



Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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Falklands Oil Behind Menem's Bribe

One reason for the Falklands "dispute" is Argentina's wish to control Falklands resources, particularly oil. The presence of this has been suspected since WWII. The recent seismic survey has made huge amounts virtually certain.

Not surprisingly, Argentina is making new efforts to control this before exploitation can begin. This time, by offering huge bribes to the Islanders to accept Argentine sovereignty. The Presidential election in Argentina in May makes this especially important. President Menem has made the Falklands an issue, and Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella, is promoting the idea of offering money to the Islanders against fierce opposition from hard-line nationalists.

The bribe has risen sharply recently, along with the realisation of the likely extent of Falklands oil reserves. \$700,000 was suggested in the Argentine press last year.

Conrado Bullrich, an acquaintance and former student of Di Tella, offered this to everyone while visiting the Falklands last July. Now President Menem has offered \$1,500,000.

Argentina is also trying to create an atmosphere in which sovereignty talks, involving the Islanders, can be re-started, so it is doubtful if this offer is any more than a negotiating position. But if true, it represents an outlay of \$3.5 billion. This is about one per cent of what Falklands oil resources are likely to be worth. So Argentina's offer represents a pathetic fraction of the Islanders' own birthright.

Despite its insulting nature, it is better that Argentina tries to buy the Islanders rather than invade the Islands. This effectively recognises that it is the Islanders who will decide the future of the Falklands. This is real progress. Argentina is at last admitting that Islanders have the right to say NO.

A Glance at the Future



Falklands school children at the Liberation Monument in Stanley

Photo: Courtesy of Central Office of Information Pictures

FALKLANDS' FUTURE IN OWN HANDS

By Douglas Hurd

In this personal reflection on his family's links with the Falkland Islands the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable Douglas Hurd CBE, MP, writes with affection of the islands and categorically re-affirms Britain's policy that sovereignty cannot be surrendered to Argentina and that it's for the Islanders themselves – and no one else – to determine their own future.

In the last few weeks I have had time to look out some of the letters which my mother wrote to me from the Falkland Islands during the late 50s and early 60s. She went to the islands two or three times with my father who was then one of the directors of the Falkland Islands Company. In those days the Company owned much of the farm land. My father was a Member of Parliament but he was first and foremost a farmer and during his visits was much more concerned with the price of wool and the state of the grassland than he was with the Argentines. Like most visitors then my parents sailed from Montevideo on the ship called the Darwin. My mother was a notoriously bad sailor but her letters were full of praise for a new drug called Avamine which kept her going in rough seas. To travel on land was not much smoother but she got used to bucketing about on farm tracks and occasionally helping to push the Land Rover out of some deep ruts or an unexpected bog. She was a keen bird watcher and used to steal away from protracted farm talk to study gulls and penguins. Some of the photographs which she and my father took, slightly browning at the edges, are now in the care of John Smith in Stanley Museum.

We are separated from that time by the war of 1982. My mother was still alive then and I well remember her mixed feelings. Of course she was entirely sympathetic to the Islanders but she worried that, even if British rule was restored, the kind of life which she had seen would be destroyed for ever. Several times during my visit earlier this year, I wished she could have been with me to see that her fears were unreal. There is now a garrison almost as big as the civilian population of the Islands and, as a result, the security position has been transformed. But the Servicemen and their installations have not it seems to me fundamentally changed the way of life. Darwin and Goose Green and even Stanley are entirely recognisable. Added to what my parents saw are the memories and memorials of the war. No one can



The Right Honourable Douglas Hurd, CBE, MP

Photographed on Sea Lion Island by Norman Clark

visit the memorial to HMS Sheffield on Sea Lion Island or the place where Colonel H. Jones fell without being strongly moved. My wife and I were given a splendid lunch in the hall at Goose Green where so many Islanders were confined by the Argentines during the war. This was not a distant memory for those who entertained us, like some event in the two World Wars. It was vivid in their memories as if it happened yesterday.

SOVEREIGNTY SETTLED

I came back from my visit with two main impressions. The first is that the question of sovereignty is in effect settled. It may take years yet before Argentina recognises this fact. But the Argentine invasion in 1982 made it certain, I think, that the Islanders will not accept Argentine rule, and no one will in practice force it on them. The second impression was one of gathering but still cautious confidence in the Islands about their future. This shows in the slowly increasing population, in the numbers who are returning to the Islands from education overseas, and in new buildings such as the splendid school alongside Government House. The confidence is cautious because the Islanders realise that it depends on an uncertain income from the erratic illex squid. It will not be easy to persuade the Argentines to accept a longer term agreement for sharing this resource which is, in fact, in the interests of both parties. We shall have to persevere with this effort without allowing it to

involve concessions on sovereignty. We do not know if there is oil of marketable quality and quantity around the Islands. Nor do we know under what conditions, financial and political, the oil might be extracted and marketed. All this is to play for. I got the strong impression in the Islands that most Islanders wish to see the oil explored and exploited if it exists and if it can be marketed without destroying the underlying character of the islands.

UK WON'T FORCE ARGENTINE CONTACTS

At the back of both these topical questions lies the whole matter of contacts between the Islanders and Argentina. This is a matter which the Islanders will have to work out for themselves. Certainly this British Government will not lean on them to enter into contacts which they suspect or dislike. It may be that as the years pass, as the self-confidence of the Islands increases, as Argentine democracy is confirmed, the Islanders may feel their future need not depend on the total absence of contacts with the nearest part of the mainland. Maybe contacts can be devised which do not arouse old fears. That is something which the Islanders and their representatives will work out and decide over time.

I realise that, because of what happened in 1982, the British commitment to the Falkland Islands has from time to time to be restated. I hope that my visit was such a restatement. But I do not regard our commitment as simply a relic of the past. It is not simply a commitment to resist any new aggression. It is an undertaking to work with the Islanders to secure the right place for the Islands in the South Atlantic. If we work together in a spirit evident during my visit, I believe we can make a success of this.



Mrs. Hurd laying flowers at the spot where Colonel H. Jones VC was killed.

Photo: Norman Clark

A Short History of Menem's Bribe

The idea of offering money to Falkland Islanders to get them to accept Argentine sovereignty was first made public in 1990 in an article in the British press by Sir Alan Walters. He suggested a payment of \$100,000 each.

Another version of this article was published in Argentina in July 1993, and Argentine offers of money \$6 - 700,000 began at the same time. This was bitterly resisted by hardline elements such as Senator Eduardo Menem, the President's brother, and Dr. Mario Campora, Argentina's ambassador to Britain. These say that there is no need for the Islanders to be considered, consulted or paid, in contrast to Dr. Di Tella, who has long tried to get the Islanders into dialogue with him (as he claims to recognise that the British Parliament should make no changes to the status quo, without Islander consent).

From then on, as Dr. Di Tella tried to "negotiate through the media" with the Islanders, and get his ideas accepted in Argentina against an opposition that feared that they recognised an Islander veto, reports of money offers appeared regularly in the Argentine press. Dr. Di Tella repeated his offer of \$700,000 in London in June this year, much to Dr. Mario Campora's disgust.

In July this year, Conrado Bullrich, a *La Prensa* journalist and acquaintance and former student of Di Tella, visited the Islands on an Irish passport suggesting £½ million for everyone, if they would accept Argentine sovereignty. In the article he wrote afterwards, he states that this was originally to compensate those who would leave rather than live under Argentine rule, and that this was extended to

everyone so as not to discriminate against those who might stay.

Next, Di Tella explained in a telephoned interview with the *Newsletter* on October 4th that he had notified the US Government that he might ask for their help as stake-holders for his cash for sovereignty scheme. The MORI poll took place in the Falklands just 3 days later, with its trick question about "money for sovereignty".

Last, but not least, President Menem publicly offered the Islanders \$1.5 million each in an interview with *Pagina 12* on November 2nd. Dr. Mario Campora, who had resisted this, was sacked as Ambassador to Britain two weeks later.

