

# emerald

Declares 'exclusion zone'

## Britain readies for war

**LONDON (AP)** — Defense Secretary John Nott said Wednesday night that Britain has declared a 200-mile "maritime exclusion zone" around the Falkland Islands, effective next Monday.

He told the House of Commons that as of 4 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time (11 p.m. Sunday, Eastern Standard Time) "any Argentine warships and Argentine auxiliaries found within this zone will be treated as hostile and are liable to be attacked by British forces."

Argentina invaded the Falklands on Friday, and Britain has not given the locations of ships that were at sea and headed for the area before the main naval force left Portsmouth on Monday.

Officials gave no immediate indication whether any British warships will be within the zone by Monday, but Britain has a naval base at Ascension Island about 4,400 miles away and port facilities at islands that are closer.

"Our first naval action will be intended to deny the Argentine forces on the Falklands the means to reinforce and resupply from the mainland," Nott said.

Britain's new Foreign Secretary Francis Pym warned Argentina's military rulers earlier that Britain "does not appease dictators," but warmly welcomed U.S. efforts to defuse the Falkland crisis, which began when Argentina invaded and occupied the crown colony on Friday.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig prepared to fly to London and Buenos Aires in a bid to defuse the crisis.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry reiterated its position in the conflict "is neutral." The U.S. government says it too is steering a neutral course in the dispute.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who demands

the Argentines withdraw, refused to resign over the Falklands crisis Tuesday, and today prices rallied on the London Stock Exchange and the pound sterling rebounded on the strength of her stance.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina's interior minister said his nation would defend the Falklands "to the last Argentine soldier" and Britain could not threaten Argentina into making concessions.

The big British naval task force en route to the Falklands was in the third day of its 8,000-mile voyage. It was expected to reach the islands 250 miles off Argentina's eastern coast on April 20.

Nott's announcement came at the end of the second emergency Commons debate in four days on the Argentine invasion of the South Atlantic Falklands colony.

Pym accused Argentina of "the rape of the Falklands," and declared to the Commons: "We intend to see that the . . . islands are freed from occupation and returned to British administration at the earliest possible moment."

The Foreign Office said Pym "warmly welcomes Pres. Reagan's decision to send Mr. Haig to London. He comes as a friend and ally to consult with us on an issue of great importance to us both — the implementation of Security Council resolution 502 for which both countries voted" Saturday. The resolution calls for the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands.

As the British navy readied more warships to join the 40-ship armada heading for the islands, Pym told the Commons the fleet "should show the Argentine regime we mean business."

British troops on the convoy were ordered to shave off beards before reaching the Falklands so that gas masks could be worn if needed. "We are coordinating a program to meet the threat," said Cmdr. Ken McKenzie, the operations officer on the aircraft carrier Hermes.

A British correspondent aboard the Hermes reported the crew was "working up to full readiness" with battle drills, intensive flying trials, commando exercises and damage control preparations.

The Times of London said three frigates and one destroyer were expected to join the armada that sailed Monday, and that as many as four nuclear-powered submarines could already be on the way to the islands.

The navy declined comment for "security reasons," but the Times identified the subs as Superb, Scepter, Spartan and Splendid, the frigates as Dido, Euryalus and Battleaxe, and the destroyer as the Fife.

As a large part of Britain's navy sailed south, Argentine C-130 transports kept up a daily airlift of soldiers, artillery and ammunition to the thousands of troops that overran Stanley, the Falklands capital, last Friday.

The Argentine news agency DYN said officers returning from the Falklands reported the troops were digging trenches and foxholes and constructing fortifications to defend their hold against the British fleet.

