



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

Published by the Falkland Islands Association

No. 58 February 1994

Oil: The Falklands Future

The long term political and economic future of the Falklands necessarily has to rely on industries other than fishing. Despite the success of its management, the Falklands fishery is subject to unpredictable oceanographic factors and to pressure for political objectives from Argentina.

According to the British Geological Survey, the recent seismic surveys of the Falklands Continental Shelf reveal substantial sedimentary deposits normally associated with hydrocarbons. These are 50% larger than the British sector of the North Sea. This complements the discovery of immature petroleum east of the Falklands in 1974, and of good quality oil to the south-west of the Falklands in 1989, just on the Argentine side of the Median Line. To the north-west lies the San Julian Basin where Argentine interests will commence exploratory drilling this year.

Further detailed exploratory work is necessary before enormous reserves can be definitively proved, but no one now doubts the presence of oil. It is already clear too that this will decide the entire future of the Falklands.

Now, the British government is apparently considering an oil agreement giving Argentina a share of the profits and a say in which companies should work the area - effective derogations of sovereignty, which are bound to be abused.

Oil already guarantees British political support for the Falklands. But with North Sea oil half gone, Falklands oil guarantees Britain's future next century. There must be no derogation of British sovereignty over something so important. Britain cannot afford to repeat the nonsense over oil that it made over the Falklands fishing zones. The Falklands cannot afford to see its primary asset compromised.

Dependent Territories Conference



Representatives of the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar at the Dependent Territories Conference

Photo: Dennis Ramsey

Battle Day here....



Wreath layers: General Sir Peter de la Billiere, Miss Sukey Cameron, Lord Braine, Mr. Des Keohane with Mrs. Sarah Jones and Mr. Maurice Jones.

At the Cenotaph

Battle Day Saturday this year fell on the 4th of December. Sadly, rain began falling too - just as Captain Vincent and the Colour Guard, from HMS Fearless and HMS Birmingham, lead the procession out to the Cenotaph.

Wreaths were laid by Miss Sukey Cameron on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government, by Lord Braine on behalf of the Association and the UKFIC, by General Sir Peter de la Billiere on behalf of the South Atlantic Squadron of 1914 and the 1982 Task Force, by Mr. Des Keohane and Mrs. Sarah Jones on behalf of the Falklands Families Association and by Mr. Maurice Jones on behalf of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men. Royal Marine buglers sounded the Last Post and the Reverend Peter Millam led the prayers.

The Association AGM

The AGM took place in the London Scottish Regimental Hall immediately after the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Islander Saul Pitaluga was elected to the Committee. Harold Briley and Peter Pepper were confirmed as joint editors of the Newsletter. Councillor Mrs. Sharon Halford attended, and then returned to the Falklands in time for Battle Day there. Brian Paul and Annabelle Spencer manned a table packed with Falklands goods.



The Rev. Peter Millam conducts the prayers. By his side a BBC employee holds an umbrella and records the service for Calling the Falklands.



The procession moving away from the Cenotaph



FIA Committee Members: Mr. Ted Clapp, General Sir Peter de la Billiere, Lord Braine, Sir Rex Hunt, Mrs. Christie, Mr. Robert Elgood and Major Spafford.



The AGM in Session, Lewis Clifton speaking.

All Photographs on this page by Peter Pepper

....and in the Falklands



At the Monument

Battle Day was, of course, celebrated on the historically correct day, December 8th, in the Falklands. This is an official holiday, and the Southern Hemisphere rewarded the many people who turned out with a fine summers day.

Governor Tatham inspected the Guard of Honour from HMS Norfolk (above) and the Falkland Islands Defence Force. Governor Tatham, Major General Mackay-Dick and others laid wreaths at the monument. The parade was lead by the College Band from RAF Cranwell.

Amongst other events was a gymkhana, with Councilor Mrs. Sharon Halford (right) giving rides to youngsters.

Moody Brook Plaque

Battle Day this year also saw a unique event at Moody Brook; Governor Tatham unveiled a plaque in memory of all the marines and others who served there from 1953 to 1982. These include the party, originally from HMS Superb, that reopened Moody Brook after World War II, when they were sent to cope with problems at Deception Island, and Naval Party 8901 which used the barracks from 1965. It received the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for assisting the community in 1978. Its commanding officer, Major Nigel Willoughby, flew the Beaver when FIGAS was short of pilots.

The plaque is the brainchild of WO2 Bill Rendell, who served in the Royal Marines in the Falklands before 1982, and is the brother of Mike Rendell who lives in Stanley.



The FIDF marching past Government House



Above: Governor Tatham inaugurating the Moody Brook Plaque. By his side stands WO2 Bill Rendell. In the background is Mr. John Smith, curator of Stanley Museum, with his grand-daughter by his side; in his hand the Royal Marine flag which veiled the plaque until the moment of its inauguration.

Left: The Moody Brook Plaque

The Newsletter is indebted to Mr. Norman Clark of Falkland Printz for all the photographs on this page.

Dependent Territories Conference

By Harold Briley

What was described as a unique forum for discussing the problems and promoting the wellbeing of small dependent nations was held in London on November 24th, jointly sponsored by the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar Governments and attended by representatives of British, French and Netherlands territories around the world. The theme of the Dependent Territories Conference was "Progress through partnership" in which the territories reported on their achievements and their anxieties, exchanging ideas on how to secure recognition on the world stage.

For the Falklands, the conference was notable for a positive, encouraging assessment for the future of the Islands, emphatic rejection of Argentina's sovereignty claims, and a "hands off" warning in the keynote speech delivered by British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd. Renewing Britain's pledge to protect the Falklands, Mr. Hurd described Britain's commitment to the islands as "particularly dramatic". Having spent three-thousand-million pounds on their defence in recent years, and continuing to contribute 65 million pounds a year to the garrison, with its well-equipped modern airport "designed to resist any possible future aggressor", he said, "illustrates what I suppose is the absolute foundation stone of the relationship, our commitment to enforce the security and prosperity of the Dependent Territories, and I reaffirm that support today".

Mr. Hurd said unwelcome claims on dependent territories by larger neighbours are often out of date, and an obstacle to complete independence. Britain, he said, has no doubt about its sovereignty over all its dependent territories. "The basis for that is not just legal. All these territories are British because they want to be. They have the right to self-determination... No territory remains British against its will".

He explained that British policy with its dependencies is one of "equal partners", helping to provide economic independence "paving the way for the possibility of political independence when the population so wish and if the circumstances of the territory allow".

Stressing the importance of economic self-sufficiency, Mr. Hurd cited the Falklands as a "classic case", now supporting itself economically. "I hope that a steady improvement in the situation in the South Atlantic will provide the stability which the Islanders seek".

Economic progress was emphasised in the main Falklands speech, by a Legislative Council Member, Mrs. Norma Edwards. "We are now self-sufficient in all civilian areas", Mrs. Edwards pointed out. "Indeed, we have also helped the British Economy. All our major contracts have been awarded to British firms".

She suggested that Falklands success could be a model for other countries. Business is thriving and investment on the increase. Its Legislative Council gave the Islands one of the best represented electorates in the world - one councillor for every 250 people. The Islands have improved even on



Miss Sukey Cameron, Mrs. Norma Edwards, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Mrs. Sharon Halford and Mr. Ronnie Sampson before the conference *Photo: Dennis Ramsey*

Britain's welfare state, providing free education and free medical care and medicines for all.

NO TALKS WITH PREDATORY ARGENTINA

Her strongest words were directed against Argentina, attacking what she called "its unprovoked and violent invasion and occupation of the Islands in 1982".

"The Falklands are proud to be a British dependent territory". Mrs Edwards declared. "Our geographic position may well be off the coast of South America, but our traditions, our language and our culture are British ... We have good contact with other countries of South America, but we will not talk to the government of a country which wishes to take over our own. Until Argentina drops her claim to sovereignty of our Islands, the situation between us will not change. We do not believe that such old fashioned, predatory, imperial ambitions have a place in a truly democratic society or in the world we are all seeking to create for the 21st Century. The Falklands seek progress through partnership and working relationships with every country that recognises the inalienable right of the Falkland Islands to self-determination".



