

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

The news from the Falkland Islands is so depressing that most people cannot even bear to read about it. But help is now at hand for them, if not for the Falklanders.

Today we introduce a brand new service and a revolutionary concept in news reporting: news by mail order!

Below you will find the openings of five different rundowns on the Falkland situation. Simply tick the one that you would most like to read, and we'll send the rest. That way, you get the facts *without* the depression.

□ British Admiralty chiefs were cock-a-hoop today at the success of navy manoeuvres in the southern Atlantic. The British presence near the Falklands and South Georgia is represented by the RN patrol ship *Endurance*, the survey vessel *John Biscoe*, the weather ship *Overcast*, the Naval Rowing Club third racing eight *Unsinkable*, and *Dutch Elm*, the wholly British-owned yacht in the Whitbread Round-the-World Race, which happens to be in the area.

"This massive presence completely outweighs the Argentine threat", said Rear-Spokesman Humphreys for the Admiralty last night. "The Argentinians, with nothing but missile-carrying

corvettes in the area, simply have no answer for our think-power and our flexibility."

Critics of naval cuts have been effectively silenced by this impressive . . .

□ "This has put South Georgia on the map overnight!"

That was the joyful reaction from the Antarctic Holiday Bureau, whose marketing of small islands off Cape Horn has until now been at best quiet. This comes hard on the heels of the discovery of a prehistoric penguin six foot high and the recent progress through the area of Sir Ranulph Fiennes. Already two solid bookings have been received for the £890 Penguin Classic Holiday, and over 10 holiday-makers are believed to be on the Follow-Sir-Ranulph Trail, though no one is quite sure where.

And the good news is that there are more islands to discover. The South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkneys . . .

□ The 60 or so Argentines describing themselves as scrap merchants were, in fact, scrap merchants (writes our Scrap and Defence Correspondent). Britain's naval policy and its scrap metal industry are now heavily involved with each other, and the deal whereby Argentina wishes to buy up all our

remaining ships could be worth over £3m. Argentina is not, contrary to reports, interested in having South Georgia, which is incapable of being melted down. This is purely a business deal and as such . . .

□ The Archbishop of Canterbury today welcomed a report which urged the amalgamation of the Falkland Catholic Church and the Reformed Anglican Church of Falkland, which already share premises and catering facilities. "I welcome this report wholeheartedly, with the usual reservations and necessary caution," he commented. Now, the main barrier to the ecumenical movement there is the Falkland Debating Society, which is predominantly agnostic. But, given good will, there is no reason why . . .

□ Yesterday Britain called yet again on the Argentine Government to cede sovereignty of the North Falklands, the windswept rocks 200 miles north east of Scotland, which have been controlled by the imperialist and colonialist Latin Americans for 300 years. Mrs Thatcher is under increasing pressure to send in the navy and take them by force. It is believed that a task force of marines, masquerading as scrap merchants, is already on the way . . .