BRIBE ACKNOWLEDGES ISLANDER CONSENT

None of the above offers have been made formally through diplomatic channels - because they effectively recognise the Islanders right to consent or otherwise. Dr. Di Tella is well aware of this argument. In a letter in *The Times* on November 25th, he suggested that those who had answered the trick question about money for sovereignty were "ready to consider" some sort of compensation "in spite of the fact that Argentina has made no formal offer yet" - as if to give the impression that the Islanders had thought the idea up themselves. **This is clearly to forestall the argument that if you offer someone money, you are accepting their right to say no.** Shedding light on his own credibility, Di Tella went on to say that the specific amounts mentioned in the poll "in no way reflect our own thinking on the matter".

BATTLE DAY - ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Defying grey winter skies and heavy rain squalls, members of the Falkland Islands Association held their annual act of remembrance at the Cenotaph in London, in advance of their annual general meeting on December 3rd.

This was instituted originally in the Islands to commemorate and honour the fallen of the Battle of the Falkland Islands on December 8th, 1914, when Royal Navy ships vanquished the German Navy in the South Atlantic. It now also commemorates the Battle of the River Plate in December 1939 against the battleship Graf Spee, and the 1982 Conflict.

Leading the procession was Admiral Sir John (Sandy) Woodward, who commanded the Task Force which defeated the Argentines and freed the Falkland Islands in 1982. He laid a wreath in memory of British servicemen, followed by Miss Sukey Cameron, for the Falkland Islands Government; Sir Rex Hunt, the Falkland Islands Association; Mr Des Keoghane, for the Falkland Families Association of British servicemen men killed in 1982; Flight Lieutenant B.A.W. Thompson RAF, representing the Society of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, recalling HMS Kent's part in the 1914 battle; and by Miss Emma Edwards, representing the young people of the Falklands.

The service was conducted by the Reverend P.J. Millam, accompanied by Father Monaghan, both former Ministers in the Falklands. The procession was accompanied by a Royal Navy Colour Party and Royal Marine buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Harold Briley



The Colour Party marching out led by Captain Vincent RN



Wreath layers: Admiral Woodward, Miss Sukey Cameron, Sir Rex Hunt, Mr. Des Keoghane, Flt Lt. Thompson and Miss Emma Edwards



Miss Emma Edwards laying her wreath on behalf of Falkland Islands young people.



Miss Sukey Cameron goes forward to lay her wreath on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government.

All photographs on this page by Miss Sophie Hill

You Can't Fool the British Public - Sir Rex

AGM CALL FOR UNITY

A warning against Argentina's attempts to create division in the Falkland Islands and to fool the British public was sounded by Sir Rex Hunt, Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association at its annual meeting in London on December 3rd.

Sir Rex said this strategy has been adopted by Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Guido di Tella, in his bid to obtain sovereignty through what he calls "diplomatic channels and in peace". Sir Rex accused Di Tella of trying to hoodwink the British public into believing that some compromise over sovereignty could be acceptable.

Sir Rex said this strategy would fail. "It is up to the Islanders to continue to show a united front and I have every confidence that they will. It is up to the Association to see that the British public are not hoodwinked".

Sir Rex had met the Argentine Foreign Minister in Buenos Aires early in 1994 and tried to persuade Dr di Tella that his Falklands policy is wrong. In a busy year for the Falkland Islands Association, Sir Rex said the Argentine diplomatic offensive has continued unabated and increased in recent months leading to the Argentine-instigated MORI poll on sovereignty, published by the Times newspaper. (See separate article and analysis, page 10). Sir Rex rejected accounts of this poll as "gross misrepresentation" in suggesting that Falkland Islanders are ready to accept compensation for surrender of sovereignty.

Sir Rex recalled the Falklands visit in April by the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, whose assurances to the Islands could not have been firmer. Mr Hurd then said: "These Islands are British and will stay so. We (the British Government) entirely uphold British sovereignty of the Falklands. This is secure". Sir Rex praised the Islanders who attended the Argentine-British conference in Argentina in April with Association representatives, who, he said, had together made a big impact, with an outstanding contribution by Stuart Wallace of Stanley.

Sir Rex Hunt appealed for a membership drive to strengthen the Association. He put on public record the Association's gratitude to the Falkland Islands Councillors for their support and for voting an increased Falklands

Government grant, showing in the clearest way their faith in the value of the organisation and its work.

There to hear these thanks was Councillor John Cheek, a leading member of the Falklands Legislature and long-time supporter of the Association. He was warmly applauded when he recalled the great help given the Islands by the Association during the 1982 Argentine invasion and said the Association must be free to do what it wishes to support the islands, without any strings attached to the Falklands grant.

The meeting, which was chaired by former Governor Sir Cosmo Haskard, began with tributes to the memory of Lord Shackleton. Sir Rex Hunt echoed Governor David Tatham's earlier tributes, describing him as the Islands' "constant adviser, champion, companion and friend, in good times and in bad". Sir Rex added: "Eddie Shackleton was a great friend of the Falklands, a great statesman and, like his father, he was, very simply, a great man". Listening to these tributes was Lord Shackleton's daughter, Mrs Alexandra Bergel, who was re-elected as a member of the Association's Executive Committee.

Sir Rex thanked Mrs. Gwenda Jones for her 8 years of very conscientious work in the Association office, and presented her with an antique map of the Falklands as a farewell gift.

Harold Briley



Father Monaghan, Councillor John Cheek and Sir Cosmo Haskard at the Association AGM



The Hon. Mrs Alexandra Bergel, Admiral Sir John (Sandy) Woodward and Miss Sukey Cameron at the Association AGM



Sir Cosmo Haskard and Sir Rex Hunt

All photographs on this page by Miss Sophie Hill.

Oil Bill Passed

The Offshore Minerals Bill was passed by the Councillors on October 27th. Six Councillors agreed the bill, but not Councillor Bill Luxton, who had to be absent from the Islands for personal reasons, nor Councillor Wendy Teggart. She voted against it, saying: "This is far too important a piece of legislation to be rushed through" and that it had not been independently assessed.

Argentine Fishing Incidents

Several poaching incidents involving Argentine boats have been reported recently. On October 20th the unlicensed longliner *Isla Guamblin* was seen fishing inside the FOCZ. On the 28th, the *Magellanes II* was seen "hauling in a line" some 40 miles inside the FOCZ. Both were escorted out of Falklands waters and not arrested and prosecuted. Two other Argentine fishing boats were seen in South Georgia waters recently and are suspected of fishing illegally. These matters have been taken up with the Argentine authorities - who have, of course, agreed to the fishing regulations.

Shortly after the war, it was the custom for Argentina to send fishing boats into the Falklands Exclusion Zone to provoke incidents before UN debates, but there is no suspicion at all of these incidents being deliberate. Nevertheless, the arrest and trial of an Argentine registered fishing boat might be useful in Argentina if a red-herring were needed in the run up to the Argentine presidential election.

Interestingly, Argentina has bound itself in its new constitution to act only in accordance with international law to further its campaign for the Falklands. So any government collusion in illegal fishing would be a breach of its own constitution.

Duke of York's Visit Marred

Following the Duke of York's arrival in Argentina on November 15th to unveil a statue to George Canning, some 200 left-wing demonstrators marched on the British Embassy in Buenos Aires where he was attending a reception. They burned British and American flags, and tried to tear down the barriers that protected the Embassy. This led to an ugly skirmish with the police, and a number of arrests.

The Duke also played golf with President Menem. According to the Daily Telegraph, President Menem said later that the Duke's visit would aid Argentina's attempt to gain sovereignty over the disputed Falkland Islands. His words were "This will strengthen ties with Britain. If there is no dialogue, then we have no chance of recovering the islands".

Editorial Comment

The *Newsletter*, and everyone else of goodwill, wants good relations between Britain and Argentina. It regrets that Argentina sees these primarily as a way of furthering its claim against the Falklands. In this respect, the Duke of York's visit to Argentina seems to have been misused in exactly the same way as Senator Eduardo Menem's recent visit to Britain. Just raising the subject of the Falklands was enough to start opponents urging solutions, that would be little more than capitulations. With the arrival of a new Argentine Ambassador soon, this is likely to continue. The Association will have to be on its toes to oppose these.