The conference in session. French Government Adviser, Mrs. Brigitte Giradin, Mr. John Simpson and Mrs. Norma Edwards on the dais. *Photo Dennis Ramsey*



Councillor Mrs. Norma Edwards addressing the Conference *Photo: Peter Pepper*

Mrs. Edwards had both praise and criticism for the United Kingdom Government. "Since that terrifying time (in 1982)", she said, "the Falkland Islands have experienced peace and prosperity; the peace inspired by the relationship with our Mother Country and the military protection she affords us; the prosperity by the entrepreneurial spirit which exists in the Islands, supported by the natural resources to which we have access. This relationship with the Mother Country, while still subject to glitches on both sides, is growing ever smoother and more mutually rewarding".

But, she said, we have had our problems. Before 1982, British Ministers tried to convince them that life as Argentines would be rosier, not to mention a whole lot easier from London's point of view. "We never believed them and they would not listen when they were told that we were in danger of invasion by Argentina. Yet the strong bonds between the UK and the Falkland Islands were demonstrated by the overwhelming support the Islands received from the people of Britain during the war with Argentina".

More recently, she said, it's been galling when consultation amounts to being informed of decisions taken in London. "It is frustrating to have our views on fisheries and petroleum matters set aside when these factors are the key to our future.. We would urge the UK Government to recognise that when matters concern us this deeply, we do know what we are talking about and have a valuable input to make".

Mrs Edwards spoke of "differences of opinion", for example, when the Falkland Islands had originally called for a fishing conservation zone to prevent over-fishing.

On oil, Mrs Edwards said prospects are promising. The Falklands may not be able to go it alone in exploiting this. They are pleased to have British backing, help and advice, to build a sound future, benefiting Britain as well as the Falklands, because it would be British oil.

"I don't think we need Argentine involvement, Mrs Edwards declared. "Of course, there will be in small ways, I'm sure, when it comes to exploitation. But I don't feel the need to consult Argentina as to whether we can have our own oil or not".

Asked whether the British Government might encourage sharing the oil with Argentina, Mrs Edwards replied: "I would hope not. We will fight that all the way".

"She pointed out that oil had been a big factor in the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi aggression. If it ever came to the point that the Falklands could not control the oil



Mr. Joe Bossano, Chief Minister of Gibraltar *Photo: Peter Pepper*

industry themselves, she hoped there'd be support from the international community. Oil companies investing in the area would demand that kind of help "If there's a lot of oil", she said, "Money speaks louder than words".

BIG NATIONS SHOULD PROTECT SMALL

Making a big impact with his speech, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Mr. Joe Bossano, who has visited the Falklands, drew a parallel between Gibraltar and the Falklands where their neighbours, Spain and Argentina, using their United Nations membership, blocked formal recognition of the right to self-determination.

He challenged Mr. Hurd on the issue of denying a territory independence if a neighbour disagrees. "If it depends on my neighbour agreeing", Mr. Bossano said, "then he has the right to decide if I am independent, not me... Nobody can be denied the right to independence if that is the way they choose... But there is no guarantee that anybody is safe from the threat of external aggression after they have exercised that right. There is no guarantee that any other small territory anywhere is safe from a powerful neighbour..... the only guarantee there can be is when the international community and the powerful nations accept that collective security requires that the big deter the medium from eating the small". The dependent territories, Mr. Bossano argued, should not be made subservient or sacrificed to the interests of any country handling their affairs. "We feel very bitter towards the UK Government's failure to adequately protect us".

Among academics taking part David Steed from the University of Wales, said Britain dealt very badly with the threat of aggression towards the Falklands, sending the wrong signals to successive Argentine Governments. Its prompt action in 1982 had been made necessary by failure to take limited action decades before.

The conference chairman, Mr. John Simpson, the BBC Foreign Affairs Editor, welcomed the idea of regular meetings of this kind, cross-fertilising ideas and solutions.

The Falklands and Gibraltar Governments were praised by Mr. Hurd and other speakers for their initiative. The Foreign Secretary called for creative suggestions on how dependent territories can develop, declaring that the British Government has an "open mind, if not an open purse". The Falklands and some other countries manned their own publicity stands, giving out information and pamphlets.

OIL: THE IMPLICATIONS

“YES” OR “NO” Falklands asks for views

By Harold Briley.

It's the multi-million dollar question: What to do if, as predicted, oil is found in abundance in Falklands waters. With the prospect of vast oil riches early next century, the people of the Islands are being asked to consider the implications of such radical economic development which could change their way of life.

If oil rigs raise their massive structures above and below the waves in the South Atlantic, there are major political and international factors, involving Argentina's objection, so far, to exploiting any Falklands oil, claiming that this area belongs to them -- a claim categorically rejected by Britain and the Falklands. There is also the worrying environmental dimension. Not least, the harmful effects there might be on the wonderful variety of wildlife here from huge oil installations on land and at sea, and from giant tankers ploughing through these rough waters. What will be the effect on five species of penguin - three million of them in the Falklands region; on the millions of Albatross; on the whales and dolphins; the myriad of fish; not least the squid, which have been the source of unprecedented prosperity since 1986; and the plankton and krill which form the vital start of the food chain, sustaining all the rest?

Questions.... questions questions?

In search of answers, the Falkland Islands Government has published the first of a series of discussion documents, whose simplicity of title, "The Falkland Islands and Oil" -- belies the enormity of the problem.

As the booklet warns: "Once oil is found and once we start the process rolling, it is irreversible. Some of the issues require urgent decisions. Do we want to go ahead with the development of oil, bearing in mind the changes it will inevitably mean to our way of life?". The book urges the people of the Falklands to study and discuss the questions involved and contribute to the answers. It explains the background to the development of oil and gas resources; what's happened so far, the likely timetable, and that Falklands waters are what is called "a frontier area", where no oil exploration has previously taken place and no infrastructure is in place - although this exists in Argentina and Chile.

We the Falkland Islands Newsletter, wish to play our part in the great debate, providing a platform for your views ... not least those most involved, You the people of the Falklands, as well as MPs, oil experts, environmentalists and even proponents of the Argentine argument. Drop us a line and we will publish your views.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OIL COMPANIES

Oil has to be found in very large quantities for it to be commercially viable. The experts advising the Falklands, the British Geological Survey, believe there are encouraging signs. Seismic surveys already being carried out by the British company SPECTRUM and GECO-PRAKLA, part of the Schlumberger group, are promising.

The pamphlet warns of the great cost of trying to find oil. "Just one hole offshore amounts to some seven to ten million pounds". "This sort of exploration effort is bound to have a significant impact on the way of life in the Islands and on our relations with our neighbours regardless of whether oil is actually found or not. It must be appreciated that having made a major financial commitment, oil companies would expect to proceed to the exploration stage without undue delay. We need, therefore, to take major decisions regarding oil development now and not wait until oil has been discovered."

Among many issues to be covered by legislation will be protection of the environment, the fishing industry and navigation, and safety of oil workers and the population.

While creating safeguards, the Falklands want to encourage the oil companies. The most likely incentive will be what's known as "an exploration and exploitation licence" allowing companies both to explore and eventually exploit petroleum finds. The Falklands Government says it does not want to charge too much at the beginning to avoid discouraging oil companies.

OIL WON'T FLOW FOR TEN YEARS YET

"If we ask too much at this stage, we are only likely to put off companies who might otherwise be interested. Major sums from the production of oil are unlikely to be found until the next century: probably ten to fifteen years from now at the earliest".

Bearing in mind the basic laws of economics and business, the Falklands Government says: "We are competing with other prospective frontier areas in the world. We have to attract oil companies to invest here. Companies will only prospect for oil if they can profitably exploit any hydrocarbons they find. The more we can tell oil companies about the legal and tax conditions they will face if they strike oil, the better they can do their sums and decide whether or not to invest. The higher the Government "take" in taxes, fees, royalties etc. and the more stringent the political conditions we impose, the less interested the oil companies are likely to be to invest.

ARGENTINE THREATS

Some oil companies may also be discouraged from investing if the political outlook seems unsettled.

The pamphlet points out: there have already been two opposing documents on this controversial issue, the so-called "Letters of Comfort and Discomfort". Comfort came from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, reassuring oil companies that their investment in seismic exploration could lead to opportunities to exploit any oil that is found.

