

manded amid mounting clamour for two weeks. Mr Stewart said there was no question of transferring the islands to Argentina unless the 2,000 islanders agreed, and that a transfer could only come about as part of an agreement that safeguarded their rights and created a quite new relationship between the islands and Argentina.

The government had better reasons for its reluctance to take up such a firm public stand than its loudest critics granted it. The case of the Falklands is not, in fact, closely comparable with that of Gibraltar. The islands are 300 miles from the mainland—whose nearest sector is desolate southernmost Patagonia, a region which itself attracts very few Argentines. They are a good thousand miles south of Buenos Aires, which is actually farther away than Montevideo.

From time to time, most notably during General Perón's regime, government in Buenos Aires have thought it politically useful to encourage or fabricate a campaign for the "recovery" of these islands (which knew a short-lived Argentine settlement during the 1820s). But very few Argentines really care; no campaign to match the Franco government's effort against Gibraltar has been mounted in recent years; nor has Buenos Aires been inflicting on the islanders the kinds of unpleasantness that Madrid has laid upon the Gibraltarians during the past three years.

Since 1966 politely discreet Anglo-Argentine talks have gone on without creating noticeable alarm; but during recent elections to the Falklands' eight-member legislative council fears were voiced about an imminent handing over of the islands to Argentina. The council's four elected members circularised British MPs with an appeal that reaffirmed the islanders' unanimous wish to remain under British rule, and complained that they had not been adequately informed about the continuing talks. One result of the ensuing publicity was, inevitably, the making of some strong official statements in Buenos Aires.

Now it must be hoped that there and in London commonsense will prevail over any urge to build up the issue into a sharper confrontation. Obviously Britain can neither dispossess the Falklanders nor transfer them against their will to the control of a government which, whatever guarantees it offers, is wholly alien to them. But Britain does not relish the idea of having to hold this remote dependency for ever; the hardy sheep farmers of the Falklands pay their own modest way and need no direct subsidies, but there could be a price paid in Argentine ill-will. If Argentina really wants the Falklanders ever to accept a convenient attachment to the nearest mainland, its best course would be to stop frightening and alienating them and try instead to cultivate their confidence and friendship. In that respect, a certain parallel can after all be drawn with the case of Gibraltar.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS
26. 11. 66
f the week



Brigadier Eduardo F. McLoughlin, 46, has been appointed Argentinian ambassador. A professional airman until 1961, Brigadier McLoughlin was Assistant Air Attaché in London 1946-8. In 1955 he was ADC to the President of the Republic, and in 1957 was made Secretary of State for Air. From 1958-61 he was Air Attaché in Washington and in 1962 he became Minister for Air.

Falkland Islands

Far from Gib, too



In the not-so-early hours of Wednesday morning the House of Commons, wearying its way through its all-night session, heard the foreign secretary give the pledge about

the Falkland Islands that had been de-

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Extract from
The Times, London

19 MAR 1966

Consultation and consent

SIR CYRIL OSBORNE (Louth, C.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would give an assurance that the Falkland Islands would not be ceded to Argentina either without a plebiscite being held similar to the one in Gibraltar or against the wishes of the inhabitants.

MR. GORONWY ROBERTS, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Caernarvon, Lab.).—I am aware that the great majority of the population of the Falkland Islands wish to retain their British citizenship. I do not know of any plans to take it away from them. In any event the Government will see that there is the fullest consultation with the population.

SIR C. OSBORNE.—That will give great comfort to the people in these islands, who last year expressed to a Labour M.P. and myself their keenness to remain British citizens and utter opposition to being taken over by the Argentine. Since there have been rumours that the islands are going to be surrendered to Argentina, will the Minister make it clear that this will not be allowed against the wishes of the inhabitants?

MR. ROBERTS.—We are well aware of the deep feelings of the islanders about their future. In the discussions we are conducting with the Argentine we have stated that we will proceed on the twin principles of consultation and consent.

MR. LUBBOCK (Orpington, L.).—Will the Minister make it clear that there is no question of the transfer of sovereignty to Argentina unless all the inhabitants of the islands approve, which is most unlikely? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. ROBERTS.—We are conducting talks with Argentina about

the long-term future of these islands — (Opposition members: "Why?")—in accordance with and in the spirit of the United Nations resolutions of December, to which I would think both sides of the House—(Opposition cries of "No")—would pay respect. (Shouts of "Never".)

In any case this is our policy. In accordance with the Government's policy of working within the United Nations, and of paying full attention to what is advised and requested at the United Nations, these talks have proceeded and are proceeding. They cover a wide range of subjects. It is too early to specify what form the consultations will take. (Opposition members: "Disgraceful".)

MR. MAUDLING (Barnet, C.).—That is not good enough. (Loud Opposition cheers.) Will the Minister answer quite clearly the question he avoided? Do the Government intend to transfer sovereignty over these people against their wishes to another country?

MR. ROBERTS.—I have said clearly that we shall proceed on the principle of full consultation—(cries of "No" and "Answer")—and of consent. Mr. Maudling is well aware that these negotiations are delicate and must be confidential. I have nothing to add to my previous answer.

MR. MAUDLING.—The Minister used the word "consent". Will he make it absolutely clear that he meant consent of the people themselves?

MR. ROBERTS.—I stick by the phrase "consultation and consent". (Cries of "Oh".) In endeavouring to solve this problem in a friendly way, this is the way in which we shall proceed.

Extract from
Sun, London

19 MAR 1966

Britain set for Falklands walk-out?

By MICHAEL LAKE

Diplomatic Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT created the distinct impression yesterday that they are preparing to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

There are 2,000 British citizens living on the islands 500 miles off the coast of Argentina.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, aroused M.P.'s suspicions that a handover is being considered when he answered questions in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Roberts said: "I am aware that the great majority of the population of the Falkland Islands wish to retain British citizenship.

"I do not know of any plans to take it away from them. In any event, the Government will see there is the fullest consultation with the population."

Mr. Roberts said that Britain's discussions with Argentina were proceeding on the twin principles of "consultation and consent."

He refused to give any other assurances, nor to divulge the nature and extent of the discussions.

Some M.P.s compared what they considered the Minister's evasiveness with the Government's unequivocal opposition to Spanish claims to Gibraltar.

Meeting MPs

Talks have been going on over the future status of the Falkland Islands since June, 1966.

Since the last formal negotiations between Britain and Argentina in London in December there have been several "informal" discussions between the Foreign Office and the Argentine Embassy.

Strict secrecy has been imposed on the talks but both sides agree that a former breakdown of communications between Britain and Argentina, caused by Britain's refusal to discuss the islands, has been repaired.

Four elected members of the Falkland Islands executive council are due in London—one this week and three others next month.

They will meet Labour and Conservative M.P.s to try to find out what is happening at the talks.

Only about 30 of the 2,000 islanders are not of British origin. No one pays purchase tax and income tax is 5s. 9d. in the £. The main trade is in wool from 60,000 sheep.

IN MADRID, Spain and Britain resumed their talks on Gibraltar, but with little hope of reaching any agreement over the future of the colony. Britain is standing by last September's referendum in which Gibraltarians voted to remain linked to Britain.

Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

19 MAR 1966

Tories get no joy on Falklands

By ROGER CARROLL

Conservative M.P.s pressed Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, unsuccessfully last night for a clear statement that the Government would not hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the will of the all-British inhabitants.

He was accused by deputy Opposition leader Mr. Reginald Maudling of avoiding the question.

Mr. Roberts answered that the Government would "proceed on the principle of full consultation and of consent." He gave an assurance that no deal would be made before the Commons could discuss it.

Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

21 MAR 1966

Falklanders want to stay British

Newly-elected representatives of the 2,164 Falkland islanders yesterday reaffirmed their determination to remain British, despite Argentine claims to the territory.

Argentina has long claimed the 200 islands on the grounds that she succeeded to rights claimed by Spain in the 18th century. Britain bases her claim on continuous occupation and settlement since 1833.

Extract from
The Times, London

14 MAR 1958

Argentina insists on Falklands High hopes of sovereignty

From RICHARD WIGG—Buenos Aires, March 13

The present Argentine Government is "definitely determined" to achieve the return of the Falkland Islands to Argentine sovereignty, Dr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, the Foreign Minister, said here.

He was commenting on the move in London by a group of British inhabitants of the islands in the light of negotiations which have been going on between London and Buenos Aires.

"The negotiations are slow and confidential and I cannot say anything except that I am optimistic", he added. Earlier the Minister, who belongs to the more nationalistic wing of the Cabinet, had talked with President Onganía, as he put it, on "international issues involving Argentina".

The Argentine Government maintains that it was dispossessed of the Islas Malvinas, as they are known here, by Britain in 1833, and this is the basis of the present claims. The talks were started in January, 1966, at the behest of the United Nations.

La Prensa, the Buenos Aires daily, said today in a dispatch from London that the talks on the future of the Falkland Islands had reached too advanced a stage to be put back by the appeal of four islanders to parliament.

Señor Mantred Schonfeld, the newspaper's London correspondent, claimed that it was one of the "victories of Argentine diplomacy" that Britain had tacitly accepted by starting the talks the premise that Argentine sovereignty claims could not be subordinated to the wishes of a community which had only grown up because the British "usurped" the territory more than 130 years ago.

Plebiscite distrusted

The United Nations resolution, under which the Anglo-Argentine secret talks have been going on for the last two years, expressly stated, it is being recalled here, that it was the "interests" of the island community which should be taken into account, rather than their "wishes".

The Argentine Government has refused in the past to accept the idea of a plebiscite, on the basis of this argument.

Our Political Staff write

Confirming that negotiations with the Argentine Government over the future of the Falkland Islands are continuing, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, caused a minor storm in the House of Lords yesterday by apparently suggesting that the views of the United Nations might come before those of the islanders.

Lord Conesford asked: "What right, if any, has the United Nations to interfere with our sovereignty of the Falkland Islands?" Lord Chalfont replied: "The very fact of membership of the United Nations implies that countries that belong to it derogate a certain amount of sovereignty to it." Later he said his remark was "philosophical".

Extract from
Bournemouth Evening Echo, Hants.

14 MAR 1958

THE FALKLANDS

THE Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic group belonging to Great Britain, were discovered by an Englishman in 1592, and have been claimed at various times by the British, the French and the Spanish. Since 1833 they have been under continuous occupation by Britain, but the Argentine Republic—as the successor of Spain—has never ceased to lay claim to them.

