

STATEMENT BY MOD 0170 SUN 2 MAY

At approximately 8 o'clock London time last night, the Argentinian cruiser General Belgrano was hit by torpedoes fired from a British submarine. The cruiser is believed to be severely damaged.

On Friday 23 April HMG warned the Argentine Government that any approach on the part of Argentine warships including submarines and naval auxiliaries or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British Forces in the South Atlantic would encounter the appropriate response.

The cruiser posed a significant threat to the British Task Force maintaining the TEZ. The action taken was fully in accordance with the instructions given to the Task Force Commander based upon the inherent right of self defence under article 51 of the UN Charter.

The British submarine suffered no damage in the engagement and has resumed her patrol ... further details of the engagement will be given as soon as we have them... but this might not be for some time.

The engagement was on the edge of the TEZ - just outside.