Argentina's reaction was to protest, repeating its claim to the Falklands, and saying no agreement has been reached with the British Government on cooperation over oil. It threatens oil companies with what it calls administrative and judicial actions under Argentine Law.

This prompts two other the questions: "Whether to allow oil companies or consortia with Argentine participation

to bid for exploration blocks in the Falkland Islands Continental Shelf? And whether to allow companies to save time and money by using facilities in South America, taking the risk that Argentina might try to exert pressure by interfering with installations or supply lines."

It also asks whether the Islands would be prepared for the "inevitable" degree of contact with the mainland, if serious exploration relied on mainland facilities, such as visits by ships, aircraft and experts from South America, and purchases of stores there? Alternatively, would Islanders accept "the higher social and ecological effects of establishing exploration and exploitation bases on the Falklands - dumps of equipment, workshops, port facilities, and many workers from outside the islands."

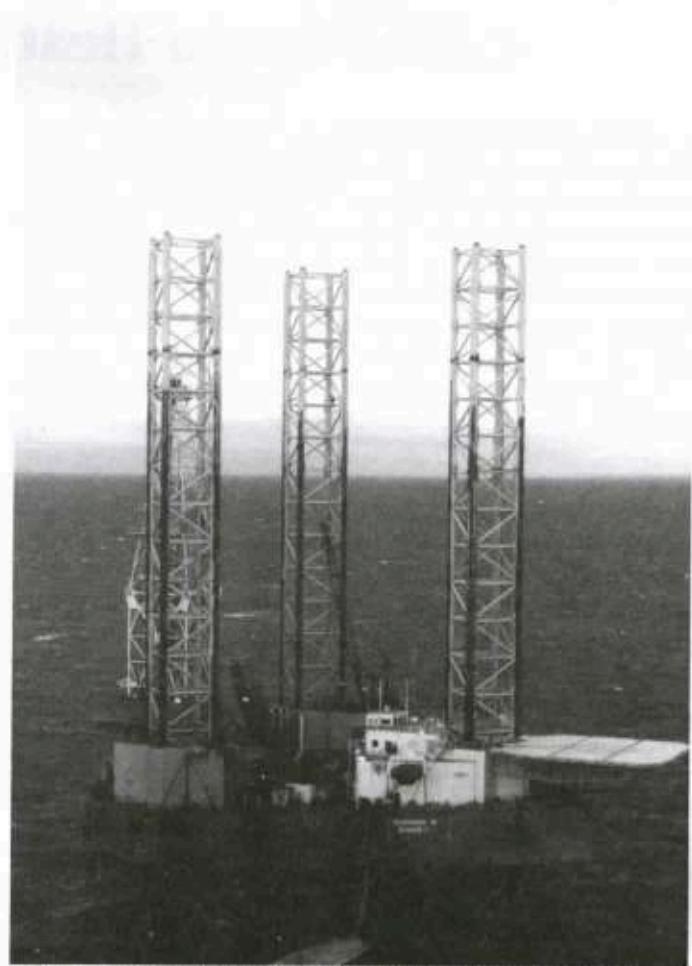
In short, it asks the most important question of all: "Whether the economic benefits from oil will outweigh the social and environmental changes that will inevitably follow?"

The dilemma is there. Let debate begin.

Environmental Survey

Environmental Resources Management, lead by economist Mr. Peter Pryn, has been awarded a contract by the Falkland Islands Government to carrying out a study into the likely environmental and social impact of oil exploitation around the Falklands. The survey will take place over the next few months. Its findings will assist the Falkland Islands Government to draw up policy to regulate the oil industry.

Mr. Pryn is no stranger to the Falklands. He was the author of the economic development plan in 1987/88 - which is known as the Pryn Report.



The most southerly rig in the world, in Chile's Straits of Magellan oil field

Photo: Harold Briley

Penguin Appeal

Penguin appeal has been launched by Falklands Conservation to raise £750,000 this year, to help protect the wonderful natural heritage of the Falklands and their surrounding waters - where five species of penguin breed. The money will be spent carrying out ecological surveys and research in order to develop conservation policies and be apply to pressure on both governments and companies to have these implemented. This is necessary because of the existing commercial fisheries and, more importantly, the likely establishment of a major oil industry over the next ten years.

The Appeal will be launched to the national press on the 28th of April. May bank holiday week, May 30th to June 5th, has been designated as Penguin Appeal Week, and will be hosted by London Zoo, which has Falklands Penguins. Television personality, Bill Oddie, who has extensive knowledge of wildlife himself, has kindly agreed to appear then. The event is also sponsored by Penguin Biscuits.

Later, from 26th September to 8th October, the Appeal will be holding an art exhibition at the London Ecology Art Centre Gallery.

People wishing to assist may send donations to: Penguin Appeal, PO Box 2040, London W12 0ZJ. Those requiring more information should contact Chris Page on 081-740-4501. Anyone wishing to assist at the London Ecology Art Centre Gallery should contact Ann Brown on 081-343-0831.



King Penguins at Volunteer Point

Photo: Falkland Islands Tourist Board

Mr. David Heathcoat-Amory MP

Born in 1949, the Minister was educated at Eton and Christ Church, where he won a blue for boxing. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1974 and became a fellow of the Institute in 1983. He was Assistant Finance Director of the British Technology Group when he left Industry to become an MP in 1983. He became Minister of State at the Foreign Office, with responsibility for the Falklands, last year.

He is married with two sons and one daughter, his recreations are fishing, shooting, music and arboriculture.

An Interview with Harold Briley

Harold Briley: Minister of State, the Argentines appear as hard line as ever over their claim to the Falklands. What is your answer to that?

Minister: We are quite clear that the Islands will remain British so long as the Islanders wish to remain so. So we are completely sure in our own minds that self-determination rules out any Argentine claim to the Falklands.

Harold Briley: The Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella, whom you have met recently said he wanted to get the Islands, and I quote: "This afternoon, but if it cannot be that way, it will be tomorrow, next year, or in the next two years. How can you get through to him that this is not to be?"

Minister: I've made this clear to Dr. Di Tella and to President Menem and to the Argentine Government generally, both in conversation and in published statements, and so have Douglas Hurd and John Major. So we could not be more clear in our determination to uphold the rights of the Falkland Islanders to remain British.

Harold Briley: But he seems to think he is making headway. He quoted the fishing agreement for example. He seemed to think that was a way of getting progress on the dispute.

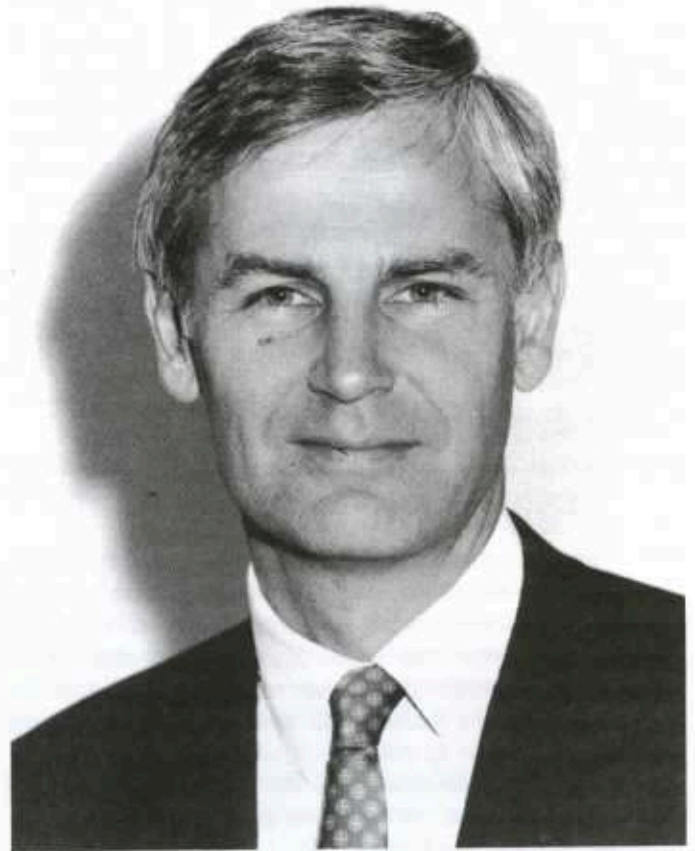
Minister: The fishing agreement was welcome, and indeed if we can reach sensible agreements on practical matters like fishing, then I welcome it. But this has nothing to do with British sovereignty, which is not compromised in any way; and indeed the whole basis of our relations with Argentina and our agreement to have diplomatic and trade relations is on the basis that we do not discuss sovereignty.

