

This line is not yet in use as FCO are working on words to amplify the PM's answer in the House. He referred to prisoners and that they are not POWs. In fact it appears that they should be treated as POWs even though they were not taken as a result of war. W.26/4.

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

Falklands

Argentines on South Georgia : Prisoners of War Question

The four Geneva Conventions in 1949 apply not only to war but armed conflict between two States and all cases of partial or total occupation of territory. Geneva conventions have thus applied to the Falklands since 2 April.

The Argentine soldiers therefore captured by the British on South Georgia are Prisoners of War and will be dealt with in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

Civilian Detainees

The civilians whose presence on South Georgia was illegal have been detained and are to be returned to Argentina.

GJ
26 April 1982

Cleared with Mr Williams and
Mr Aust, Legal Adviser
MOD Press Office informed