The future of these islands is once again in the balance.

At least, it appears that the engaged negotiations which could result in handing them over to Argentina. This would be worse than handing over Gibraltar to Spain, for whereas the Gibraltarians are of mixed descent, the inhabitants of the Falklands are British to a man. But unlike the people of Gibraltar, they have never been consulted regarding their future status.

As an appeal from the Falklands to British MPs puts it: "the people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, laws, customs and culture, because for 135 years they have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life—a very British way of life."

When the Argentine claim was discussed at the UN three years ago, Lord Caradon, the UK representative, stated categorically that the Falkland Islanders "are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and interests are paramount and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

It is surely unthinkable that Britain would go back on her word in this respect. At least, we hope it is.

15 MAR 1968

BETRAYAL OR BARTER?

All that protects the Falkland islanders from forcible incorporation into Argentina is the courage of the British Government and their determination to honour their obligations. Very wisely, therefore, the islanders have decided to enlist the support of British public opinion by writing to M.P.s and by sending one of the four elected members of their assembly to London to press their case. They fear that the secret negotiations being intermittently carried on between Britain and Argentina will result in the cessation of sovereignty over the Falklands to Argentina, possibly after a period of years, possibly with an intermediate period of joint control, possibly with compensation for those islanders who decide that, rather than submit to the current military Government in Buenos Aires, they would prefer to come to Britain. In language now usual among Ministers, LORD CHALFONT told the House of Lords on Wednesday that "in these negotiations the Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falklands, and in any event we shall see that there is the fullest consultation with them". LORD CHALFONT also said: "I really believe it would not be in the interests of the House, the country or the people of the Falkland Islands to disclose now what those negotiations are about."

We know, after the British Museum library affair, what the Government mean by "consultations". We can divine what the Government mean by having a "strong regard" for the interests of the islanders, by comparing this flaccid equivocation with what LORD CARADON said in 1965: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or

bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

The islanders' case, which ought to be Britain's case too, always and unquestionably, is that the entire population of the archipelago, about 2,000 people, is as British as is the population of the Orkneys or the Scillies; that the Falklands have been under continuous British occupation since 1832; that for Argentina to claim the Falklands, 250 miles away from Tierra del Fuego, on the grounds of proximity is self-evident nonsense: that to claim the Falklands because Spain claimed them 200 years ago is to show an astonishing confusion of thought. If the Spanish imperium was legitimate, then so is the British imperium that succeeded it. Finally, and above all, there is the principle of self-determination: the islanders are unanimously opposed to any change in their present status. It is just as comprehensible that they should prefer the rule of Britain to that of Argentina as it is that Gibraltarians should prefer it to that of Spain.

The case is unanswerable. Britain is a democratic country, supposedly devoted to the rule of law and the sanctity of moral and legal obligations. Argentina is a huge, underpopulated, and rich country, with which Britain has traditionally had the friendliest relations during all the long time that Argentina and the Falklands have happily enjoyed their own separate identities. The whole dispute would be ludicrous—comic opera "invasions" and all—were there not suspicious signs that the Government were contemplating a wholly pointless abandonment of people who belong to them and who have trusted them.

The Falkland Islands

THE Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic group belonging to Great Britain, were discovered by an Englishman in 1592, and have been claimed at various times by the British, the French and the Spanish. Since 1833 they have been under continuous occupation by Britain, but the Argentine Republic—as the successor of Spain—has never ceased to lay claim to them.

The future of these islands is once again in the balance. At least, it appears that the British Government is now engaged in negotiations which could result in handing them over to Argentina. This would be worse than handing over Gibraltar to Spain, for whereas the Gibraltarians are of mixed descent, the inhabitants of the Falklands are British to a man. But unlike the people of Gibraltar, they have never been consulted regarding their future status.

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It is surely unthinkable that Britain would go back on her word in this respect. At least, we hope it is.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

19 MAR 1968

Commons Questions

Assurance of
³⁰⁰³
'consent' on
Falklands

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

WESTMINSTER, Monday.
CONSERVATIVES were dissatisfied with an assurance by Mr. GORONWY ROBERTS, Minister of State, Foreign Office, at Question Time in the Commons today that the Falkland Islands would not be handed over to Argentina without "full consultation and consent."

Mr MAUDLING, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, demanded: "Will you make it clear that you mean the consent of the people themselves?"

But, despite vehement protests, the MINISTER replied curtly: "I stick by the phrase 'consultation and consent.'"

When Sir CYRIL OSBORNE (C., Louth) asked for an assurance that the islands would not be ceded against the will of the population, Mr. ROBERTS said he was aware that the great majority wished to retain British citizenship.

"I don't know of any plans to take it away from them. In any event the Government will see that there is the fullest consultation with the population."

"Surrender rumours"

Sir CYRIL persisted that the islanders had expressed utter opposition to being taken over. There had been rumours that the islands were to be surrendered.

Mr. ROBERTS: We are well aware of their deep feelings about their future. In discussions we are conducting with Argentina we have said we shall proceed on the twin principles of consultation and consent.

Mr. LUARD (Lab., Oxford) said it had been made clear in the United Nations and elsewhere that there should be no question of transferring sovereignty with-

Extract from
The Times, London

19 MAR 1968

COMMONS STORM
ON FALKLANDS
Argentina talks deplored

³⁰⁰³ BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

After a stormy scene in the Commons yesterday, Conservative M.P.s were not satisfied that the Government are taking the people of the Falkland Islands into their confidence about the negotiations now going on with the Argentine Government about the island's future.

Many questions have been tabled in the Commons after the appeal made to all M.P.s last week by four members of the islands' Executive Council who gave a warning that the negotiations now proceeding may result at any moment in the handing over of the Falklands to Argentina.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Office, yesterday failed to convince the Conservatives that the islanders had been properly consulted when he was questioned by Sir Cyril Osborne (Louth) and other backbenchers, and by Mr. Maudling, the Opposition Deputy Leader.

Mr. Roberts said: "I am aware that the great majority of the population of the Falkland Islands wish to retain their British citizenship. I do not know of any plans to take it away from them. In any event, Her Majesty's Government will see that there is the fullest consultation with the population."

Call for consent

Conservative M.P.s then demanded that there should be more than consultation—that the Government should give an undertaking that nothing would be done without the islanders' consent.

A group of Conservatives led by Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh, South) immediately tabled a motion stating: "This House condemns the failure of her Majesty's Government to give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and their dependencies will not be changed without the express wish of the inhabitants and deplores the existence of any negotiations with Argentina in which the Falkland Islands figure."

The Opposition regards the Government's statements now as being far less reassuring than the words

used by Lord Caradon when the question of ceding the islands to Argentina was discussed at the United Nations in 1965. He then said: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount and we shall do our duty to protect them."

Mr. Roberts yesterday would only say that "we shall proceed on the principle of full consultation and of consent".

In a statement issued yesterday, the committee of the Falklands Islands Association deplored "in the strongest possible manner" the fact that the Government, in spite of questions answered last week in the House of Lords and the Commons, and yesterday in the Commons, had as yet given no assurances to the people of the Falklands Islands that their homeland would not be handed to Argentina.

They appealed to the British people to exercise what influence they had on the Government "to prevent this tragedy from taking place".

Richard Wigg writes from Montevideo:—As 40 passengers, most of them Falkland islanders who had been "home" to Britain, prepared to come on board the mail ship Darwin here, her master, Captain Nigel Miller, son of one of the four elected members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, which appealed last week to Britain, talked to me of the community's anxieties.

"If there was a referendum I am sure the result would be exactly the same as Gibraltar. There is no question of that. We may be the farthest-flung British colony, but we do not want them to fling us any farther", the captain said.

"Colonialism is a dirty word these days. Since the Labour Government came in in 1964 we have become distrustful of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown on this point, saying one thing and doing the opposite."

The islanders said they thought two years of confidential talks in London and Buenos Aires had run into the ground. When Sir Cosmo Haskard, the Governor, returned to the islands last January they became uneasy because, as one of them diplomatically put it—for the Governor is a popular figure—he was "unable to reassure us".

Parliamentary report, page 12.

DEPARTMENTAL MANA
15896, Daily Telegraph, E.C.2
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Extract from
The Times, London

14 MAR 1968

PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1968

Lords: Minister pressed on Falklands talks

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at 2.30 p.m. He signified that the Royal Assent had been given to the following Acts: Revenue, Teachers' Superannuation (Scotland), and National Loans.

LORD VIVIAN asked the Government what negotiations there had been with the Argentine Government involving the future of the Falkland Islands; and whether the Government intended to honour Lord Caradon's assurance given to the inhabitants of the islands at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1965.

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, recalled that in that statement Lord Caradon said "We are always ready to discuss these questions in a friendly and constructive spirit, but we must nevertheless apply the principles of consultation and consent".

Lord Caradon's statement was followed by the adoption of a resolution in the General Assembly which called on the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem. It was in this spirit that the Government entered into discussions with the Argentine Government, and these discussions were still continuing.

I can only add (he said) that in these negotiations her Majesty's Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event we shall see that there is the fullest consultation with them.

Confidential

LORD CARRINGTON (C.)—Is Lord Chalfont telling the House over the question of sovereignty discussion?

LORD CHALFONT.—I did not say that, and I am afraid I cannot add anything in that respect to my earlier reply.

The talks with the Argentine Government are covering a wide variety of subjects. They are confidential discussions between governments, and I can add nothing to the reply I have already given.

LORD CARRINGTON.—The further answer leads us to the conclusion that sovereignty is being discussed.

LORD CHALFONT.—I cannot be responsible for conclusions which are drawn.

The EARL OF DUNDEE (C.)—Have the inhabitants of the islands or any of their representatives been consulted about these consultations which are going on now?

LORD CHALFONT.—So far there has been no consultation, although they have been informed about the fact that these negotiations are continuing.

LORD VIVIAN.—The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands do not wish to belong to any other nation other than the British nation. The two major islands are settled by 2,167 people who are of English and Scottish descent.

LORD CHALFONT.—I am aware of the facts, and I am aware of the wishes and feelings of the people of the islands. I can only repeat what Lord Caradon has already said—we shall apply the principles of consultation and consent.

LORD MERRIVALE (C.) asked whether the Government would consider holding a referendum as they did in Gibraltar to find out the wishes of the people.

LORD CHALFONT.—It is too early yet in these proceedings to comment on the suggestion of a referendum, although naturally the

Government will bear the suggestion in mind.

