



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

No.55 June 1993

New Tactics, Same Objective

Senor Di Tella, the Argentine Foreign Minister, is a good deal more intelligent than any of his predecessors, or indeed most Argentine politicians, over the Falkland Islands. He is, however, as unrealistic as any of them.

In this issue we publish an account of his press conference on the 25th March, during his informal visit to Britain, when he said the Falklands dispute could only be solved if sovereignty passed to Argentina. Thereafter he wrote to each of the Falkland Islands Councillors. We also publish their joint reply. We quote one section: "For it is not the existence of the Falkland Islands which constitutes the problem in the South Atlantic, but Argentina's claim to these islands."

While Senor Di Tella adopts the novel approach of addressing the Islanders in a reasonably civilised manner, other Argentine politicians and their press continue to harass them, threatening their fishing revenues and exerting pressure

through companies such as British Gas, which invest in Argentina. Argentina is determined to get a foothold in the islands as a prelude to taking them and their oil over. For some reason, Di Tella expects the-Islanders to cooperate in this and chides them for wanting nothing to do with Argentina while its claim to their homeland persists.

In 1982 Argentina committed rape. Its forces had to be expelled at great cost. It is doubtful whether any other country would have the face to try to return to the scene.

With honourable exceptions, the Argentines are a nation of self deceivers. They must accept that Argentina has never had a sustainable claim in international law to the Falkland Islands. The attempt to seize them by force in 1982 was an act of aggression which cannot be undone. Sovereignty is never going to pass to Argentina. That country must learn to abandon imperialist ambitions against the Falklands as it has had to abandon its claims on its other neighbours.

Coming through the Narrows



GECO-PRAKLA'S Seismic Boat, the Akademik Shatskiy, Entering Stanley Harbour
(Photo: Courtesy of GECO-PRAKLA)

Lord Braine, The New FIA President

Earlier this year Lord Braine of Wheatley accepted the position of Falkland Islands Association President, replacing Sir Rex Hunt, who became Chairman. Lord Braine, best known as an expert in foreign affairs and a fighter for human rights, brings a wealth of Parliamentary experience to the Association.

Born in 1914, Lord Braine attended Hendon County Grammar school and then entered the civil service. Joining the army at the outbreak of war, Lord Braine served in West Africa, Europe and in South East Asia where he became a Lt. Col on the staff of Lord Mountbatten.

Lord Braine entered Parliament as Conservative M.P. for Billericay in 1949. Rising rapidly, he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Transport in 1952. In 1961 he became Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs, and began a lifetime of association with the Commonwealth. Amongst many other posts, Lord Braine was Deputy Chairman of the U.K. branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 1964-65, again from 1970-74, and yet again in 1987. He was Treasurer of that body from 1965-70 and again from 1974-78. In opposition he was spokesman for Commonwealth Affairs and Overseas Aid from 1967-70.

Many other posts reflect his interest and activity in foreign affairs. He was Chairman of the Select Committee on Overseas Aid from 1970-71, Chairman of the Select Committee on Overseas Development from 1973-74, and Governor of the Commonwealth Institute from 1968-81. He has been active on the behalf of the disadvantaged too, interesting himself in the problems of drug abuse and alcoholism, and the unjustly prosecuted. He was Chairman of the All Party Pro-Life Committee. He was Vice-Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civil Rights from 1979-92.

He has chaired the British-German, British-Tibet, and British-Greek Parliamentary Groups, and led Parliamentary Missions to India, Mauritius, Australia, Greece, Germany and Poland. Lord Braine became a Privy Councillor in 1985 and Father of the House in 1987, a position he held until 1992 when he entered the Lords.



Lord Braine of Wheatley
(Photo: Peter Pepper)

Lord Braine was knighted in 1972, and has received honours from Greece, Germany, Poland, and, although a Protestant, the Vatican. He is an FRSA, a DL from Essex University. Remaining active at 79, Lord Braine now lectures internationally on human rights. He was photographed (above) last April on his return from the United States where he received an honorary doctorate from Dallas Baptist University.

He will be a powerful voice for the Islanders' rights at Westminster.

Croydon Exhibition

You are invited to the FALKLAND ISLANDS EXHIBITION 1993 in the sun lounge of the Fairfield Halls, Croydon. This is the 6th year that Brian Paul and Annabelle of the Falkland Islands Agency, Wells, Somerset (THE ONLY FALKLAND ISLANDS SHOP IN THE WORLD) have put on a major exhibition.

Open 10am - 10pm from Monday 27th September to the final day, Saturday the 9th October. No admission charge (Closed Sunday).

Philatelic displays by Geoff Moir, National History Exhibits, Spinning Demonstrations, Artwork, Film Studios, Photographic displays, BBC World Service recordings for Calling the Falklands and, of course, the most luxurious, soft and strong Falkland Islands Fleeces, Wool and Woollen Knitwear for all the family.

Bring your friends and enjoy a day out - the FALKLANDS without having to travel 8,000 miles!

Cambridge Seminar

Transcripts of the FIA seminar at Cambridge are now available at the Falkland Islands Association office - price ten pounds.

Argentina Must Abandon Pressure. Lord Braine Speaks Out As Association President

Lord Braine, one of Britain's longest serving politicians, has warned Argentina it must give up pressure on the Falkland Islands, if there is to be co-operation and peace in the South Atlantic. Speaking in an interview for the Newsletter as newly appointed President of the Falkland Islands Association, Lord Braine said the Falkland Islanders must be allowed to decide their own destiny and how they should develop, without threat of economic blackmail from Argentina. He expressed disbelief at allegations of war crimes by British troops in the Falklands conflict, praising them as humane as well as courageous fighting men. He said a civilised democratic nation such as Britain had to investigate such allegations, contrasting this with murder and torture of their own people by the Argentine military regime before 1982. Here's his interview with Harold Briley:

Q: How would you hope to further the main aim of the Association to preserve the freedom of the Islanders to decide their own destiny?

A: It has long been British policy to extend self-government and, eventually, sovereign independence, to our colonies. In my lifetime the former British Empire has been transformed into a Commonwealth of free and democratic nations. Like other British colonies before them the Falkland Islanders have a right to decide their own destiny. To ensure this, it is essential that people and Parliament in Britain are kept well informed so that we can help the process.

Q: Argentina says it expects to achieve sovereignty by the end of the century. Will it succeed?

A: No, it will not succeed, especially when such hopes are accompanied by threat and pressure. That is not the way to win hearts and minds anywhere, especially those of people who are of British stock. When one recalls that before the Falklands War, Argentina was, sadly, one of the most disgracefully ruled countries in the world, with a regime which imprisoned or murdered vast numbers of its own people, it is not very likely that the Falkland Islanders would contemplate abandoning their British heritage and their democratic way of life.

Q: Argentina has mounted an economic campaign by issuing cheaper fishing licences to foreign vessels, so damaging Falklands revenue and its economy. How can they be dissuaded from this or any other form of economic blackmail?

A: If this is the case, then it is misguided and can only serve to stiffen the resolution of the Falkland Islanders to resist economic blackmail and to remain independent. Under international law they have every right to do so and have the resources and the friends to stand by them. One does not win hearts and minds anywhere in the world by bullying. We shall watch this situation carefully.

Q: The Falkland Islands Government is encouraging oil exploration, giving permission for seismic surveys. Is this a good or bad move for the Falklands?

A: Any country, big or small, has the right to improve the lot of its people by developing resources that are clearly theirs under international law.

Q: Does oil exploitation require co-operation with Argentina, as one of Lord Shackleton's economic reports once suggested?

A: Where sovereignty is respected there is always room for co-operation between neighbouring countries. Indeed, voluntary co-operation makes sense because it leads to better understanding all round. It is in everyone's interest that Argentina prospers and that there is no possibility of a return to the cruel and repellent fascist dictatorship which ruled there before the Falklands War.

Q: Is oil exploitation and the threat of pollution compatible with the preservation of the wonderful Falklands wildlife?

A: Clearly regard has to be paid to the impact of development on natural resources. Oil spillages can have an appalling effect on wild life and the utmost care will have to be taken to minimise the risk. Indeed, this is a reminder once again of the need for vigilance and cooperation in the South Atlantic.

Q: You have an impressive war record in the British Army, serving in many areas in the 1939-1945 War, in Europe, West Africa, and on the staff of Earl Mountbatten in South East Asia. What is your reaction to allegations of war crimes by British troops against Argentine prisoners in the Falklands?

A: My reaction was one of horror and incredulity. The British soldier is not only brave and well disciplined, he is also humane. In any event let me emphasise that in a democracy like ours a free Parliament and free press ensure that charges of serious wrong-doing are investigated. That is what happened in this case.

Falkland Islanders in the Isle of Wight

From the 3rd to 10th of July, Falkland Islanders will be participating in the Small Islands Games and International Arts Festival on the Isle of Wight. A netball team of 12 is going, so are 8 golfers as well as pistol shooters, Badminton players, and athletes. Some thirty people in all. Falklands art work, including pictures by Tony Chater, will be on display then at the Key Arts Centre, Sea Street, Newport, IOW. Information about places and times can be obtained from John Fands 0983-405594.

