

FalklandsRoyal Yacht

MOD are stating categorically that it will not be used. Why not? Because other arrangements that have been made are considered adequate. The Canberra will in fact be used as a hospital ship as well as for other purposes.

Nukes

We never talk about nuclear weapons. Tony Benn has telephoned No.10. He spoke to the Duty Clerk and informed her that he intended asking if nuclear weapons were being carried by the task force during this afternoon's debate. The Duty Clerk undertook to inform the Prime Minister.

BP Tankers

A number of them have been chartered. We are not saying how many. In fact, there are three.

Ship requisitions

So far only two, the Canberra and the Elk, both from P & O.

Argentine ship using UK gunnery range (DEFENSIVE - ONLY IF ASKED)

The Santisma Mayo, a Type 42 destroyer, did use the gunnery range on the Welsh coast at the end of February/beginning of March. The range is available for use by other countries. If asked why we should have made it available to the Argentines who maintained a threat against the Falklands, we should point out that we have of course over the years sold them a number of ships. Obviously we would never have sold them ships or allowed them the use of the range if we considered an attack/invasion likely.

I.K.