

Mr Fearn

BBC Foreign News Staff

ATTACK ON PORT STANLEY

1. I have spoken to an amateur radio ham at the BBC by the name of Margolis, who has been in touch with an amateur radio operator situated some 50 miles away from Port Stanley. According to Mr Margolis, the Argentines attacked at 09.35 GMT in overwhelming force using landing craft and heavily armoured vehicles. Only Port Stanley itself was attacked. There was shooting for about 3 hours, during which the Cable and Wireless headquarters was damaged. Some 500 Argentines landed and it was thought that another 1500 remained on board the ships (an aircraft carrier and 4 or 5 other ^{ves} vehicles). A ceasefire was arranged and the Governor and his personnel taken into custody. The Argentines are making arrangements to fly them back to the UK. Three Argentines only were hurt in the shooting, one seriously. There were no casualties amongst the marines. There was no indication of what the Argentines intended to do with the latter. Mr Margolis had last contacted his correspondent at 4 pm BST when all was said to be quiet in Port Stanley.

2. A taperecording was given to the radio newsroom and I presume that extracts from it will be broadcast tonight.

C Hulse

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Defence Department

2 April 1982

cc:

- PS
- PS/Mr Luce
- PS/PUS
- Mr Giffard
- Mr Ure
- Mr Weston
- MOD, Defence Situation Centre
- Cabinet Office, (DIO)

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3. I spoke again to Mr Margolis at 1710 BST who confirmed that the situation was still quiet and added the following clarification to his earlier account: the Marines had been included in the personnel taken into custody with the Governor; there was no information about injuries to any of the Marines. Mr Margolis assumed that his interlocutor was receiving his information by listening in to local Argentine communications. Mr Margolis has given me the frequencies on which these conversations have taken place and I have passed this on to PUSD.