An appeal for support funds is enclosed with this newsletter.

The Status of the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica under Argentine Provincialisation Law 23.775.

by P.J.Pepper.

In 1986, Alfonsín's Radical Government launched a bill to turn Argentine national territories, Tierra del Fuego, Isla de los Estados and Isla Año Nuevo into a province. The first article outlined its geographical limits. The second said that extension of the province to include the Falklands, South Georgia, the South Sandwiches and Argentine Antarctica would be considered "when the conditions were accomplished for a free and complete assumption of undisputed power, recovery, and repopulation" (Diario de Sesiones 26/9/86). These territories were specifically excluded until then, as the Radicales thought it would complicate their takeover. Peronists bitterly opposed this. They wanted to include them "to reinforce Argentine sovereignty". The debate was really all about this. It included all the usual rhetoric: "Decolonisation" i.e. the handover of the Falklands; "Desmalvinización", the Peronist smear that Radicales want to abandon the claim to the Malvinas; the protection of the "interests" of the Islanders. Even this didn't appeal to everyone: Radical Deputy Varanosi said he wanted a province with its own population - not one inherited from the colonialists (Diario de Sesiones 1/10/86). The bill got bogged down.

The bill surfaced again in 1988, during Alfonsín's last months. This time the disputed territories were automatically to become part of the new province as soon as they became part of Argentina (Diario de Sesiones 15/9/88). Little else changed - except that repopulation was dropped. The arguments were the same too. The bill got nowhere. With Argentina practically falling apart, there were more important things to think about.

The Radicales lost the election in 1989; Menem took over that June, and began negotiations with Britain to re-establish diplomatic relations. The provincialisation bill wearily got under way again too. With Peronists in power, it now included all the disputed territories: The Falklands, South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and Argentine Antarctica. The latter, Deputy Garay pointed out, breached the Antarctic Treaty. No one cared. This time too, it actually named the islands that belonged to Tierra del Fuego in the Beagle Channel. Earlier bills had not done this. Among them were Cole and Lawrence. These were Chilean islands, and not in dispute! No one in Congress noticed this. No one in Chile did either.

By February 1990, Britain and Argentina were actually re-establishing diplomatic relations. Overtaken by this, the provincialisation bill was finally approaching completion. It got its final reading, in the Chamber of Deputies, just nine weeks later - April the 25th and 26th. Clearly, it was folly. The Labour Party was ahead in the polls, and a general election was due in Britain within two years. Labour was committed then to solving the FI dispute in accordance with the Islanders' "interests", not their wishes. This would be sufficient to ensure an Argentine takeover. But, Argentina would not be able to maintain the claim that it would respect the Islanders' interests, if it included them in Tierra del Fuego - when they would always be outvoted, by twenty to

one, by the mainland population. Several deputies pointed this out. Dante Caputo even said "they were handing the British an argument for self-determination on a plate". Not that he cared about the population. It was then (26/4/90) that he told *Clarín* that "Argentina was claiming a territory, not a population hardly compatible with Argentina's". But Peronist minds were made up; the bill was passed, and sent to Menem for signature.

Perhaps Cole and Lawrence had been put there deliberately, to provide a means of torpedoing the bill. Perhaps it was just a mistake. The Argentine ambassador to Chile apologised, and said they would buy the map reader a new pair of glasses. But these islands gave President Menem what he badly needed - an excuse to emasculate the bill. On May 12, in decree 905, he returned Article 1, which defined the province's borders, to Congress for clarification. Publicly, this was because it contained Cole and Lawrence, but more importantly it included the Falklands also. In the press this was a "partial veto". In fact, it was hardly even that. Menem had merely sent the article back for further consideration. If he had vetoed it, it couldn't have been replaced in the same law - however much it was changed. Further, the replacement for it, suggested by Menem, still included the Malvinas. This was published in *La Nación* on the 12th May - and kept the extremists happy. But, all the bill's twenty-five other articles became law. Five of these: 2, 7, 13, 14 and 17, mention the Malvinas or the "South Atlantic Islands".

The new Article 1 could have been made law quickly. It wasn't - as the government couldn't specify the boundaries without offending someone. Replacing it without the Falklands would infuriate Argentine extremists. Replacing it including the Falklands would undermine Argentina's claim to protect the Islanders' "interests". The new Article 1 wasn't mentioned again until February 1991. Then the Chamber of Deputies quietly approved it, and passed it to the Senate. Nothing has been heard of it since. No record of a Senate debate has been found yet - almost certainly because Argentines have finally realised what folly it all is.

Provincialisation law 23.775 now means whatever people want it to. Those who realise how it undermines Argentina's absurd policy of promising to protect the Islanders' "interests" say it was vetoed. The Argentine delegation to the Cambridge ABC said this. But to nationalists, for once more truthful than the moderates, the Falklands are part of the new province, and there is just a delay because of Cole and Lawrence. The Falklands appear on the front cover of its constitution, which was published a year after the "veto". They feature prominently in its new offices in Buenos Aires too. This is at Sarmiento 745, and calls itself the "Casa de la Provincia de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida y ISLAS DEL ATLANTICO SUR". There's no sympathy for the Islanders there either. Javier E. Varani, the assistant director, told me that "the biggest mistake the Argentines made during the war was not to deport the Islanders straight away". Senor Varani said "he believed this had been an option under Plan Goa".

Seismic Work Goes Ahead In the Falklands.

P.J.Pepper

Seismic prospectors GECO-PRAKLA began work in the southern half of Falklands waters last January, and have just finished making their seismic recordings. Their boat, the *Akademik Shatskiy*, shot 8,500 kilometres of seismic line.

Spectrum Geophysical followed suit in April using their boat, the *Mezen*. They will shoot 10,000 kilometres in the northern half, and probably finish in September. They will overlap slightly with GECO-PRAKLA's work, and so provide continuity of information all around the Falklands.

At a recent presentation in New Orleans, both Mike Johnson of Spectrum and Peter Phillips of GECO-PRAKLA reported very high interest in the seismic results from across the whole spectrum of the international oil community.

Spectrum and GECO-PRAKLA, although quite independent of each other, both have offices at Woking, Surrey. Computer processing of all the data they have recorded will take each of them five to six months.



The *Mezen* alongside in the United States
(Photo: Courtesy of Spectrum Geophysical)



The *Akademik Shatskiy* in Norwegian Waters
(Photo: Courtesy of GECO-PRAKLA)

FALKLANDS GEOLOGY FAVOURABLE

Black oil producing Jurassic shales exist practically all around the Falklands, which lie on the biggest continental shelf in the world. Occidental struck good quality oil from these in half the holes it drilled just on the Argentine side of the median line, west of the Falklands, in 1989. Oil indications are known from the eastern side of the Falklands too. The Deep Sea Drilling Project boat, *Glomar Challenger*, detected "immature petroleum" off the eastern end of the Falklands Plateau in two of the four boreholes it drilled there in 1974. Fearing they might drill close to the Falklands then, the Argentines seized the *Glomar Challenger* in August of that year, and held it until the crew agreed not to drill anywhere within 200 miles of territory claimed by Argentina. Argentina itself has done a lot of seismic work near the Falklands. An Argentine seismic boat was photographed near Beaver Island just a few weeks before the outbreak of the Falklands War.

Argentine Tactics Over Falklands Oil

The Argentine National Oil Company, YPF, is discussing a joint project just to the west of the median line with British Gas. Referring to this on the 3rd April, the *Financial Times* said that "Buenos Aires is anxious to increase British trade and investment, which it hopes would allay the Falklands suspicion of Argentina". Of course, any Islander will tell you that attempts to use British companies like this increase rather than reduce the Islanders' suspicion of Argentina. Rather more accurately, the FT then said that this was also **"TO CREATE COMMERCIAL TIES WITH BRITAIN THAT WOULD OFFSET THE VOCAL PRO-FALKLANDS LOBBY IN LONDON"**.

Interestingly, *La Prensa*, Argentina's most prestigious paper, reported a British Gas delegation meeting Guido Di Tella in Buenos Aires on 6th of May. The title of the article was: "Di Tella met British businessmen over the Malvinas". In the article *La Prensa* said the primary objective of the British visit was to finalise an agreement of association with YPF... to exploit the oil that exists around the Falklands!

Di Tella in his recent visit to Britain publicly threatened legal action against anyone exploiting Falklands oil without Argentina's agreement. In private, and in conversations with companies, he has been pressing for Argentine participation. Forcing its "cooperation" on the Falklands is seen in Argentina as a way of establishing Trojan horses and getting the access and direct links that it so craves.

Of course, cooperation at a company level is one thing. That happens in many oil operations that cross frontiers. But Argentina is known to want much more: an agreement that gives them a joint role with Britain in the licensing of oil operations in Falklands waters. That would imply at least partial recognition of the "rights" they are always talking about - if not their sovereignty. Argentina has long regarded oil development done like this as quite satisfactory. As far back as the 29th of November 1991, in *La Nacion*, Di Tella is reported as saying that joint oil exploration would be "a great advance for us".