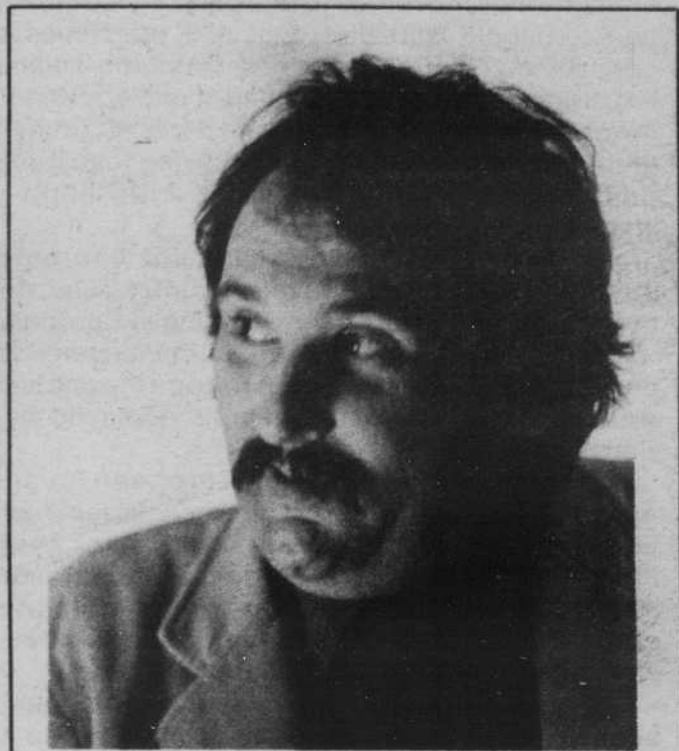


Photo by David Corey

David Tamarin

## Internal flaws spur invasion, historian says

By Chris Courtner  
Of the Emerald

Argentina's military junta decided to capture the Falkland Islands to divert attention from the serious economic problems the Latin American nation faces, a University historian said Wednesday.

David Tamarin, an assistant professor of Latin American history, said the purpose of the military junta is not to free the islands from British rule, but rather to "gather people around their (Argentina's) flag."

"The current military regime has proved to be a great failure in solving Argentina's economic problems," Tamarin said. "It's a blatant attempt to divert the public's attention of the economic issues."

A week before the takeover of the Falklands, thousands of people in Buenos Aires demonstrated against the regime's current economic policies, he said.

Argentina is experiencing economic difficulties because their export industry is suffering, Tamarin said. For the country to recover economically, a transition needs to be made from an export economy to an integrated industrial economy.

The 2,000 inhabitants of the Falklands consider themselves to be "her majesty's loyal subjects," Tamarin said, and they would probably openly object to the military takeover if they were not afraid of facing adverse consequences from the regime.

A military confrontation is imminent, he added.

"I don't see how the Argentines can be induced diplomatically to withdraw."

"If it really came down to blows, it will be ultimately decided by the superiority of the British fleet. The military president will no doubt fall, and the military junta will be forced to turn the power over to the British."

One of the reasons Argentina claims to be interested in the Falklands is because of the offshore oil that surrounds the islands, Tamarin said. But Argentina has no need of the oil since the offshore oil already under its jurisdiction exceeds the amount they can afford to process.

The conflict over the Falklands spans several hundred years and the current crisis is "symbolic of a long-standing love-hate relationship between Argentina and Britain," Tamarin said.



Graphic by Max DeRungs

## Two nations argue over 'hostages'

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — While the Reagan administration worked for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Falkland Islands, representatives of Argentina and Britain argued over whether the Falkland inhabitants are hostages.

Officials of the two nations met with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who spent much of Tuesday seeking a way to head off a war between the two countries.

Argentina's foreign minister and Britain's U.S. ambassador, speaking to reporters after meeting Haig, repeated their opposing positions and disagreed over whether the remote islands' residents are hostages.

Argentina's foreign minister, Nicanor Costa Mendez, said he was optimistic negotiations would settle the issue, but Sir Nicholas Henderson said Argentina's forces would have to evacuate the Falklands.

Costa Mendez said his country will provide transportation for any resident who wants to leave the islands 250 miles off Argentina's eastern coast, and will compensate them for their property.

But Henderson called the 1,800 to 2,000 English-speaking inhabitants — nearly all of whom are British

citizens — hostages. And he appeared to scold Washington for not being more concerned.

"You were very concerned when you had 52 hostages," Henderson said, referring to the American hostages in Iran. "We have 2,000 hostages down there. Large principles are at stake."

Costa Mendez complained that Henderson was "completely wrong, absolutely wrong" in calling them hostages.

"Every islander is free to stay there and if he stays there he will have all the rights that he had up to now," Costa Mendez said. "But if he wants to go, he can go tonight, he can go tomorrow."

"We will send a plane or a boat if they want to leave the islands . . . and we will compensate every damage that they could suffer and we will even buy their property," he said.

"So you cannot call them hostages because they are absolutely free to stay or to leave," he said.

Costa Mendez said Haig offered U.S. assistance to help its "two good friends" resolve the conflict without further violence and voiced optimism that there will be such a settlement.