



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 March 1982

✓ c. Pers. Office
MAP
Argentina

[Handwritten initials] 23.
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Dear John,

[Handwritten initials]

Falkland Islands

I enclose a copy of the statement Mr Luce proposes to make in the House today, subject to the views of Lord Carrington who is being consulted in Brussels. The statement will be repeated by Lord Trefgarne in the Lords. In response to questions about the precise arrangements we are making, Mr Luce proposes to say no more than that HMS Endurance is in the area and will be available to assist if necessary.

Yours ever

[Handwritten signature: J E Holmes]

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

South Georgia

~~FALKLAND ISLANDS: ILLEGAL LANDING ON SOUTH GEORGIA.~~

2. We were informed on 20 March by the Commander of the British Antarctic Base at Grytviken on South Georgia that a party of Argentines had made a landing at Leith Harbour nearby. The Base Commander informed the Argentine party that their presence was illegal as they had not obtained his prior authority for the landing. We immediately took the matter up with the Argentine authorities in Buenos Aires and the Argentine Embassy in London and, following our approach, the ship and most of the personnel left on 21 March. However, the Base Commander has reported that a small number of men and some equipment remain. We are therefore making arrangements to ensure ~~that they~~ *their* leave soon. *early departure*