There are enormous differences between the situations in Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands (he added). I am not ruling out any course of action; I am only saying this is premature.

We are engaged in delicate, confidential negotiations with another sovereign Government, and I really believe it would not be in the interests of this House, the country or the people of the Falkland Islands to disclose now what those negotiations are about.

LORD CONESFORD (C.)—What right, if any, has the United Nations to interfere with our sovereignty of the Falkland Islands?

LORD CHALFONT.—The very fact of membership of the United Nations implies that countries that belong to it derogate a certain amount of sovereignty to it. (Opposition cries of "Oh.") That is the whole idea of the United Nations. To suggest otherwise is to fly in the face of reason. (Opposition cries of protest.)

LORD ATREDALE.—Will the Minister of State give a pledge that the wishes of the people of the islands will be a paramount consideration before anything is done?

LORD CHALFONT.—I am not prepared to go any further in that regard than I did in my statement. (Loud Opposition cries of "Oh.")

His remark about the United Nations had perhaps been unwise, he said later.

It was a philosophical one (he continued) about the fact that membership of the United Nations carries with it some elements of giving up to it a part of something which might in the past have been regarded as being a matter of entirely national sovereignty. I suppose I should apologize for making it.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

14 MAR 1968

Britain 'seeks peace' on Falklands

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER
Commonwealth Correspondent

BRITAIN and the Argentine Government are discussing the Falkland Islands in the spirit of a United Nations resolution calling on them to solve their dispute, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said yesterday in the Lords.

The British Government was being guided by a strong regard for the interests of the islanders and there would be the fullest consultation with them. The discussions with the Argentine were confidential and he would bear in mind the suggestion of a referendum.

Lord Carrington, Opposition leader, asked: "Are you saying that the question of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is under discussion?"

Lord Chalfont replied: "I did not say that. I am afraid I cannot add anything in that respect to my reply. Talks with the Argentine Government are covering a wide range of subjects and are confidential between Governments."

Islanders disturbed

These exchanges are unlikely to calm fears of the Falkland islanders, who are taking the situation to heart. Mr. A. G. Barton, a member of their Executive Council, is coming to London next week.

He hopes to satisfy himself that the British Government intends no moves that would take the islands out of British sovereignty. The uncertainty of the discussions, which have been going on since 1966, is disturbing the 2,000 islanders, all of British descent.

TING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

14 MAR 1968

Islanders not consulted

Conservative peers said that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed with Argentina after a statement in the House of Lords by Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, yesterday.

Lord Chalfont said he could not be responsible for conclusions drawn. He admitted there had been no consultation yet with the islanders or their representatives.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

15 MAR 1968

TORY PRESSURE ON FALKLAND ISLANDS

Statement sought

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Several M.P.s pressed Mr Richard Crossman, the Leader of the House, for a statement to be made early next week on the Falkland Islands.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C., S. Edinburgh) said he was having considerable difficulty in getting replies on this subject from both the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office.

Sir John Eden (C., Bourne-mouth W.) said it was very unsatisfactory to leave the situation with Wednesday's statement in the Lords. "If the Government are about to sell people down the river in the name of this country, surely we are entitled to an early statement."

Mr Crossman said he would communicate these views to the Ministers concerned.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Daily Mirror, London

19 MAR 1968

MPs FEAR HAND-OVER OF ISLAND COLONY

By DAVID THOMPSON

IT HEARS that the Government is preparing to hand over the scattered Falkland Islands in the far South Atlantic to Argentina grew yesterday.

Talks about "the long term future" of the colony — which has a population of about 2,200 largely of Scottish descent—are now going on between Argentina and Britain.

But Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told Commons questioners that he did not know of any plans to take British citizenship away from the islanders.

Wishes

Tory deputy Leader Mr. Reginald Maudling demanded an assurance that no hand over the islands against the wishes of the people. Mr. Roberts said that the talks would proceed on the principles of consultation and consent. A motion put down a motion condemning "the failure of the Government to give an assurance that the sovereignty of the islands will not be changed without the consent of the inhabitants."

Extract from

Daily Express, London

19 MAR 1968

Five million choose to remain British

WHEN a Falkland Islander talks of "home" he doesn't mean the rainswept sheep pastures of the South Atlantic. He means Britain—8,000 miles away.

Probably he has never been there. But he drinks bottled Bass, plays whist, waits eagerly for his airmailed London newspaper—and speaks English.

And his fervent belief in things British finds tongue in sentiments like those of Legislative Council member Richard Goss. Voicing fears that Britain and the Argentine were engaged in secret handover talks, Goss said this week:—

"No place on God's earth is more British than the Falkland Islands, so there can be no doubt that we are British. And it follows that we must and will get a fair deal."

A naive belief the cynics will say as nations scramble hurriedly for independence.

But one passionately shared wherever the Union Jack still flies.

From Gibraltar, where the posters proclaim "We're O.K. with the U.K." to palm-treed Lautoka in Fiji, where the kids going to Natabua Secondary School pass night and morning through a pair of giant decorative gates—erected in



The Falkland Islands

JAMES DAVIES

... at a time when talks with Spain on Gibraltar are commencing once again, focuses attention on the other outposts of the old Empire. Places still in need of the protection of Britain . . . places which should not be forgotten just because they are small.

honour of the British taxpayer.

There are 21 dependent territories for which the Commonwealth Office is responsible. About 5,500,000 people live in them.

They spread from Antarctica to the Mediterranean, from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

Some team with multi-racial life like Hongkong with its 3½ million population. Others are little more than coral specks in the ocean like Picairn, the Mutiny on the Bounty Isle where 107 people live—some of them still called Fletcher Christian.

Cultures

THE people who belong to this far-flung club speak many tongues and inherit vastly differing cultures.

But they share a pride in their association with Britain that the UNO committees on colonialism find too bizarre to swallow. In the Maldives—that necklet of atolls strung through the Indian Ocean south of Ceylon—they even had a pro-British riot.

That was eight years ago and it took a sophisticated touch of gunboat diplomacy—a Soccer match between the locals and the crew of H.M.S. Ganges—to restore sanity and end the self-proclaimed pro-London United Suvavive Republic. The Maldives are now independent.

Link

IN Fiji (where the last recorded case of cannibalism was only 90 years ago) they will have none of it. The native Fijians, outnumbered by the Indians brought there by Britain to work in the cane fields, asked for the same status as the Isle of Man. It was refused.

But its leaders constantly reiterate the theme: "There must be a continuing link with the Crown."

lines of the Channel Islands."

Some of Britain's territories are coveted by other nations. Spain puts unsubtle pressure on Gibraltar. Guatemala claims the tiny sugar Colony of British Honduras (pop: 100,000) perched on the Yucatan Peninsula of Central America.

The people in both fiercely proclaim their desire to go along with Britain.

Asked why, Gibraltar's Chief Minister Sir Joshua Hassan once said: "Because we are patriotic—and I'm not ashamed of the word. We were brought up to the British way of life and that is the way we want to continue."

Spirit

IN the Falklands, which the Argentine calls the Malvinas, they know all about the Dunkirk spirit.

When the boarding party from the Argentine invaded the islands in its DC3 18 months ago the one thing that upset the islanders was that their weekly game of whist at St. Mary's Church was interrupted.

Farm manager Roy Cove, a candidate for the Legislative Council, said this week: "The old British spirit is still there. What has been ours for 135 years is worth fighting for. If we are sold down the river by smooth-tongued politicians that spirit remains in Britain—we shall have 50 million Britons behind us."

Extract from

Western Daily Press, Bristol

19 MAR 1968

Falklands: No transfer

There was no question of transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the fullest consultation and consent. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Goronwy Roberts, told Opposition members.

"We are conducting talks with Argentina about the long term future of these islands in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the U.N. resolution," he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Daily Express, London

19 MAR 1968

Falklands: Tories hit out

A group of Tory M.P.'s last night tabled a Commons motion condemning "the failure of the Government to give assurances that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and their dependencies will not be changed without the express wish of the inhabitants."

Earlier, in the Commons, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Goronwy Roberts, said he could see "no reason why there should be any concern at all on this matter. We shall proceed on the principle of consultation with the islanders."

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

14 MAR 1968

Lords clash on Falkland Islands

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said he could not be held responsible for conclusions drawn from his statement on the Falkland Islands by some Conservative peers. He was replying to peers who claimed that the sovereignty of the islands was being discussed with the Argentine Government.

Lord Vivian had asked what negotiations there had been recently with the Argentine Government involving the future of the Falkland Islands, and whether the Government intended to honour Lord Caradon's assurance given to the inhabitants of the islands at the United Nations in 1965.

Lord Chalfont said Lord Caradon had stated: "We are always ready to discuss these

questions in a friendly and constructive spirit, but we must nevertheless apply the principles of consultation and consent."

This statement had been followed by a U.N. resolution calling on the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

"It was in this spirit that we entered into discussions with the Argentine Government and these are still continuing.

"I can only add that, in these negotiations, the Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event we shall see that there is the fullest consultation with them."

Lord Carrington (C.) asked if the question of the

sovereignty was under discussion.

Lord Chalfont replied: "I did not say that. I cannot add anything in that respect to my earlier reply. Talks with the Argentine Government are covering a wide range of subjects. They are confidential between Governments."

Lord Carrington said the answer led to the conclusion that sovereignty was being discussed, but Lord Chalfont said he could not be responsible for the conclusions drawn. He was only responsible for statements made on behalf of the Government.

Lord Conesford (C.) asked later: "What right, if any, has the U.N. to interfere with our sovereignty over the Falkland Islands?"

Lord Chalfont said membership of the U.N. implied that we derogated a certain proportion of sovereignty to it. That was the whole idea of the U.N. and to suggest otherwise "is to fly in the face of

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

14 MAR 1968

No Falklands pledge

CONCLUSIONS drawn from his statement on the Falkland Islands by Conservative peers, were not something for which he could be responsible, Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, told the Lords yesterday.

He was replying to several Opposition peers who claimed that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed with the Government of the Argentine.

Lord Chalfont said that Lord Caradon had assured the inhabitants at the UN in 1965 that: "We are always ready to discuss this question in a friendly and constructive spirit, but we must nevertheless apply the principles of consultation and consent."

Lord Airedale (Lab.): "Will you give a pledge that the wishes of the people of these islands will be paramount consideration before anything is done?"