Uruguay Link Opens and Shuts

Air Atlantic Uruguay finally realised the dream of its owner, Mr Gustavo Oneto, when its specially modified Hercules, chartered from the Uruguayan Air Force, landed at Mount Pleasant Airport on September 29. The plane carried Uruguayan businessmen from Montevideo and Mr. Roger James, Deputy Head of the British Mission in Montevideo.

It had been hoped to begin a regular weekly passenger service, but this has not been possible so far, and the service is currently suspended. The Hercules is a most reliable plane with four engines, that was used on the air-bridge from Ascension to the Falklands after the war. It is obviously safer than the small twin-engined planes that fly from Punta Arenas. But it is certified for military passenger traffic only, and permission for use as a civil passenger plane has not been granted by the British Civil Aviation Authority.

Penguin News reported on October 15th that the Governor has written a letter of protest over this to the appropriate authorities in London, pointing out the potential benefits to the community that are being put at risk. Sadly, the *Financial Times* on November 4th, quoted Mr. Roger James as saying this permission was unlikely.

Croydon Exhibition

Once again Brian Paul and Annabelle Spencer have put on a fine and successful exhibition at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon. Falklands products sold briskly, visitors saw videos of the Falklands, and supplies of the *Newsletter* went rapidly. Geoffrey Moir contributed a stamp exhibit, from his extensive collection.

Amongst official visitors were Croydon MP, Mr. David Congdon, the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Wally Garratt and his wife, and the next day the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Clarence McKenzie. Other visitors were Sir Rex and Lady Hunt, and Mr. David Taylor, once Chief Executive in the Falklands and Mr. Frank Mitchell, once FIC Manager.



Mr. Frank Mitchell at the Croydon Exhibition

Photo: P.J.Pepper

Argentina Misrepresents Falklands Oil Policy

The last meeting of the High Level Oil Group took place on the 3rd and 4th of October in Britain. At this meeting the British informed the Argentines of the progress of the seismic work around the Falklands, and Falklands representative, Mrs. Phyllis Rendell, invited the Argentines to take part in the development of Falklands oil. The only restriction imposed on them was that Argentine companies could not be a majority of any consortium bidding for Falklands licences. Apart from this, the regulations for the participation of Argentine companies are the same as for any other company. Despite Argentina's campaign for the sovereignty of the Falklands, they were assured that their participation would be welcome and they would not be discriminated against.

Argentina would not accept this generous offer. Instead, it wanted to participate on its own terms, through the establishment of what *Clarín* described as juridical/administrative infrastructure - that would give effective

recognition to its sovereignty claims and allow it to effectively share control with Britain of Falklands oil. It particularly wanted this to apply to a possible deal between British Gas and YPF, the now largely privatised Argentine state oil company.

Because it could not get the Falklands to agree to this infrastructure, the Argentines claimed afterwards that Falkland Islanders would not allow Argentine participation unless they recognised British sovereignty! Since then this has evolved into the Falkland Islanders "refusing to allow" Argentine participation. This misrepresentation been repeatedly published in Argentina.

Interestingly, at his news conference on the 4th of November Senator Eduardo Menem, brother to President Menem, confirmed that Argentina would not allow its companies to take part in Falklands oil development and would send letters of discomfort to any oil company that did take part. This gets the boot on the right foot.

British Gas/YPF Deal

Directly after the meeting of the High Level Oil Group in London in October, reports appeared in the Argentine press, the *Evening Standard* and the *Daily Telegraph* announcing the possibility of a joint operation by British Gas and YPF (Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales) to exploit Falklands oil.

This news was welcomed by the Falkland Islands Government in a press release published in *Penguin News* on October 15th. This drew attention to the conditions under which oil companies could apply for licences, which had already been published, and said that British Gas/YPF could apply for licences under this framework.

However, Mr. Chris Judge of British Gas told the *Newsletter* on the 12th of November that British Gas would only be interested if there were an agreement between

Argentina and Britain over Falklands Oil. When the FIG oil policy of not allowing any concession to Argentine sovereignty claims was explained to him, he said that it was his personal understanding that the proposed British Gas/YPF deal would make such concessions to Argentina.

British Gas did not exist at the time of the Falklands War, but has made huge investments in Argentina since then. Readers will be aware that hints have appeared in the press that Argentina is trying to take advantage of British Gas.

Argentine newspaper, *Clarín*, in articles on October 6th and 11th, reported the recent Argentine British oil negotiations almost entirely in terms of this proposed YPF/British Gas deal, but claimed that the "Kelpers", a term used disparagingly in Argentina, had maintained their "intransigent position" and were holding it up.

Goodwill Gesture Abused

For a year now people wishing to improve relations between Argentina and Britain had been working on a project to erect a statue in London to Argentine liberator and national hero, José de San Martín. This statue was unveiled on November 2nd by the Duke of Edinburgh in the presence of Eduardo Menem, President of the Argentine Senate and brother to President Carlos Menem. The Duke of York's visit to Argentina was a reciprocal gesture to this.

Sadly, with Eduardo Menem in Britain to unveil the statue, President Menem, his brother, chose that moment to reveal Argentina's latest insulting bribe of a million pounds to each Falkland Islander in exchange for acceptance of Argentine sovereignty. This was followed by a major publicity offensive in Argentina against the Falklands, and ended with the replacement of Dr. Mario Campora by a Di Tella supporter, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter.

Once again, Argentina has demonstrated that any improvement of relations with Britain has to be accompanied by an offensive over the Falklands. This is, of course, made all the worse by Argentina's approaching Presidential election next year.



The Duke of Edinburgh unveiling the statue of Jose de San Martin in Belgrave Square, with Argentine Ambassador Dr. Mario Campora standing behind him.

Photo: Peter Pepper

Big Changes in the FCO

There are new men at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in charge of Falklands Affairs, both the Minister, and the senior official responsible for all the Americas, North and South.

The Minister of State, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory MP, whom many Islanders got to know during his visit to the Falklands, has been replaced at the Foreign Office by Mr David Davis, Member of Parliament for Boothferry, Humberside, since 1987. He comes to his new job straight from the heart of Government in the Cabinet Office, where he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary responsible for the public service and science.



Mr. David Davis MP

Mr Davis holds a BSc. from Warwick University and went on to the London Business School and Harvard Business School in the United States. Soon after entering Parliament he took his first step towards a Government post as parliamentary private secretary to Francis Maude at the Department of Trade and the Foreign Office. Mr Davis won quick promotion as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. As an Assistant Government Whip, he saw the complicated and controversial Maastricht Treaty Bill through the House of Commons helping the Prime Minister, Mr Major, fight off Conservative Party Euro-sceptics. Rapid promotion to the Cabinet Office came in May last year, and now, to the Foreign Office.

Mr Davis, who is 46, is married with a son and two daughters. He lists his special interests as health, law and order, industry and agriculture, and his recreations as mountaineering, and flying light aircraft, both appropriate to the Falklands, and writing. He is the author of the BBC Viewers' Guide to Parliament. Before Parliament, he held senior executive posts in the huge sugar conglomerate, Tate and Lyle.



Mr. William Marsden CMG

In the other big change at the FCO, Mr William Marsden has been appointed Under-Secretary responsible for the Americas -- superintending the North America, Latin America, West Indian and Atlantic and South Atlantic and Antarctic Departments. He takes over from Mr Adrian Beamish, a friend of the Falklands, who becomes Ambassador to Mexico.

Mr Marsden has previously been Trade Minister in the Washington Embassy, Ambassador to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and an expert on the European Union, holding senior posts in the European Community Department. He has also served in Moscow, Paris, and Rome, and as Head of the East Africa Department, and has visited the Falklands. He has had attachments to industry, holds BSc. and MA degrees from London and Cambridge, and won an English Speaking Union scholarship to the United States. Mr Marsden is married with a son and daughter. **Harold Briley**

General Roberto Viola

An Argentine General, whose overthrow as President by General Galtieri led four months later to the 1982 invasion of the Falklands, has died aged 69. General Roberto Viola was made President by the Military Junta in March 1981, amid hopes of changes for the better after years of oppressive military rule - despite his part in Argentina's so called "Dirty War" when between 10,000 and 20,000 died.

