

Incident in the Falklands

From Air Commodore B. G. Frow

Sir, The recent illegal landing in South Georgia by a group of Argentine scrap merchants, followed by the raising of the Argentine flag on this British territory, highlights the vital need to retain a British naval presence in the South Atlantic.

In this incident, HMS Endurance was alerted and could have intervened if the "invaders" had not peacefully withdrawn. After the withdrawal of this ship, 42 Royal Marines will be the sole British military presence in the South Atlantic, and without a ship they cannot exert British influence outside their base in the Falklands.

In 1977, the illegal occupation of South Thule by Argentine military "specialists" was a warning shot and, in 1982, is now followed by this provocative demonstration. Argentina has publicly welcomed the withdrawal of HMS Endurance as a sign of goodwill by Britain. It is still not too late to cancel this madness.

Yours faithfully,

B. G. FROW,

Honorary Secretary,

United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee,

2 Greycoat Place, SW1.

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