

Marines go in: South Georgia recaptured

- Britain recaptured South Georgia yesterday after three weeks of mounting tension over Argentina's seizure of the Falkland Islands. As the operation, which is believed to have started on Thursday, got under way, British Sea King helicopters strafed the Argentine submarine Santa Fe unloading stores at the island's main port of Grytviken, causing casualties and disabling the boat.
- Mrs Thatcher, after a meeting of her inner Cabinet, had an audience of the Queen at Windsor.
- In Buenos Aires, the military junta met in almost constant session and said in a communique that "intense fire" was being trained on South Georgia.
- Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, accused Britain of violating the "basic principles" of negotiation and said efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement would be temporarily suspended.
- The Ministry of Defence has established a "defence area" around the naval task force

White ensign flies again after two-hour battle

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Marines yesterday recaptured South Georgia, the remote sub-Antarctic island which was invaded and occupied by Argentine troops three weeks ago.

Britain resumed control after a two-hour operation by an assault force, whose commanding officer flashed a dramatic signal to London, where the Cabinet was waiting anxiously for news.

"Be pleased to inform Her Majesty", he said with impeccable courtesy "that the White Ensign flies alongside the Union Jack in South Georgia. God save the Queen". There are no reports of any British casualties.

A beaming Prime Minister said that she rejoiced at the news, which came after a day of mounting drama, tension and confusion, as sparse and conflicting reports filtered through from London and Buenos Aires.

The story of events did not even start to become clear until Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, accompanied by Mrs Thatcher, read a statement outside 10 Downing Street before the television cameras.

"British troops landed on South Georgia this afternoon, shortly after 4pm London time. They have now successfully taken control of Grytviken. At about 6pm the white flag was hoisted beside the Argentine flag, and shortly afterwards the Argentine forces surrendered to British forces. The Argentine forces offered only limited resistance to the British troops.

The British, he went on, had been landed by helicopter, and had been supported by a number of warships and supply vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. During the first phase of the operation, British helicopters had attacked the Argentine submarine, Santa

50-knot winds

Weather conditions off South Georgia were reported yesterday to be as "unpleasant as normal" for this time of year: Winds in excess of 50 knots and temperatures around freezing point. Snow is probably falling in the mountains.

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Fe, a 2,420-ton former American Guppy-class boat, dating back to The Second World War. The Santa Fe had been detected off Grytviken, close to the harbour of the tiny settlement, and was engaged by British forces because she constituted a threat to the Royal Mariner and warships which were launching the operations.

It was the attack on the Santa Fe, announced without comment by the Ministry of Defence at midday, which first alerted people in Britain to the fact that the long-expected attempt to regain control of South Georgia had begun.

She is said to have been attacked by the helicopters with rockets and machine-gun fire while she lay on the surface. But details of this kind were not officially confirmed in London. Some hours later, she was said to be still smoking, leaking oil and listing to ports. There was no news of her 80-man crew.

Nor was there immediate confirmation, though there was growing acceptance, of a report that the British operation had begun secretly last Thursday, when up to 12 men of the Royal Marines Special Boat Service — a kind of maritime equivalent of the Spe-

cial Air Service — slipped quietly on to the island to reconnoitre the ground.

They reported back by radio to the ships that the Argentine garrison consisted only of some 44 men and a mortar platoon — far fewer than the 100 or so who were involved in the occupation of South Georgia three weeks ago.

They then took two hours to win control of the British dependency from the outnumbered Royal Marines who were entrenched there. Ironically, it took them the same time to lose it.

The Prime Minister told the nation after Mr Nott's statement last night: "We should rejoice at that news and congratulate our forces". In fact the nation had already been primed for something of the kind. For the past week reports had circulated, particularly in Washington, that part of the 15-warship task force dispatched to recapture the Falkland Islands, had diverted towards South Georgia, 800 miles to the south-east.

John Witherow on board HMS Invincible writes: The submarine was found on the surface and made a run for Grytviken, reaching the harbour in Cumberland Bay, but not before being hit. News of the engagement reached the ships as they were discussing the BBC world Service bulletins of Britain's warning to the Argentines to stay away.

Lieutenant Mike Watson, a Harrier pilot, said: "This is good news. I am glad we are getting on with the job. This is the first of their Navy to go down and the rest will very quickly follow".

