doing?

 Operating the HMS Endurance is at present stationed in Falklands and waters and she is available to be of assistance if necessary. Questions relating to her deployment are for the MOD.
- 3. What is this commercial party doing on South Georgia?
 Their leader has a contract to remove equipment from old whaling stations there.

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