

NOT FOR USE BEFORE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

PR LINE

ARGENTINIAN SURRENDER - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q1. What will happen to the captured arms and ammunition and other military equipment?
- A1. This is being examined. There is no requirement under international law to return captured military equipment.
- Q2. What is the current disposition of the Argentinians in the Falklands and what will happen to them now?
- A2. Some 11,000 prisoners have been taken at Port Stanley. There are some 2,000 prisoners in other parts of East Falkland and a further 2,000 in West Falkland. Many of these are in poor physical condition without shelter and suffering from the effects of inadequate rations. Our forces immediately made plans for the care of these prisoners. We have made proposals today to the Argentine Government for the repatriation of the prisoners on the Falkland Islands in the context of a general cessation of hostilities. We await the Argentine response to these proposals.
- Q3. What is the condition of civilians in Port Stanley?
- A3. No details on conditions. The Services are setting up interim arrangements to look after the civilian population of both East and West Falkland. They will be establishing where people are, providing medical assistance as needed and making good any urgent shortage of food or other needs. The Royal Navy is taking responsibility for West Falkland and the Army for East Falkland.
- Q4. What are the present weather conditions?
- A4. Severe conditions. Blizzard and bitterly cold winds, now moderating; force 10 gale at sea.


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