There were cries of "Oh" when Lord Chalfont said: "I am not prepared to go any further in that regard than I did in the opening statement."

Extract from
The Times, London

14 MAR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Mr. David James

Sir,—I am appalled to see in your columns that negotiations about the future of the Falkland Islands have been entered into with the Argentine, whose sole grounds for claim are that they occupy the same continental shelf. By this token the United Kingdom should once again become a province of Normandy!

When I was A.D.C. to the Governor of the Falkland Islands more than 20 years ago I found a totally British community anxiously awaiting their airmail editions of *The Times*, consuming familiar British-branded goods while drinking Whitebread, Bass and Guinness in their pubs. Most of the better-off sent their children to British public schools and universities and not one to South America, which was hardly surprising since no one spoke a word of Spanish. Indeed the last surviving Spanish name after more than a century of British occupation belonged to a widow, born in London, who had originally gone out as a schoolteacher.

When will Her Majesty's Government learn—as over Gibraltar—that it is dishonest, and only arouses fake expectations and hence gives rise to bitterness, to enter into talks at all when no concession can honourably be granted. To cede the Falkland Islands to the Argentine would be as preposterous as to give the Isle of Skye to Peru.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JAMES.

23 Ashley Place, S.W.1.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

14 MAR 1968

PARLIAMENT

Falklanders in the dark on Argentine talks

Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in the Lords yesterday that it "would not be in the interests of this country, or the people of the Falklands" to disclose what negotiations with the Argentine Government were about.

Earlier, Lord Chalfont, replying to Lord Vivian, who had asked what negotiations there had been recently with the Argentine Government involving the future of the Falkland Islands, had recalled that at the United Nations in 1965 Lord Caradon had said: "We are always ready to discuss these questions in a friendly and constructive spirit, but we must nevertheless apply the principles of consultation and consent."

Lord Caradon's statement had been followed by a UN resolution calling on the two governments to find a peaceful solution.

Lord Chalfont went on: "It was in this spirit that we entered into discussions with the Argentine Government and these discussions are still continuing. I can only

add that, in these negotiations, the Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event we shall see that there is the fullest consultation with them."

After this, Lord Carrington, the Conservative leader, asked: "Are you telling the House that the

THE LORDS

question of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is under discussion?"

Lord Chalfont replied: "I did not say that. I cannot add anything in that respect to my earlier reply. Talks with the Argentine Government are covering a wide range of subjects. They are confidential between governments."

Lord Carrington: "Your answer leads to the conclusion that sovereignty is being discussed."

Lord Chalfont: "I cannot be responsible for conclusions which are drawn. I am only responsible for statements I make on behalf of the Government. I have said they are confidential and that they cover a wide range of subjects."

Lord Dundee (C.): "Have the inhabitants of the islands or any of their representatives been consulted about these consultations or given any information?"

Lord Chalfont: "So far there has been no consultation, although they have been informed about the fact these negotiations are continuing."

Lord Carrington asked, if the Government was consulting people of the Falklands before they gave the sovereignty away, what were they discussing now?

Lord Chalfont: "I have said nothing about giving sovereignty away. I have said that in the spirit of the United Nations resolution we are entering into negotiations with the Argentine Government. In these negotiations we shall apply the principles of consultation and consent." He was reluctant to make a statement about confidential consultations going on between two governments.

Lord Airedale (L.): "Will you give a pledge that the wishes of the people of these islands will be the paramount consideration before anything is done?"

Lord Chalfont: "I am not prepared to go any further in that regard than I did in the opening statement."

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date 19 MAR 1968

SUSPICIONS

3003

By Our Political Correspondent
The Government failed to satisfy the House of Commons yesterday that the Falkland Islands will not be handed over to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

Mr Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said the long-term future of the islands has been the subject of discussions between the British and Argentine Governments since 1966. The negotiations are continuing and are confidential.

The Government would be guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands and would proceed on the principle of consultation and consent.

When pressed to specify what form the consultation would take and if the use of the word "consent" meant the consent of the people themselves, Mr Roberts

Telephone 53317.
Mackenzie & Wilson, Advocates,
2942/1/3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GLASGOW.

...ION, close to Clydesdale, go beyond F. W. Woolworth, etc. "That," Mr ... observed, "is not good."

Motion tabled

Last night a group of Conservative back benchers, led by Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, South Edinburgh, tabled a Commons motion condemning any idea of a change in the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and dependencies without the express wishes of the inhabitants, and also condemning the negotiations with the Argentine Government.

Members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council last week appealed to M.P.s to prevent a hand-over of the islands to the Argentine.

The negotiations between the British and Argentine Governments follow a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, who in 1965 called on the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem of sovereignty, which Britain has

Extract from

Edinburgh Evening News

18 MAR 1968

Island chamber sends support 6000 miles

3003

PEOPLE

MR Michael Clark Hutchison, M.P. for Edinburgh South, may well become the radio personality of the year to the people of the Falkland Islands.

The M.P. is championing their plea to get the Government to reveal its policy for the future of the islanders.

Yesterday, 6000 miles away on the misty edges of the Antarctic seas, the 2000 islanders, mostly of Scots and English descent, heard the voice of their Edinburgh champion over their radios reporting progress. For the broadcast, Mr Hutchison went to the B.B.C.'s Overseas studios.

"It seemed a little old fashioned," he said. "I sat on one side of a table, the interviewer on the other. The and it was recorded. The B.B.C. then cabled a man in the Falklands, a part-time operator, to switch on his local apparatus to pick up the recording, and it was then retransmitted to the islanders."

Said Mr Hutchison: "Their fear is that they are about to be handed over to the Argentinians against their will."

JAMES GRAY'S COLUMN

Edinburgh owner Mrs Maud Milne Green, however.

"I'm afraid there's nothing in the stable we can send to Cheltenham," she told me, "and we will have no interest in the Grand National either."

What with the recent foot-and-mouth restrictions and the lack of the right horse for the right moment, she can't recall a season when she has seen so little of racecourses...

She has, however, high hopes for a future National — Golden Vagabond, which ran at Sedgefield at the weekend.

Though Mrs Milne Green thinks he is a good proposition, she and her husband were not there to see him run. "I know it's terrible for us," she said, "but we were at Murrayfield for the Rugby International."

ASSURANCE ON FALKLAND ISLES

3003

Opposition members pressed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Goronwy Roberts, for assurances that the Falkland Islands would not be ceded to Argentina against the will of the population. Mr Roberts told Sir Cyril Osborne (C., Louth): "We are well aware of the deep feelings of the islanders about their future. In discussions we are conducting with Argentina we have said we shall proceed on the twin principles of consultation and consent."

Mr Maulding, deputy leader of the Opposition, declared: "You used the word consent. Will you make it clear you mean the consent of the people themselves?"

Mr Roberts replied: "I stick by the phrase 'consultation and consent'."

He gave an assurance that there would be no agreement between the Government and Argentina before the Commons had been made aware of the proposals and could discuss them.

Extract from

Daily Telegraph, London

19 MAR 1968

ROW OVER FEAR OF FALKLANDS 'SELL-OUT'

3003

By Our Political Correspondent

Fears that the Government may be contemplating a "sell-out" of the Falkland Islands to Argentina lay behind a row in the Commons yesterday involving Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Office.

A motion of protest, tabled by Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (C., Edinburgh S.) and five other Conservative M.P.s, "condemns the Government's failure to give an assurance that the sovereignty of the islands will not be changed without the wish of the inhabitants."

Mr. Roberts, replying to questions about talks with Argentina, agreed that most people living in the Falklands wished to remain British. What worried M.P.s on both sides of the House was his omission to give a firm assurance that the islands would not be ceded against the will of the population.

Commons Questions—P25

Extract from

Scotsman, Edinburgh

19 MAR 1968

Extract from
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks.

13 MAR 1968

LATEST

PHONE NEWS TO HULL 27111

SOVEREIGNTY OF FALKLANDS

A claim that sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed with the Argentinian Government was made by several Conservative Lords following a statement by Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Lord Chalfont replied he could not be responsible for conclusions drawn.

REAU

1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Times, London

13 MAR 1968

Falklands men on way

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

M.P.s heard yesterday that four members of the Falkland Islands executive council, who sent them a warning message that the islands may at any moment be handed over to Argentina, will visit London in about 10 days' time. First news of their appeal was given in *The Times* yesterday.

The islanders, most of them sheep farmers, have asked M.P.s to demand an assurance from the Government that they will not relinquish British sovereignty over the islands.

remain British, and he asks for an assurance that the islands will not be handed over.

If that is contemplated, Sir Cyril asks that the islanders should at least have their opinions taken in a plebiscite like that held in Gibraltar. If there is a majority in favour of remaining British, then the British Government should not compel them to become Argentines.

"The islanders are very loyal, British people—most of them of English and Scottish ancestry. It would be an outrageous scandal if Britain were to hand them over", Sir Cyril said.

Extract from

Guardian, Manchester & London

13 MAR 1968

Concern over future of Falkland Islands

By our Political Staff

Mr Brown, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Thomson, the Commonwealth Secretary, are to be questioned in the Commons today about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C. Edinburgh S.) is to ask to what extent the future of the Falklands has figured in recent talks with the Argentine Government, and what changes are being contemplated in their relationship with Britain.

The probing of the Government's policy follows an appeal to MPs by four members of the Falkland Islands' Executive Council who said that the British Government was engaged in negotiations with Argentina which might result in the handing over of the islands.

There has been no indication in Whitehall that Britain is in fact ready to make any policy changes. The Foreign Office is referring inquirers to a statement made in December by Sir Cosmo Haskard, the Governor of the Falklands, in which he said the British Government was being guided by a strong regard for the interests of the people of the islands.

Sir Cosmo added that in any event the Government would see to it that there was the fullest consultation with the Falklanders.

In 1965, Lord Caradon said at the United Nations: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount, and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

Extract from
Manchester Evening News

13 MAR 1968

True loyalty

WHAT is going on in the Falkland Islands?

This remote British colony, 8,000 miles from the country its inhabitants call home, is the most loyal British community of all.

Four unofficial members of its executive council write home, distressed at the possibility that secret negotiations are afoot to hand over the colony to the Argentine, which has long coveted it.

The 2,000 inhabitants, proud they have no colour bar, no unemployment and no discontent, want only one thing—to remain British.

And so they should. If the British Government really is discussing the islands' future with the Argentine, let us know all about it.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

13 MAR 1968

BRITISH ISLES

THERE are disturbing reports from the Falkland Islands.