At present the submarine is low in the water and leaking oil 200 or 300 yards astern. It is still on the surface, but there is no sign of any activity on the deck.



The sheltered harbour of Grytviken, South Georgia: British troops have taken control

Argentina claims fighting goes on

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 25

A government communique said late tonight that after more than four hours' shelling from a British destroyer and machine gunning from heavily-armed helicopters, the British made a tactical retreat and were off Leith Harbour in the north of the island awaiting better weather.

Argentine radio said the troopship Canberra was "intercepted" by an Argentine frigate which was forced to retreat by Sea King helicopters. The report did not say where the incident occurred.

It confirmed that the submarine damaged at South Georgia was the Santa Fe, an American-built vessel more than 30 years old.

The official news agency Telam claimed that British troops suffered dozens of casualties in the Georgia operation. Argentine forces were making the operation "very difficult" for the British. There was no reference to a British landing.

An earlier communique claimed that, when attacked, the Argentine submarine was in port unloading provisions, medicine and mail for troops, and about 30 scrap metal workers dismantling an old whaling station.

"It has to be pointed out that a submarine on the surface has no means of defending itself", it added. "This is a violation of the United Nations resolution and Article 3 of the inter-american treaty".

One military communique tonight said that the naval commander of South Georgia had pledged to fight to the very end. "He has already destroyed secret communication codes and will destroy the radio communications equipment before fighting the last battle." There was only a small naval garrison on the island, it added.

Argentina's three-man mili-

Union blacks task force war film

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Official information film makers of the film activities of the Central Office of Information (COI), with the loss of 27 jobs.

Mr Alan Sapper, the militant general secretary of the union and this year's chairman of the TUC, said last night: "We hope our action will pressurize the Government to sit down and negotiate. It affects all government internal information material on film or tape, but not material coming back to ITN and the BBC".

The Navy asked the technicians' leaders to exempt the Falklands initiative from the general blacking, but in a telegram to Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said it would only lift its boycott and resume normal working if ministers immediately reopened negotiations. This condition was rejected in a brief note back to the ACTT.

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Rejoice, says Mrs Thatcher

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister's visible satisfaction at the successful reposition of South Georgia when she appeared outside 10 Downing Street last night will be shared by the House of Commons when it hears a report this afternoon by a minister.

The Opposition would like to hear from Mrs Thatcher herself, rather than from one of her Cabinet colleagues, since she will be answering questions on television later.

Conservative MPs believed that evidence of the Government's willingness to engage Argentine forces if need be was necessary if General Galtieri and the other members of his junta were to be persuaded to withdraw from the Falklands.

They noted too that members of the Senate foreign relations committee, after discussing the crisis with Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, in Washington last week, had said publicly that they received the impression that Britain would not fight.

The recovery of South Georgia, apparently with minimal loss of life, was exactly the

kind of operation that the Government's supporters believed would be necessary, as soon as the fleet was in position, to ensure maximum pressure upon Argentina.

This point, as well as the military need for the operation, is accepted also by most Opposition MPs. Although Mr Michael Foot, who happened to be broadcasting when the first news of the attack on the Argentine submarine reached London, said he doubted whether the action was wise when negotiations with the Argentines were still continuing, he and most Labour MPs are likely to continue to judge the Government's conduct by results.

If the operation was as quick and relatively painless as it appeared last night to have been, and if the search for a diplomatic solution proves not to have been imperilled. Labour support for the Government's policy of diplomacy with muscle will be maintained but, as hitherto, with no blank cheque.

Labour's Shadow Cabinet

will meet this morning before the Government statement.

First news of the attack, when received in London yesterday, was telephoned to Mrs Thatcher at Chequers by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff. Other members of the inner Cabinet were being briefed at the Royal Navy headquarters in Northwood, West London.

After a four-hour meeting of the inner Cabinet at Chequers with the defence chiefs of staff the Prime Minister had an audience of the Queen at Windsor on her way back to Downing Street where, some two hours later, she heard from Mr Nott that the Argentine garrison at Grytviken had surrendered. "Just rejoice at that news and congratulate our forces and the marines," she exclaimed to the world in general.

After endorsing her words today the Commons will press the Government closely on the far more testing and uncertain military and diplomatic tasks which remain.

Nationalized farmland planned by Labour

The Labour Party is considering nationalizing all tenanted farmland with compensation paid on agricultural rather than market value.

