

RECALL OF PARLIAMENT

Parliament was last recalled in recess on 3/4 June 1974 for a two day debate on Northern Ireland. This followed the resignation of Brian Falkner and the collapse of the power sharing executive.

MISSING MARINES AND CIVILIANS FROM SOUTH GEORGIA

What are we doing to find out what has happened to the marines and civilians? (22 marines, 13 civilians) We are making inquiries through two channels:

- (1) We have asked the International Red Cross to take the matter up as part of their general monitoring of the humanitarian aspects of the crisis.
- (2) The British interests section of the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires is making inquiries direct to the Argentine authorities.

Despite best efforts so far have no firm information about the marines and civilians. FO line is that we do not have any clear indication of the whereabouts or wellbeing of the marines and civilians and naturally we are concerned about them. As to claims that they are on board a ship in the MEZ as we do not know their whereabouts, we have no means of knowing if this is the case.

DEFENCE STATEMENT ON MEZ

At 04.00 GMT the Maritime Exclusion Zone was established around the Falkland Islands as announced by the S/S Defence on 7 April. No naval incident has been reported nor has there been any report of Argentine warships or naval auxiliaries within the zone since it was established.

HERMES IN TROUBLE

Will not discuss problems of individual ships. The Task Force is on time and on course. In a force of that size individual ships inevitably have problems from time to time. The maintenance crews on board cope with these as a matter of routine.

FORCES IN MEZ

We have not said what forces are in the MEZ. There is a UK capability there to enforce the MEZ.