Four unofficial members of the Executive Council of that British Colony give warning that the Government has embarked on negotiations which may lead to the transfer of the islands to the Argentine.

These allegations would be dismissed as utterly absurd were it not for certain recent curious manoeuvres over Gibraltar and the announcement that talks with Spain about the Rock will start on Monday.

It is to be hoped that an immediate and final reassurance will be given to the people of Britain and the Falklands.

Post

Date 14 MAR 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Pledge on talks about Falklands

Conclusions drawn from his statement on the Falkland Islands by Conservative peers were not something for which he could be responsible, LORD CHALFONT (Joint Minister of State, Foreign Affairs) told the Lords.

He was replying to several Opposition peers who claimed that the sovereignty of the Falklands was being discussed with the Argentine Government.

Of discussions with the Argentine Government, he said: "In these the Government is being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event we shall see that there is the fullest consultation with them."

Extract from
Northern Echo, Darlington

26 MAR 1968

The other 'Gib'

³⁰⁰³
GENERAL Franco is expected to announce harsh new restrictions at the frontier between Spain and Gibraltar, following the latest breakdown in talks on the future of the Rock. Defying an unrealistic UN resolution, which ignored the Gibraltar referendum's overwhelming vote of loyalty to the Crown, Britain is standing by her pledge to respect the rights and wishes of the Gibraltarians. But what is happening about the Falkland Islands, 7,000 miles away in the South Atlantic? Argentina lays the same sort of tentative claim to the Falklands that Spain does to Gibraltar. Talks with Argentina, however, less publicised than those with Spain, have not broken down. According to the Argentine Foreign Minister, "the negotiations are slow and confidential and I cannot say anything except that I am optimistic." In both Lords and Commons, Government spokesmen have so far refused to give details. They have also refused to renew Britain's pledge given at the United Nations in 1965 — "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount, and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

In a Commons debate this week the Government will be urged to reassure the Falkland islanders who, like the Gibraltarians, are loyal to Britain. One report is that the islands may be a pawn in diplomatic moves including a visit to South America by the Queen next autumn. A sell-out in any circumstances would be shameful. Moreover, a betrayal of the 2,000 Falkland islanders would also betray the 24,000 Gibraltarians, by hopelessly weakening Britain's stand against Spain. Handing over the Falklands to Argentina would seem to make Spain's claim to Gibraltar very much stronger.

Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

26 MAR 1968

Betraying a colony

³⁰⁰³
UNBELIEVABLY, the British Government is in the process of negotiating the handing over of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. Worse, it is doing so under a veil of secrecy, against the wishes of the 2,000 islanders and when there are no valid historical or political reasons for even contemplating the idea.

Even if Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the islands was historically less tenuous, it seems disingenuous to hark back 130 years to substantiate a claim to a territory which has such close ties with another country. The sole reason for the present confidential negotiations is that Argentina succeeded in 1965 in persuading the United Nations sub-committee on colonial affairs that a dispute did exist. The prejudices of this committee are well known: they were vital in securing the passage of the anti-British resolution on Gibraltar through the General Assembly.

The United Nations resolution on Gibraltar deplored "any colonial situation that destroys the national unity and territorial integrity of a country." Significantly, no mention was made of the wishes of the population. The Falkland Islanders, like Gibraltarians, are British through and through. They have no wish to be subjected to alien languages, laws, customs and cultures. With less jaundiced eyes they can see that a "colonial situation" is not unjust by definition. It is the support, or the lack of support, for the situation that inscribes justice or injustice on the state of affairs.

Geographical contiguity cannot be made the sole basis for international territorial settlements. Would the Government consider ceding the Channel Islands to France? As for Argentina's claim that the Falklands, 300 miles from the mainland coast, form part of her territory because the islands are part of a South American continental shelf, it would be laughable had not the British Government taken it seriously. If the rights of 2,000 British citizens mean anything the Government should suspend negotiations immediately.

Extract from
Times, London

25 MAR 1968

FATE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Mr. Peter Scott

Sir,—I have lately returned from the Falkland Islands, where the 2,000 inhabitants—British to the core and only wishing to remain so—have awoken to the discovery that for some time discussions have been taking place which include a possible transfer of sovereignty of the islands to the Argentine Republic.

These islands in the South Atlantic are beautiful in the way that the western isles of Scotland are beautiful. They pay their way. Their people, most of whom farm sheep, are fine and friendly and totally British. They are custodians of an astonishing wealth of wildlife—penguins, albatrosses, sea lions and sea elephants—which might well become the basis of a significant tourist development. Historically Argentine claims to the islands are tenuous in the extreme, yet in Buenos Aires I found a general impression that any minute now the Islas Malvinas, as they call them, would be a part of Argentina.

The only people who seem to know little or nothing about all this are the British people and the British Parliament. Her Majesty's Government should tell both unequivocally that the Falkland Islands will not be ceded to Argentina unless a clear majority of the islands' inhabitants so wish.

The assurances so far given by Ministers in both Houses of Parliament have signally failed to allay the grave suspicion that the Falkland Islanders may be handed over against their will.

Yours faithfully,

PETER SCOTT.

Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, March 21.

Betrayal or barter?

From Mr. E. H. Spencer and Mr. W. J. Wood

Sir,—On behalf of the Falkland Islands Association (the majority of whose members are Falkland Islanders) we would like to express our anger and disgust at the attempt of the British Government to betray the Falklands and its people by abandoning them to the rule of Argentina.

The Falkland Islanders are almost exclusively British, and they have always had an intense loyalty to Great Britain. During the last war the small community of just over 2,000 people contributed 170,000 and a squadron of Spitfires to the war effort. The claim of the Argentine has no basis in international law. This fascist-orientated nation has long aspired to govern the Falklands, but throughout its history the people of the Argentine have proved quite incapable of governing even themselves. During the Rhodesian crisis, Mr. Ian Smith accused the British Government of being insincere and lacking in honesty and integrity. In the light of the present "sell-out" his words ring true.

The people of the colony have not been consulted on the talks with Argentina. Will they be consulted? The United Nations resolution which commenced the negotiations stated that it was the "interests" of the island community which should be taken into account, rather than their "wishes". Obviously, self-determination depends upon the colour of your skin.

We are further informed that Britain has accepted the premise that Argentine sovereignty claims cannot be subordinated to the wishes of a community which "has only grown up because the British usurped the territory more than 130 years ago". The population of Argentina is overwhelmingly European in origin (mainly from Spain and Italy). Did not these people usurp the vast territory they now inhabit?

The Falkland Islanders do not elect their own government, they are governed by appointed and nominated officials. They do not control their own economy, it is controlled by a monopoly. They do not own the land they inhabit, it is owned by absentee landlords. And now, denied progress and self-determination they are to be abandoned to the rule of an authoritarian regime, with a different language, culture, laws, and precious little personal freedom.

The people of the Falklands need the support of every honest-thinking person in this country. This betrayal of basic human rights must not be allowed.

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST H. SPENCER (Chairman),
W. J. WOOD (Secretary).

158 Wigan Road, Atherton, Lancashire.

Extract from
The Times, London

26 MAR 1968

BRITISH HONDURAS

From Lord Lambton, Conservative M.P.
for Berwick-on-Tweed

Sir,—The letters in today's columns of *The Times* on the Falkland Islands illustrate the widespread fears that it is, or was, the intention of Her Majesty's Government to hand over the sovereignty of this colony to the Argentine without taking into consideration the wishes of its inhabitants.

It is regrettable that this is not an isolated case, as during the last few months the British Government have been preparing the way for handing over the Colony of British Honduras to Guatemala. Here also there has been no attempt whatsoever to consult the people as to their future fate. While many steps have been taken to keep the negotiations secret so that the British Government, in association with the Prime Minister of British Honduras, could prevent any democratic protest at the decision.

Guatemala is on the edge of revolution, violence is widespread, murder is common, and only last week the Archbishop was kidnapped. Can it be right in these circumstances to hand over to such a State a peaceful Colony of over 100,000 citizens?

It seems ironic that the Labour Government, who in the past have talked so much about liberty, should treat British Honduras as a slave state to be bought and sold without consultation with its inhabitants. Surely before any final decision is made there should be some democratic procedure, either free elections or a referendum. For the British Government merely to hand over an unconsulted and peaceful colony to an unhappy and divided State would be as ugly a last chapter of British colonialism as could be conceived.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LAMBTON.
House of Commons, March 25.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

26 MAR 1968

Shadow Cabinet defers tactics on Rhodesia

By our Political Correspondent

The Conservative Shadow Cabinet which decided last night to defer a decision whether or not to force a vote on Rhodesia, when the House of Commons debates it tomorrow, until the Government has defined its policy during the debate.

For this reason, the Conservatives hope that Mr Wilson will himself open the debate. The debate will take place on a motion for the adjournment of the House which would permit the Opposition to force a vote if Ministers indicated a policy—stiffer sanctions, for example—to which the Conservatives are opposed.

The Shadow Cabinet also considered the future of the Falkland Islands and decided that both on defence and Commonwealth grounds it would be folly for Britain to surrender sovereignty to Argentina. Mr Heath is to meet Mr A. G. Barton, a member of the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands today, and Mr Barton will meet the Conservative Members' Commonwealth Committee on Thursday.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C. Edinburgh South), who has won tenth place in the ballot for subjects to be debated during the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill today, has chosen the future of the Falkland Islands as his subject.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

26 MAR 1968

Falkland islander

13 Grange Road, Edinburgh,
26 March 23, 1968

Sir,—As already reported, the member of Parliament for South Edinburgh has been trying, without success, to elicit information from Government sources about the muffled, and highly suspect, "talks" with the Argentine Government about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Many must be glad that you have given space in your columns today for his excellent letter.

Gibraltar, deservedly, has had public support for its struggle. Let us not forget another of our few remaining dependencies.—I am &c.

A. R. Cross.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Scottish Daily Mail, Edinburgh

26 MAR 1968

Falklands: no 3003 change?

The Government is to give a categorical assurance that the Falkland Islands will remain a British colony as long as they wish.

A statement to the Commons—probably tonight—is designed to damp down rising Tory suspicions that the islands will be handed to Argentina after protracted negotiations which started when Mr Michael Stewart was doing his first stint as Foreign Secretary some two years ago.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

26 MAR 1968

The Falklands and their neighbour

The Argentine claim that the Falkland Islands are a part of the Argentine Republic has no legal or political merit. But Argentina is undeniably their nearest neighbour, and it is most desirable that neighbours should be on speaking terms. This was no doubt the intention behind the resolution adopted four years ago by a UN committee, urging the British and Argentine Governments to talk over the Islands' position together.