A draft chapter on agricultural policy, to be considered for inclusion in Labour's Programme 1982, says: "Land ownership can bring inestimable and unjustifiable power and influence for a tiny minority — a minority whose interests are frequently in direct conflict with the good of the community."

"Only through the public ownership and control of land will we be able to eliminate that power and influence".

The document says nationalization will help to create a better, more economic structure of farming. It criticizes a system which means that thousands of farms are made up of two or more separate parcels of land.

It proposes the setting-up of a rural land authority, to administer the states' farm-holding through area centres responsible for estate management.

The paper says the Labour Party does not embrace a policy of confiscation, but compensation could not be paid on the market value. It would have to be based on the lower, agricultural value.

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Nuclear setback

Forecasts of power demand to the end of the century are so low that the case for a large nuclear power programme may be damaged.

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Grocers' fears

Britain is likely to scrap a consumer protection law, urged by the EEC, because grocers say it will be ignored in some European countries. It was meant to outlaw misleading claims about food.

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Aslef supported

The McCarthy inquiry into train drivers' pay and conditions is expected to favour Aslef's position and to reject British Rail's demand for flexible rostering.

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Refineries deal

Gulf Oil is at a crucial stage in negotiations to sell most of its European refining and marketing business to Kuwait's state oil corporation. The deal could be worth about £1,000m.

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Jobs at risk

One thousand jobs could be at risk if the American owners of the Anglesey aluminium plant in North Wales cannot negotiate cheaper electricity prices in the next few months.

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Ferrari victory

Ferrari drives Didier Pironi and Gilles Villeneuve took first and second places in the depleted San Marino Grand Prix. Most British teams boycotted the race.

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Israelis weep as Sinai flag is lowered

Israeli soldiers wept as the Star of David was lowered for the last time over Sinai in Israel's final withdrawal from the desert peninsula conquered in 1967. The handover to the Egyptians was handled with the maximum of emotion and the minimum of ill feeling. The mood among Israeli soldiers and officers reflected that of many civilians; that the withdrawal was a gamble that had to be risked.

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said the evacuation was a most painful mission. In Cairo, President Mubarak laid a wreath on the tomb of his assassinated predecessor, President Sadat.

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Leading articles: Falklands; withdrawal from Sinai

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How to accommodate Argentina without a sell-out; the cold war battle for Mr Reagan's ear; Prince Philip, philosopher king, by Philip Howard

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Cardinal John Cody

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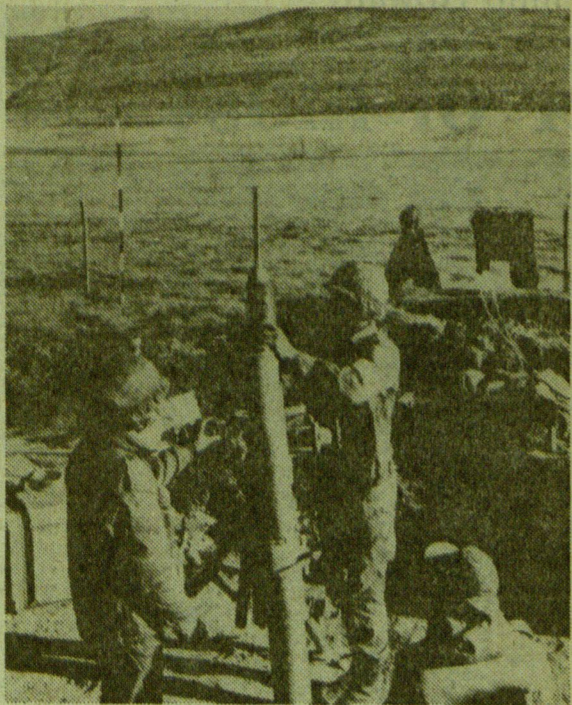
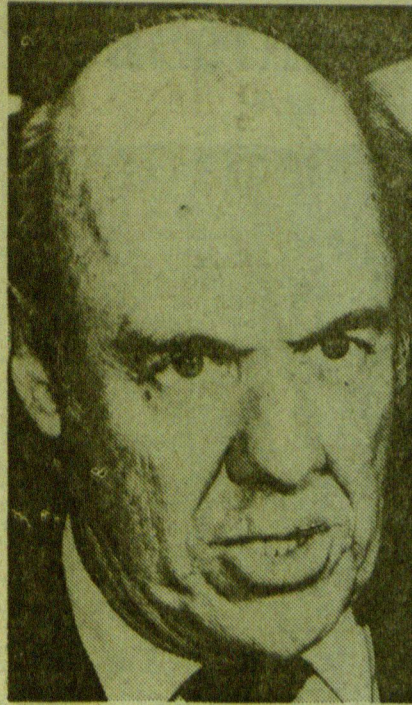
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FALKLANDS CRISIS



