

FALKLAND ISLANDS: CITIZENSHIP AND RADIOCitizenship

13,000 of the Falklanders are British "patrial" by birth or descent. The remaining 500 or so are third generation Brits who would not have an automatic right to citizenship in this country. We should avoid getting into the numbers game but remind people of the Government's commitment to the Falklanders that, should it be necessary, we would deal most sympathetically with those who had no entitlement to come here and that we would use our best endeavours to accommodate them or to help them to any other place they wanted to go to.

Radio

The Radio Society, which is the body which looks after radio hams, has told Newsnight that the Home Office has been on to them requesting that any hams getting messages from Falklanders should ask them to call back in one hour and meanwhile inform the Home Office of the intended call. The implication is that this is the only way in which the British Government can find out what is going on.

The facts are that the Home Office have reminded the Radio Society of the terms of the licence to transmit and receive under the Wireless and Telegraphy Act, which is that no information gained in this way should be passed on to a third party (such as the BBC). The Home Office is also asking the Radio Society to remind its members that passing on such information to other sources could create a very real physical danger to the Falklanders who are sending the messages.