Harold Briley: Dr. Di Tella quotes the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 in his campaign. Is there any parallel there?

Minister: There's no parallel at all. Everyone knows that most of the territory of Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997 under a treaty agreement. There's no such agreement with Argentina about the Falklands.

Harold Briley: Argentina is now a democratic nation. Is that compatible with its policy of ignoring United Nations principles of self-determination as the foundation for democracy. It embraces democracy; it doesn't seem to recognise this for the Falklands.

Minister: I welcome Argentina's return to democracy, and I think that the Government and President Menem have made considerable strides in recent years. I think we are all pleased when a country of importance becomes democratic and begins to get its economy in order, and starts to play a responsible role on the world stage. But, you are right, that



Mr. David Heathcoat-Amory MP.

should include a recognition of the democratic rights of others; and self determination is not some old fashioned idea. It is, in fact, the foundation of modern diplomacy. And indeed many new nation states have come into existence in recent years, particularly in the former Soviet Union, and they have all done so on the basis of self-determination. So I hope that Argentina will in time recognise the fact that they have a neighbour in the Falklands, which is British, and this should be a sign of Argentina's own political maturity, that they can accept that as a fact, but which should at the same time enable them to have good relations both with the British Government and, I hope, with the Falkland Islanders.

Harold Briley: Can the Argentines take any comfort in Britain's peace moves over Northern Ireland? Is that regarded as a weakening of the Governments position, for example, towards the IRA?

Minister: No. Not all. There's no analogy between the politics of Northern Ireland and the politics of the Falkland Islands. But I think what it does show is that we seek peaceful solutions to disputes, and we welcome the fact that Argentina has dropped any claim to pursue the Falklands quarrel by force. They have agreed to pursue their claim peacefully and diplomatically, and that was a major advance.

Harold Briley: But they seem to have created a kind of deadline in the year 2000. How do they do that, if we say no and they say yes, and no force is used?

Minister: I think there is an element of rhetoric in a lot of what is said about the year 2000. It is not helpful, and we are completely certain that that date has no meaning; because I

Minister of State at the Foreign Office

saw in my recent visit to the Falklands that the Islanders are not willing, in the foreseeable future, to relinquish their claims to British sovereignty or their allegiance to the crown.

Harold Briley: Now oil is the multi-million dollar economic question, of course. If found in vast quantities off the Falklands, as now seems likely, what implications does that have?

Minister: We don't yet know if there is oil round the Falklands, but it's an exciting idea; and if there is oil there in commercial quantities, we will discuss this further, and indeed we are closely in touch with the Falkland Islands government about draught legislation which they are drawing up. We also believe that it is sensible to try and reach practical agreements with Argentina about the extraction of this oil, without compromising the fact that it lies in British waters. So again, the sovereignty issue is one thing, but the practicalities of extracting the oil, with possible Argentine participation, is a matter for later discussion and, of course, again, we will be discussing this with the Falkland Islands Government.

Harold Briley: But they have raised strong objections to that, haven't they, on the grounds that all waters in that area belong to them and they have warned oil companies off, if you like, in their so-called letters of discomfort?

Minister: Yes, it's a difficult issue. And again there are incompatible claims, but sensible mature governments reach practical agreements to mutual benefit and the Argentine government, about this, as about the Islands themselves must realise that we do not recognise their territorial or sovereignty claims and, as regards oil, it's a matter of practical sensible cooperation, but it must not undermine the fact that this oil, in our view, lies in British waters.

Harold Briley: What is your view of cooperation with Argentina in getting out the oil. Is that a good thing or not?

Minister: It depends what you mean by cooperation and that is a matter to be discussed. But obviously, if there is oil in these waters, it makes sense for everyone, if it exploited and extracted in some sort of practical cooperation with the continental countries, including Argentina.

Harold Briley: Is it possible for the Falklands, with the British Government's help and the great expertise of the British oil industry, to go it alone?

Minister: I think it is possible; and, indeed, that is an option, but it is a more difficult task than sensible cooperation with neighbouring countries. But, of course, if that cooperation became impossible, it would remain an option that it could be done by the Islands themselves.

Harold Briley: Do you think cooperation is the thin end of the wedge, opening the way to greater influence for Argentina in the Falklands? Oil workers, for example, could get there and other people?

Minister: Only if that cooperation became threatening to the sovereignty of the Islands; and it would be up to us to ensure that that was not the case; but I think recent events have

shown that it is possible to reach agreements with Argentina without undermining sovereignty. The fisheries agreements are one, and the prospect now of reaching a long term fisheries agreement, I think, again shows that we can reach agreements to mutual benefit.

Harold Briley: Now you are pleased about improving cooperation with Argentina. That is Anglo-Argentine cooperation in business and that kind of thing. Could that influence British policy, do you think, as British businesses do better and trade grows, do you think that the Falklands will then recede in importance in the Governments view?

Minister: No. I don't see it that way at all. I think instead this shows that we can put the sovereignty issue on one side, and we are completely resolute in our determination to maintain the sovereignty position, while at the same time making progress on all other fronts, both the political and trade and investment. That does not weaken our position at all. Indeed, I think it strengthens it, because it enables us to keep in touch with each other, to understand each others position, and everyone will have an interest in maintaining stability.

Harold Briley: Now another possibility for cooperation. The Argentines left behind some thirty-thousand mines in the Falklands, landmines, which have blighted large areas of the countryside and the beaches. Has there been some kind of new initiative, some offer from the Argentines to help to remove those mines?

Minister: Yes. The Argentines have asked to explore the possibility that they could assist in the removal of these mines.

Harold Briley: And to pay for it? Millions of pounds, I understand.

Minister: And to pay for it. We would want to be sure that this is a realistic undertaking; because there's no point in anyone wasting a lot of money, if these areas are still to be dangerous. So the technicalities of this are being explored. But, if at the end we can remove these awful weapons, which litter the islands, I think again, it would be of benefit.

Harold Briley: So cooperation yes, wherever practical, but on the basic issue of sovereignty, your message is still hands off. They say they'll never give up their claim. I know that British ministers don't like saying never, but will you say we'll never give up our sovereignty, without Islanders' agreement?

Minister: We are never going to weaken on our certainty that these Islands are British so long as the population there wish to remain so, and indeed I was impressed by how British the Islands were when I visited them. I recognise that the Argentine Government is unlikely to drop its claim. So we must manage this relationship in a sensible way and look for confidence building measures to improve our relationship wherever possible without undermining the essential fact of British sovereignty.

Harold Briley: Thank you very much.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is planned for May. Contributions for this should reach the FIA office not later than the 18th April. Especially welcome are personal accounts of life in the Falklands, and of cultural, sporting and business activities there. Full page articles should be about 700 words long and should be accompanied by two photos. Half page articles are welcome too. Good photos by themselves, especially of family events, such as weddings, are especially welcome.

Stanley Sports Meeting

Christmas in the Falklands is not only the family and religious event that it is in Britain. At the height of summer, it is followed by the three day Stanley Sports meeting. This mainly equestrian event also includes steer riding, tugs of war, and minor events for youngsters.



Riders gallop off for the "Gretna Green"
Photo: Penguin News



Jockeys line up before a race
Photo: Penguin News



Best turned out jockey, Tyrone Whitney, on Ensconce
Photo: Penguin News



Champion Jockey, Timmy Bonner.
Photo: Penguin News



Sean Beck, off the ship James Clark Ross, tries his hand at steer riding
Photo: Penguin News



Not part of the Sports meeting, but the Junior School nativity play a week earlier: Three wise men, Mathew Eccles, Zoran Zovic and Christopher Cant with Herod (right), otherwise known as Samantha Brownley.
Photo: Penguin News

Magnificent Gift from Sheikh Maktoum of Dubai



Thyer, outside the stables in Stanley.

Photo: Penguin News

Thyer, son of Nijinsky, the last horse to win the Triple Crown, has been given to the Falklands Horse Racing Association by Sheikh Maktoum of Dubai. This magnificent horse will now stand at stud in the Falklands.

