
Falklands landing raises clamour in Commons

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

The Government was under pressure yesterday to retain the survey ship HMS Endurance in the South Atlantic after the illegal landing by a group of Argintines at Leith Harbour, South Georgia, last week. South Georgia is a dependency of the disputed Falkland Islands. In the Commons Conservative and Labour members urgently appealed to the government to reconsider the withdrawal of the vessel or to consider a replacement. There was some indicaton that Ministers may be having second thoughts after a statement by Lord Trefgarne, Under-Secretary of state, at the Foreign Office, that the matter was still being discussed.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office

told the Commons that the Argentine naval transport ship and most of the personnel left on Sunday. HMS Endurance is in the area and there are Marines in the Falklands.

Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, said Mr Luce was warned that this sort of escapade was likely as soon as the withdrawal of the Endurance became known to Argentina. It would be gross dereliction of duty by the Government to persist in this course.

□ Buenos Aires: The British Ambassador, Mr Anthony Williams was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday to discuss the landing and the military junta met to view the the situation, a Government source said.