Di Tella Visits Again

With a son at Oxford, charm, fluent English and an intellect that gets much more respect in Britain, than it does from the average Peronist, Guido di Tella is well placed for his regular unofficial visits here. Last March he made yet another. Still in trouble at home over the stalled Continental Glaciers Treaty with Chile, which nearly cost him his job last year, he is clearly anxious to be seen to be active on a major foreign policy issue. This is all the more important as elections approach that could make or break President Menem's attempt to get a second term of office.

Di Tella protested to Tristan Garel-Jones about the letters of comfort to two seismic companies prospecting off the Falklands. Argentina is known to have wanted a treaty, before exploration started, providing for joint British Argentine exploitation of Falklands Oil, in order to get Trojan horses in place and recognition of its "rights".

Di Tella spoke to a group of young Islanders studying in Britain, and made a pitch for the re-establishment of links between Argentina and the Falklands. He used his strange argument that because Britain re-established links with Germany in 1947, this should now happen between Argentina and the Falklands. The young islanders replied that Germany did not claim British territory in 1947, while Argentina still claims the Falklands.

Di Tella spoke to Lord Tebbit and a group from SWAG, the South-West Atlantic Group. Afterwards he told the Argentine press: "these are the people we have to convince". Later he spoke to the Chairman, Sir Rex Hunt and Vice-Chairman, Mr. R.Elgood - for same purpose.

In his press conference, on the 25th of March, Di Tella said it was useful to speak to hard line opponents. He also said that the limit of 45 on Argentine fishing licences this year was a quid pro quo for an understanding with Britain not to veto the fishing agreement between Argentina and the EEC. In Argentina this 45 licence limit is always referred to as a sacrifice or a goodwill gesture to the islanders. Di Tella's admission shows that it was in fact just self-interest.

Di Tella excoriated the Falkland Islands Council for not



HE Dr. Guido Di Tella

(Photo P.J.Pepper)

allowing their London representative, Miss Cameron, to meet him - almost as if they were under some obligation to cooperate. He said that talking could not possibly do harm, and that the FIG was being quite unreasonable, but that "there would be no reprisal for this refusal". He contradicted the reports in the Argentine press that Argentina will sell all the fishing licences it can next year unless it gets access, direct links and the right to trade with the Falklands. He stated that Argentina would not attempt to harm people it was trying to attract. He said Argentina would not engage in political or predatory fishing. Time will tell if this true.

Di Tella stated that the Falklands dispute could only be solved if sovereignty passed to Argentina. P.J.Pepper.

A Kick in the Teeth

Argentine politicians regularly urge Falkland Islanders to talk to them, claiming no harm can come from this, that this doesn't imply agreeing with them, and that being unwilling to talk is quite unreasonable.

Last September, four Islanders did talk to them, at what is called the "Argentine-British Conference", in Cambridge. These were Councillors Terry Peck and Norma Edwards, FIG Representative Sukey Cameron and Lewis Clifton. Vice-Chairman Robert Elgood was also at this conference.

This was a major act of faith. This conference is supposed to be non-governmental, but is not genuinely so on the Argentine side. Worse still, the British delegation is dominated by the South Atlantic Council, a pressure group whose members include many whose sympathies are not with the Falkland Islanders. Falklands supporters are seldom invited to represent Britain at these conferences, where the Falkland Islands dispute is the underlying theme.

At Cambridge, the Islanders politely put their views and

listened to the Argentine case - as they have done so often before. Immediately after it, Argentine delegate Felipe Sola, a Government Deputy, said "perhaps it was a mistake to invite the islanders". He then called for Argentina to fish the squid shoals before they reached Falklands waters. These remarks were published throughout Argentina by the quality paper, *Ambito Financiero*, and were the first public indication of a plan to attack the Falklands by undercutting their fishing licences. Three weeks later, the "squid war" was announced. Subsequent Argentine press reports have said this is to force them to accept trade and direct air links with Argentina.

Felipe Sola's remarks confirm the contempt that most Argentine politicians have for the Islanders, that Argentines do expect discussions to lead to concessions, and that reprisals may follow when they don't.

Felipe Sola became Secretary of Agriculture and FISHING last January.

Councillors Reply to Di Tella's Letters

On April 14th, Di Tella wrote to all Falkland Islands Government councillors to reply to the FIG press statement on the 1st of April. He suggested that any "outcome" of the Falkland Islands dispute should be compatible with the Islanders loyalty to the Crown and way of life, and that agreement on subjects like oil, fisheries and communications did not mean giving in on more substantive issues. Below is the text of the Councillors' reply to Di Tella's letter. Parts of it were published in the Buenos Aires press, and although there were some sneers, it was generally well received. The liberal paper *Pagina 12* said the Islanders had used Di Tella's own argument against him, by implying that British sovereignty was an integral part of their way of life.

Councillors Office,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

HE Dr. di Tella
Foreign Minister of the
Argentine Republic.

28 April 1993

Dear Dr. di Tella

Thank you for your letters which you addressed to us individually on 14 April. You will understand that we feel it important to reply jointly in addition to replies which you may have received from individual councillors.

We note your comments about our way of life and your commitment that what has happened will never happen again. You will understand we feel these assurances offer little comfort while your country's claim to our home and our homeland remains outstanding and while your President tells the world that Argentina will gain sovereignty over the Falkland Islands by the year 2000. It is Argentina's continuing territorial claim which contaminates what should be a normal and natural relationship between neighbours and which leads us to view contacts with your country with misgivings.

However, this does not mean that we wish to avoid talks at an official level. Our Director of Fisheries is present at meetings of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission because such questions as the management and conservation of straddling fish stocks are of importance to us both. We have noted with appreciation your concern with over-fishing on the high seas where our interests coincide and where the Falklands pioneered a system of voluntary restraint.

Where oil is concerned, we do not know yet whether, or where, any oil may be found. Where there is a practical reason for co-ordination, and where a co-ordinated approach cannot be used to exert economic pressure on us - as we feel was done in the 1970s - we would be prepared to consider it.

We recognise that the world has changed enormously even in the last few years. One of the abiding values which has not changed, and which has been if anything reinforced by events since the fall of the Berlin Wall, has been the right of self determination. We believe that our small size does not deprive us of this right and we wish that the Argentine Government and people would find the courage to recognise that we, just as much as your other neighbours, have the right to determine our own future and our own allegiances.

When you say that "any outcome should be compatible with" our loyalty to the crown, we would like to believe that you are signalling some acceptance of our right to self determination and some willingness to drop your claim to our homeland.

For it is not the existence of the Falkland Islands which constitutes a problem in the South Atlantic, but Argentina's claim to these islands. If that claim could be dropped we could indeed see our way forward as neighbours but on a basis of equality and mutual respect. We should add that until such time as this, we have no desire for physical communication links and see no need to establish them.

Hon H. T. Rowlands CBE
Hon G. Robson
Hon G. P. Short
Hon T. J. Peck MBE CPM
Hon W. R. Luxton
Hon Mrs N. Edwards
Hon R. E. Binnie
Hon K. S. Kilmartin

Heritage Year - Visit to the Falklands

By Nick Barker, Captain of the Endurance

It was with the greatest pleasure that my wife, Jennifer, and I accepted the very kind invitation of the Falkland Islands Heritage Year Committee to visit the Islands in December 1982.

Although our visit was certainly the least spectacular and the lowest key of all the heritage year visits, it was a visit by five servicemen who had all been willing to lay down their lives for the Islands during those months of conflict in 1982. It was an enormous privilege to be asked to return, but it was nonetheless gruelling for those who walked the ground or looked out to sea at the very places where much respected comrades had been killed, maimed or deeply affected by the ravages of war.

For Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly, that larger than life personality and his dedicated assistant Warrant Officer Bryn Dodds, to describe for our small party their very personal experiences at Ajax Bay was something none of us will forget. It was deeply moving, but I am sure it was a great help for Rick to walk and talk about a far corner of the earth which has historically become his "own" ground and a testament to the outstanding bravery and devotion to duty of his whole team. My only regret was that more like minded people were not there to share this unforgettable experience.

General Hew Pike and his wife Jean also relived so many poignant memories as they covered the whole "route" from Port San Carlos to Stanley via Mount Longdon. General Pike, as Lieutenant Colonel Hew Pike, commanded his regiment during what was arguably the most difficult action of the whole war; the capture of Mount Longdon. It was there that Sergeant Mackay won his richly deserved VC, although all the men of that battalion deserved the highest recognition for their decisive victory on that cold and grim day back in June 1982.

General Paul Stevenson and his wife Anne also had so many personal memories of those days ten years ago, but of course they have many more pleasant reminders of their more recent experiences in the Islands when Paul was, most successfully, commanding British forces stationed in the Falklands area.