As Army Chief of Staff in the 1976 coup that overthrew civilian President Isobel Peron he was one of the architects of that reign of terror. But, as President, he showed reformist tendencies. His cabinet was dominated by civilians. He promised freedom of the Press, more open government, and defence of human rights. These hopes were short-lived and the promises were never fulfilled. Real political power remained with the Junta especially General

Galtieri who had succeeded Viola as Army Chief.

When Viola had a mild heart attack, he was removed from power by Galtieri, with the acquiescence of Navy Chief Admiral Anaya. In return, the Admiral demanded and got Galtieri's support for his long planned invasion of the Falklands, which was embarked upon in the immediate aftermath of Viola's overthrow.

The coup received little attention from the rest of the world and not much in Argentina itself. Its significance only became apparent later with the invasion of the Falklands.

When Argentina's defeat led to civilian rule again, Viola was tried with other Junta leaders for mass murder, kidnapping and torture. He served only 5 of a 17 year sentence, in comfortable conditions, before being released in President Menem's 1990 amnesty. **Harold Briley**

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE; EDUCATION SUCCESSES

Investing in the future generation in the Falklands is paying off. Education is a big success story, giving Falklands youngsters a better start and better facilities than most other nations -- big or small.

Director of Education, Mrs Phyllis Rendell, happily admits: "We've got one of the best education systems in the world". By contrast there is much controversy in British education, and in Argentina some aspects are so bad President Menem has expressed serious concern.

While the Falklands Government is unstinting in paying for education for any child showing they'll benefit from it, right up to university level and beyond, there are difficulties and the children have to make sacrifices, not least leaving home at an early age to take advantage of the opportunities.

Camp education, as it is called, on the farms, far from Stanley is conducted by farm schools, and by travelling teachers, mainly recruited from New Zealand, who visit individual children, spending several days in one-to-one teaching, and leaving homework to be completed in time for the next visit two or three weeks later. Meanwhile the children are kept busy at their lessons by distance learning by radio. Despite falling numbers of children living in the countryside, as large farm settlements have split up in the new development strategy, plans are now under way to use telephone and television for education.

For secondary education, the children have to go to Stanley, living in hostels or with relatives. A multi-million pound building programme has already produced an outstanding community school there, also used for swimming and other sport, recreation, and evening classes.

STUDYING ABROAD : DEGREE SUCCESSES

For older children, grammar school and university education requires settling in England. Another fourteen islanders - the biggest number ever -- are taking up places in Peter Symmonds College in Hampshire in England, joining six already there, studying advanced courses to go to college and university. "That's very exciting; they are a very vibrant and enthusiastic group", says Mrs Rendell.

The results are outstanding. Another three students got



Rosalind Cheek Graduating

good degrees this year, with no failures. Rosalind Cheek graduated in law at Hull and Stephen Davies in economics at Loughborough, both from Stanley; and Alex Blake from Hill Cove in a marine biology at Plymouth.

Phyllis Rendell is delighted with the new trend of postgraduate students. "For years we did not have graduates to avail themselves of postgraduate scholarships sponsored by the British Commonwealth Scholarships Commission. Now Andrea Gray from Sea Lion Island is studying for a Ph.D in marine biology at Bangor; Jeremy Smith from Stanley is taking a M.Sc in environmental studies at Aberdeen; and Lewis Clifton, the former Falklands Government Representative in London, is doing a Ph.D in international relations with a Foreign Office grant".

Falklands young people now have a new-found enthusiasm for learning Spanish too, thanks to a young Chilean teacher. "He has flair and personality", says Mrs Rendell. "The evening classes are flooded with young ladies learning Spanish!". There is no question of renewing links with Argentine schools where some Islanders studied before 1982. But there is a vigorous exchange with Chile, with Falkland Islanders going to Punta Arenas and Chilean children studying in Stanley.

Harold Briley

Falkland Islands Students Association

As many people are aware, the Falkland Islands Government has been encouraging young Falkland Islanders to go on to further education, outside the Islands. This year we see record numbers over in the United Kingdom and abroad, as far away as Chile and New Zealand.

With these large numbers of students, we have decided it is time to organise ourselves into an Association.

The Association will have an elected committee made up of two students from Peter Symmonds College, Winchester, (this College provides boarding facilities for Falkland Islanders during their "A" Levels) and two representatives from Universities or other areas of higher education.

The Association will be a representative body for students to keep in touch with one another, possibly with the odd party back home in the Islands, to keep each other up to

date with the research they are carrying out and to be a forum where students views may be voiced, if any changes are announced. It is also hopefully going to increase awareness among potential employers as to who is graduating and with what qualifications, in this way encouraging local employment within the Islands.

The Association is open to all students currently in further education overseas, as well as students who have completed their overseas studies.

In the last few years, Falkland Islanders have been graduating from universities and colleges with very good passes. It is hoped that these standards will be maintained, with the help of the Falkland Islands Students Association.

Emma Edwards

Misrepresenting MORI

On October 7th, Andrew Cubie and Ben Page from MORI polls arrived in the Falklands working on behalf of a group of anonymous "Argentine businessmen". They asked a series of questions about the Islanders' attitudes to Argentina. These were obviously linked to the Falklands policies of Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Di Tella. The timing of the poll, just four weeks before Senator Eduardo Menem's visit to London and Prince Andrew's visit to Argentina, is unlikely to have been a coincidence.

MORI's clients would not permit publication of answers to a question purporting to reveal the proportion of Islanders who would accept money in exchange for sovereignty, but other answers were published in *The Times* during Eduardo Menem's visit.

DECISIVE "NO" TO SOVEREIGNTY TALKS

These showed overwhelming hostility to Argentina and a complete distrust of any promises from Buenos Aires. More than 90% of those questioned had no confidence that Argentina would keep its word in any compromise over sovereignty. 87% said Britain should not even discuss sovereignty with the Argentines. Only 4% favoured negotiations on sovereignty. The vast majority opposed any resumption of air links or trade or lifting of the ban on Argentines travelling to the islands.

TRICK QUESTIONS

After Eduardo Menem had returned to Argentina, answers to the question on the subject of "money for sovereignty" were published in the Argentine newspaper *Clarín*. They were also made available to the FIG.

The question concerned was obviously a trick. It read: **"If it was agreed to give Argentina sovereignty over the Falklands in return for guaranteeing the way of life of Islanders and a payment to each Islander, how much would you expect this payment to be?"**

Ben Page of MORI told the *Newsletter* that the question assumes that sovereignty has already been conceded and invites the interviewee to state how much compensation he would expect under these circumstances. Even so, 10% saw the trap and would not grace the question with an answer. 58% said they wouldn't take any payment at all. But, for whatever reason, 26% answered the question, choosing from a series of possible replies up to more than £1 million. Ben Page told the *Newsletter* that these people were assuming that they were already betrayed and were just trying to get as much money as they could.

MORI CONTRADICTS DI TELLA

This, of course, has now been distorted in Argentina into 26% being willing to accept money for sovereignty.

Di Tella even wrote to *The Times* on November 25th, saying 28% were "ready to consider some form of compensation". Professor Robert Worcester, head of MORI polls, had to put a letter in *The Times* himself pointing out that the question really asked what compensation these Islanders would expect assuming **sovereignty had already been conceded**.

"A BIG INSULT"

It was obviously all a well timed Argentine operation. It illustrates all too clearly how Argentina will exploit any contact with Britain or the Falklands. Governor Tatham dismissed the offer of cash for sovereignty as an idea of "dubious morality". A Falklands Government official called the bribe offer a "big insult". British MP, Mr Michael Shersby, said it was "a silly idea, a nonsense", damaging to Anglo Argentine relations. Dr. Di Tella revealed what it was intended to do when he stated in *Clarín* on November 3rd **"..this is wearing away the internal front..."**

Councillor John Cheek accused President Menem of playing politics with the Islands' future for his own electoral advantage. Councillor Bill Luxton strongly condemned it as "an insulting, distasteful bribe", designed to be divisive and destructive. "I find it deeply offensive, the most unpleasant thing the Argentines have produced". The Foreign Office reiterated that sovereignty and the Argentine cash offer are not for discussion. "Sovereignty is not for sale", a spokesman declared. "The Government sees no future in the reported Argentine offer".

