

MOD PRESS BRIEFING 21.4.82 AT 1200 HRS IN HISTORIC ROOM 27

- Q. If a naval auxiliary is inside the MEZ why hasn't it been destroyed?
- A. The ship is within Port Stanley harbour and was there before the MEZ was announced. It has not left the harbour and therefore we do not regard that as being in itself a breach of the MEZ.
- Q. Does the MEZ end before you get into the harbour?
- A. If a vessel is in the zone and in the harbour and remained in the harbour area we do not regard that as falling within the announcement that the S of S made.
- Q. Can you describe what the ship is or if it is armed?
- A. I am not able to go into details.
- Q. What is the name of the ship?
- A. Cannot give you the name of the ship.
- Q. Why have you suddenly announced that there is a naval auxiliary in Port Stanley harbour?
- A. I am trying to give you as much information as I can.
- Q. Is the ship trapped there?
- A. It has remained in harbour area throughout.
- Q. Are you treating this auxiliary as hostile?
- A. Yes - it is within the zone. However, we are aware that the ship has not moved outside the harbour area.
- Q. In that case do you not consider this to be a breach of the MEZ?
- A. It has not left the harbour area.
- Q. Why are you not taking any action?
- A. It has remained in the harbour area. We used the word "liable" to be attacked.
- Q. Have the other smaller vessels been there all the time?
- A. I am not going beyond the terms of the statement.