Caught in conflict (left to right): Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, arriving in Washington; Argentine soldiers loading a mortar on the Falklands in preparation for a possible British attack; the Royal Marines repatriated by the invaders but now on their way back to the Falklands; Miss Cindy Buxton, one of the two British film-makers still on South Georgia.

Costa Méndez says it is technically war

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 25

The Reagan Administration today expressed grave concern about the situation in the South Atlantic after Britain's successful recapture of South Georgia. However, a State Department official emphasized that the United States remained committed to a diplomatic solution and would continue its efforts to mediate between Britain and Argentina.

Senor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, who arrived here this afternoon, said his country still favoured a peaceful solution, adding that "diplomacy has no end". But he gave a warning that the British action would have "very grave consequences for peace".

Senor Costa Méndez underlined how seriously he considered the situation when he told reporters on his arrival in New York that Argentina was now technically in a state of war with Britain.

Senor Costa Méndez flew to Washington for talks with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and to attend tomorrow's meeting of the Organization of American States, which will consider possible measures against Britain under the 1947 Rio Treaty on collective defence.

The British landing on South Georgia has greatly increased the importance of the meeting, which will be attended by representatives of the 21 signatories of the Rio Treaty, including the United States. The Argentines have already made the point that South Georgia falls within the geographical area covered by the treaty.

Senor Costa Méndez was to have attended a meeting with Mr Haig this afternoon, but their talks were postponed indefinitely while Senor Costa Méndez consulted by telephone with members of the junta in Buenos Aires.

A State Department statement released during the day said that the fighting in South Georgia demonstrated the gravity of the situation and further confirmed the urgent need to find a diplomatic solution.

There was speculation here that the recapture of South

Georgia may lead Argentina to call for tough action against Britain, possibly even asking other signatories to provide Argentina with military assistance.

Earlier it had been expected that Senor Costa Méndez would attempt to invoke only Article 6 of the treaty, branding Britain as an aggressor. However, it was now thought possible that Argentina might try to invoke Article 3, which calls for armed assistance from all signatories.

Whatever steps Argentina takes will be opposed by the United States, which is trying to mediate between Britain and Argentina and hopes to defuse the situation before the shooting gets worse.

During last week's meeting of the Organization of American States which decided to convene tomorrow's special session, the United States made it clear that it considered any action under the Rio Treaty inappropriate so long as negotiations continued. The United States is one of three countries that abstained when the organization voted last Wednesday to hold tomorrow's meeting.

It is uncertain whether Argentina can expect to gain the same degree of support as it received last week if it calls for collective action against Britain. Several countries have made it clear that they would scrutinize very carefully any Argentine request for assistance. Some are likely to point to the section in the Rio Treaty which states that signatories should not take any action which runs contrary to decisions taken by the United Nations.

Argentina is in breach of Security Council Resolution 502 which calls on it to withdraw its forces from the Falklands.

Tomorrow's meeting of the Organization of American States is expected to be the main tonic on the agenda at the meeting between Senor Costa Méndez and Mr Haig is also expected to inform the Argentine Foreign Minister of the outcome of his talks last week with Mr Francis

Pym, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Pym took some new American ideas for a settlement with him back to London on Friday night. However, he made it clear to Mr Haig before he departed that these ideas left a great deal to be desired, although they did provide the basis for negotiations to continue.

According to American sources, Mr Haig was left with a clear impression that the British intended to use force within the next few days. However, Mr Pym also made it clear to him that Britain still wanted Mr Haig to continue his diplomatic efforts even after the shooting began.

According to the sources the British told Mr Haig that an outbreak of fighting in the South Atlantic might persuade Argentina to soften its negotiating position and also lead to new moves in the Security Council.