The UN resolution did not indeed refer expressly to the wishes of the inhabitants, as the British delegate properly pointed out. But it was made clear at that time that the British Government, in entering into the talks, maintained its reservations on sovereignty and respect for the Islanders' wishes. Nothing has happened since to invalidate either of these reservations. Self-determination is the only respectable principle in which the UN or any other body ought to act. The best thing for everybody would be to let things stay more or less as they are. The

immediate and practical question is whether a visit by the Queen, in the course of her forthcoming visit to Chile, would so upset the delicate Anglo-Argentine balance that it would encourage what the Islands least want—a stepping up of Argentine pressure for a change, and a cutting off of such social and commercial relations with the nearest neighbour as still exist. (There is a bit of Chile which comes quite near to the Islands—but it is the Chile of the Magellan Straits, not of Santiago.)

If there was any real danger of an Argentine attempt at a takeover, then the British Government would be right to assert the British claim to (and obligation to) the Islands as formally as possible. If there is not, it would be wiser not to challenge the Argentine Government in a form which might impel it to take some ill-considered counter-action to emphasise its claim. The Islanders want, and should be able, to remain British subjects.

25 MAR 1968

LONDON LETTER

PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE,
3003 SUNDAY EVENING.

TODAY'S three political demonstrations brought no repetition of the violence seen in Grosvenor square a week ago. Even so, one commentator's remark that it was like "a Sunday out for the demonstrators and the police" may have been a little wide of the mark: certainly, it would not be appreciated by the police, most of whom had, for the second successive time, lost their weekend leave. The rain which started today before most of the proceedings were complete, meant a damp finale, and it is an interesting, if idle speculation what effect a downpour would have had on that violent struggle just a week before.

Meanwhile, the scenes of last Sunday, widely publicised through the T.V. cameras, and their implications, are still being discussed. Calls continue to be made for an extension of the Public Order Act to deal with any similar violence. The legal magazine, *Justice of the Peace and Local Government Review*, urges the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to consider whether his powers to control public meetings are sufficient, and whether the mass-entry into Britain of foreign students for demonstrations should be prevented.

Switching the Cost

The implications of yesterday's speech at Cambridge by Mr. Joseph Godber, Shadow Minister of Agriculture, should attract some close study from farmers and food importers alike. Declaring that a Conservative Government would switch most of the cost of agricultural support from the taxpayer to the consumer, he said this would be done by imposing levies on food imports "at a level high enough to raise market prices in this country until the home farmers can get his full return from the market."

By the end of the transition to the new policy, said Mr. Godber, the Exchequer would be saving £150m. annually on deficiency payments, and receiving between £50m. and £100m. from import levels. The latter figure would be progressively reduced as home production rose. The scheme would add five to six per cent to the cost of food, compared with the 10 to 14% which, according to the Government estimate before devaluation, would be the effect of Britain joining the Common Market.

Fate of the Falklands

The growing amount of uneasiness at Westminster about the Falkland Islands and their 2,000 inhabitants is likely to be reflected this week when M.P.s of all parties press the Government for information about the present negotiations with the Argentine Government. Mr. Heath, the Leader of the Opposition, has asked for a statement on the islands' future, while motions on the Commons' Order Paper ask that the islands' sovereignty shall not be changed without the express wish of the inhabitants. In the Lords, the Government will be asked by Lord Balfour of Inchrye to hold a plebiscite so that the islanders can make known their wishes.

There is not much doubt what the islanders' views are. Mr. A. G. Barton, one of the four members of the islands' Executive Council, which, a fortnight ago, sent an appeal to M.P.s, has now arrived in London, and will have a meeting with M.P.s of all parties tomorrow. In their appeal, the council said

that negotiations were proceeding which might at any moment result in the handing over of the islands to the Argentine.

In the Commons last week, Mr. Goronwy Rees, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said that, during the talks with Argentina, Britain would proceed on the twin principles of "consultation and consent," and also that the island's long-term future would be discussed "in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the United Nations' resolution." These non-committal remarks satisfied very few M.P.s and they must have made extremely uneasy reading for the islanders when news reached them. The Argentine has been claiming the islands for more than 130 years, and recently is said to have displayed a greater degree of persistence than heretofore.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

26 MAR 1968

Anxiety for the Falklands

People's Wishes Clear

From Sir MILES CLIFFORD

Sir—It will have to come as a considerable shock to many of your readers that negotiations have been entered into with the Argentine Government over the future of the Falkland Islands.

In the Falklands, as in Gibraltar, the thing that matters—and the only thing that matters—is the wishes of the people, which are in neither case in doubt and therefore in neither case negotiable. The anxiety of the islanders will have been sharpened rather than relieved by the official explanation that "discussions with the Argentine Government remain confidential" or that "the British Government are being guided by a strong regard for the interest of the people."

We have in times past offered to refer this long-standing dispute to the International Court at The Hague, an offer which Argentina has rejected just as she has rejected the expedient of a referendum, well knowing that 100 per cent. of the votes would be cast against her.

The Falklands have been under continuous British administration since 1841; the people are wholly British. What room is there, then, for discussion?

Yours faithfully,
G. MILES CLIFFORD
The Athenaeum.

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date 25 MAR 1968

The wild misty islands of wind and rain

By Derek Naylor

Fears in some quarters that the British Government may be preparing to hand over its remotest outpost—the Falkland Islands—have been renewed.

For many years Argentina has claimed them by right, although the 2,000 inhabitants—95 per cent. of them English-speaking—have, like the inhabitants of Gibraltar, firmly resisted any attempt to sever their ties with their homeland. The Falkland Islands are part of the South American continent, and are 300 miles from the Argentine coastline. Wild isles in a wild climate, they resemble our Scottish Orkneys in appearance.

Yet more than 600,000 sheep every year are raised by the settlers, most of whom are of English and Scottish descent.

WET... WINDY

Life is pretty bleak there. Rain on four or five days of the week, with snow now and then as a change; grey mists constantly over the dun sweep of the moors; and a great south-western wind that neither buffets nor squalls, but just drones unchangingly for days on end.

After a stormy history, a British settlement was re-established in 1833, and the islands have remained British since then, in spite of repeated Argentinian demands.

The Falkland Islands, which stand isolated in the South Atlantic immediately opposite the Straits of Magellan, number about 100. Only two are of any considerable size—East and West Falkland, 2,580 and 2,038 square miles respectively.

ONE TOWN

There is only one town of any size, Stanley, in East Falkland with a population of just over 1,000.

In 1966 20 Argentinians hijacked an airliner, forced it to land in the Falklands and then took symbolic but brief possession of the Islands before surrendering and being shipped back home.

29 MAR 1968

ANXIETY OVER ISLANDS GROWS AMONG TORIES

Anxiety about the future of the Falkland Islands, Britain's colony 400 miles from the coast of Argentina, is spreading among the Conservatives in the Commons.

Tomorrow Opposition leader Mr. Edward Heath meets a Falklander in the Commons, ex-farmer Mr. Arthur Barton, a member of the island's executive council.

He and Mr. Norman Cameron, another member of the same council, are in London on a fact-finding tour. They want to know whether the Government intends to "sell out" the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

DISCUSS

On Thursday, both of them will discuss the situation in the Commons with the Conservatives' Commonwealth committee.

So far, Conservative anxiety about the future of the islands, most of whom are British, has been confined to the back benches.

But on Thursday, unless there is a Government assurance that the Falklands will stay British, the front bench is expected to move in.

184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from
THE ROYAL GAZETTE
BERMUDA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Date.....
16 DEC 1967

Progress made On Falklands Dispute

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (Reuter) — Britain and Argentina today reported to secretary-general U Thant that they made progress in negotiations toward a peaceful settlement of their dispute over the Falkland Islands.

In identical letters to Thant, both countries stated that "progress had been made in reducing the area of divergence between the two governments."

The letters were signed by Dr. Jose Maria Ruda for Argentina and Lord Caradon for Britain.

"Both governments are continuing their discussions with the aim of achieving as soon as possible a peaceful solution, as recommended by the United Nations," it said.

Both countries agreed to report to Thant again some time next year.

British diplomatic sources expressed satisfaction at the progress of their discussions with Argentina.

Yesterday in the colonialism debate in the General Assembly's trusteeship committee, Dr. Ruda affirmed that the islands, which lie some 400 miles to the east of Argentina, were "a dear part of our territory."

Extract from
Sunday Express, London

24 MAR 1968

The Queen and the Falkland Islands

by KEITH RENSHAW

SHARPLY MOUNTING Tory suspicions that the Government is contemplating the surrender of the staunchly pro-British Falkland Islands to the Argentine will cause a storm in the Commons this week.

Tory leaders are alarmed and mystified this weekend at the refusal of Ministers to give a categorical pledge that the islands will not be handed over without the full consent of their 2,100 inhabitants.

And behind the scenes there is the thought that the Government is stonewalling because it is considering recommending the Queen to make a royal tour of South America in the autumn.

The object of such a tour would be to improve political relations and trade. The Queen owes a return state visit to Chile. Brazil has been mentioned as another country she might include in the tour.

But if she goes to either of these places without visiting the Falkland Islands or the Argentine she would immediately become the centre of controversy.

Firm stand

Tory opinion is solid that there must be no patching up of relations with the Argentine at the expense of a sell-out of the Islanders.

The Opposition demand is for either Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, or Mr. George Thomson, the Commonwealth Secretary, to renew the full-blooded pledge given by Lord Caradon at the United Nations in 1965.

He said: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount, and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

But in the last fortnight Government spokesmen in both the Lords and Commons have resisted Tory pressure for a renewed pledge and for details of current diplomatic talks with the Argentine.

On March 13 the Argentine Foreign Minister gave his version of the talks in Buenos Aires. "The negotiations are slow and confidential and I cannot say anything except that I am optimistic."

Mr. Edward Heath is to have a private talk with Mr. Arthur Barton, member of the islands' executive council, at the Commons tomorrow.

Later Mr. Barton, a retired farmer, is to see Tory M.P.s. He is in London on a fact-finding mission for his worried fellow Islanders.