WO Bryn Dodds, Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly and Mrs Barker outside the Ajax Bay Hospital

For my own part, the "Islands" have been a large part of my life since 1980. I have always felt most strongly that the Islanders must be politically, military, and as much as necessary, economically supported by Britain. No quarter must be given to Argentina, although the offshore economic zones could be vehicles for discussion and perhaps some form of agreement. Knowing something of the Argentine character, my view is that offshore issues are more likely to become sources of conflict than peace. Who knows what sort of government may be presiding over volatile Argentine affairs in ten years time? Mr. Menem has stated a "peaceful" ambition, but politics are politics. There is no reason to be lulled into a sense of complacency while his mercurial government plots alternative courses to re-capture Islands which they have kidded themselves are "rightfully" theirs. Islanders and British servicemen must not have died in vain. It is imperative that those events of 1981 and 1982 should not be repeated.

When we boarded the Tri-Star at Brize Norton we sat next to Councillor Terry Peck who was returning to the Islands with an uncharacteristic aura of depression over that most important issue, fisheries. It has been said that F.I.G. has somewhat overcharged foreign countries for their squid licences. Whether true or not, I remember saying that licences issued in Buenos Aires would inevitably undercut that cost and could develop into a source of economic conflict. Perhaps it underlies the good business practice of "diversification" and the need for the Falklands economy to be based on revenue from other and additional natural resources such as hydrocarbons and other species of fish.

We were to stay with Des King for most of our visit and, knowing his reputation for stimulating conversation and good living, we looked forward to this prospect with pleasure and, I must admit, slight apprehension. In the event his hospitality, that of his daughters and their families, and particularly his sister Barbara, was marvellous. Not only was there a highly entertaining combination of views; there was never a dull moment. It was the basis for the most enjoyable week of our lives. It was also very good to see more of the "camp" than I ever recall seeing before. Robin and Jene Pitaluga were also outstandingly hospitable in our all too short visit to Salvador. We both owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their friendship now and in past years. It was also great to be back in our favourite corner of the Islands, Darwin. As before, Bill and Lillian were outstanding hosts. It is the greatest pleasure to stay with them at Darwin Lodge.

To the average Brit, shearing time in the Falklands is something very special; indeed I always associated my introduction to the Falklands with a chalk circle being described round my legs in the shearing shed at Fox Bay and subsequently fortifying all the shearers with a bottle of whisky. That time of year approximately coincides with the Battle Day ceremony at Stanley. Here again we were to witness those different and special occasions. The Battle Day ceremony has now expanded since those days before the conflict and is very impressive. This was preceded by a fabulous visit to Sea Lion Island and a moving visit to San Carlos.



The Sheffield Monument Sea Lion Island

Left to Right are: Mr. Gray of Sea Lion, Captain Nick Barker, Mrs. Hew Pike and Major General Hew Pike.

Photos by Nick Barker.

I shall always remember the hospitality of Hulda and Iain Stewart. For my own part, it was in their house that the Falklands conflict of 1982 actually started. My worst fears were about to occur culminating on April 2nd and 3rd, when I remember recording in my diary: these are the worst two days of my life. Why, why did they not listen?

As chairman of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, it was a pleasure to be able to thank Stephen Palmer personally for all his hard work and care towards the

fishermen of many nations.

Meeting so many friends who offered their hospitality and friendship now and in the past was all part of this most memorable ten days. We can only thank Jenny Luxton and the committee for their excellent organisation, Sukey Cameron and the London team for all the arrangements at the U.K. end and of course H.E. The Governor for allowing us to be part of the Heritage Year Celebrations.

Britain Declares 200 Mile Fishing Zone Around South Georgia

On the 6th of May Britain declared a 200 mile fishing limit around South Georgia. Like all other British territories in the South Atlantic, this is claimed by Argentina. It must, by law, appear on all Argentine maps. Below is a resume of the facts that show Argentina's claim to South Georgia to be not just false, but deliberately fraudulent:

South Georgia lies east of meridian 46 west, which was the approximate division between Portuguese and Spanish territory declared by the Pope in the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. It was never claimed by Spain. South Georgia was first sighted in 1675 by Antoine de la Roche, a merchant born in London of a French father. South Georgia was next sighted by the Spanish ship Leon, in 1756. This was under charter to Nicholas-Pierre Ducloz, and Sieur Guyot, both of whom were French. They named the main island after Saint Peter, as it was Saint Peter's day.

Cook landed first on South Georgia on the 14th January 1775. He claimed it first too, on the 17th. He named it after King George III. South Georgia was first mentioned as British territory in letters patent of the 23 June 1843. It was mentioned in the colonial year book in 1887. It was mentioned again in letters patent in 1892. South Georgia was formally annexed by Britain on 4th July 1908, together with South Orkneys, South Sandwiches etc. Letters patent were sent to all governments including Argentina on the 20th February 1909. Argentina made no objection or counterclaim when it acknowledged these on the 18th March 1909. This annexation was modified in 1917. This also produced no counter claim.

The first known indication of an Argentine claim was in 1927, to the International Postal Bureau in Berne! Its claim was discussed for the first time in the Argentine press in

1938 - because the Argentine President had reserved Argentine claims to all British territory in the area while ratifying the postal convention agreed in Cairo in 1934. The first formal Argentine claim to the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia was announced on the 1st March 1947, in what was widely believed at the time to be just a move to increase pressure on Britain over the Falklands. To this the Attlee Government offered adjudication at the International Court at the Hague on the 17th December 1947. Argentina refused this on the 28th February 1948. Subsequent British offers of adjudication before the International Court were made in 1951, 53 & 54. In 1955 Britain tried unilaterally to take Argentina's claim to South Georgia to the International Court. Argentina announced it would ignore the result. Although Argentina is a party to the International Convention establishing the International Court, it preferred to use its claim to South Georgia to start the Falklands War.

- Reviewing Martin Middlebrook's book, "The Fight for the Malvinas", in the Buenos Aires Herald 5/6/92, Roberto Herrscher states that: "At least in one point a captain lies to Middlebrook (regarding the allegedly "peaceful" operation of recovering scrap material by Constantino Davidoff in March 1982, which was the excuse for the takeover)".

This reflects the very widespread belief in Argentina that the South Georgia incident was planned by Admiral Anaya as a pretext for the invasion of the Falklands.

Readers may be aware of the theory that it served to draw away HMS Endurance so the Argentine invasion fleet wouldn't have to confront and sink a Royal Navy warship, which it was believed would have precipitated an immediate British declaration of war.

P.J.Pepper.

Voices of the Future

Young Islanders speak out: their hopes, their fears, their ambitions

The future of every nation belongs to its children. So it's right that young people should have a say on that future and how it should be shaped. The Newsletter is throwing open its pages for the younger generation of Islanders to voice their views, hopes and ambitions to a wider public. The children of the Falklands are a credit to their small nation. Before the Argentine invasion, they came into contact with comparatively few people from the outside world but always impressed their visitors with their friendliness, charm and unspoiled nature, as well as their self reliance, brought up on isolated farmsteads, learning to use communications equipment and helping out on the farm from an early age. Having emerged as children from the trauma of foreign invasion, war and liberation, they have been exposed to a much wider variety of people: famous politicians such as Lady Thatcher; Royalty, such as Prince Andrew, a Royal Navy helicopter pilot during the conflict, who has since lodged with Falkland families; senior military commanders, building contractors, journalists and businessmen. Through all this, they've lost none of their natural charm but have gained wider opportunities to pursue their education, get qualifications and find gainful employment sharing in the Islands' new development and prosperity, with a handsome new school in the Falklands itself and generous financial grants to come to the United Kingdom for higher education and training. Before 1982 some young Falklanders went to Argentina or Uruguay for secondary education. The views of the new generation are especially relevant to Argentina's claim to sovereignty as it affects their future most. In the first of our series, we go to a school in Winchester - Peter Symonds College, with which the Falklands has a special link to educate A-level pupils, as a springboard to university and the professions. Launching our series are two pupils there: Rebecca Edwards who wants to qualify and gain experience as a doctor under Falkland Islands' Government auspices and return to the islands to practice, to benefit her fellow Islanders. She is daughter of a former naval commander who fought in the conflict, now a farmer and fishing company director, and of Councillor Norma Edwards, a former nurse and Falkland Islander by birth, living at Lake Sullivan farm at Fox Bay.

Adam Cockwell is a son of Richard and Griselda Cockwell, who embarked upon an ambitious project in the aftermath of the conflict to set up a woollen mill industry at Fox Bay. Richard is now involved in building new roads in the camp - or rural areas of the Falklands, bringing the road network to some farms for the first time. Griselda still runs her own cottage knitwear industry at Fox Bay. Adam, appropriately, wants to become a Navy helicopter pilot, and then go back to fly as a civilian in the Falklands.

Here are their healthy forthright views, not just rejecting Argentina's sovereignty claims, but also criticising their own Falklands Government for what they regard as its profligacy, while acknowledging its generosity and help to them.

Harold Briley

REBECCA EDWARDS:

"WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY".

"A" levels to be taken in June 1994 in Chemistry, Nuffield Biology and Geography.

