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ROYAL MARINES

There is as yet no firm news of the remaining Royal Marines captured in the Falklands and South Georgia. We have asked the Swiss as the protecting power to obtain confirmation of their whereabouts from the Argentine authorities. There are unconfirmed Argentine reports that the 22 Marines from South Georgia are on a ship heading for the Argentine mainland and that the six Marines and one member of the crew of HMS Endurance from the Falklands are at present at Comodoro Rivadavia. The Swiss Ambassador in Buenos Aires was told by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10 April that the Marines were "at sea" and that he did not know when they would be disembarked.

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY PERSONNEL

Four outlying field parties, including 13 BAS personnel and Miss Buxton and Miss Price, were reported well and in place by BAS on 12 April (the next radio contact between BAS and the field parties will be on the evening of 14 April). A further 13 BAS personnel are believed to be with the 22 Marines from South Georgia on their way to the Argentine mainland.

The Swiss in Buenos Aires were asked on 5 April to ask the Argentines about their intentions regarding BAS personnel on South Georgia and whether they planned to take them off the island. Following the closure of communications with Buenos Aires on 7 April, a further request for the same information was put through the Swiss in Berne. There has been no firm information in reply to these requests, although the Argentines have asked for and been provided with details of names and locations.



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