Mike Summers, Chairman of the Stanley Sports Association described the gift as "beyond our wildest dreams". It follows the visit of the Queen's racing manager, Mr. Michael Oswald, to the Falklands. He was told that the Association was looking for a stallion. Mr. Oswald then passed this on to Sheikh Maktoum's racing manager who told the Sheikh himself. This magnificent gift was the result.

Governor Tatham invited Sheikh Maktoum to visit the Islands and said "Your gift will be received with great joy in the Islands. Our debt to your Highness will increase over the years as (God willing) the progeny of Thyer increases with time".

Chilean Parliamentarians Visit The Falklands

At the invitation of the Falkland Islands Government, and with the support of the FCO, a party of five members of the Chilean House of Representatives visited the Falklands in January. The visit, the first of its kind, was intended to give the guests first hand exposure to the way of life of the Islanders, to their aspirations and to their views. It is seen as an important step in establishing links with the South American mainland and in promoting the Islanders' case for self-determination.

The guests visited farms, wildlife areas, the new hospital and new school, and laid wreaths at the Liberation Monument in Stanley and at the Argentine cemetery at Darwin.

Quotes:

The following quotations appeared in the Buenos Aires Herald in September of last year as it reported the fishing treaty Argentina had just signed with the European Community. They shed light on Di Tella's claims to wish to avoid political fishing or harming Falkland Islanders economically.

21st "Di Tella said that all foreign ministers are "taking note" of the agreement reached by Argentina ... and that the accord will also force islanders "to realise that we have very important friends"...."

The BA Herald itself commented: "This agreement puts an end to islander attempts to bring off a fishing agreement of their own"

22nd "Di Tella... "the agreement gives our country a position of great strength from the political point of view"..."

26th "The agreement undercuts the fishing licences offered by the Malvinas/Falkland Islanders, affecting their livelihood and increasing pressure for the renewal of talks.

Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and President Carlos Menem boasted of winning an "economic war" against Great Britain as a result of the agreement."

BA Gets Its Planes

Argentina has at last obtained the first military dividend of its political alignment with the West: 38 A4 Skyhawks from the US; the now obsolete fighter-bombers Islanders saw in 1982.

Argentina originally thought they would be a gift, but in fact paid \$172 million for them. Debate there centered on what sort of radar they would have. Oscar Camilion, the Argentine Defence Minister, said that he didn't want them unless they had modern radars. The UK press differed over this, but *Clarín* says it was the Westinghouse ARG1 system, and suggested to its readers that this is ultra-modern. Actually, it is not believed to be very up to date.

Elderly planes are still dangerous, and this increase in Argentine power will have to be taken into account, but these are really more a symbol of acceptance by the West.

Mrs. Grace, U.E. Durbridge 1895 - 1994

We sadly record the recent death of perhaps the oldest Falkland Islander, Mrs Grace Ursula Elizabeth Durbridge Nee Meierhofer.

Born in the year 1895 on the 18th March at Port Stephens, Grace had many stories of early life in the Islands to pass on to her children, not the least of which was helping her father in the cookhouse looking after the shepherds and of fifty mutton chops at a time cooking in one large pan with usually three pans on the go at once, not to mention cabbage and spuds.

Sadly, at the age of 16, Grace had to accompany her mother back to Britain leaving behind her father and brother George and also a childhood sweetheart, George Durbridge. She never saw her father again, but brother George (Meierhofer) visited Britain on his way to settle in New Zealand. After one marriage and many years later, Grace finally remet and married George Durbridge.

Grace had five children of whom only three now survive, Rose, Bert and Albert, but Grace is also survived by her sister Rose who, at the age of 94, perhaps becomes the oldest Islander - despite being born a few weeks away from the Islands. ECJC

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

DRAFT RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The following has been extracted from a discussion paper which is being used to invite persons to consider the many and various aspects of rural development, and the substantial issues involved.

A series of events since 1982 have brought to the camp changes in lifestyle, expectations and economic circumstances, some for the better and others for the worse; there has been no comprehensive review since the Prynne Report of 1988 of overall rural development policies and how they have changed with circumstances. This paper seeks to review each of the factors affecting rural development, to assess their relative impact on camp areas, and to initiate discussion on those matters which require to be considered in further detail in the formulation of a composite rural development policy.

The principal factors may be seen to be these:

1. For decades sheep farming for wool had been the economic mainstay of the Falklands and was the determining factor in the sociological make-up of the Falklands.
2. The Shackleton reports of 1976 and 1982 proposed major land reform programmes (farm purchase and sub-division) which have been implemented over a number of years.
3. Farms in the Falklands became largely owner-occupied, but the debt burden on farmers rose substantially.
4. Capital grants were introduced in support of re-structuring and re-investment programmes.
5. Tourism was introduced as an additional activity in camp.
6. The introduction of fisheries licensing in 1987 dwarfed sheep farming in economic terms, and transferred the economic centre of focus from camp to Stanley.
7. Monies generated from fishing licences raised the standard of living and earnings expectations of Falklands residents generally, and was used for infrastructure development both in Stanley and camp.
8. Wool prices collapsed in 1990 from expected average prices of 185 pence per kilo greasy to about half that level. FIG responded by offering mortgage subsidies and operating cost subsidies.
9. FIG commenced in 1989 and has continued since then the construction of camp roads to create a spinal network linking the main population centres.

All these factors have had direct and indirect effects, and have produced both expected and some unexpected results. In 12 years the Falklands have moved very rapidly from being an almost exclusively agricultural economy in which wage levels and expectations were poor, and in which the majority of income was generated from non-Government sources, to a predominantly fisheries licence revenue dominated economy in which levels of income are generally much higher and opportunities greater, and in which the Government receives and re-distributes the majority of the wealth of the country.

They have caused population movement from camp to Stanley with consequent constitutional questions, and a movement of reliance from one community to another. Sociological values may be changing too.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

Some of the factors affecting rural life and development which must be borne in mind are as follows:

Net Capital Expenditure on rural development from 1988 to 1994 has been £20,018,000. During the same period **Net Operating Expenditure** in support of rural activities has been £4,246,000.

Economic Benefit - Total expenditure over six years of £24.2m will have generated £21.2m of revenue deriving from sheep farming, wool processing, tourism, and sundry farm income.

Land Reform - The sub-division process has improved average yields by 6.8% from 3.66 kilos/sheep in 1972 to 3.91 kilos/sheep in 1993. Sheep numbers have also increased by 8.2% during the same period giving a total increased yield of 15.4%.

Agricultural Grants totalling £2,727,735 have been paid from 1985/86 to 1993/94 which represents an average investment income per farm over nine years of £32,473 (excluding the four Falklands Landholdings farms) or £4.15 per head of sheep carried at 1993 stocking rates.

Population and Immigration - The camp population has fallen since 1972 by 42% and in the eleven years from 1980 - 1991 by 33%. To achieve repopulation of camp specific policies to that end would be required. Should this be pursued as a development priority? A key issue affecting the possibility for re-population of camp areas is the existing rural population's view of camp life and its readiness to take new families into the community. Can land and housing be made available in the camp for incomers?

Stock Improvements - There have been two major programmes for stock improvement in recent years (Artificial Insemination and the National Stud Flock) backed up by provision of veterinary expertise, training and extension work from the Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural Research is now more focused on the key elements of animal husbandry, wool production and pasture use and improvement.

Agricultural Subsidies - As a result of the wool price collapse in 1990 subsidies were paid totalling £2,198,023 from 1990/91 to 1992/93 with a further £500,000 approved for 1993/94. Future subsidies policies must take account of projected market price, diversification opportunities and overall development policies.

Other Projects supporting the sheep farming industry fall into three areas - wool processing, hides and skins, and meat. A major study into meat production is under way.

Tourism has been the most obviously successful addition to rural enterprise with five full service lodges and eight self-catering destinations operational.

Other Agricultural and Non Agricultural Enterprises which may be considered include vegetable growing, cashmere goats, dairy produce, pigs, eggs, poultry and meat production, fish farming, inshore fisheries, knitting and weaving, retail and wholesale businesses, hide and leather work, seaweed collection and processing, and other craft production. Some of these schemes exist to a degree and many would be possible with a little capital investment.