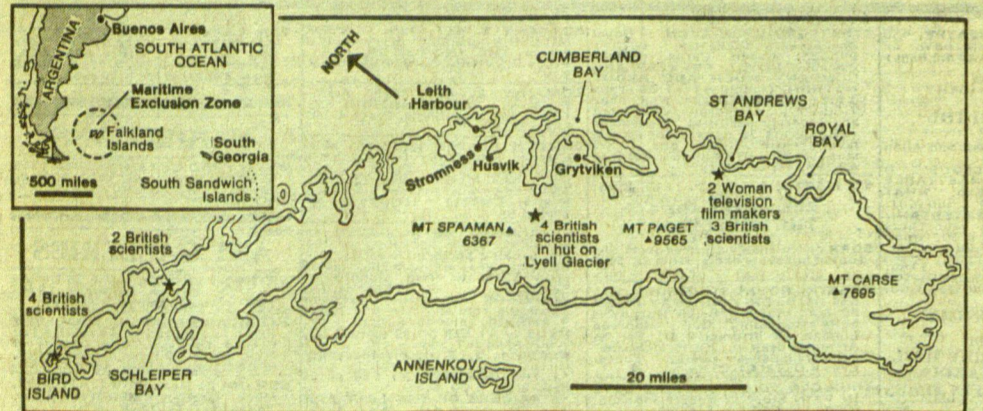
According to a front page report in *The New York Times* today, high-ranking American officials have indicated that the United States will back Britain against Argentina if negotiations fail. The support would include America joining an embargo on Argentine goods, but not the use of American forces.

However, Mr John Tower, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, today urged the Reagan Administration to send naval units to support the Royal Navy task force in the South Atlantic.

Caracas: Venezuela will back Argentina's call for assistance, Senor Jose Alberto Zambrano, the Foreign Minister, said today (Reuter reports).

Before flying to Washington for the Organization of American States meeting, he said he was convinced that American states would not swerve from what he called their pact of security.

Lima: Peru has repeated an offer to mediate. President Fernando Belaunde Terry said the provocation of war in the South Atlantic would be a crime against humanity.



British again: South Georgia, where troops landed at Grytviken on the north coast.

Echo of peaceful days 'Penguin News' avoids a flap

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires

The *Penguin News* journal of the Falkland Islands, had much more than invasions on its mind in its last issue. There was also the grievous matter of the road accident.

While the Argentines were mustering their Army the paper reported sadly that a Land-Rover and a Hillman Imp had collided in Port Stanley "inflicting possible irreparable damage to the latter vehicle".

The newspaper, consisting of 15 stencilled and stapled pages, is a classic of its kind, reflecting a way of life that has nothing to do with the world beyond. A few copies of issue number 19, the last before the invasion, have just arrived in Buenos Aires and are already collectors' items.

The paper carried extensive reports on the "invasion" of South Georgia by the Argentine scrap metal merchants but as for the prospects of an invasion of the Falklands it admitted humbly that "we still know very little". Seven days after

publication the Argentines landed.

But it was better informed on the road accident, an occurrence that is rare indeed in Port Stanley, which has just 12 miles of made-up roads. Those who know the place say it is difficult to find anything to have an accident with, and indeed the *Penguin News* said that traffic "is fairly peaceful". Happily, it reported, nobody was injured.

The paper also reported the rather remarkable news that 11 Polish seamen had decided to settle in Stanley rather than go home to a dictatorship. "Some of the escapades have been quite daring. One young man shinned down a rope into the customs launch below. Others have simply wandered away from a recreation group ashore for an afternoon."

But alas, an Englishman sent to the town's jail for three months deprived the Poles of their hero. Until the Englishman arrived they were sleeping in the prison

