FC 320A

CDS
Copy taken from SofS Office.

Folio No. 49

SECRETARY OF STATE

You should be aware that in line with the decisions taken at the Chiefs of Staff this morning, DCPR made the following statement to the Press to try and counter stories of breaches of the MEZ by Argentinian ships:

> "We are aware that from before the time the MEZ was announced, there were some vessels in Port Stanley Harbour. These vessels we now know include an Argentine Naval Auxiliary. There may be one or two small vessels as well. We have no authoritative reports that these vessels have left the harbour area and therefore our previous statement still stands - that we have no authoritative reports that the MEZ has been breached. The majority of the Argentine Fleet, as I previously indicated has left port. There have been and continue to be some changes in its disposition but in general they are still believed to be in their own 200 mile operational zone along the Argentine coast".

2. I understand that the journalists present pressed quite hard as to whether this was a breach of the MEZ. DCPR took the line the ships have all along remained within the harbour area. But nevertheless, he believes that the announcement will hit the headlines.

JER

21st April 1982

J E R

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

DATE 22/4/82 COPIES

1	CDS		CNS
			CGS
	HD SCDS(A)		CAS
2			SDS
		22 Apr	(SEL)
	HD SCDS(3)		(I)
			(DI)
			(OPS)
			(POL)
			(PSL)
	DS		DS (S)
	2038/1		DS SEC

9 22/4

B 21/4