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RECEIVED
15 APR 1982
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ENCL No.
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PL de trip at SSSI Office

21 Endurance via

DIC/NAME -

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Mr Gillmore

FALKLANDS: RESCUE OF MISS BUXTON

1. The Governor has been staying with Lord Buxton in London and told me today that Lord Buxton asked him to pass on the thought to the FCO that it might be possible for HMS Endurance (if she was not by now too far away) to mount a rescue operation at St Andrew's Bay in South Georgia.

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2. Lord Buxton understood that his daughter, together with another girl and 3 members of the British Antarctic Survey team, were currently staying in a hut at St Andrew's Bay which is some way south of Grytviken.

3. Lord Buxton was convinced that it would be easy for a helicopter from Endurance to land at St Andrew's Bay at first light and rescue the party without serious risk of Argentine interference. He thought they could later be transferred (by helicopter?) to the RRS Bransfield.

4. You may care to pass this idea on to the MOD - particularly since Lord Buxton intends to raise it himself with Mr Nott later today.

J B Ure

J B Ure

7 April 1982

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cc:

Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Mr Fearn, Emergency Unit
Mr Weston, Defence Department
Planning Staff

SECRET

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. He 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.

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.