Stormy if—

On Thursday Mr. John Biggs-Davison, Tory M.P. for Chigwell, will lead off in a private member's debate on the future of the Falklands.

Should the Government still refuse to give an explicit pledge, it is certain that the Falklands issue will become a storm centre between the two sides. Benches on a level with the earlier row over Gibraltar.

The Argentine has pressed her claim to the Falklands, 400 miles from the Argentine coast, for many years, more recently through the United Nations. Her case is that she was wrongfully dispossessed of the islands by Britain in 1833.

Last autumn she told the UNO General Assembly that she would spare no effort to regain sovereignty over the islands.

Earlier this month three members of the Falklands Executive Council addressed written pleas to British M.P.s asking them to intervene to prevent any hand-over.

Extract from

Daily Express, London

25 MAR 1968

'NO SELL OUT' PLEDGE FOR ISLANDS

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

A FIRM pledge that the Government has no intention of surrendering sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine is expected to be given in the Commons this week.

The decision to speak out plainly, after weeks of uncertainty and rumour, has been taken following a confrontation between the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office.

The pledge that the Falkland Islands, with a population of 20,000, can remain British so long as its staunchly pro-British inhabitants wish to, is expected to be given on Thursday by Mr. George Thomas, Commonwealth Office Minister of State.

Dirched

He is to reply to a special adjournment debate which has Colony's future which has been secured by Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Tory Chigwell).

The decision means that the Foreign Office policy of trying not to be pitched in the face of mounting political demands of mounting political demands at a time for a firm declaration that there will be no sell-out.

Extract from

Sunday Express, London

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Extract from
Sunday Telegraph, London

Islands that Britain may give away

3003 By LLEWELLYN CHANTER

FOR more than 2,000 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, anxious about their future in Britain's most southerly organised colony, a Commons statement last week has brought no comfort at all.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said ominously that in the current talks with Argentina, which has been making untenable claims to the islands ever since 1834, Britain would proceed "on the twin principles of consultation and consent," and that the islands' long-term future would be discussed "in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the United Nations resolution".

Thus the same kind of equivocation that has driven Gibraltar to lose faith in Britain has spread far south, to the sheep-farmers of the Falkland Archipelago. Four days ago Mr. Arthur Barton, a member of the Executive Council, arrived in London to express the islanders' fear and suspicion that they yet may be sold out to Argentina.

Scratch a "Kelper," as the islanders are called after the vast quantities of seaweed enclosing the archipelago, and you find a Scot. For a century he has tended his sheep in the remote homesteads on the moorland campus, inured to the wind that blows from the regions of Cape Horn. He has pursued his industry with the wind's constancy, sold his product, some of the finest wool in the world, in a highly competitive market, and earned for the Falklands the title of the Land of the Golden Fleece.

But across the Strait of Magellan, 300 miles to the west, lies covetous Argentina which, with all the self-righteousness at her command, has had little trouble in convincing the anti-Colonial Committee of the United

Nations that life for Argentina is possible only when the Falklands are finally wrested from the British.

Argentina's claim is remarkably fragile. What international lawyers call "geographical propinquity" can be admitted. Innocent of political considerations, the great geographers of the past have played into Argentina's hands. But if, as they said, the Falklands are a part of the giant Andean range, then so are the Caribbean Islands.

Historically, Argentina has an even more brittle claim. It arises simply from the disintegration of Spain's hegemony over that part of the world. In fact, most of the Latin-American states originated from Spanish provinces and, at a time when Spain became impotent



as a world conqueror, Britain stepped in permanently to colonise the Falklands and to give life, both human and animal, the protection of a powerful State.

It would hardly be logical for Argentina now to argue that her claim should take preference over a territory formerly part of imperial Spain's possessions and now peacefully governed by Britain.

But Argentina, showing a remarkable persistence, is making



Mr. ARTHUR BARTON, the Falklands' emissary, now in London. Back home, they wait and wonder.

full use of the present political climate to edge a hesitant British Government out of its legal claim. Lord Palmerston knew how to deal with the first Argentinian protest in 1834; he brushed it brusquely aside and little more was heard of it for 50 years.

With the turn of the century, Argentina again began her protests and backed them with government action. She declared the Falklands part of Argentine territory. They have been known as the *Islas Malvinas* in the Argentine Constitution and the Argentine Government even has a department of its Foreign Office keeping watch over developments.

Generations of Argentinians have grown up with the idea that part of their country is occupied by a foreign power. The population of the islands is counted as part of Argentina in the national census, the postal services between the Falklands and Argentina are scrutinised, and any "Kelper" setting foot on Argentine soil becomes immediately subject to the laws, military and civil, of the country.

Today, the Falkland Islanders lead a tranquil life under the British Governor and their Legislative Council, menacing no one.

There are two clouds on the horizon. One is competition for their wool by man-made fibres. But a bigger one is the British Government's evasiveness — that lack of Palmerstonian challenge which the "Kelpers" have come to expect from Whitehall.

The islanders' anxiety runs deep: so deep that if Britain does hand over the Falklands to Argentina, not a single "Kelper" will want to remain.

Extract from
Shepton Mallet Journal

22 MAR 1968

City stamp collectors meet

At a recent meeting of the City of Wells Philatelic Society, members had a very enjoyable and unusual evening. They received a display by Mr. Tamlyn of Bridgwater material from Antarctica.

This area stretches from the South Pole to the island of Tristan Da Cunha.

The first country to issue stamps in this area was King Edward VII and in 1907, followed in 1910 by Victoria Island, both of these used over-printed stamps of New Zealand, and were used by expeditions to these frozen wastels.

In 1946 the well known map issue for Falklands Dependencies appeared. A beautiful set appeared in 1954, showing various ships of the Falkland Islands.

In the first part of his display, Mr. Tamlyn, also showed stamps from Australian and New Zealand Antarctic territories. Then followed various other stamp-issuing countries of the Antarctic, among these were France, Argentina and Chile. An interesting part of the display was Tristan Da Cunha from 1952—to date. Including a rare First Day Cover for the visit of H.R.H. Duke of Edinburgh in 1957.

The second half of the display showed various base postmarks from the Antarctic, issued by various expeditions by many countries of the world. This is one of the few places in the world where American, British and Russian scientists work side by side.

Will all members please note, that as from Saturday, March 16, the address of Secretary will be, Churchhill Road East, Wells, so therefore please take all entries to Dr. Young Trophy to him before this date.

Extract from
Glasgow Sunday Post

24 MAR 1968

SOS From The Bottom Of The World...

LAST week an appeal for help reached "The Sunday Post" from the Falkland Islands, 8000 miles away at the bottom of the world.

Mrs Velma Malcolm, of the Rose Hotel in Stanley, the capital, asked us to tell people of the islanders' fear that the British Government is to sell them down the river.

The Falklands have been British for 150 years.

Since the deserted islands were colonised, the population has grown to 2200, scattered over two big islands and 100 small ones.

They're proud of being British. But Argentina claims the islands belong to her.

Until now, Britain has always dismissed these claims. As late as 1965, Lord Caradon told the United Nations, "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount."

Now the Government is believed to be holding talks with Argentina.

The islands have petitioned every MP at Westminster to help them stay British.

They've asked the Government to repeat the pledge given in 1965. But the Government says nothing, even in answer to Parliamentary questions.

THE Falkland islands are not far from Antarctica. There are no trees. The wind

blows hard all year round. The only animal that thrives is a special breed of sheep with thick wool. The sheep are the islanders' only source of income. They export the wool to Britain.

The people are very religious. The four churches—Church of England, Roman Catholic and Tabernacle—are packed every Sunday.

With no cinemas or TV, the islanders make their own entertainment—ceilidhs, dances, whist drives, &c. They're fiercely independent, work hard, and look after any neighbours in trouble. There's no poverty or unemployment.

They insist on a British education. When the children reach 11, they either come to Britain to boarding school or go to a special British school in Montevideo in Uruguay.

Now the islanders want the British Government to make it clear to Argentina that they have never been and never will be anything but British.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

23 MAR 1968

No sell-out of Falklands to the Argentine

By THOMAS DENHAM, Diplomatic Correspondent

I am assured there will be no sell-out of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. Britain is approaching sovereignty.

Lord Shepherd, Minister of State at the Commonwealth Office, yesterday saw Mr. Arthur Barton, the unofficial member of the islands' executive council. It may not have been possible for him to give an explicit promise of no change for the same reason that has made it necessary for Foreign Office Ministers to be less than explicit.

The talks, started in 1966, are still in progress. A statement before an agreement has been reached would result in the Argentine's asking in effect: "Well, if there is no change, what are we talking about?" and would spoil the good relations Britain is seeking.

Uncertain

Official statements have aroused some suspicion because they have been cloudy. They have been explicit on full consultation.

One Minister of State, Mr. Mulley, has said no agreement would be signed before it had been put to the Falkland Islands. Another Minister, Mr. Roberts, has told the House he knew the Falkland Islanders wanted to remain British and that an agreement would be on the basis of consultation and consent.

Whether progress in the talks with the Argentine will have proceeded far enough for any statement to be made in the expected debate next week remains uncertain.

The islands apparently being unduly pessimistic about the danger of a British sell out.

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

23 MAR 1968

ANXIOUS EMISSARY FROM T FAMILY HOME GOES AFTER TALKING TO 100 MURDERER

3003

WHAT was originally intended to be a quiet leave, seeing friends and seeing England again, has become a hectic round of official meetings and interviews for Mr. Arthur Barton, from the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Barton, nominated by the Governor to the Islands' executive council, is busy telling MPs of all parties and members of the House of Lords how much the Falkland inhabitants like the Union Jack flying over them and how little they want an Argentinian flag put up in its place.

He went to the Falklands as a young man in 1921—"in those days it was always regarded that the Colonies were a good life"—and he took up a career in farming which lasted 30 years. He then held an administrative post in Port Stanley until his retirement in 1964 and is now concentrating on politics.

ALARMED

Life in the Falklands is good, he told my reporter. It's similar to parts of Scotland, and many of the people there are of Scottish descent. There are no Argentinians among the population of 2100.

Mr. Barton added that the islanders had become increasingly alarmed at the "unpleasant veil of secrecy" which had grown up round the talks between Britain and the Argentine and his wife said it had looked to them as though "things were going the wrong way."

But he had just come from Lord Shepherd, Minister of State, Commonwealth Office, and remarked: "I certainly feel much happier than I did."

