

UK CONFIDENTIAL

Text of Communication from HMG to Swiss Government dated
23 April 1982

"In announcing the establishment of a maritime exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands, HMG made it clear that this measure was without prejudice to the right of the UK to take whatever additional measures may be needed in the exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. In this connexion, HMG now wishes to make clear that any approach on the part of Argentine warships, including submarines, naval auxiliaries, or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British forces in the South Atlantic will encounter the appropriate response. All Argentine aircraft including civil aircraft engaging in surveillance of these British forces will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly."

UK CONFIDENTIAL



-BY HAND

26 APR 1982

RB
24/4

Mr Wright

You asked about this.

Thames

23/4

(41)

11 12 1
E
E
7 C

(35)

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Switzerland and has the honour to acknowledge the Note delivered by hand on 16 April 1982 from the Embassy of Switzerland about an enquiry from the Argentine Foreign Ministry over the Maritime Exclusion Zone around the Falkland Islands.

The announcement of the Maritime Exclusion Zone by Her Majesty's Government on 7 April was quite clear. It stated that from 0400 GMT on Monday 12 April 1982 any Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries found within the Zone would be treated as hostile and would be liable to be attacked by British forces.

The British Government statement went on to say that the measure was without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs avails himself of this opportunity to express to the Ambassador the assurance of his highest consideration.

ALQ 050/16			
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY			
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken	

London SW1
23 April 1982