Marketing - It is a worthless to produce any product unless there is an identified market and an ability to sell forcefully into that market. It is frequently acknowledged that the local market alone is insufficient to support many businesses and we are looking for other opportunities, mainly in the UK. A commercial marketing arm of FIGO may be appropriate.

Transport Policy - The overall transport strategy at present is that a spinal network of roads should be built with link roads from farm areas to the main roads.

Renewable Energy - FIDC has several renewable energy pilot schemes in progress to demonstrate technical and commercial feasibility, and a funding scheme to encourage use of renewable energy.

Ultimately our rural development policy must fit with other Government policies on population distribution and growth, immigration, infrastructure spending, education and medical services and overall economic development. The rural development policy cannot exist in isolation from an overall strategic and economic plan for the Falklands.

Argentina and the Cult of Amnesty

An Outline of Punto Final, Obediencia Debida and the Indulto

By Simon Arthur

There have been many amnesties in Argentina. The Argentine constitution specifically provides for them. Peron granted one in 1946 for his military predecessors. Frondizi granted another in 1958; again just for the military. Hector Campora, uncle of the present Ambassador to Britain, granted yet another in 1973. This wasn't just for the military and pardoned many other politically motivated criminals too; many went on to be Montoneros.

In 1983, Argentina returned to civilian rule after the Falklands War. In '85 and '86, the trials of the "dirty war" criminals began. Presidents Videla and Viola went to prison for murder and theft. Lami Dozo, Anaya and Galtieri all went to prison for mismanaging the Falklands war. General Ramon Camps, Chief of the Buenos Aires police, got 25 years - for 73 cases of torture. His successor, General Richieri, got 14 years. Many other trials were inevitable. The military began to boil with rage.

PUNTO FINAL

To avoid another coup, Alfonsin's government decided to draw the line. In December of '86, he proposed a law called "Punto Final", or full stop, and rushed it through Congress at break neck speed. The Senate ratified it on the 22nd of December, the Chamber of Deputies on the 23rd; the vote was 126 in favour 16 against, with one abstention. The President signed it on the 24th. The law allowed only sixty days for further indictments to be filed for abuses of human rights by the military¹. The hope was that this would be insufficient time for the preparation of many more cases - but wouldn't incur the odium of formally stopping them. Without this law, some three thousand men might have faced trial for between ten and twenty thousand murders as well as many other crimes. To be even-handed to any surviving Montoneros, Congress modified it to effectively include any person who had committed politically motivated crimes during the period of the military dictatorship.

But human rights groups could work fast too. Just ten days later, on January the 8th, they filed 1000 complaints against 650 men who had served with the military or police. This was too much for the Fiscalía, the state prosecution service. Led by the honest Moreno Ocampo, it did its best, but only 150 indictments could be prepared and filed by the deadline, the 22nd of February². Even this was many more than Congress had wanted. It wasn't what the military had wanted either. It had bitterly resisted allowing serving officers to be tried, but thirty of the indictments were against serving officers and men! Within days, six retired admirals involved in the Escuela Mecanica torture centre refused to appear in court - until declared in rebellion. Six weeks later a serving officer refused to appear in court in Cordoba - and Aldo Rico launched his first mutiny at Campo de Mayo!

OBEDIENCIA DEBIDA

A common defence in these trials and appeals was "Obediencia Debida", or due obedience - the doctrine enshrined in Article 514 of the Argentine military code that an act committed under orders was the responsibility of the officer giving the order and not the man who carried it out. This had not been accepted by Argentine courts as an excuse for crime, but had enormous support amongst the Argentine military and police. It flew in the face of UN conventions over torture and the principles applied at Nuremberg.

Under pressure, Alfonsin acted yet again. On the 15th May, in the Chamber of Deputies, the first debate took place of a law to clarify and legalise "Obediencia Debida" - as a defence for crime. Again, it went through in record time. It was signed by the President at the beginning of June, overturned twice by lower courts, and finally upheld by the Supreme Court on June 23rd. It applied only to the military, the police and the prison service and, like Punto Final, only to crimes committed during the military dictatorship (1976 to 1983). Although intended only for junior ranks, two generals successfully used it in their defence!

THE INDULTO

Obediencia Debida stopped most of the trials that were pending, but not all of them. It released only a handful of those already convicted. So two more mutinies followed, in 1988, lead by the "Carapinda" extremists, Aldo Rico and Mohammed Seineldin. In 1989, the military finally got their way. Menem stopped further trials soon after taking office and on October 7th that year pardoned some 277 people already convicted, awaiting trial or wanted. 36 men from the military and police were released from prison. So were 64 Montoneros. Aldo Rico and Mohammed Seineldin, were pardoned for their mutinies too. They showed no remorse. Instead, Carapintadas celebrated in a Buenos Aires park with military style callisthenics. Of the dirty war criminals, this left only Videla, Viola, Camps, Richieri, Massera, Lambruschini, Suarez Mason and the Montonero leader Mario Firmenich still in prison.

Sadly, the Carapintadas had learnt the lesson well. They proved this on the 3rd of December 1990. Led by Seineldin, they launched a full blown coup, killing 19 people - many of them members of the forces. They were all captured within 24 hours. One of their objectives had been the release of the seven remaining dirty war criminals. Three weeks later, on the 30th, these were released.

Seineldin and his colleagues all got long prison terms, but probably won't have to wait too long. There were rumours they would get out in October 1993 - almost certainly because Menem needed the vote of MODIN, the party led by the reformed Aldo Rico, to change the

1. Punto Final had two important exceptions. It did not forgive the kidnapping of children. This was to allow action against those military men who had taken the babies of mothers who had given birth in custody and been murdered immediately afterwards. Secondly, it did not include those who were in rebellion or were fugitives from justice at the time. This was aimed at men such as Suarez Mason. He had been the Commander of the Army 1st Division, and was accused of some 400 cases of murder, torture, false imprisonment and theft, and was at the time on the run in the United States. He was later tried for only 39 of his murders, as this was all he had been extradited for.

2. The 22nd of February is, by coincidence, "Antarctica Day", when Argentina celebrates its claims to territory in Antarctica.

constitution and allow him to stand again for the presidency. Hope faded when the Radicales dropped their opposition to this. Menem no longer needed MODIN. Now they will have to wait somewhat longer. Of course, they won't serve all their sentences. Amnesties are not something unusual. They are the norm in a society where wrong doing is tolerated from the President down. He himself has broken the constitution - in Bonex '89. He has packed the Supreme Court. His party uses violence. At the recent congressional elections, many journalists were threatened and some assaulted - to intimidate those who criticised the government.

FALKLANDS WAR CRIMES

Argentine propaganda portrayed the war as one great British war crime. We attacked their hospital ship, massacred prisoners, abused the Red Cross - you name it; we did it. So when Vince Bramley made allegations that appeared to support this, Judge Ricardo Wechsler was appointed to investigate. Then, in May 1993, Captain Mason added another allegation. This time, an investigatory commission was set up under the military bishop, Norberto Martina. At first, this could only find one viable accusation, from Jose Carriso and his witness, Santiago Mambrin. Even this was quite unproveable. So, in a move exactly contrary to Punto Final, the life of the commission was extended by another sixty days. Sure enough, this allowed time for several new, and highly implausible complainants, accompanied by Santiago Mambrin, to appear a few days later.

If Argentines can get access to the Falklands, the Fiscalia are likely to arrive to investigate these, in accordance with Argentine law - to make the point that they consider it Argentine territory. This is where the amnesties are important. Punto Final prevents further prosecution of men from



The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo protesting against the disappearance of their children. Photo: Harold Briley

the Argentine forces for murder and other crimes. But other people are only covered for these if politically motivated - as the Montoneros were. This probably wouldn't apply to the wanton killing of a prisoner of war, although that was the interpretation put on many similar killings in Argentina then. But, it probably would apply, if anyone actually did order the murder of three suspected American mercenaries as alleged in Vince Bramley's book "Excursion to Hell - Mount Longdon". That would have been politically motivated. On the other hand, those who carried it out - if it happened at all - probably wouldn't be covered. They would just have been obeying orders. Obediencia Debida wouldn't cover them either; that applies only to Argentine forces.

