

DRAFT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

FALKLAND ISLANDS

We can now confirm that an Argentine military attack on Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands took place today. HMG totally condemn this unprovoked aggression which is in flagrant disregard of the appeal made by the President of the Security Council last night for both sides to refrain from the use of force and to resolve present tensions by diplomatic means.

We call upon the Argentine Government, even at this late hour, to reconsider its ill-conceived action, to withdraw its forces immediately and to return to the path of diplomatic negotiation.

We cannot at this stage report on the situation in Port Stanley. But our feelings at this grave moment must be with the Governor and the people of the Falkland Islands.

We are taking appropriate military and diplomatic measures to sustain our rights under international law and in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter. To this end the Government have decided that it is right to send a task force to the South Atlantic. We shall also be taking urgent international action, in particular through the UN Security Council, in order to achieve an early withdrawal of Argentine armed forces from the Falkland Islands.