A NEGOTIATING ATTEMPT, OR TO GET RID OF CAMPORA?

It all raises the question: Is there really an offer at all, or is it all just an attempt to establish an unofficial negotiating position, without using diplomatic channels? It provoked enormous opposition from hard-liners in Argentina, who so despise the Islanders. These reject the idea that the Islanders should be offered money not just because it recognises Islander consent, but also because the average Argentine is so hard up, and it is such anathema to pay for something that Argentina claims already belongs to it.

The poll was probably used by Dr. Di Tella to get rid of Dr. Mario Campora, Argentina's ambassador to Britain, who had long been a thorn in his side. By pretending that the poll indicated that significant numbers of Islanders were willing to cede sovereignty for money, Di Tella could hold up the prospect of success through his policies. Mario Campora has persistently rejected these, saying the Islanders should not be consulted or taken into consideration. When President Menem came down on Di Tella's side with his public offer of \$1½ million, Campora's fate was sealed.

P.J.Pepper

Buying The Falklands For 1%

Argentina's offers of money to Falkland Islanders in exchange for acceptance of Argentine sovereignty would give it a real bargain - even at \$1½ million for each Islander, as offered by President Menem in Argentine newspaper *Página 12*.

Around the Falklands there are 30% more sediments than in the British sector of the North Sea. Oil bearing conditions are proven on both sides of the Falklands. So these sediments could contain more than 25 Billion barrels of oil. At only \$16 a barrel, today's very depressed oil price, this is worth \$400 Billion. But, paying \$1½ million to each of 2,300 Islanders costs only \$3½ Billion. Thus, Di Tella is trying to buy the Falklands for less than 1% of the likely value of Falklands oil!

Di Tella at the Labour Party Conference

Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Di Tella, visited Britain during the High Level Oil Group meeting on October the 3rd and 4th. He did not take part in these discussions, but went to the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool where he had a meeting with Dr. Cunningham MP, then Labour Foreign Affairs spokesman.

Interviewed by telephone afterwards, Dr. Di Tella told the *Newsletter* that he was not invited to the Labour Party Conference, but had asked to see Dr. Cunningham and could only speak to him there.

CONSERVATIVES & LABOUR A DRAW

Asked what his objectives were, Dr. Di Tella did not answer directly, but contradicted comment in the Argentine press that Argentina had great hopes for the possible advent of a Labour Government. He said that this was not the case. He stressed that he would prefer a government that had won clearly with a great majority, because a government that had only a small majority was a weak government "like this one". He said that the pros and cons of a Labour or Conservative Government were about the same. He said the Labour Party would be "more touchy regarding accusations of being wet or weak" and this would not be the case with the Conservatives, and that the Conservatives had their own hard-liners, which probably the Labour Party did not have.

UP TO ISLANDERS TO DECIDE

Asked if his meeting had been a success, Di Tella replied that it had gone very well, that he had explained what Argentine strategy had been and would be over the Islands, the Islanders, the recent constitutional change (incorporating Argentina's claim to the Falklands), and about what "cooperation" he thought could take place in the future in the South Atlantic. Dr. Di Tella quoted Dr. Cunningham as saying that "If the Islanders are convinced by what you say, well, it's for them to decide".

Dr. Di Tella went on to say that although formal negotiations would have to be with the British Government, he was fully aware that the British would consult the Islanders before taking any decision, "so for that matter we can as well approach the Islanders directly"!

PEACEFUL MEANS, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Asked how Islanders could talk to Argentina when complete capitulation was now required by the Argentine constitution, Dr. Di Tella replied that this was equivalent to what the British position has been. He said that it was in the constitution now that the claim had to be pursued through peaceful means, according to international law. He said "the only threat that the Islanders have, is that we may convince them".

AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT

The *Newsletter* asked Dr. Di Tella about reports in the Argentine press that the US Government might have a role in a settlement of the Falkland Islands dispute. Dr. Di Tella said that he had informed the US Government that their help might be asked for in the future, as stake holders and

guarantors of the guarantees offered to the Islanders. He said this had not been asked for yet as there was no settlement, and that the US Government had not expressed a willingness or otherwise to do this, but that they knew that the subject might arise.

Editorial Comment

Dr. Di Tella appears to be trying to create a climate in which negotiations over the Falklands, particularly with the Islanders themselves, are assumed to be inevitable. The *Newsletter* believes that these are only tactics that should be reported, but should not frighten anyone. It is probably being done to give an impression of activity or progress in Argentina, and preserve Di Tella's position from those who want him replaced and a more aggressive policy substituted.

The *Newsletter* welcomes Di Tella's assurances that the only threat the Islanders now face is that Argentina might convince them, and that Argentina is now bound by its constitution to act only according to international law and use only peaceful means. The *Newsletter* does not believe they will ever be betrayed by any British Parliament. However, the *Newsletter* infers that Di Tella wants a British government with a large majority, thinking that such a government might be more likely to impose something that would be opposed by the Islanders and their supporters in Parliament.

The *Newsletter* does not agree that Argentina's constitutional claim mainly affects the means by which Argentina will pursue its claim, or that it can be compared with the present British Government policy of refusing to discuss sovereignty while this is the wish of the people of the Falklands. Islanders have met Argentines since the war and the Councillors have communicated with Dr. Di Tella by letter. Islanders have always used these contacts to try to persuade Argentina to abandon its claim. Now this is a waste of time. Contact from now on could only be to listen to the inducements, timetable and limitations of a proposed Argentine takeover, when the Islanders just want to be left alone.

There was nothing to negotiate before, and for Argentina to put its claim into its Constitution merely confirms the wisdom of this policy. In fact, it is widely regarded by Argentine constitutional experts as a bullet through Argentina's own foot. Britain is being asked to negotiate with a country that demands complete capitulation. Any British Government will regard this with contempt. No concession now can be anything more than a stepping stone to more demands.

The *Newsletter* regards Dr. Di Tella's discussion of "cooperation in the South Atlantic" as a euphemism for penetration of British sovereignty through oil. Genuine cooperation in fishing already takes place without prejudice to either side's sovereignty, but Argentina has made it clear on many occasions that it is only prepared to cooperate over oil on its own terms. These, of course, include massive concessions to its sovereignty claims. This is likely to be the principal threat to the Falklands in the foreseeable future.

The *Newsletter* does not believe that the US Government would or could give open-ended or effective guarantees for the Islanders, in the event of a hand-over to Argentina. Dr. Di Tella's policy here merely recognises the worthlessness of Argentine guarantees.

P.J.Pepper

Interview - Sukey Cameron

Sukey Cameron, has been Falklands Government Representative in London for four-and-a-half busy years, and is now going to do another tour of duty.

Earlier, she spent 3 years campaigning for the Falklands in the Falklands Islands Association Office. She was born and spent her early childhood on her family's farm at Port San Carlos. She talks of the past and the future to Harold Briley:

Harold Briley: What are the most significant milestones in recent years?

Sukey Cameron: Establishment of a flourishing fishing industry, self-sufficiency financially except for military defence, and now, the prospect of oil development.

HB: Oil could bring undreamed of wealth. Is that a wholly welcome prospect?

SC: It would enable us to make a greater contribution to our own future. It doesn't mean every household gets a big bag of cash. The fishery industry has boosted living standards. With oil, we can build on that and also hopefully make contributions to the United Kingdom exchequer and garrison costs.

HB: But haven't the Islanders each been offered big bags of cash by Argentina to surrender sovereignty?

SC: We think that's Argentine electioneering. I'm sure the money would not be forthcoming, nor would it be accepted. It's insulting. There are some things money cannot buy. Sovereignty is one of them. Falkland Islanders don't trust Argentines.

HB: Is it not a pity the Argentines won't co-operate in oil development without sovereignty concessions?

SC: The Argentines, in their continuing quest for sovereignty, seem to be doing their utmost to deter any company, Argentine or otherwise, which shows any interest, and so jeopardise potential exploration of benefit to both countries. We'll go ahead anyway. Our legislation is passed. Oil companies are being asked to tender next year.

