

TRAWLERS REQUISITIONED

Four fast trawlers have been requisitioned by MoD. The MoD issued the following on the record statement today:

"The trawlers Northella, Farnella, Cordella and Junella as a purely precautionary measure are being requisitioned to complement the Royal Navy capability. The ships will be manned by Royal Navy personnel and are being fitted out at Rosyth this week. These deep-water trawlers would be especially well suited to make the long journey to the Falklands and have very good sea-keeping qualities. Our own mine counter-measure vessels are more suitable to their NATO role which involves their operating in our own waters."

We can offer no guidance at the moment as to how long conversion will take or when the ships might sail.

IS THIS A LAST MINUTE AFTERTHOUGHT?

No. There has been very thorough contingency planning and such a move was always on the cards.

PB