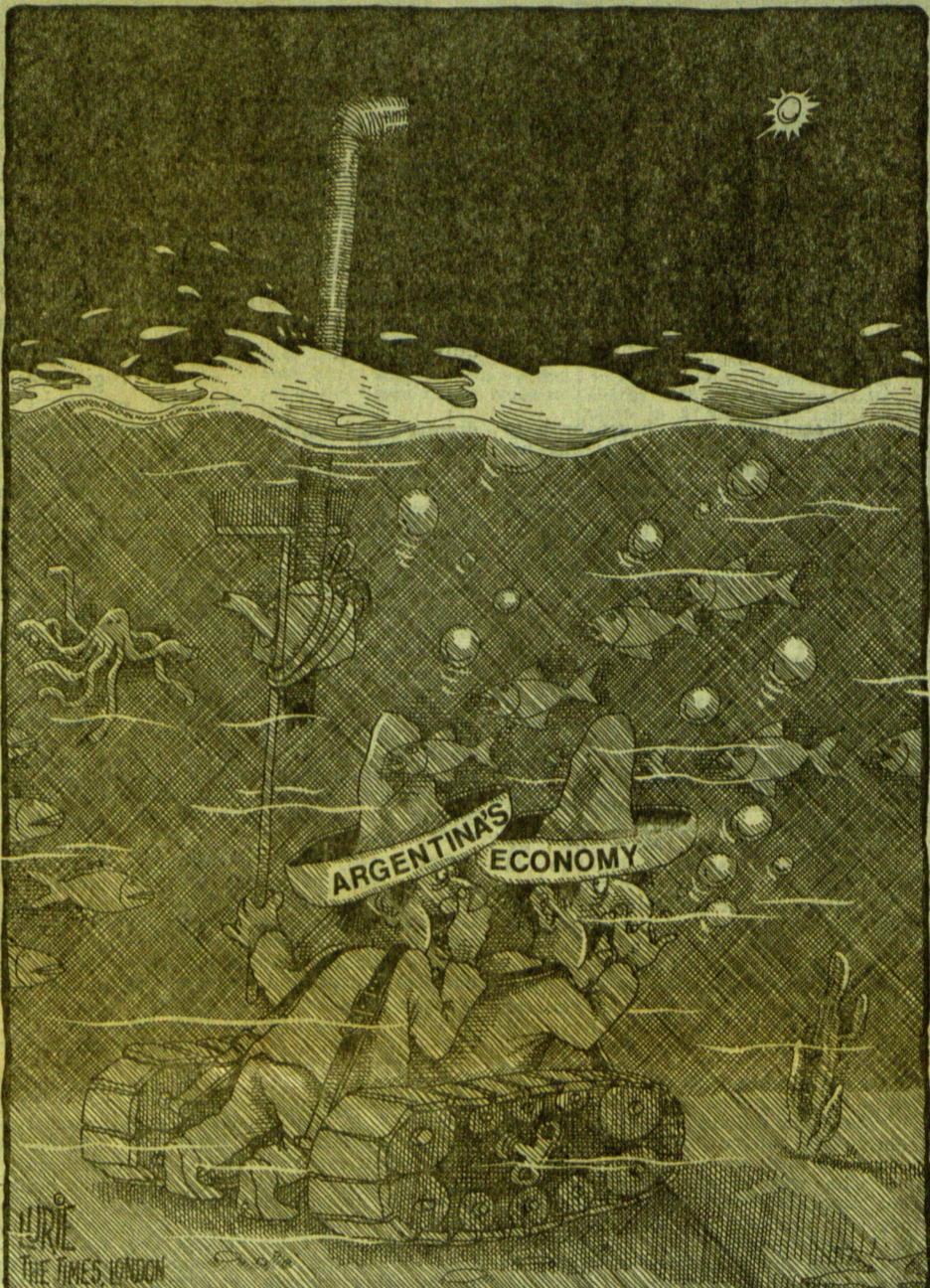
but they had to move to the annex of St Mary's church.

On a less international note, the paper reported a good turnout for the annual vegetable show and announced that the Stanley soccer side achieved a "splendid" 5-0 victory over the Royal Marines.

And it revealed the juicy gossip that a school teacher, who was named, had fallen out with the superintendent of Education and got the sack.

And right at the end of the paper, in the editorial column, it said the Argentines must not be allowed to gloat over the invasion of South Georgia. "HMS Endurance, which is at last being provided with a chance to prove her worth, must ensure that the Argentines at Leith Harbour are deported from the Falklands Dependency."

If issue number 20 of the *Penguin News* ever appears, it should be an extremely interesting read.



"They must be scared to death by now"

'Defensive area' around fleet

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

First indications of a deepening crisis over the Falklands Islands came early yesterday with the news that Britain had established a "defensive area" around the naval task force, which had been under surveillance by Argentine aircraft for several days.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Defence pointed to the "additional measures" which it threatened more than two weeks ago when announcing a maritime exclusion zone around the Falklands.

