

REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

1230. 12 MAY 1982.

I can now report in more detail on the arrangements for the return of the Argentinian Prisoners who were taken on South Georgia on 25 April.

151 prisoners were taken on South Georgia. Together with 39 civilians (including 2 Chileans, 2 Uruguayans and 1 Spaniard) they have been taken by ship to Ascension Island and will disembark tonight. On their journey from South Georgia they have received the necessary care and medical attention. The Argentinian Seaman who had to have part of his leg amputated is making an excellent recovery and is now moving around on crutches.

A team of 3 delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross has already flown to Ascension Island to supervise the arrangements for the return of the prisoners. The ICRC will give the prisoners a medical examination before they leave our custody.

The prisoners will leave Ascension Island tonight in an aircraft with Red Cross markings. They will arrive in Monte Video tomorrow morning and will be handed over to the Uruguayan Government which will arrange their onward return to the Argentine.

In making these arrangements we have of course conformed fully to the requirements of the Geneva Convention and have been keeping the ICRC closely informed.