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A form of words which might be used if it is decided to issue a further warning to the Argentines on fishing vessels:

In announcing the establishment of an MEZ around the Falklands 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 exercise of its right to self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. In this connection HMG now wishes to make clear that all Argentine vessels including merchant vessels or fishing vessels *apparently* engaging in surveillance of, or intelligence gathering activities against, British forces in the South Atlantic will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly.

(FCO Legal Advisers are content)

For possible discussion at Sir Robert Armstrong's 3.30 meeting this afternoon.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
27 April 1982