

Falkland Islands Situation Report, No. 3
Information as of 1/00, 3 April 1982

Status of the Invasion

1. Radio reports indicate that the hospitals in
Port Stanley have been evacuated and their roofs
reinforced to accommodate Argentine and perhaps
British wounded airlifted in from the islands. Many
of the civilians apparently assisted in defending the
island, and press and other sources report continued
resistance to the invasion forces from Royal Marines
and citizens.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Directorate of Intelligence

The Argentine government's level of
Marine and islander resistance to the invasion force.
By underestimating the actual level of casualties,
Buenos Aires may hope to minimize international reaction
to the invasion and enhance the image of their military
capabilities. Confirmed reports of additional British
casualties would place more pressure on Thatcher for
a quick response.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SITUATION REPORT #3

Poor roads and unfamiliarity with the rugged
terrain will hamper Argentine operations, but
experience could reduce the Argentine
to harass the Argentines.

Comments

The Argentines could be initiating ship withdrawals
to home ports in anticipation of what they believe to be
the imminent arrival of British submarines. Apparently
Buenos Aires plans to keep their submarines in the area,
perhaps even after other ships have departed.

Falkland Islands Situation Report, No.3
Information as of 1400, 3 April 1982

Status of the Invasion

1. Radio reports indicate that two hospitals in Mar del Plata have been evacuated and their roofs reinforced to accommodate Argentine, and perhaps British, wounded airlifted in from the islands. Many of the civilians apparently assisted in defending the island, and press and other sources report continued resistance to the invasion forces from Royal Marines and citizens [redacted]

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Comment:

The Argentines may have downplayed the level of Marine and islander resistance to the invasion force. By underestimating the actual level of casualties, Buenos Aires may hope to minimize international reaction to the invasion and enhance the image of their military capabilities. Confirmed reports of additional British casualties would place more pressure on Thatcher for a quick response. [redacted]

25X1

Poor roads and unfamiliarity with the rugged terrain will hamper operations against resistors, but exposure could reduce the ability of the Marines to harass the Argentines. [redacted]

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[redacted]

Comment:

The Argentines could be initiating ship withdrawals to home ports in anticipation of what they believe to be the imminent arrival of British submarines. Apparently Buenos Aires plans to keep their submarines in the area, perhaps even after other ships have departed. [redacted]

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TOP SECRET [redacted]

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Argentine Politics

The National Workers Confederation, a moderate labor group, called off a scheduled general strike because of the Falklands crisis, and a more radical labor organization, the General Workers Confederation, called on its membership to celebrate the recovery of the islands. [REDACTED]

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Comment:

Argentine labor is traditionally very nationalistic and the call to rally around the government will probably provide Galtieri, at least temporarily, with the maneuvering room he believes required to stabilize the economy and implement political reforms. [REDACTED]

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25X1

Diplomatic Activity

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

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