"I think we must get one of the best educations in the world. Our allowance per month is much more than the average student gets. The GCSE education which I received in the Islands was of a very high standard. I hope that future students also get such a good education there too. I think that it is very important to come away from the Islands at the age of 16 or 17 because the school in Stanley couldn't possibly run a good variety of "A" level courses like Peter Symonds does. We have a much greater opportunity to do the "A" levels that we want to here. Also the change of environment is interesting; it makes you enjoy being at home even more once you have been to England.



Rebecca Edwards (Photo: P.J. Pepper)

Peter Symonds is a college of a very high standard. I like all the teachers, and the facilities they have here are very good, not only academically but for social activities too.

I board at Wyke Lodge which is totally and utterly different from Stanley House, where I used to board in the Falklands. It took me ages to get used to Wyke, but now it is O.K. I think the Falkland Islands Government picked a superb place for us to do our "A" levels.

If I pass my "A" levels with flying colours then I would like to do medicine, but I'm not sure whereabouts yet. I would definitely go back to the Falklands, although with medicine it would be important to get at least 5 years training away from the Islands. Then I'd be back for good to settle down.

I think all the Islanders are very lucky at the moment, but I think that it's important for us to remember what we had 11 or 12 years ago, and what we have now. We are all much better off than we were before the conflict. Now our future as British citizens is ensured; it wasn't 11 years ago. Hopefully, if the British Government will allow us to remain British and stay away from the Argentine, then I think the Islands can only prosper - although only if managed

Falklands Students Outside Peter Symonds College, Winchester



Left to Right: Glyndwr Valler, Lisa Laffi, Colin Summers, Rebecca Edwards and Ben Cockwell (Photo: P.J.Pepper)

properly. We seem to waste money hand over fist at the moment. The projects that we pump our money into are not properly thought out, and the consequences of their failures aren't considered either.

I sincerely hope that the Falklands will remain British. It is what we want for our future. Links with Argentina should be considered only if they admit that we are British and that we want to remain that way. I see no future for the Falklands at all under an unstable Argentine government. I do think that it is important though to have discussions with Argentina over fishing and conservation of the wildlife around both our countries.

For the Falklands in general, I think it can only be said that we have come a long way in the last 11 years. So just think what can be in store for us in the next 11 years.

ADAM COCKWELL: "I WANT THE FALKLANDS TO STAY BRITISH AND BEAUTIFUL"

"A" Levels to be taken in June 1993: Maths, Physics and Electronics

"I think we are lucky to be getting such a good deal from the F.I.G.. I don't think we should get any more or any less than we do now. Admittedly, we only get 2 flights per year, when most people get 3, but it's a small price to pay to come to such a good college here.

Peter Symonds is a very good place. By coming here we know that we'll get accepted. We know other islanders that have been here, and who are here at the moment, so it's not quite such a shock coming here.

After my "A" levels I'd like to join the Navy to become a helicopter pilot. I'd only like to do about 9 or 10 years in the Navy. I doubt if I'd stay much longer. Then I'd

like to fly at home, possibly for Bristows, who fly civilian helicopters on contract in the Falklands.

I think that at the moment we are going too far by totally ignoring Argentina, i.e. the Falklands not letting cruise ships in that come straight from Argentina. We should talk to them, but we will have to be careful that sovereignty is not an issue.

I want the infrastructure of the islands to improve, with camp roads and such, and it would be nice if the F.I.G. didn't squander any more money on giant schools etc.. They should think more to the future, not just six months in advance. As for fishing, they shouldn't have relied on it so heavily. They should have been aware of the problems that were coming.

I think that in the F.I.G. there seem to be too many chiefs and not enough indians, and there is too much pettiness and wasted money. They can't do anything in moderation. They are going over the top. For example: the new school, the heritage year celebrations etc. They are wasting our money. They seem to spend money as soon as they get it.

Another of my opinions is that "A" levels shouldn't be done in the Islands, because there are not enough students. I also think that for all the money that they were supposed to be spending on G.C.S.E. courses, the standard of education was only O.K.. It wasn't any too brilliant; though admittedly I didn't do too much work, so a lot of it was my fault.

I just want the Falkland Islands to stay British and beautiful always. Argentina has no place there.

Future articles will focus on more young Falklanders, at home and in Britain, and on their education system.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

SAN CARLOS FISHING CAMP

The fishing camp on the San Carlos River was completed in early March in time for overseas fishing groups and individuals to enjoy its comforts. The camp can accommodate eight people in twin rooms, has showers and toilets, and is centrally heated. With the North Camp rural road now reaching Teal Inlet, and the completion of the road to Goose Green, it is expected that demand from local residents for accommodation at the camp will increase greatly next season. The fishing camp is also used, and appreciated by, guests at Blue Beach Lodge, who no longer have to experience the two hour journey between lodge and river twice a day.

GHILLIES

Alison Faulkner, who caught the record-breaking sea trout at the San Carlos River last year, returned to the islands in February along with Michael Alston. The couple provided ghillie services for various overseas fishing groups and individuals, and also undertook mapping of the San Carlos, Warrah and Chartres Rivers. It is hoped that these maps will provide useful information to residents and visitors alike in future seasons.

BYRON MARINE LIMITED

After being delayed in Falmouth owing to adverse weather conditions, the MV TAMAR F.I. arrived in Stanley on the 21st January 1993. Since then she has visited all ports around the Islands and has also undertaken three voyages to Punta Arenas. Accommodation is available on board for four passengers and this has proved popular both on trips around the Islands and those to Punta Arenas. Some inter-island transportation of livestock, both sheep and cattle, has been undertaken successfully using the stern ramp and specially designed livestock pens.

SQUID DRYING

Clarence Hubbard from Southwind Manufacturing Ltd. of Nova Scotia visited the Falklands from the 5th - 12th March 1993. The purpose of Mr. Hubbard's visit was to undertake a technical feasibility study on the establishment of a squid drying plant. During his time in Stanley, Mr. Hubbard viewed potential sites for such a plant and met with representatives of both government and local businesses to discuss such matters as provision of services, supply and storage of raw materials, and funding. The results of Mr. Hubbard's study are expected shortly, thereafter a decision on how best to proceed with this project will be made.

NATIONAL STUD FLOCK

In early December 1992 the 22 rams were shorn. The wool results were encouraging with unskirted fleece weights ranging from 6.8 - 12.4 kg and averaging 8.7 kg; the skirted fleece weights ranged from 5.9 - 10.9 kg and averaged 7.6 kg. These weights are thought to be between 11 - 14 months wool growth.

Lambing results were disappointing. Although 443 lambs were born, from 497 ewes put to the rams, only 310 were marked. The cantankerous nature of the ewes lambing for the first time, Johnny Rooks, and rough weather proved an unhelpful combination. During the last week of February 1993, 307 lambs were shorn. Lamb shearing reduces the effects of different dates of birth on fleece weight by having all hoggett fleece weights grown over the same period. Future selection procedures should be able to identify those sheep which are the more efficient wool producers.

It was pleasing to see the National Stud Flock win 1st and 3rd places in the fine wool class at the West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show which was held at Fox Bay Village on the 30th December 1992.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

Stud Flock Sheep Being Landed on Sea Lion Island

(Photo: Penguin News)



LOOKOUT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Work continues on the development of Lookout Industrial Estate. Unfortunately, the installation of water, electricity and sewerage services, planned to take place during the current financial year, had to be cancelled owing to budget reductions. Telecommunication services have, however, been installed by Cable and Wireless PLC and are of great benefit to those businesses operating from the estate. Demand for spaces on the container park was so high that a second park has been created. Ten short-term and five long-term leases have now been signed. All Pakaway and Nissen buildings have now been painted; the white walls and red roofs have brightened up the Estate and East Stanley. Landscaping work has also commenced.

FALKLAND ISLANDS TOURIST BOARD

After reviewing some areas in which better use could be made of FIG's resources in London and with a view to achieving closer harmony in promotional activities FITB will no longer run a separate operation in London. Tourism promotions will continue to be undertaken from the Falkland Islands Government Office in London, but rather than being run separately they have been combined with FIG's other publicity and promotions activities under the control of Sukey Cameron and Graham Bound. All the staff in FIGO are able to deal with general tourism enquiries and matters relating to travel to the Falkland Islands. Funding programmes in support of tourism from Europe to the Falklands are now controlled by the FITB office in Stanley in consultation with FIGO.

RURAL ROADS

The construction of rural roads on West Falkland has taken another step forward with the contract for construction of the road from Port Howard to Chartres being awarded to Gordon Forbes Construction Ltd. Work started on the 8th March 1993 and the 15 kms of road is due to be completed by the end of April when work ceases for the winter.

On East Falkland the PWD Road Gang have now finished their season's work on the North Camp rural road as mentioned earlier in this report. It is expected that the road from Goose Green to Port Sussex will be upgraded under the Camp Link Road Scheme next financial year and that the PWD Road Gang will work from Hells Kitchen over Sussex Mountain towards San Carlos.

An Industrial Front?