The statement said: "In this connexion Her Majesty's Government wishes to make clear that any approach on the part of Argentine warships including submarines, naval auxiliaries or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British forces in the South Atlantic will encounter the appropriate response."

"All Argentine aircraft including civil aircraft engaging in surveillance of these British forces will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly."

Rear Admiral John Woodward, the task force commander, was said to have been taking "appropriate action" in the incident involving the Argentine submarine at Grytviken although later events suggested that this was part of a far wider plan.

Observation of the "defensive area" will be enforced by the Sea Harrier aircraft on board HMS Hermes and Invincible and the Sea Dart and Sea Slug missiles on the Type-42 and County Class destroyers respectively.

But weather in the area, including mountainous waves, could make Harrier operations impossible because of the effect on the carrier decks. But the fact that the defensive defence area was declared yesterday, some 36 hours after the warning was actually given to Argentina, must reflect Admiral Woodward's confidence in his ability to maintain it.

One question now is whether the force will extend the "defensive area" to cover the air space over the Falklands themselves when the ships with their accompanying aircraft have moved into a position in Falkland waters from which they could maintain such a threat.

Surveillance of the force would still be possible by Soviet satellites, but these are not overhead all the time. Observation of the "defensive area" will be enforced by the Sea Harrier aircraft on board HMS Hermes and Invincible and the Sea Dart and Sea Slug missiles on the Type-42 and County Class destroyers respectively.

PA RUSH
1 Falklands
British helicopters today attacked Argentine submarine near South Georgia, said defence ministry.
-- 1234 25/4 pm mnn

PA FLASH
British forces now on South Georgia - Ministry of Defence.

The spark: How the news broke yesterday on the Press Association tape.

Nott accused of gagging MPs

An MP who is demanding to know why Britain supplied military spares to Argentina as late as March 22, claimed yesterday that he had been forbidden to raise the issue in the House of Commons.

Mr Douglas Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington, said he had had to resort to the "very much second best" of writing instead to Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary. He claimed Mr Nott had "blackballed" Commons questions on the subject.

Mr Hoyle added that a query had been raised by Ministry of Defence officials when the priority order for spares for Argentina was placed but that it was ignored by ministers.

Sanctions will be slow to bite

By Rupert Morris

Trade sanctions against Argentina imposed by Britain and the European Community are causing long-term anxiety for British companies but are not expected to have any significant effect for several weeks.

The problem for Argentina could be much more serious as more than a quarter of its exports come to Europe. West Germany is the biggest European importer, taking 6.9 per cent of Argentina's goods, with The Netherlands taking 6.3 per cent and Italy 5.6 per cent. Italian shoes and leather goods would suffer from any prolongation of the ban, as most hides come from Argentina.

Britain (2.9 per cent) and

France (2.7) are the only other countries to import significant quantities from Argentina.

The Blue Star Line, a subsidiary of the Vestey Organization, which normally carries 1,300 tons of meat from South America to Britain every three weeks, has been able to make up taking more from Brazil. Blue Star is doubtful, however, whether Brazil can continue to make up the deficiency.

Southbound cargoes to Argentina have declined over the past few years. Britain's exports to Argentina are so diverse, and so insignificant

in industry terms that it is hard to quantify the effect of the Argentine ban as yet. The main exports are industrial machinery, but at less than £50m a year these do not involve any important projects.

The potentially far more significant EEC ban is of primarily symbolic value for the moment. Its practical effect will be clearer on May 17, when the EEC will review its position in the light of developments. All member states have ratified the EEC's decision.

Customs and excise departments are understood to be monitoring the ban and have not yet impounded any goods for breaches.

Prince on rescue mission

From John Witherow on board HMS Invincible April 25

A helicopter from HMS Invincible piloted by Prince Andrew, a sub-lieutenant, was first on the scene in the search for the missing crew of a Sea King helicopter which crashed into the sea.

The death of a crewman of the Sea King on Friday night has cast a shadow across the mission of the Royal Navy task force as it steams into increasingly severe weather conditions closer to the Falkland Islands.

It also highlighted the efficiency and bravery of the men involved in the rescue operation, who for hours hovered only feet above the waves on a pitch-black night of heavy rain and lightning to winch out the pilot and search for the missing man.

