

STATEMENT MADE BY MOD SPOKESMAN 28.4.82

I See also C19-01

"I have two announcements to make. We have this morning notified the Brazilian Government so that they can inform the Argentine authorities of a serious incident which took place on 26 April in South Georgia and which involved the death of an Argentine prisoner. We have only recently learned the name of the man who died and we do not yet have full details of the incident. Instructions have been given for the convening of a Board of Inquiry in South Georgia which will complete its deliberations as soon as possible. Both the notification to the Brazilians and the setting up of the Board of Inquiry are strictly in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

I would like to move on now to the second announcement. The attention of all airmen and mariners is being drawn to the following statement issued by Her Majesty's Government on 28 April 1982. From 1100 GMT on 30 April 1982 a total exclusion zone will be established around the Falkland Islands. The outer limit of this zone is the same as for the maritime exclusion zone established on Monday 12 April 1982, namely a circle of 200 nautical miles radius from latitude 51 degrees 40 minutes south, 59 degrees 30 minutes west. From the time indicated the exclusion zone will apply not only to Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries but also to any other ship whether naval or merchant vessel which is operating in support of the illegal occupation of the Falkland Islands by Argentine forces. The exclusion zone will also apply to any aircraft whether military or civil which is operating in support of the illegal occupation. Any ship and any aircraft whether military or civil which is found within this zone without due authority from the Ministry of Defence in London will be regarded as operating in support of the illegal occupation and will, therefore, be regarded as hostile and will be liable to be attacked by British forces. Also from the time indicated, Port Stanley Airport will be closed and any aircraft on the ground in the Falkland Islands will be regarded as present in support of the illegal occupation and accordingly is liable to attack. These measures are 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".