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MOD PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY PUS IN HISTORICAL ROOM 27 ON 2 JUN 82 AT 1600 HRS

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS.

Q. Can you bring us up to date on where tactically and operationally we stand?

A. We are being very quiet about where we stand. Basically what is happening is that we are consolidating our position and getting our logistics into position and our people into position. Also a certain amount of patrolling and reconnaissance and a certain amount of intelligence covering.

Q. Can you tell us anything about 5 Bde?

A. No.

Q. Latest estimate on the number of Argentines in Port Stanley?

A. Difficult estimate to make - they have naval personnel, airmen and soldiers. I would have thought about 2000 naval and airmen and about 5000 plus soldiers.

Q. Do you think we are even in numbers?

A. I don't think we need to be even in numbers but we are.

Q. Are you satisfied with the amount of air support you have on the Island itself?

A. You are never totally satisfied. We are totally satisfied at the amount of air support we can deploy. We have facilities ashore as well.

Q. Can you describe the naval bombardment we have conducted down there?

A. This has had 3 aims. Keeping heads down and doing some damage. To aim at known positions of Argentine forces identified by photographic reconnaissance from the Harriers and to aim at identified dumps of stores etc. We do not have precise details of how much damage caused.

Q. Are they in trenches?

A. Some dug in and some in the open.

Q. When did the land base artillery come into play?

A. A day or two ago.

Q. Originally stated that he would not take operational command - does that tell us something about 5 Bde?

A. No it doesn't tell you anything. The intention was that when he got there he would take command.

Q. Have you found any difficulty in using the Snowcats down there?

A. None at all.

Q. Comments on the SAS and SBS?

A. Never say anything about them but assume they are not sitting on their backsides.

Q. Do you consider inviting the Argentines to surrender part of your strategy?

A. I would consider that a perfectly normal part of military activity. None of us want to kill a lot of Argentines. The more of them who give up the happier we shall be.

Q. Do you have Spanish interpreters?

A. Spanish speakers.

Q. Is the type of giving up you are talking about unconditional?

A. In the sense that they will be treated fairly under all the rules of the Geneva Convention. I do not like the word unconditional though - I regard it as a political word.

Q. Have you physically moved in all the fit prisoners from the Falkland Islands yet?

A. Some of them are aboard ships. Whether the ship has sailed from the Falklands I can't remember.

Q. I heard that these prisoners had been used to pick up their own minefields?

A. I do not know enough to comment on it.

Q. Have you got any additional information on the supply of exocets?

A. We have had a number of reports that the Argentines have been trying to acquire exocets. Theoretically they should have used up all their exocets that we knew they had. It would be unwise to assume that they may not get hold of some at one time or another.

Q. Have we had any information from the captured officers?

A. Basically mainland officers. I don't know about the information - we have not seen any reports.

Q. Do you control all the high ground around Port Stanley?

A. Not all but a fair proportion of it.

Q. Before you have said that you thought large numbers of Argentines would surrender quickly?

A. I think you will still get large numbers who will and still some quite strong resistance.