

137/81

file 10/6

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DS
FI

DPD (N)
DPR (N)
DNOT
DS 11

FCO Press Statement on Illegal Argentine Landing on South Georgia

- 1) I attach a copy of the text of a press statement released at 12.30 22nd March.
- 2) The wording of the second supplementary was not, unfortunately revised as shown. If any calls are received as a result of the press statement, opportunity should be taken ~~to answer~~ to answer that the revised wording is passed to journalists. Further questions should be answered with the standard line that it is not our practice to comment on operational matters.

22 March 1982

C. S. Latham
C. S. LATHAM
DS 5
MB 839 3085 NB

Addition

Q. ENDURANCE sail?

A. HMS ENDURANCE was available to assist if needed. [It is not our practice to comment on operational matters] passed to DPD (N) etc

6119

DSR 11C

PRESS STATEMENT

FALKLAND ISLANDS: ILLEGAL ARGENTINE LANDING ON
SOUTH GEORGIA

The Commander of the British Antarctic Survey ~~base~~ 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 ^{Government for naval transport,} Navy 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 ^{from the} by British authorities. HMG sought immediately ~~ly~~ clarification of this incident from the Argentine authorities in Buenos Aires and the Argentine Embassy in London. The Argentine Government ^{now informs us} have ~~since said~~ that both the ship and the party will ^{be} leaving South Georgia ^{on 21 March} soon. We are awaiting confirmation ~~of this from the Base Commander.~~

Supplementary 1

1. 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 ^{shall} ~~should~~ take whatever action is necessary.

2. What is HMS 'Endurance doing?

HMS Endurance is at present ^{operating} ~~stationed~~ ^{the} in Falklands ^{area} 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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supplementaries.
" About normally discuss
operational matters