

file 67

WA

Rang Buxton &  
Gov pm Sat.

Buxton agrees safest  
course is to leave  
them be but would  
like to be kept in  
picture:

Birham 347

5/21

D/BS 5/9/9/9

AFS | Secretary of State -

Copy to:

RS / POS

AOS (B Staff)

SEC / ACNS(O)

MUS BUXTON

1. I attach a note on which Secretary of State may wish to draw in any discussion with Lord Buxton.
2. There is no objection to Secretary of State passing on all or any of this information. Lord Buxton has been kept informed by MA(N).

7 April 1962

Elizabeth Malingham  
DS Sa

## BACKGROUND NOTE.

HMS ENDURANCE is at present about 56 hours sailing time from South Georgia. She is low on provisions and fuel and is sailing with all due speed to the Ascension Islands.

2. On the 4th April, after the landing on 3 April by the Argentines on South Georgia, HMS ENDURANCE contacted BAS civilians on the island and sent a helicopter to St. Andrews. It reported that the BAS party were well, had provisions and although apprehensive did not wish to take up ENDURANCE's offer of evacuation. They said that they preferred to await the arrival of the RRS Bransfield, the BAS vessel. Later that evening HMS ENDURANCE was ordered to proceed to the Ascension Islands, because of the possible threat to the ship from the Argentinian corvette in the area.

3. The RRS Bransfield is in the area between South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

7F66  
One has not been used to evacuate BAS  
Civilians because of the risk of her  
being taken hostage.

4. We have approached the International Red  
Cross, in conjunction with the Swiss  
authorities, seeking information about  
Argentinian intentions, as a matter of urgency.

to emerge  
3 days.