HB: Will the oil companies not be discouraged by Argentine threats that they would be barred from commercial activity on the Argentine mainland?

SC: We hope they won't be so reckless as to ruin any development on mainland Argentina. They need the expertise of the international companies.

HB: How is the sovereignty campaign going? Who's winning? Who's losing?

SC: We don't have any doubts about our rights. Our job is to persuade people. We have to educate people in Argentina. A lot of younger Argentines are gaining more understanding of the Islanders and why we don't want to be Argentines.



Miss Sukey Cameron

Photo: Harold Briley

HB: Wouldn't there be greater understanding if you allowed them to visit the islands?

SC: Anyone who lived in the islands during and before the invasion will be very wary of allowing vast numbers of Argentines to visit. From a humanitarian view, we have allowed families of the Argentine war dead to visit their graves.

HB: How do you find public opinion in Britain? Do people now say: "Forget the Falklands. Let Argentina have them"?

SC: There's still a lot of support. If we accepted the Argentine offer, it would be different. In fact, disastrous. No Falkland Islander could show their face in this country again.

HB: There are ever closer ties between Britain and Argentina. Does that worry the Falklands?

SC: There is a view that the closer the ties between Britain and Argentina, the better it is for the Falklands. Argentina has worked hard to be recognised as a democracy. I don't believe they'd be so stupid as to jeopardise that. But the insulting offer to buy 2,000 British citizens shows them to be naive diplomatically.

HB: What would happen if the Labour Party form the next Government in Britain?

SC: I find Labour politicians very supportive, committed to the Falklands. In opposition, they have said they would talk to Argentina about everything, including sovereignty, unlike the Conservative Government. But I don't believe there would be any significant change in Falklands policy under a Labour Government.

HB: A last word to the Argentines?

SC: Drop your claim. Let us live as neighbours.

The Future of the Newsletter

Various ideas have been suggested recently for the improvement and expansion of the Newsletter. The use of colour is under consideration. So is a more commercial "Newsletter" carrying many more advertisements - and needing a much wider circulation to attract these. This would produce a "Newsletter" much more like a small colour magazine. It would require professional layout and - probably - a new name.

The present Argentine effort against the Falklands makes any change to the Newsletter particularly important. So the Newsletter invites the opinion of Association members on these ideas. Letters can be sent for publication or for the attention of the Editorial Committee. Suggestions for a new name would be particularly welcome, but must include the word Falklands. Suggestions for increasing the circulation of the Newsletter are also very welcome.

OIL : YES... BUT THE PAST -- AND THE FUTURE

By Stephen Luxton

In the continuing debate on the future of the Falklands, the voice of youth must carry weight because it's to them that the future belongs. In our policy of giving young people a platform, we asked Stephen Luxton, son of Councillor Bill and Pat Luxton of Chartres, for his views. As an honours geology student at Durham University and also a farmer's son whose childhood was spent in the peace and wide open spaces of the countryside, his views are especially relevant on oil development, and also on links with Argentina after his family's traumatic experiences in the 1982 conflict.

Oil is one of those issues which tends to polarise the population along a "love-hate" dividing line. From the fact that I'm studying for a geology degree, you may deduce that I'm in favour of it, but certainly not "at all costs". I like the Falklands as they are now, although I recognise many areas in which the islands could be enhanced -- not just changed -- by oil revenue. Having spent several years away from the Islands, I place much greater value on the little things in life which those who have never ventured overseas tend to take for granted ... being able to leave keys in vehicles, leave houses unlocked and so on. I doubt there's a single domestic burglar alarm in the Islands and long may it remain that way!

Falkland Islands students are in a fortunate and virtually unique position to pursue higher education, thanks to the Falkland Government's commendable stance on the funding of education - in sharp contrast to the feeble and still declining support for students provided by many other countries. The small size of the Falklands population does help, although the number of students going to England for higher secondary education has increased enormously, twice as many as a few years ago. But the numbers are still sufficiently small to allow a realistic level of funding for overseas education. The quality of education in the islands is excellent as far as it goes but since it is not viable to provide "A" levels and beyond in the Islands, the current system is just right for our needs. This funding is available because of the fishing revenue. If oil were to be exploited in quantity, one would hope this would enable future generations to be equally well looked after, even assuming a substantial population increase.

Oil in the Islands is of course indivisibly linked to the subject of relations with South America. I remember relatively little from when I was nine years old -- the time of the Argentine invasion -- but as is often the case it is the unpleasant experiences which generate the most permanent memories. Fortunately I was too young to be really scared by events in April 1982 -- by being arrested without warning at Chartres by Major Dowling, an Argentine officer, flown into Stanley sitting next to an open door in an Argie Puma helicopter full of heavily armed marines, and later deported to Argentina and the United Kingdom. However, I was old enough for it to make a lasting impression. It will be a long time before I forget those experiences and considerably longer before they are forgiven.



Stephen Luxton

The Roman philosopher Cicero said: "Freedom suppressed and again regained bites with keener fangs than freedom never endangered". Those who were not in the Islands in 1982 and favour contact with Argentina would do well to remember this quote before denouncing the justifiably xenophobic stance of those who were. I have no wish to go to Argentina ever again and strongly resent the "politically correct" forgive and forget view that we need contact. If the change in the Falklands economy in the past twelve years is an example of how lack of contact with Argentina will irreversibly damage our economy and world standing, then I think we'll do OK as we are. Don't you?

Lord Shackleton

There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Shackleton in Westminster Abbey at noon on Wednesday, January 25th, 1995. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets, enclosing a stamped address envelope to:

The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 25, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted on January 11th. Admission to the service will be by ticket only and all are welcome to apply.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

OIL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

In June 1994 Environmental Resources Management (ERM) produced a report for the Falkland Islands Government which outlined some potential environmental, social and economic impacts of oil exploration and production in the Falkland Islands under certain scenarios. The report proposed some measures to limit impacts, and also considered some elements of timescale, licence round management and overall strategy.

A commentary on the ERM Report was produced for the Executive Council which included reaction to the Report from Government departments and commercial advisors. FIDC has since produced a distillation of that commentary for public information and discussion.

Development of the industry will be in the following phases:

Pre-licensing Planning - During this period the following activities are required:

- a strategy needs to be determined which provides a framework for future policy setting. The elements of the strategy will include industry development, environmental and social impact, economics, private sector business opportunities, security and political consideration;
- a timescale for achieving our objectives needs to be maintained;
- a set of legislative powers needs to be put in place to control the industry;
- consultative and management groups need to be set up to formulate detailed policies, draw up regulations and planning frameworks and administer licensing and other permits;
- the areas to be licensed need to be defined and agreed.

Licensing - It is presently the intention of Government to open a licensing round in 1995 and to close applications 6 - 9 months later. First licences would be awarded in early 1996. Management of the licence round would be principally undertaken by contracted advisors, with overall control by FIG, in London.

Seismic Surveying - Is the first stage of exploration and would take place during 8-9 months of each year avoiding bad weather and also avoiding conflict with the major fisheries. Seismic surveying would be a continuous activity throughout the life of the oil industry.

Exploratory Drilling - Is optional during the first 5 years of a first round licence (unless it is guaranteed as part of a work programme included in a licence application). It would be undertaken if seismic results were particularly promising; drilling is unlikely before year 4. Exploratory drilling would be obligatory during the second phase of a licence, years 6 - 12.

Construction - Any decision to start production from any field would require construction of production facilities - this might take 2-3 years to complete and install.

Production - Start of production depends on many factors - how quickly a discovery is made, technical difficulty of exploiting the field, current oil prices and overall field economics.

Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Development Update

Onshore terminal - If an onshore terminal were required its construction would not necessarily coincide with first production (it would not be required until a certain volume of production was reached) and its timing is therefore uncertain. It may be that a terminal is not required at all, and that oil can be transferred to oil tankers directly from the production facility.

