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MOD PRESS STATEMENTS ON SOUTH GEORGIA

SUNDAY 25th APRIL

1200

In pursuance of our inherent right of self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, British helicopters today attacked a hostile Argentinian submarine in the vicinity of South Georgia. There is no further information as yet.

1645

A British task group engaged in operations off South Georgia detected an Argentinian submarine close off the coast near the harbour at Grytviken at first light this morning. Helicopters were sent to engage it in order to safeguard our ships and the men aboard. The submarine which has been damaged is believed to be the Santa Fe.

2100

British troops landed on South Georgia this afternoon shortly after 4pm London time. They have now successfully taken control of Grytviken. At about 6pm London time the White Flag was hoisted in Grytviken beside the Argentine flag and shortly afterwards Argentinian forces surrendered to British Forces. The Argentine forces offered only limited resistance to the British troops. Our forces were landed by helicopter and were supported by a number of warships together with a Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

During the first phase of this operation our own helicopters engaged the Argentine submarine Santa Fe off South Georgia. This submarine was detected at first light and was engaged because it posed a threat to our men and to the British warships launching the landing.

So far no British casualties have been reported. At present we have no information on the Argentine casualty position.

The Commander of the operation has sent the following message:

"Be pleased to inform Her Majesty that the White ensign
flies alongside the Union Jack in South Georgia. God
Save the Queen".

The operation was conducted in pursuance of our inherent right of self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. HMG nonetheless remains committed (on the basis of Security Council Resolution 502) to the continuing and intensive search for a solution by negotiation to the crisis provoked by Argentine aggression. But we have throughout made clear that our search for a negotiated solution does not rule out the use of force.

(All but final para said by Secretary of State on TV)

Prime Minister said on TV: "Very good news ... rejoice at that news and congratulate our Forces and the Marines."

MONDAY 26th APRIL

0330

The latest information from South Georgia is that no British casualties were sustained during the successful operation mounted to take Grytviken. There was only one serious Argentinian casualty - a seaman who suffered leg injuries as a result of the attack on the Argentinian submarine.

0805

Following the successful operation at Grytviken British Forces are now in control of Leith, South Georgia. There are no reports of any casualties at Leith.