

MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE

0630 8 April

In the House of Commons last night Mr Nott said the following:

"From 0400 Greenwich Mean Time on Monday - that's next Monday - 12 April 1982, a maritime exclusion zone will be established around the Falkland Islands. The outer limit of this zone is a circle of 200 nautical mile radius from Latitude 51 degrees 40 minutes South, 59 degrees 30 minutes West, which is approximately the centre of the Falkland Islands. From the time indicated, any Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries found within this zone will be treated as hostile and are liable to be attacked by British forces. This measure is without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter."

Supplementary questions and answers — *THIS WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO SHIPPING BY LLOYDS - THIS IS THE USUAL (!) PROCEDURE*

If necessary we can use the following supplementary Q&As supplied by DS11 (Mr Powell):

- Q What does it mean that such vessels would be treated as hostile?
- A They would be liable to be attacked by British forces.
- Q Why would vessels within this zone be attacked?
- A Such vessels would be operating in support of the invading force on the Falkland Islands.
- Q Why are you delaying this action until Monday of next week?
- A We wished to give sufficient notice of our intentions.
- Q Why have you selected 0400 GMT on Monday 12 April as the starting time?
- A That will be midnight in the Falkland Islands area.
- Q Is there a state of war with Argentina?
- A No, we are exercising our inherent right of self-defence, recognised in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

If pressed

This right of self defence includes the right to take military action necessary to repel or expel a force which has invaded British territory.

- Q What is the position for ships of other nationalities?
- A They would be wise to take account of our announcement; for example, in considering whether to approach Argentine warships.