Of course, Islanders can forget about all the assaults, thefts, deportations, imprisonments and other abuse during the occupation. Punto Final has taken care of them.

WHY I AM GOING TO THE NEXT ARGENTINE-BRITISH CONFERENCE IN ARGENTINA.

An Open Letter by Lewis Clifton

I am proud to be a Falkland Islander. I care deeply about my country, both its people and its beautiful austere landscape. Living for the moment in London but returning frequently, I am very aware of the changes that have occurred and which are occurring, which have radically altered the prospects for Islanders. Islanders increasingly control, not merely how they live and work, but also their own political future.

That future was transformed for us Islanders, by the Argentine invasion. From that dreadful event has come much good, both in the Islands and in Argentina. People of my generation in the Islands and in Argentina have expectations, based on new found political freedoms which we regard as ours by right. I speak for my community and for my Argentine contemporaries when I demand to know who dares to challenge our new found freedoms especially that of political choice. It is not a gift but a fundamental right. Any Argentine Government that denies the fundamental rights of the Falkland Islanders cannot be trusted to respect the rights of the people of Argentina either. A politician who practices occasional democracy is no different to a benevolent dictator.

Argentina has thrown out its fascist juntas and must now discard their fascist geopolitical aspirations. In particular the outmoded and aggressive policy towards the Falklands. Argentine politicians seem slower to grasp the true nature of democracy than the electorate they represent. I hope to bring home to them that until Argentina drops its sovereignty claim they cannot realistically expect any constructive friendly relations with the Islanders or any preferential consideration in a future Falklands oil bonanza.

Because I believe in the basic decency of human beings, I also believe that the thinking people of Argentina will agree our right to choose our own future because it is a freedom newly won for themselves which they will not with good conscience deny us.

I look forward with confidence to the future prosperity of the Falkland Islands and to a time when a free and democratic Argentina accepts the same freedom for the Islanders by unconditionally withdrawing its sovereignty claim. Until that day I will take every opportunity to argue the case for the Islanders' right to determine their own future.

This is the message that I intend to take to the conference

Lewis Clifton

Taking Stock, the UKFIT 1981 - 1993

By Nigel St G. Gribbon, Chairman

The United Kingdom Falkland Island Trust (UKFIT), when constituted as a Registered Charity by invitation of the Falkland Islands Association in June 1981, was given a wide range of options. All were designed to support the Islands' population in areas where the Government was unable to help. The first decision was to bring three girl students back to England for secretarial training and a further one to Atlantic College on a bursary.

The Argentinian invasion then put a stop to Trust activity. Following the liberation, the Trust decided that its support could best be given to the agricultural sector to help the wool industry and take advantage of the organic nature of the Islands. Further assessment indicated that this support could usefully be given by research into improving the quality of the white grass for grazing and establishing trees for the shelter of sheep and farms.

In addition, the Trust realised the value of encouraging those aspects of education where a link with agriculture could benefit agricultural research and encourage young people to develop an interest in farming. To this end, UKFIT has developed a good relationship with the Director of Education, Mrs Phyllis Rendell, and her staff.

Agricultural Marketing

The trust appreciates the many efforts made by farmers to develop their wool and allied interests. It understands the day-to-day problems faced running farms with little opportunity or funds to look further afield. Being conscious of the value of close contact with the ever-developing agricultural methods in the European Union, the UKFIT willingly accepted the services offered by two very experienced men: Mr. David Stickland of the Organic Farmers and Growers and Dr. Jim McAdam of the Government of Northern Ireland Agriculture Department. Their wide experience in the global aspects and techniques of research and commerce thus became available to the Trust.

These consultants visit the Falklands at regular intervals to monitor the field work, to meet farmers and to liaise with the Department of Agriculture and others cooperating with the Trust. Jim McAdam visited during January, 1994.



Youthful mobility at Port Howard

Photo: Falkland Islands Tourist Board



The end of the round up - Goose Green

Photo: Falkland Islands Tourist Board

Maintaining the Momentum.

UKFIT, under its President, Lord Strathcona, enjoys a close relationship with HE the Governor, Councillors and FIDC, through the Department of Agriculture. Through its domestic Trustee, Mr. Robin Lee, it has an ever-growing group of farming cooperators. It hopes to see more joining programmes such as tree establishment; where UKFIT can help with practical experience of Falklands conditions.

Within the agricultural sector, UKFIT is involved in various ways. Firstly, the manufacture and use of liquid kelp fertiliser and its trial on white grass to improve grazing and so sheep as mutton. Then there is the long term establishment of trees with some 3,500 planted by organic methods, and the first woodland in East Falkland. Other areas are the EU standard abattoir; the elimination of pest in Tussac grass; the introduction of selected strains of pigs for breeding; and a carrot growing trial with an export potential. An Islands' Organic Group is being developed with a certified local inspector. Measures to control erosion are high on the agenda. The Trust circulates technical and scientific reports.

Civic Projects

Over the years, UKFIT has provided funds to help paint Cape Pembroke lighthouse (if only it could be rehabilitated); to assist financially with the Cathedral renovation; to donate towards the Girl Guides accommodation and arrange further support from the Girl Guides of Britain; to sponsor a youth for Operation Raleigh; and to cover the return journey of the Museum Curator on an inspection tour in Britain.

In Summary

In the Trust's review of itself, it believes that it is making the best use of its limited funds and the unfunded provision of consultation and general support by trustees and consultants alike. With a capacity exceeding its funds, UKFIT is always looking for sponsors. It likes to be in personal touch with the community and appreciates meeting individuals, either in the Falklands or when on leave in Britain. Comment on its work, whether positive or negative(!) is useful. It can be channelled through Mr. Robin Lee or in writing to the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Dodson, at 136 Kennington Lane, London, SE11 4UZ.

Falklands Shop in Wells

From an account by Annabelle Spencer

Brian Paul lived in the Falklands from 1979 to 1985, doing broadcasting, engraving, market gardening, etc. The last six months of his and Annabelle's time was spent camping, backpacking and filming all over the Islands, in order to use these films, which have now been produced, to promote exhibitions, talks and lectures in the UK and abroad.

Brian and Annabelle visited Sir Rex Hunt at Government House in 1985 and told him of their idea to promote the Falklands to the world from the UK. This vision was realised on the 21st May 1987, when Sir Rex officially opened the **ONLY FALKLAND ISLANDS SHOP IN THE WORLD**. Strangely, this was in Wells, Somerset, 54 years after Bishop Stirling (of the Falklands) was laid to rest in Wells Cathedral.

This very special shop, nestling in the foothills of the Mendips, sells all Falklands products. It's a must for any Falklands supporter visiting the West Country. From April 1st this year, it will take over the marketing of the FIA products advertised on the back page of the Newsletter.

The Falkland Islands Agency,
Falkland House,
Three Tucker Street,
Wells, Somerset BA5 2DZ

Tel: 0749-677902



Sir Rex Hunt, Annabelle Spencer and Brian Paul at the Association AGM last December

Photo: Peter Pepper

Calling all Oldies

Ted and Jean Clapp are interested in compiling a list of the oldest living Islanders and would be interested in hearing either from relatives or the "Oldies" themselves. Please write to Ted and Jean care of the Falkland Islands Association, 2 Greycoat Place, Westminster, London SW1 1SD or to their home address: 32 The Furlongs, Needingworth, Hunts/Cambs PE17 3TX.



Mrs. Kate Fry, Mayor of Wells, with Brian Paul, at the Falklands mini-exhibition in Wells.

Photo: by Paul Fry

Falklands Exhibitions

From their base in Wells, Brian and Annabelle organise exhibitions around the country, and sell Falklands products at the Association AGM and other functions. A mini Falklands Exhibition in Wells Town Hall just last autumn created great interest amongst tourists from all over the globe, and was visited by Councillor Mrs. Kate Fry, Mayor of the City of Wells, with her husband Paul Fry.

October 1993 saw the sixth major Falkland Islands Exhibition at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon. It included Falkland Islands wool, spinning demonstrations, fleeces, hand knitted Aran sweaters, wool of all colours and plys for hand and machine knitters. Traditional "Sailors Yarn" stole the show, with sweaters that had been hand spun and hand knitted. What more could any outdoorsman, be he sailor, fisherman, farmer or hiker, want than a sweater that "turned the wind and the rain" and protected by its natural lanolin - "need never be washed".