At first the rescue helicopter hovering at less than 50 feet, and using its search and landing lights found only wreckage, but after 20 minutes it discovered a dinghy containing the pilot.

Leading aircraftman Thomas Arnall, aged 24, was the winchman who was lowered into the heavy swell to grab the pilot, who had managed to escape from the sinking helicopter. They took him to HMS Hermes, where the helicopter was based, then returned to continue the search which carried on throughout the night and the next day, and involved several ships and helicopters.

It was the first time that leading aircraftman Arnall had been involved in an air-sea rescue, but he read his notes in a matter-of-fact way, and described the incident as "like a speeded-up training sortie". He was dropped 20 or 30 yards from the survivor and trailed towards him.

"On the third attempt, the pilot grabbed my wrist, pulling us up together. He was sitting in the life-raft with no helmet. I asked him if he was OK and he said 'yes', and I said 'good man'. He then asked me did I see the tail section. He said he had tried to get inside it. He knew his crewman had been in the back", he said.

Sub-lieutenant Christopher Pilster, aged 28, who piloted the rescue helicopter, with the aid of Prince Andrew, added: "We were told to get airborne and home in on the beacon. We searched around until we spotted him in the water. He was about four or five miles away."

We could see one of the flotation bags from the undercarriage. I don't know why the aircraft had gone in. There was no moonlight to help us at all. It was pitch black.

Leslie Dowd of Reuters writes from on board the troopship Canberra: A suspected Argentine spy ship was being tracked today close to the main British assault force.

The Ministry of Defence said the 10,000-merchantman Rio de la Plata came within 75 miles of a British flotilla including the Canberra, which is carrying 2,500 soldiers.

A Lynx helicopter was scrambled from a frigate to track the Argentine vessel, but officials could not say whether Britain would regard the activity of an Argentine spy ship hostile.

Spy charge: Journalists face trial

From Our Own Correspondent Buenos Aires, April 25

An Argentine federal judge has ruled that three British journalists must face trial on charges of spying.

Judge Carlos Sagastume said he did not think they were habitual spies but, given the situation, it was possible that they had acted from patriotic motives or explicit instructions. Material in their possession could, in the opinion of the military, damage the interests of the state if it were put in the hands of a hostile power.

Mr Simon Winchester of *The Sunday Times*, Mr Ian Mather of *The Observer* and Mr Anthony Prime, a photographer for *The Observer*, were arrested last Tuesday week while sitting in the coffee shop at the airport in Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego.

The Pope's plea: Pray for peace

From John Earle Rome, April 25

Pope John Paul today expressed alarm at the prospects of fighting between Britain and Argentina and made a further appeal to Roman Catholics to pray "in this perhaps decisive hour" for a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

In an address to pilgrims in St Peter's Square from the window of the Vatican Palace on a cold and wet day, he recalled that he had appealed repeatedly in recent days for a peaceful solution.

Opinion poll: 79% support

By Our Foreign Staff

The British public continues to support overwhelmingly the Government's policy of negotiating from a position of strength over the Falklands dispute.

According to a public opinion survey carried out by Opinion Research for Independent Television's *Weekend World* programme, support for the government's Falklands policy was running at 79 per cent last week. Eleven per cent of those interviewed were opposed to the way the Government was handling the crisis.

Support for putting the lives of British servicemen at risk during the crisis was, however, only lukewarm. A full 52 per cent of the survey believed that servicemen's lives should not be jeopardized, compared with 41 per cent who thought they should.

Propaganda war: Annie's thanks

The Argentine equivalent of Tokyo Rose, who has been broadcasting to the British task force, yesterday put over a personal message to a businessman in Britain who first picked up her propaganda talklastweek.

The woman, who calls herself Liberty, told 73-year-old Mr John Hurn over his shortwave radio: "Dear John Hurn, I will play some music for you while you get your tape recorder ready."

She played a Beatles tune and then went on: "I am glad you receive the programme and I hope you find it interesting."

She referred to the helicopter crash and then played some more music.

Last week, Mr Hurn was the first person in Britain to tune in to Argentina Annie, and sent off a recording to the Ministry of Defence.

Harrier carrier: Refit completed

The container ship Atlantic Conveyor sailed from Plymouth last night for the Falklands, after a rapid refit to enable her to handle Harrier jump jets. The sailing had been scheduled for Friday, but was delayed because the loading of stores took longer than planned.