

MOD STATEMENT 1415 30 MAY 1982

We have received further reports of the British casualties during the battle to capture Darwin and Goose Green. These reports indicate that 12 men were killed and 31 were wounded. Next of kin are being informed. In the course of the action one of our Scout helicopters was shot down. We believe that there are at least 120 Argentine wounded among the prisoners estimated to be of the order of 1,000. We have had no reports that any Falkland Islanders were hurt in the action.

As HM Government made clear last night British hospital ships are being used to provide assistance to the wounded of both sides. Other Argentine prisoners will be transferred to the RFA Sir Percivale and a requisitioned merchant ship. This transfer may take some time to complete due to the numbers and distances involved. The ships will then take the prisoners out of the operational area.

In other actions elsewhere on the Falklands during the last few days we now know that nine soldiers were wounded, only one of them seriously. Their next of kin have been informed. Yesterday afternoon our land forces were attacked without result by a Mirage and a Sky Hawk. The Sky Hawk was shot down by a shore based missile.