

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 16 JUNE

Cessation of Hostilities

1. We have not yet received a response from the Argentine authorities to the message we sent them yesterday through the Swiss seeking to establish that hostilities in the South Atlantic were at an end. We are pressing for an early reply.

Prisoners of War

2. There are now nearly 15,000 Argentine prisoners in our hands in the Falklands. Many of them are suffering from malnutrition, exposure and sickness. We are taking urgent steps to safeguard them and hope to evacuate them as soon as possible.

3. We are considering the arrangements for their repatriation and are in touch with other governments about this. Our obligation under the Geneva Convention is to repatriate them at the cessation of hostilities, if not before. That obligation will be honoured. That is why we are seeking confirmation that Argentina, like Britain, considers all hostilities between us in the South Atlantic to be at an end.

Mr Rex Hunt

4. Mr Hunt will return to Port Stanley just as soon as this can be arranged. He will resume the full civilian functions of the Governor, and will work in the closest cooperation with his military colleague, General Moore. Prime Minister, House of Commons, 15 June: 'They will in effect act as civil and military commissioners'.

5.           The Governor made clear at his press conference last night that too much importance should not be attached to his title. He is greatly looking forward to getting back to the job.

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16 June 1982