The paper also covers such matters as the possible timing and scale of any development, and the infrastructure which will be required. Under this latter heading it is suggested that the principal elements required in support of exploration will be:

- an international airport for medium and long haul jets;
- a reliable international telecommunications system;
- an adequate harbour facility for re-supply operations;
- a helicopter terminal;
- a transit camp for approximately 200 persons

and notes that, with some judicious improvements to existing facilities, there is little to suggest that the Falklands could not adequately cope with several years of exploration.

Possible impact on the Islands is also considered in terms of Economic, Social, and Environmental factors in respect of Seismic, Exploratory Drilling, Construction, Production, Loading and Terminals, and Processing stages.

The paper concludes "The development of an offshore oil industry is a long term, complex, inter-active and ever-changing process. Some strategic decisions must be taken now, others cannot be taken until we are much further on in the development process. The immediate priorities are:

- political and security implications;
- conclusion of the basic legislative framework;
- evaluation of competitive positions between licencing authorities;
- licencing strategy and detailed licence conditions;
- fiscal policy (royalties and taxation regime for oil);
- environmental baseline studies and designation of sensitive areas;
- public information on the principal issues."

Copies of the FIDC paper "Oil Development Strategies" may be obtained from the FIDC office in Stanley or from the Falkland Islands Government Office in London.

Note: Since the above paper was prepared, the Legislative Council passed the Offshore Minerals Bill 1994 on 27 October 1994. Councillor Wendy Teggart stood alone in opposing the Bill. Councillor W.R.Luxton was not present at the meeting for personal reasons.

The Falklands in Photos

Right:
Driving shorn sheep at
Chartres, West Falkland
*Photo: Courtesy of Central Office of
Information Pictures*

Bottom Right:
Tourists coming ashore on
Bleaker Island
Photo: Graham Bound

Center Left:
New housing in
Stanley
Photo: Peter Pepper

Bottom Left:
The Bank - The Standard
Chartered - in Stanley
Photo: Peter Pepper



Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Falkland Islands Association or of the Editorial Committee

During the Association AGM, Sir Rex Hunt rejected as "mischievous" an article in the Times by its Parliamentary Columnist and former MP, Matthew Parris, advocating surrender of sovereignty to Argentina and a lease-back arrangement. Reaction to this article included several letters to the Times. The one that follows, representing Association views, was not published.

Letters to the Editor,
The Times Newspaper.

Sir,

Matthew Parris admits (Times, Monday November 21), as a "Tory backbench idiot", his ignorance of the Falklands Islands dispute in 1981-1982. He seems to have learned little since. He then voted against surrender of sovereignty and lease back of the Islands to Argentina and for a Task Force to oust the Argentine invaders. Twelve years and many lives later he votes for surrender of sovereignty, one-hundred year lease back and fifty-fifty share of oil, gas and other economic riches.

His inconsistency lacks logic. He appears to be arguing that aggression and a false sovereignty claim should not pay in the short term but it's all right in the long term, that now the huge post-war costs of the colony have diminished and the Falklands supports itself, it should be abandoned, that now there's a promise of an oil bonanza benefiting the Islands and Britain, half of it should be given away to the Argentines. What on earth for? None of the reasons for resisting aggression and Argentina's sovereignty claim have changed. If anything, they've been strengthened.

What about the British servicemen who lost their lives and their relatives who mourn them? What about Argentina's appalling record of oppression, torture and mass murder in which at least ten thousand of its own citizens disappeared for ever? And their families, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who demonstrate to this day for justice and punishment of the murderers, all of whom have been pardoned in an amnesty? What about Argentina's untrustworthy record in failing to keep its promises? What about the sacrosanct principle of self-determination - that in a democracy, the people have the right to decide their own destiny? Astonishingly, none of this counts with Matthew Parris in his "obvious solution" and his "sort of apology" to Nick Ridley for opposing his 1981 lease-back proposal.

He writes: "I was wrong ... and I was silly". Nothing has changed.

Yours faithfully, **HAROLD BRILEY**
(Journalist, based Argentina 1979-1982)

Lord Shackleton

Dear Sir,

I hope you will allow me a little space to give a personal perspective on this great friend of the Falklands.

When I was appointed as the first Chief Executive of the FIG in 1983 it was as a direct result of his recommendations for the future development of the Islands. He played no part in selecting me but once I was in the post he was utterly untiring in his support for me.

In the extraordinary climate of the development of the Falklands from 1983 onwards, there was remorseless media interest and unceasing criticism. The Chief Executive and his team were the subject of constant carping on the one hand by those who wanted the development of the Falklands to fail because they had not agreed with HMG's decision to recapture the islands and, on the other hand, by those who were enthusiastic for the Falklands and wanted everything to happen far more quickly than was practically possible. Notably the 1984 House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee Report was grossly unfair and unrealistic in its criticisms over the pace of development and my own commitment to the land reform policy which was so dear to Lord Shackleton's heart. And there was throughout the immensely disappointing lack of enthusiasm in the Ministry of Defence for the joint civilian military enterprises and arrangements which had been expected to bring economic and social benefits to the islanders.

Amidst all this disappointment and frustration the confidence which Lord Shackleton continued to place in me was a critical factor in maintaining my morale and indeed, following the Foreign Affairs Committee Report, in persuading me to continue in the job at all. He was a steadfast friend and wise counsellor, ever willing to listen and ever willing to exercise his substantial influence on my behalf. He combined, as no one else has done, an imaginative vision of what the islands might be with a practical politician's and businessman's grasp of what was involved in turning his vision into the Falklands of today, understanding both the opportunities and the limitations supremely well.

Yours faithfully, **David Taylor**

Mrs. Peggy Halliday

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Peggy Halliday in Stanley, after a brave fight against cancer. Our sympathy goes out to Les, her husband, who was well known as Harbour Master and Head of Customs.

Simon Summers

It is with sadness, we also announce the death of Simon Summers, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Summers. Our sympathy goes out to them and all the family. Simon died shortly after winning a place at Peter Symonds School, Winchester. A service of memorial took place there.

Mr. Angus Dalglish

We also regret to announce the death of Mr. Angus Dalglish, who with his wife Lorna actively supported the Association for many years. Our sympathy goes out to all members of the family.

Mr. Nigel Bonner

Another sad death - Nigel Bonner, at the age of 66, a marine mammalogist of international repute and Deputy Director of the BAS, long associated with South Georgia

Book Review - Looking For Trouble

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE by General Sir Peter de la Billiere, an autobiography published by Harper Collins, 449 pages with photographs and maps. ISBN 0-00-255245-0 Price 19.99

As a soldier, he scaled the heights in more ways than one to become the outstanding General of his generation, one of the most decorated officers for gallantry in British military history. General Sir Peter de la Billiere, known as DLB to his colleagues, proved himself a tough, courageous, unorthodox fighting man, formidable in public, yet amazingly modest and caring for his men, his family, and friends. Many of those friends he found in the Falklands where he was Commander of British Forces in 1984 and 1985, as well as commanding Britain's elite Special Forces during the 1982 Falklands Conflict as Director of the Special Air Service.

Looking for Trouble is an apt title for an autobiography not only of a brave soldier but of a rebellious independent spirit and non-conformist who often got into scrapes but effectively canalised his energy and initiative for the good of himself and his country. It's a shining example to Britain's youth of today.

This review concentrates on the Falklands dimension but the rest of the book is a thumping good yarn, eminently readable, throwing new light, if not too much, on operations in Korea, Egypt, Malaya, Oman, Borneo and Aden. His personal story of the Gulf War when he led a 45-thousand strong British force, has already been told in his best-seller, Storm Command. The pity of it is that, fascinating and gripping as it is, the full story of his exploits and actions cannot be told because of Ministry of Defence censorship on the activities of the special forces in which he served with such distinction. For that reason his account of the special forces in the Falklands War adds very little to our knowledge. It's a pity that official secrecy robs the SAS and the Special Boat Squadron of much of the credit they deserve.

SUCCESS AND SETBACK

He recalls the successes, setbacks and heartbreaks of the recapture of South Georgia; the advance patrols sent to the Falklands three weeks early in appalling conditions, only for their valuable information of enemy dispositions to be mostly wasted because it was not passed on; the tragic loss of a helicopter with many SAS on board attempting a ship to ship transfer; the highly effective Pebble Island raid destroying Argentine aircraft on the ground; and the loss of the SAS officer who led that raid, Captain John Hamilton, later at Port Howard. The book stays silent on the intriguing crash of a helicopter in Chile and what its task was.