There were lots of different Falklands films to watch in the thirty seater film studio, a gallery of artwork, displays and a sales area for Books, Maps, Stamps, Souvenirs, etc..

GEOFFREY MOIR

Each year Geoff, who worked as a teacher in the Falklands, is the Croydon backbone of this exhibition. Stemming from his long teaching career, his encouragement of youngsters, who visit or just happen upon the Exhibition, is both natural and rewarding to see.

Each year Geoff also provides new themes from his well known specialised stamp collection, "Fighting and the Falklands" - An article in last December's issue of *Stamp Lover* by the editor, Michael Furnell, describes the work and love involved in Geoff Moir's fascinating display of Falkland Islands stamps.

FIA SUPPORT

Brian and Annabelle were surprised and delighted at the 1993 Exhibition by sponsorship from several local Croydon companies. This enabled them to make a substantial donation to Falkland Islands Association funds at the last AGM.

Book Reviews

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FALKLANDS was reviewed by Sir Rex Hunt in our last issue, but the following letter to the editor serves as an additional review.

Sir

I would like to recommend Roger Edwards book, "**The Other Side of the Falklands**", to everyone who has ever been associated with the Islands. It is a record of life in the camp that must have been duplicated by many of those young men who signed up for 5 years and sailed off to an unknown experience. Whilst it is a succession of anecdotes, it also manages to convey a picture of the year's work, its hardships, the humour, the loneliness, and the comradeship. Reading Roger's book, and remembering my own experiences, also at Dunnose Head, I now find it hard to believe that we were not seriously injured or killed. I believe there were actually very few deaths among contract workers.

This book also serves as a record of life at Dunnose Head, a settlement, if it can be called that, which was always years behind everywhere else in terms of facilities. I am personally glad that Tommy Skilling has at last appeared in print. To me he was all that was best amongst the Kelpers, and I remember him with great affection.

Without criticising other books about the Falklands; this is not a book about the war; it is not about penguins; it is not about flora and fauna; it is not about Port Stanley. It is about the largely forgotten contract workers, young lads who came in search of adventure, and something different; who kept the sheep farms going for years, and in the process learnt a lot about themselves. I have not yet met Roger, although I have spoken to him, but I certainly know where he is coming from.

Yours sincerely **John. V. Chaplin.**

FALKLANDS VICTORY: Commemoration Poem by **Kenneth John Rider.** Published by Century House, 99-101 Sutton Road, Birmingham B23 5XA. This long narrative poem, written after much detailed research, has a foreword by Major The Reverend David Cooper, AKC Chaplain to the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who was present at Goose Green in 1982.

It can be ordered from the Publishers

Subscriptions

As a cost saving reminder to members who pay the annual subscription by cheque, or cash, the month when your payment is due will now be printed on the bottom right-hand corner of the address label. If the month falls within the previous quarter and you have not paid your subscription, please do so as soon as possible.

This new reminder does not, of course, apply to those who pay by Bankers Order.

Jean Clapp, Honorary Membership Secretary

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS JOURNAL 1993, edited by **Dr. Jim McAdam**, published by the Editor, Stanley, Falkland Islands. Softback. 128 Pages including a two page foreword by Dr. Jim McAdam and a two page contents. The five winning papers of the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Prize 1992, seven historical articles, a school project into soil erosion at Port Stephens by Lee Chandler and Mr. T.G. Reid Jr's 1993 supplement to an annotated bibliography of the Falkland Islands. 9 Maps, 20 pages of photos. ISSN 0256-1824. Price £7

This is a really bumper edition of the annual Falkland Islands Journal with almost twice the usual number of pages. Of especial interest are the articles written by the winners of the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Prize for 1992, which is awarded annually in three categories. Senior school, Junior School and Camp Education for the best project in the field of Falkland Islands history. The resulting fully illustrated articles, which are quite extraordinarily good, not only demonstrate the excellent detailed and thorough research carried out by the students, but also make extremely interesting reading. They cover family history, introduced animal species, health and hygiene since 1842 and New Island.

The other historical articles include details of early visits to the Falklands: Alejandro Malaspina in 1789 and 1784, that of an unnamed passenger in the ship Lawrie in 1832, and a list of vessels calling between 1769 and 1850. There is a short article by the Governor, His Excellency David Tatham CMG, on two documents in Government House concerning Louis Vernet and William Smyley; autobiographical notes of J.F.G. Wheeler on South Georgia, an article by Patrick Armstrong of Australia on the Warrah and the first in a series of articles on previous governors of the Falkland Islands: this one on Governor D'Arcy 1870-76.

R.N.Spafford.

Copies of the Falkland Islands Journal are available from Mr. F.G.Mitchell, c/o the Falkland Islands Company Ltd., 94A Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7RH. The cost of £7 includes postage and packing to UK addresses. Back copies of most earlier issues of the journal are also available.

How the System Works

Printing the month when a member's subscription is due on the address label is a great success. It is saving Association volunteers much of the work involved in sending out reminders and the cost of the stationary and postage that this used to incur. It is, however, no substitute for a bankers order, which remains the Association's preferred method of payment. Subscription payments should still be accompanied by the usual renewal note - but existing members should not use the application form from the Newsletter, unless they are changing to a bankers order. The computer software used cannot just print out those subscriptions due in the previous quarter, or those overdue. It prints out the month on every issue of the Newsletter. This is not an error.

The Falkland Islands Association

An Association supported by the subscription of members and voluntary contributions

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- President:** The Rt. Hon. the Lord Braine of Wheatley
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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 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SD.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 14th June

Annual Reception
Lincoln's Inn

Saturday 27th August

Falkland Islanders Reunion, Ham.

Saturday 3rd December

Battle Day and AGM, Whitehall

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.

Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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

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Mrs. M.Christie.
Mr. R.Elgood.
Mr. D.L.Clifton.
Mr. H.Briley O.B.E. (Co-editor)
Mr. P.J.Pepper (Co-editor)

FOR SALE

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

NOTICE

Members have until the 31st of March to buy the following items from the Association. From the 1st of April, the Association will cease to stock them, but they and many other Falklands products, will be available from The Falkland Islands Agency, Falkland House, Three Tucker Street, Wells, Somerset BA5 2DZ. Telephone: 0749 - 677902. This column will be dedicated to them in future issues.

Miscellaneous

Ties, Falkland Islands crest, navy blue £6.50
Heritage Year Commemorative Medallion, £4.5
Desk Flags, £2.50
Tea cloths, Map of the Falkland Islands, £2.50
Dusters, Map of the Falkland Islands, £1
Bookmark "Stanley, Falkland Islands" various colours, £1
Ordnance Survey Map of the Falkland Islands, £3.50
Car Stickers, green plastic, "Remember the Falkland Islands They're British", £1
Plastic stick-on badges, Falkland Islands Crest, 75p
Lapel Badges, Falkland Islands Crest, £1
Key Rings, Falkland Islands Crest, £2

Coloured picture postcards by Steve Whitley:

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

Coloured picture postcards by Tony Chater:

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

Steve Whitley's greeting cards:

Winter Scene Pebble Island, Gentoo & King Penguins Volunteer Lagoon, Bull Elephant Seal Sea Lion Island at 52p each.
King Penguins Volunteer Point, Rockhopper Penguins Pebble Island, Corriedale sheep, at 35p each.

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

Fitzroy East Falkland, Fox Bay West Falkland, Carcass Island.

BOOKS: (Please include cost of postage and packing)

THE HISTORY OF THE FALKLANDS, by Geoffrey Moir DFC, FRGS, FRPSL £1
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, by Canon Gerry Murphy £4
DARWIN'S DESOLATE ISLANDS, by Patrick Armstrong £25
GUIDE TO BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, by Robin Woods £14.95
A LIFE OF OUR CHOICE, by Sydney Miller CBE £6
OLD FALKLAND PHOTOS, by Shane Wolsey £5.95
THE POSTIES WENT TO WAR, by Major Ian Winfield £5.95
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PENGUINS AND SEASHORE FRIENDS, by Dolly Penguin £4.99
DIARY OF A FARMERS WIFE, by Rosemary Wilkinson £4.95