Simon Arthur outlines the evidence from the Argentine press for a plan to use British Companies and Investments in Argentina to create a lobby for use against the Falklands

People still say that the Falklands dispute hinders British business with Argentina. In fact, the reverse is true. Argentina badly wants business relations with Britain, particularly British investment. It's been getting it too. For example, in 1989 British Gas began investing in Argentine oil and gas fields. Last December it got some more, when British Gas bought the lion's share of Metropolitana, the gas company for central Buenos Aires. This was the plum in the privatisation of Gas del Estado, the old state gas company.

But Argentina hasn't forgotten its claim to the Falklands. In 1990, Argentine newspaper *Pagina 12* reported an Argentine government policy of building up a "business lobby" in Britain for use against the Falklands. All last year the Argentine press was quoting prominent Argentine politicians saying things that confirm this.

On February 25th 1992, *La Nacion* reported a reception at the Argentine Embassy in London for Douglas Hurd, Guido di Tella, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and the heads of "the most important financial institutions and companies of the United Kingdom". It went on to name some of these: some banks, British Gas, British American Tobacco, Thames Water and Shell. This, as Argentine Ambassador Mario Campora put it later, was "to let Douglas Hurd know how many friends Argentina had in the City, who were interested in Argentina"¹.

A week later, on March 4th, *El Cronista* published an important interview with Di Tella. This was when he admitted that only Falkland Islanders could decide what their interests were - which undermined Argentina's absurd policy of promising to protect these interests, while deciding itself what they should be. But, the main feature of this interview had been the announcement that: "A powerful group of British businessmen has arisen which either has already invested in Argentina, or is thinking of doing so, which favours a definite solution to the Falkland Islands dispute"¹.

A month later, on April 4th, the *Buenos Aires Herald* had a similar message. Here foreign ministry sources said "...various British companies have expressed a desire to participate in Argentine privatisation of railways, waterworks, gas and energy, and that "British interest in Argentina broadens the scope for negotiations in the future".

In September Argentina raised the Falklands issue at the Stockholm Interparliamentary Conference. Here, according to *Ambito Financiero*, Argentine delegate, and Malvinas fanatic, Carlos Becerra said Britain was "discriminating against Argentina, by not allowing it to invest in the Falklands, when Britain was allowed to do this in Argentina". To this Dr. Clarke M.P. apparently replied that "He wouldn't, and the British parliament wouldn't, allow Argentina to be discriminated against"¹.

Sir Michael Marshall M.P. was at that conference too, and quite properly put in a word to help British Gas's bid for Gas del Estado. He also said trade was the best way to re-establish good relations between the two countries. This was fair comment, but in *La Nacion* and *Ambito Financiero*

he was misquoted as saying "The deepening of Argentine-British relations could lead to discussion of the sovereignty (there was no need to say of what), but that this will depend "fundamentally on the advances in commercial and economic dealings". Again, this suggested that Argentina expected discussions over Falklands sovereignty in exchange for business dealings.

Just ten days later came a surge of activity over Falklands oil and fishing. On September the 22nd, *Ambito Financiero's* article about this was entitled "Privatisations, the Key to the Dispute?" Its subheadline was "Gas, Water Works, Trains and Tubes are the background to the struggle for the petroleum and fishing in the islands". Next day it reported Di Tella saying that: "the British were well placed in some remaining privatisations" and: "that's going to reinforce the group of British companies which will be interested in maintaining good relations with Argentina", and that: "this economic opportunity is creating a sort of Argentine lobby in London". The same day, in London, Mario Campora said: "There are firms which aspire to win the privatisation of Gas del Estado". He then added "One might well say that this contributes to creating an important group of interests here in London which are concerned to care for and intensify relations with Argentina".

Just a day later, on the 25th, *La Nacion* reported Guido di Tella telling the Council of America in New York that the route of economic relations with Britain was the best way to resolve the conflict of sovereignty over the Falklands.

Next, on November 4th, during the senate ratification debate of IPPA, the Argentine-British "Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement", Solari Yrigoyen pointed out the clause saying that it "could extend to territories for whose international relations the United Kingdom is responsible", and claimed "that Governor Tatham had refused Argentine investments".

Then, on April 4th this year, even the *Financial Times* in London said Buenos Aires wanted a British Gas/YPF marine joint venture, which is up against the median line, "to create commercial ties with Britain which would offset the vociferous pro-Falkland lobby in London".

Finally, on the 6th of May, *La Prensa* reported a meeting between a British business delegation, which included British Gas, and Guido di Tella. It said this was primarily about oil around the Malvinas. The title actually read "Di Tella meets British Businessmen about the Malvinas".

The plan is obvious. Britain wants, quite rightly, to re-establish trade with Argentina. British companies want, quite rightly, to make money. The Argentine government is known to tell them that their investments are nothing to do with the Falklands. Argentine newspaper reports say otherwise. Clearly, Argentina wants to use innocent British companies to further its campaign against the Falklands.

1. In his address to the Anglo-Argentine Society AGM

Political and Economic Corruption in Argentina

Simon Arthur

Companies bidding for Gas del Estado got a good demonstration of corrupt Argentine behaviour during the privatisation process. On the 26th March 1992, during the debate on the enabling legislation in the Chamber of Deputies, the government was caught using someone called Juan Abraham Kenan, who was not a deputy, to replace absent Peronist deputy Miguel Marcoli. Kenan made up the quorum, and voted for the bill. Because of this fraud that whole stage of the bill had to be repeated - Report *Clarín* 30/3/92. Three other cases of this are suspected.

Naturally enough the Radical opposition made much of this, but in his book "*Robo Para La Corona*" Horacio Verbitsky alleged they used equivalent tactics when they were in power.

"*Robo Para La Corona*" means I steal for the crown which are alleged to have been the words of one of Menem's people when challenged over corruption. The Crown is assumed to Menem. It is an expose of the corruption of the Argentine political world, and a best seller. It has brought considerable harrasment on its author, who is also editor of

the newspaper *Página 12*.

The Menem regime has had other problems too. At the end of last year General Antonietti had to resign. A personal crony of Menem, he was promoted before his turn to be head of the General Staff. He had to go just three weeks later when he was unable to explain to the Argentine press how he had been able to afford such an expensive house on his military pay. Mario Grosso, mayor of Buenos Aires and another Menem appointee, was dismissed then too. He is now facing massive corruption charges. Menem recently had to sign a special decree annulling the contracts that Grosso signed during his last few weeks in office.

Menem once said he would make the struggle against corruption his top priority in office. His own connections with this now threaten his party's chances at the forthcoming congressional elections. These could be vital in his attempt to get a second term in office.

Putting on a good show for these approaching elections is one of the reasons for all the activity over the Malvinas at the moment.

Desarme En Malvinas

As far back as the 15th April 1990 Domingo Cavallo commented in *Clarín* that the "demilitarisation" of the Malvinas would be dealt with "at an appropriate moment".

With British defence cuts, Argentina may think that moment has come. Writing in the prestigious paper *La Prensa* last January, Alfredo Canedo said Guido di Tella "had a vision of at least roughly compensating for British troop withdrawals from the Malvinas with pragmatic action". He went on to say that "Di Tella might present Douglas Hurd with a package of commercial and economic measures in exchange for the demilitarisation of the

Malvinas". Canedo commented that Jose Maria Otegui, head of the Malvinas department, thought that Britain wasn't doing enough to reduce its military capacity in the Islands.

In March the same story surfaced again in another quality Argentine paper, *Ambito Financiero*. There the writer mocked Malcolm Rifkind's recent speech in the Falklands when he guaranteed the defence of the islands.

It's early days yet, but it shows what their quality press is thinking. If they can get access, via their fishing blackmail, they can monitor the size of the garrison. Emasculating it is then likely to be the next stepping stone. Simon Arthur.

QUOTES

Starting this issue, the Newsletter is publishing quotes from prominent Argentines which indicate their intentions .

Deputy Guerrero (Diario de Sesiones 25/26 April 1990):

...the British delegation (at Madrid) recognised the Argentine wish to make communications and commerce between the Islands and the continent possible. Those statements allow us.... to penetrate the Islands economically and politically, propitiating the dependence of the Islands on every service offered. I believe this policy of penetration is what we should choose so that each grain of Argentine influence is one grain less of British influence....if possible we should encourage a policy of step by step occupation.

Editors Note: Diario de Sesiones is the Argentine equivalent of Hansard.

Killer Promoted

Argentine Alfredo Astiz surfaced in Buenos Aires last April for the funeral of Admiral Rojas - as a newly promoted "Capitan de Fragata". Astiz commanded the Argentine garrison on South Georgia during the Falklands War, but did not resist when British Forces arrived. After negotiating with Captain Barker of HMS Endurance all night, he agreed to surrender the next day without firing a shot. However, he did plan murder then. During the negotiations he had a large electrically controlled mine prepared at the spot where the British had told him the helicopter would arrive to accept his surrender. Luckily, Captain Barker had the sense to order it to land somewhere else. When Captain Barker asked Astiz about this later, he said "it was the only way I could get you".

More successful against the helpless, Astiz is probably best known for the death of 17 year old Swedish girl, Dagmar Hagelin. She died within hours of falling into his hands after she was mistaken for someone else. Astiz was very proud of what he used to call the "flying nuns". This refers to the two French nuns who were thrown to their deaths out of his helicopter over the River Plate during the "dirty war".