But it does tell of the personal relations between SAS commanders especially between DLB and his impetuous subordinate, Colonel Michael Rose, now General Rose commanding United Nations forces in Bosnia. Michael Rose, a man of action as he's so often proved, insisted as CO of the SAS in being in the forefront of action in the Falklands, contrary to DLB's judgment that he should be back at base in Britain directing operations from there.

What is remarkable is that the Argentine invasion took the British Government and armed forces by surprise when

those of us in Argentina were detecting alarming signals in advance and warning of them. I questioned the Argentine Foreign Ministry in February several weeks before the conflict about invasion intentions and was told a year earlier by a British Government official that there were contingency plans to cope with invasion. Yet General de la Billiere says: "No contingency plan existed for dealing with a situation of this kind". Somewhere, it seems to me, there was lack of communication between Foreign Office, Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence.

The General got his wish to go to the Falklands as Military Commissioner and Commander British Forces in 1984. His chapter entitled "Deep South", throws some interesting sidelights on the state of the Falklands and its people then, on the meanness of the Ministry of Defence and official determination to cut back on the garrison; and on the frantic efforts to complete the new Mount Pleasant Airport on schedule. As his book says, he struck up immediate rapport with Sir Rex Hunt, as Civilian Commissioner, and, together, they did much to repair the rift which had opened up between military and civilians in the preceding period. In a tribute to Rex Hunt, the General says: "He had formed the habit of putting his people first and Whitehall second. This by no means endeared him to officials in London. But he loved the islanders and worked selflessly for them and was exactly the man they needed at that moment -- an outsize personality and a leader with the magnetism to lift his people out of the morass created by the Argentine invasion".

TREACHERY TO ABANDON FALKLANDS

Sir Peter and his wife, Bridget, endeared themselves to the islanders and made many friends, enjoying the wildlife on New Island with Ian and Maria Strange, on Carcass Island as guests of Rob and Lorraine McGill, and learning Falklands sheep-farming methods from Bill and Pat Luxton at Chartres. His farewell was clearly an emotional time. "I would take home with me", he says, "the impression of three key spirits: hope without which there would be no future; determination to overcome difficulties and try out new ideas; and confidence in the future of the islands... I realised how sad I would be to leave these island people who had won a special place in Bridget's and my heart".

So ended what he called one of the busiest and most rewarding tours of his life. Against the current background of the cash for sovereignty controversy, Peter de la Billiere's words carry persuasive weight.

He writes: "My feelings about the islands remain the same: that we should retain them indefinitely... Blood has been spilled in their recovery and we have already written off half a billion pounds on them. .. Future expenditure will be relatively low. ..If oil and other minerals are developed, the Falklands, far from being a drain, may prove a tremendously lucrative investment... (and) if for any reason the Panama Canal is put out of action, the islands are strategically placed to control the long haul routes to the west coast of the United States. Finally, and of greatest significance, the islanders themselves are British to the core. For all these reasons, to abandon the Falklands now would be not only treachery to our people there, but a grave financial and strategic miscalculation"

Harold Briley

Book Reviews Contd.

SCHOOLING IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS 1661 - 1992, by Dorothy Evans MBE, published by Anthony Nelson, PO Box 9, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1BY, 1994. 140 x 216 mm soft bound. 414 pages including contents. Foreword by H.R.H. Prince Andrew. Acknowledgements, Introduction, 7 pages of references, which include abbreviations and references by chapter, 4 Appendices: Leading educationalists listed by Islands, Schools in St Helena, School and Head teachers on St Helena, 7 page Bibliography by Islands, 10 page Index. A general map of the South Atlantic, several maps of St Helena and maps of each of the other Islands at the beginning of each section. 34 black and white photos with coloured photos of teachers and pupils in St Helena on the outer covers. ISBN 0-904614-51-4 Price 15.95

This fascinating and well researched book has been written by an experienced former teacher and teacher trainer, who was chairman of the St Helena Link Committee, working with many St Helenian teachers both in the United Kingdom and on the Island of St Helena during extended visits. The book is divided into five parts: St Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha, the Falkland Islands, Schooling in the South Atlantic: The Future. As one might expect from the author's experience, the greater part of this book is about St Helena, 186 pages, compared with 52 pages on the Falkland Islands. Nevertheless the Falkland Islands are well covered.

It is unfortunate that an erroneous quote from Dean Brandon, which states that the first British settlement was in place before the French and that the "Falklands were "commandeered" by the British Government in 1832(!), has been used to describe the early settlement of the Falklands. Apart from that, the Falklands section is most authoritative and Dorothy Evans has consulted with reliable sources including Mrs Joan Bound, Owen and Marj. McPhee and John Leonard on the period since 1939. For the more recent years since the 1982 war, Mrs Phyllis Rendell, the present Director of Education, has obviously been a most excellent source of information.

This is a well written and interesting book which should not only form part of a well balanced Falkland Islands Library, but must also be of extreme value to researchers and those needing ready access to information on schooling in this part of the world or in remote communities.

R.N.Spafford

COOKING THE FALKLAND ISLAND WAY. Written and compiled by Tim Simpson, published by Peregrine Publishing for the Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust, Peregrine Environmental Ltd., 31 Waverley Drive, Bangor, Co. Down BT20 5LD. 21cm x 16cm, 123 pages with photographs. ISBN 1 873406 02 9. Price £9.95

Tim Simpson has produced a winner with this mouth-watering book. She is a talented artist as well as an imaginative cook. This is obvious from the tasteful way in which the book is presented, with excellent photographs (many from the Falkland Islands Museum) and fascinating introductions to each chapter as she works through the menu.

Unlike my wife, who devours cookery books as bed-time reading, I have never been interested in the culinary art - only the result - but Tim leads the reader into the recipes in such an interesting way that one learns not only what Islanders eat but also how they live. It is more than a compendium of recipes. Did you know that you can use orange juice to polish black boots, or the inside of a banana skin to polish brown? Or that you can stop a door from creaking by applying soap on the point of a pencil onto the offending hinge?

The book has been financed by, and is sold in aid of, the Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust. I can think of no better cause. Alastair grew up on the family farm at Port San Carlos, where my wife and I had the first of many memorable meals in Camp. Alan Miller was then managing the farm and his wife Carol produced a magnificent Teal duck pie, with all the trimmings as described in Jane Cameron's recipe on Page 45.

Other memorable firsts were freshly caught smelt and smoked mullet with Eileen and Brook Hardcastle at Darwin, and teaberries and cream with Col and David Barton at Teal Inlet.

The book is not only a most enjoyable read. It is also of practical value and, for those of us lucky enough to have lived in the Falkland Islands, it triggers many happy memories.

Sir Rex Hunt

Members Letters and Pictures

Members are reminded that "Letters to the Editor" are always welcome. They provide feedback on Newsletter stories and valuable comment. Please keep these coming. Good photos of the Falklands are always welcome too.

Corporate Members and Sponsors - The Standard Chartered Bank

Our corporate members and sponsors, many of long standing, play an important part in our activities, but have not yet been recognised outside our own executive. The Newsletter now intends to publish brief descriptions of their past, present and future connections with the Falklands. The first is given below:

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The Bank provides a full range of banking services in

the Islands and has grown from a small operation, employing a few people, to its present 14 staff. This is likely to grow to 16 in 1995. In the absence of a building society, the Bank enables residents to purchase properties for owner occupation.

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Through its world-wide network (the Bank operates in over 50 countries) it is able to assist in the growing trade and tourism development which the Islands are undertaking.

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Because of oil development in the Falklands and a presidential election in Argentina, there is an increase in Argentine activity against the Falklands. To increase subscriptions and support the Falklands campaign, the Association is asking members to invite any friends or acquaintances interested in the Falklands to become members.

To facilitate this, the Newsletter is now carrying a loose application form which will be easier to hand out to others.

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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:

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