Simon Arthur.

The United Kingdom Falkland Island Trust

by Nigel St G. Gribbon Chairman.

The Trust.

This article is the first of a series to explain the structure, work and personalities of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust (UKFIT). This was formed and registered as a charity in 1980 with the objective of assisting the population with desirable projects which could not be provided by the Falklands Government.

Personalities.

The President is the Rt. Hon. the Lord Strathcona who has various connections with the Islands and its interests. The Chairman, Major General Nigel Gribbon, following consultancy work for the farming sector, was invited by the Falkland Islands Association to form the trust. Other trustees are Sir Rex Hunt; Mr. David Ainslie, Honorary Secretary; Mr Bill Turley, Business Adviser; Captain Paddy Vincent (RN), Promotion adviser; Mr. Lewis Clifton, a former Government Representative in London, and Mr. Robin Lee of Falkland Land Holdings as the Trustee in Stanley.

Mrs Doris Dodson is the administrative Secretary and Mrs Michelle Lovett, a Falkland War widow, has become the Honorary Archivist.

Dr. Jim McAdam, so well known to many of the farmers and agriculturalists, and Mr. David Stickland, Managing Director of the Organic Farmers and Growers (UK), are the agricultural consultants. They visit the islands to advise and examine progress with the projects and also offer technical advice from Britain. They, in turn, are supported by a growing number of the farming population who help with the agricultural research and development.

Relationships in the Falkland Islands.

The Trust has a close relationship with H.E. the Governor, the Government in Stanley, the Department of Agriculture and the Director of Education. The London Government Representative is invited to attend all Trust meetings. The Trust appreciates the working liaison with many persons in the islands; in particular, Mr. Rodney Lee at Port Howard, Mr Ashworth at the Dairy and Mr. Tim Miller at the Market Garden.

Projects

At the start, and before the occupation, the trust concentrated on providing secretarial training in London for three girl students, who have now advanced to responsible positions in Stanley. But after the occupation, it was decided that, with the economy based entirely then on wool, help could best be given in the organic husbandry field. As the agriculture is basically organic, this support took the form of providing advice and financial support to start a scientific programme to improve the nutritional value of the low quality grass and initiate a tree development programme.

Education

The Trust has consistently supported education and provided small financial support for annual projects. It sponsored a representative for Operation Raleigh in 1992 and is now planning to assist with the Girl Guide Hut Project. Following Mr David Stickland's visit to Stanley in 1992, a small research project has been proposed whereby school

children would undertake some agricultural research within the Trust's projects.

A Falkland Islands Organic Farmers Group.

The Trust believes that some of its research and development work should be directed towards helping the farms move towards broadening their product base and enter the European import market in the premium organic product sector. To this end, Mr Stickland, experienced in this market, is assisting Mr. Robin Lee with the development of an Organic Farmers Group in the Falklands. Mr Owen Summers has been approved as the official farm inspector by the UK Organic Farmers and Growers, a European movement where inspection standards are very high.

The Way Ahead

Lord Strathcona sent a Trust paper to all concerned in Britain and the Falklands surveying the future for organic farming and stressing the need for a coordinated agriculture programme. This subject was expounded further by the Chairman Dr. McAdam and Mr. Stickland at the FIA Seminar in Cambridge in the Summer of 1991. The trust much appreciates the financial donation from the Falkland Islands Development Corporation which has allowed the Tree Development Programme to move forward on a long term basis. Furthermore, a donation from the Dulverton Trust will result in the start of a woodland project in Port Howard during 1993 to take advantage of lessons learned in the tree development work so far.

Trial sites.

The various trials referred to can be seen at the Market Garden, the Dairy, Fox Bay, Bold Cove, Pebble Island, Coast Ridge, Little Chartres, Fitzroy and Keppel Island (if it can be reached). The photograph below is an example of the work.



Experimental Tree Planting, Keppel Island.
(Photo: Dr. J. McAdam, Queen's University Belfast)

The next Trust article in the FIA Newsletter will cover one of the Trust projects in greater detail.

The Tamar F.I., the New Coastal Workboat

Regular readers of the Newsletter may have followed the purchase and conversion of the "Tamar F.I." (formerly "Leca Vest") in the FIDC development updates. The ship was purchased by FIDC and is operated by Byron Marine Ltd., a private company formed in 1992, whose shareholders all have marine related backgrounds. The vessel, a replacement for the coastal ships "Monsunen" and "Forrest", arrived in late January, having travelled from Hull, via Falmouth, Las Palmas and Montevideo. A full cargo was secured from the U.K. to Stanley and following discharge of this, the ship was immediately put to work to complete the wool collection for the first northbound charter vessel of the season. Since then, she has visited most of her regular ports of call twice, including the Chilean Port of Punta Arenas

The new ship, which was previously employed carrying concrete blocks around the fiords of Norway, was specially converted in Hull to suit her new trade. She is a "jack of all trades", serving farms and settlements with all their needs from Stanley, collecting bales of wool for onward shipment to the UK markets, moving livestock around the Islands and importing and delivering diesel. Frozen goods for the camp are now provided for with chest freezers, and a refrigerated container can be loaded on for imports from Chile.

Two purpose built passenger cabins, four berths in all, have proved very popular both around the camp and for the Punta Arenas trips (which are almost fully booked until the end of 1993!). Passengers can be accommodated for whole or part voyages, at a full board cost of only £15 per day around the Islands. The passage to Punta Arenas - a two to three day trip - costs £125 per person.



The Tamar F.I. (Photo: Fotoflite)

The coastal operation serves over 40 different locations, some of which do not have jetties where the ship can tie up. For these, a small workboat or "seatruck" is lowered into the water and cargo is ferried between ship and shore - often a backbreaking operation as drums of oil are rolled up the beach and wool bales - averaging 225 kilos each - are loaded for the ship. Voyages are arranged so that each port is visited approximately every two months, and a one week maintenance period is also scheduled into each itinerary to ensure that the ship is kept "in shape" for her varied workload.

Enquiries about coastal services can be made direct to Byron Marine at their offices in Waverley House Stanley
Tel: +500 22245, FAX +500 22246. **David Hall**

Teddies Top Two Thousand!



Mrs. Tatham, wife of HE the Governor, and Commander D.H. Durston of HMS Avenger. (Photo: Penguin News)

Sponsored Teddies, entrusted to the RAF by owners young and old in Britain and the Falklands, parachuted into Cumberland Bay, South Georgia, last March from the Hercules serving the garrison there. Recovered by the crew of HMS Avenger, they raised £2,000 towards the relief of child victims of the war in former Yugoslavia. Appropriately, the Avenger is the ship that served as a base for peace talks between local Serb and Croat leaders off Dubrovnik last July.

FALKLANDS EXPERIENCE

come with me

to see the

FALKLAND ISLANDS

and meet

FALKLAND
ISLANDERS

*Special programme for
Philatelists*

17 to 30 Jan, 1994
Optional third week

Write for details to
Major R.N. Spafford,
29 Queen's Road,
Weston-Super-Mare BS23 2LH

Obituaries

ADMIRAL HALLIFAX

Another of the key figures in high command at Fleet headquarters in Northwood during the Falklands conflict, Admiral Sir David Hallifax, has died, aged sixty-four. He was Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, who died a few years after the conflict. Admiral Hallifax was a pivotal figure at Navy Headquarters for most of the campaign, bringing wise judgment to bear on vital decisions, such as the choice of San Carlos for putting troops ashore as the springboard for recapturing the Falklands. It could have been a disaster if other wilder counsels had prevailed to land troops first on Carcass Island, which was one suggestion. He grasped the formidable logistical problems of a campaign at sea eight thousand miles from home and understood the geography of the Islands and the tactics needed to recapture them. He won the respect and affection of Army and Air Force colleagues in one of the most remarkable inter-service co-operative achievements of all time in the British forces. He was a friend and confidante of the Battle Group Commander, Admiral Sandy Woodward, with whom he had long regular discussions on a secure telephone link on the progress of the battle, on British losses, and on what to do next, bringing Admiral Woodward up to date on thinking at Fleet headquarters. Admiral Hallifax was renowned for his sense of humour. During discussion on whether the 200-mile area around the Falklands was to be called the "Total Exclusion Zone" (TEZ) or some other term, Hallifax resolved the issue by sending one of the briefest naval signals of all time: "Tis TEZ", as Admiral Woodward recalls in his book of the conflict, "One Hundred Days". With final victory in sight, Admiral Hallifax was sent to the United States in a senior NATO post, as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in the Atlantic. He was later Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies in Britain.

H.B.

MICHAEL

CLARK HUTCHINSON

Michael Clark Hutchinson was one of the first Members of Parliament to take up the cause of the Falkland Islanders in the House of Commons in 1968. He always remained a vigorous advocate of their right to decide their own future for themselves. His obituaries in the Times and Telegraph fully recognised his involvement. He was one of the founder members of the Falkland Islands Association, and an unfailing supporter, full of good ideas and good sense at committee meetings, and always brief and to the point.

His involvement came from the heart. He felt that his links to the Islands would be strengthened if he bought land there and was disappointed when the owners of the Falkland Islands Company declined his approach.

He felt that the Islanders should never be abandoned and he was profoundly angered by the "indecisiveness and wavering" in government policy which, as a former official in the Colonial Service, he blamed on the Foreign Office and which in his view led to the Argentine invasion.

E.W.H.C.

LORD RIDLEY of LIDDESDALE

Nicholas Ridley was a nicer man than those who encountered him sometimes concluded. He meant well, but could be carelessly impulsive in speech and action. Having decided on a course of action, he had difficulty seeing other points of view, and could give the impression that those who disagreed with him were quite deluded.

He was a poor choice as a Minister of the Foreign Office. He was highly intelligent, but lacked the diplomacy and tact for the job as well as sufficient concern for other than immediate material considerations. His attempt in 1979 to foist on the Falkland Islanders a proposal for cession of sovereignty to Argentina, with a simultaneous lease

back of unspecified length, was a disaster. After rejection by the Islanders, it met a deservedly hostile reception from a united House of Commons. The concept was naive in the extreme, and had already been rejected by the Labour Government - although he did not know this at the time. The Association had worked hard in the late 1970s producing study papers on a variety of options for the Islanders to consider which might serve to resolve the sovereignty dispute. At that late stage some of those might have commended themselves to the Islanders, whose future looked bleak.

What caused the Foreign Office to choose the least attractive option, lease back, will not be known until the documents become available in the Public Records Office. At the time the choice seemed simply perverse. It invited Argentina, if the Islanders rejected it, to move in, as in due course the Argentine Armed Forces did. Even if there had been a lease back agreement, there was no prospect of Argentina keeping it.

Nicholas Ridley failed over the Falkland Islands because he did not develop that instinct for danger with which a successful Minister regards all proposals put before him. Surprisingly, he did not on purely intellectual grounds select a proposal which might have had some chance of success. Sadly, he also failed to empathise with the Islanders as his Labour predecessor Ted Rowlands had.

Nicholas Ridley's association with the Falklands had one redeeming feature. He did advise that the Islands be properly defended, if no settlement were reached with Argentina. Had this advice been taken, a tragedy might have been averted.

Nicholas Ridley will be remembered more for his early support for the Thatcher revolution, for his sharp mind, his intolerance of mediocrity, and for a determination and single-mindedness that were second to none.

E.W.H.C.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is planned for October. Contributions for this should reach the FIA office not later than the 1st September. Especially welcome are personal accounts of life in the Falklands in the past, and of current cultural and sporting events and business activities in the Falklands. Full page articles should be about 900 words long and should be accompanied by at least one photo, preferably two. Black and white prints are best, but colour prints with good contrast are acceptable. Photos will be returned after use. Good photos by themselves, especially of family events, such as weddings, are very welcome.

The Falkland Islands Association

An Association supported by the subscription of members and voluntary contributions

2 Greycourt Place, Westminster, London SW1P 1SD

Telephone 071-222-0028 Telex 22487 INNLA FAX 071-222-2541

- President:** The Rt. Hon. the Lord Braine of Wheatley
- Vice Presidents:** The Rt. Hon. the Viscount Thurso of Ulbster JP, The Hon. L.Buxton, Sir Cosmo Haskard KCMG MBE, Sir Jack Hayward OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham CBE, Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley GCB, Councillor R.E.Walker
- Chairman:** Sir Rex Hunt CMG.
- Vice Chairman:** Mr. R.Elgood.
- Hon. Secretary:** Mrs M.Christie.
- Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. E.C.J.Clapp.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We would like to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves, and to help them to develop the islands in accordance with their wishes.

I/We wish to join the Falkland Islands Association.

- Individual Members (Annual subscription £15)
- Associate Members (Pensioners & Students) (Annual Subscription £5)
- Corporate Members/Companies and Trading Organisations (Minimum Annual Subscription £50)

All subscribers will receive the quarterly newsletter.

Donations to support the work of the Falkland Islands Association are welcome.

I enclose cheque/P.O./Bankers Order

Full Name

Profession

Address

Connection with Falkland Islands, if any.....

Telephone Number

Signature

Cheques should be made out to the Falkland Islands Association. It would be appreciated if overseas members would pay by Sterling Bankers Draft to avoid incurring bank foreign currency surcharges.

BANKERS ORDER

Date.....19..

To Bank

Branch

at

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, Piccadilly Circus Branch, 19 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7RL. Bank Code 56 00 29 for credit of: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION Account No. 24223999 the sum of pounds on receipt of the order and thereafter annually on the anniversary thereof until notice the sum of pounds.

Signature

Name (Capitals)

Customer Account Number

Address

Date

Please return to: The Falkland Islands Association, 2 Greycourt Place, London SW1P 1SD.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 8th June,

Annual Reception, Lincoln's Inn

3rd to 10th July,

Small Island Games, Isle of Wight

Saturday 28th August,

Falkland Islanders Reunion, Ham

Saturday 4th December,

Battle Day and AGM, Whitehall

(Agenda and booking form in October)

ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the newsletter is 4,000 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, to all Members of the House of Commons, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign Countries. 800 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page#250

Half Page#125

Quarter Page.....#65

Eighth Page#35

Short Insertions.....#3 per line

Discounts for 4 insertions by negotiation.

A special concession is offered to members of the Association living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

RELEASE OF COPYRIGHTS

The Editorial Committee release all copyrights on content of the *Falkland Islands Newsletter*, except on pictures, cartoons and maps. Other publications are invited to quote freely. However, we ask that quotations are made in context and the *Falkland Islands Newsletter* acknowledged as the source.

Published by the Falkland Islands Association,
2 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SD
Telephone: 071-222-0028
Fax: 071-222-2541
ISSN 0262-9399

Editorial Committee:

Mr. Hunter-Christie.

Mrs. M. Christie.

Mr. R. Elgood.

Mr. D.L.Clifton.

Mr. H.Briley O.B.E.

Mr. P.J.Pepper

FOR SALE

The following articles are available from the Falkland Islands Association Office, 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1. Please enclose cost of postage and packing (additional). Please would overseas purchasers pay by Sterling Bankers Draft, to avoid foreign currency surcharges:

Ties, Falkland Islands crest, navy blue £6.50

Heritage Year Commemorative Medallion, £4.5

Desk Flags, £2.50

Blazer Badges, Falkland Islands Crest, £10

Tea cloths, Map of the Falkland Islands £2.50

Ordnance Survey Map of the Falkland Islands, £3.50

Illustrated Map of the Falkland Islands in colour, £3

Car Stickers, green plastic, "Remember the Falkland Islands They're British", £1

Sticker: "I Love Sunny Falkland Islands", £1

Plastic stick-on badges, Falkland Islands Crest, 75p

Lapel Badges, Falkland Islands Crest, £1

Key Rings, Falkland Islands Crest, £2

Packs of 10 blank notecards by Audrey Barry:

5x2 designs Elephant Bay and settlement, Pebble Is. pack £3

5x2 designs Stanley View and Penguins, Pebble Is. pack £3

Coloured picture postcards by Steve Whitley:

The Race Track Stanley, Upland Geese, Night Heron, all at 12p.

Coloured picture postcards by Tony Chater:

Port Stanley, Port Howard, Mount Pleasant Airport, Mr. Fred Coutts driving lambs, Grytviken, FIGAS, Gentoo Penguin, Settlement Rookery, Rockhopper Penguins, King Penguins. All at 20p.

Steve Whitley's greeting cards:

Winter Scene Pebble Is., Gentoo & King Penguins Volunteer Lagoon, Bull Elephant Seal Sea Lion Is. at 52p each.

Jackass & Gentoo Penguins Pebble Island, King Penguins Volunteer Pt., Rockhopper Penguins Pebble Is., Corriedale sheep, at 35p each.

Algernon Asprey prints approx 24" x 20" at £3 each.

Videos by Peter Pepper: Stanley Cathedral Centenary Service £9.5

BOOKS: (Please include cost of postage and packing)

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, by Canon Gerry Murphy £4

DARWIN'S DESOLATE ISLANDS, by Patrick Armstrong £25

FALKLAND PEOPLE, by Angela Wigglesworth £14.95

MY FALKLAND DAYS, by Sir Rex Hunt £18.99

GUIDE TO BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS,

by Robin Woods £14.95

A LIFE OF OUR CHOICE, by Sydney Miller CBE £6

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, by Paul Morrison

(145 colour photos) £14.95

OLD FALKLAND PHOTOS, by Shane Wolsey £5.95

THE POSTIES WENT TO WAR, by Major Ian Winfield £5.95

FALKLAND ISLANDS INTERLUDE, by Tom Beatty £4.95

PENGUINS AND SEASHORE FRIENDS, by Dolly Penguin £4.99

DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE, by Rosemary Wilkinson £4.95

TASTE OF THE FALKLANDS (a cookery book sold in aid

of the Cathedral Appeal) £2.50