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Extract from
The Times, London

23 MAR 1968

MPs' CONCERN AT FALKLANDS Motions on sovereignty

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

MPs of all parties intend to press the Government next week for further information about their negotiations with the Argentine Government on the future of the Falkland Islands and their dependencies.

There will be an opportunity for this during the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill on Tuesday. On Thursday Mr. John Biggs-Davison, Conservative M.P. for Chigwell, will initiate an adjournment debate on the constitutional future of the islands.

Mr. A. G. Barton, one of the four members of the islands' Executive Council who sent an appeal to M.P.s a fortnight ago, has arrived in London and will have a meeting with M.P.s of all parties on Monday. Mr. Heath, the Leader of the Opposition, has asked for a government statement early next week on the islands' future.

9
DAM DIMENT is the King's Road spy novelist. His full name is Frederick Adam Diment — but whoever heard of a dolly, dolly

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Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

23 MAR 1968

TO THE EDITOR

House of Commons,
March 22, 1968

Sir,—A short time ago certain M.P.s received an airmail letter from four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council.

The Falkland Islanders are fearful of their future and are deeply concerned about the negotiations now proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments. They dread a transfer of sovereignty. They have not been consulted and would certainly not give their consent to any change.

The Falkland Islands have no debt and no crime. The 2100 people are practically all of Scottish or English ancestry and for 135 years the islanders have followed the British way of life.

In Parliament so far, in spite of close questioning, the Government has given little information and no clear pledge. Why not? Could there be some deal about meat and shipping orders?

The matter will be pursued in Parliament and I have myself during question time recommended the Cabinet to read Genesis Chapter 25.

I earnestly hope the people of Scotland will be watchful of what is done in their name.—I am &c.

Michael Clark Hutchison,
Conservative M.P. for
Edinburgh South.

Stop these talks

OVER a proud little British Colony far away in the South Atlantic — the Falkland Islands—an extraordinary mystery arises.

The Falklands have been British for over 130 years. No Argentinians have ever lived there. Virtually all the 2,000 inhabitants are of British origin—many of them of Scottish descent.

Yet now it is reported that Britain and the Argentine are locked in talks about "their long-term future." That is all we are told. Utter secrecy surrounds the discussions. What is the Government playing at?

Could it possibly be that the surrender of the Falklands to the Argentine is under consideration?

There are provisional plans for the Queen to visit South America later this year. Is it in the Government's mind to trade away these islands in return for a red carpet for the Queen in Buenos Aires?

Any such deal with the Argentinians is unthinkable.

For the islanders do not want to join the Argentine. They want to stay British.

So what is there to negotiate about? Nothing. The long-term future of the Falklands is Britain's business. And nobody else's.

These talks should never have been allowed to start. They should now be ended.

Extract from
Brighton Evening Argus, Sussex

21 MAR 1968

Stewart gives Falkland Islands pledge

MR. MICHAEL STEWART, the Foreign Secretary, made it clear today that Britain is not planning to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Mr. Stewart gave his assurance during the all-night debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill, writes a Lobby Correspondent.

He did not go so far as to say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders.

On this basis, it is certainly not going to happen in the immediate future. The islanders, who have made it plain that they are not ready for such a move, are not likely to be won over easily by Argentina.

WARNING

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

A Foreign Office spokesman said later: "At the moment the talks with the Argentine Government, which we hope, and expect, will continue, are on an informal basis, mainly in London between the ambassador and Foreign Office officials."

Asked if he would agree that they were secret talks, the spokesman replied: "There is no secret that they are taking place. But certainly the content of the talks remains confidential."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

22 MAR 1968

Falkland Islands envoy arrives

A member of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council, Mr. Arthur Barton, aged 67, flew into London yesterday.

Today he will go to the Commonwealth Office to seek an assurance that the islands will not be ceded to the Argentine. The Falkland Islands have been a British Colony for 120 years.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

22 MAR 1968

The Falklands and Gibraltar

DEAR Sir,—Nothing could demonstrate more the lack of confidence in this Government to adopt a resolute attitude to the demands of various foreign countries than the long journey made by Mr Arthur Barton, senior unofficial member of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, to plead with Britain not to hand over the islands to Argentina.

The Falkland islanders are British people.

They are very disturbed by the possibility of being handed over to a foreign country, whose language and way of life are different from their own.

It is reprehensible that they should have had to remain under this fear for years since the Argentine first began to lay claim to the remote Falklands.

The Argentine Government are well aware, as are Spain, that they are dealing with a weak British Government which is doctrinally antipathetic to the possession of colonies.

The Argentine and Spain also know that the anti-colonialism Afro-Asian block and other member countries of United Nations are on their side in the matter of the Falklands and Gibraltar.

There is no reason for this country to have any fear of dealing sternly with the Argentine and Spain, either from a military point of view or from the point of view of trade.

Spain's principal industry is tourism, and millions of £1's are left in that country by British visitors.

Whereas, apart from some tournament-playing Spanish golf professionals, mighty few pesetas are left in Britain by visitors from Spain.

R. S. Simpson.

Rockcliff,
Carnoustie.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

23 MAR 1968

'Happier now'

Mr. Arthur Barton, from the Falkland Islands, who is seeking an assurance from Britain that the Colony will not be handed to the Argentine, saw Lord Shepherd, Minister of State at the Commonwealth Office, in London yesterday. He said later: "I feel much happier now."

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

22 MAR 1968

Falkland Is. 'being kept in ignorance'

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER
Commonwealth Affairs Correspondent

INHABITANTS of the Falkland Islands are still convinced that they are being kept in ignorance of the secret negotiations taking place between Britain and Argentina.

Mr. Arthur Barton, unofficial member of the island's executive council, who has arrived in London, is to see Lord Shepherd, Minister of State, Commonwealth Office, today to inform him of the great dissatisfaction of the islanders at the ignorance in which they are being kept by the British Government.

Suspicious not allayed

Mr. Barton told me last night that the statement made by Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Office, in the House of Commons this week about the negotiations has not allayed the islanders' suspicions.

They continue to think that Britain is in the course of coming to some agreement with Argentina over the future of the Falklands.

The matter was a major subject for discussion in the recent elections to the legislative council.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
The Times, London

22 MAR 1968

Emissary arrives from Falklands

Mr. A. G. Barton, one of four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council who recently sent an appeal to M.P.s protesting at the possible handing over of the islands to Argentina, flew into London yesterday.

He hopes to see Ministers to emphasize his colleagues' original appeal that the British Government should be prevented from making any agreement over the heads of the local inhabitants.

10

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

Date 21 MAR 1968
(See information overleaf)

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 22 MAR 1968

Islands '100 per cent. British'

The Falkland Islanders are "100 per cent in their desire to stay British," said Mr. A. G. Barton, one of four unofficial members of the Islands' Executive Council, who arrived in London yesterday.

"If ever the Islands were handed to the Argentine, I am sure the inhabitants would just move out," he said at the start of his visit. He hopes to see British Ministers to ask that no agreement should be made with the Argentine over the heads of local inhabitants.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich

21 MAR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Concern expressed by Conservatives and Liberals in the House of Commons this week over the refusal of a Government spokesman to clarify policy with regard to the Falkland Islands will be shared by all who fear that this tiny community may become a pawn in power politics.

Negotiations are reported to be proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments which may result in the Falkland Islands being handed over to the Argentine.

The inhabitants, who do not want to become Argentinians, have not been consulted. Most are of British—English and Scottish—ancestry, and five out of six were born in the islands.

There is no racial problem, no unemployment, no poverty and the islands are solvent. For 135 years they have continued to pursue the British way of life—8,000 miles from the country they still call "home."

Whose consent?

Answering questions, Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Office, gave an assurance that the Falkland Islands would not be handed over without "full consultation and consent," but firmly declined to invitations to make it clear that he meant the consent of the people themselves.

It would be a sad day for loyal citizens and their friends in this country if the Government sought to transfer the sovereignty of an independent people to another country against their wishes.

Particularly in view of recent events which have reflected against people overseas who have retained British passports.

Contented colonies

³⁰⁰³ DEADLOCK was reached in Madrid yesterday between representatives of the British and Spanish Governments in their talks on Gibraltar. This is not unexpected; it is sad-
dening; but it is also necessary if the present imperious Spanish approach to the question is to be met by British loyalty to the wishes of Gibraltar's inhabitants. These wishes were always well known, and were made doubly clear in September when only 44 of Gibraltar's 12,762 voters showed a desire for Spanish rule. The wishes of the Gibraltarians were already well known to the United Nations when they resolved that Britain and Spain should meet to agree to hand the place over to Spain. The terms of the resolution were strange enough; the roll call of U.N. support for Spain was even stranger. That reactionary country was supported by the Communist countries which she does not recognise; a country which is still a resented colonial Power in parts of Africa found African support for her European imperialism.

Spain continues to pursue a

course in which defiant emotionalism is crossed with narrow legalism and which threatens, by increasing the present harrassing devices—affecting shipping and air traffic, tourism, and labour—to turn the clock back beyond the Treaty of Utrecht. The British Government must not hesitate, nor seem to prevaricate. One might wish, for all that caution is necessary to fruitful diplomacy, that some of the statements preceding this meeting had been even firmer. Certainly the promise that that other contented colony, the Falkland Islands, will not be the subject of any agreement with the Argentine unless, after consultation, they have consented is less reassuring than the firm statements made by Lord Caradon in 1965. There the same tradition of Spanish diplomatic impertinence has been taken up by the Argentine. The territorial claim is laughable: the islands are several hundred miles off shore. The legal claim is doubly so: if the Falklands belong to the Spanish imperial tradition this argument should assure the Argentine possession of California.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from

"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

20 MAR 1968

³⁰⁰³ Falkland Islands

Mr. Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Defence what British forces are available for the future defence and security of the Falkland Islands; and on what notice.

Mr. Healey: I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison) on 18th March on this general subject.
—[Vol. 761, c. 18.]

Extract from
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

14 MAR 1968

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE Falkland Islands, a south Atlantic group belonging to Great Britain, were discovered by an Englishman in 1592, and have been claimed at various times by the British, the French and the Spanish. Since 1833 they have been under continuous occupation by Britain, but the Argentine Republic — as the successor of Spain — has never ceased to lay claim to them.

The future of these islands is once again in the balance. At least, it appears that the British Government is now engaged in negotiations which could result in handing them over to Argentina. This would be worse than handing over Gibraltar to Spain, for whereas the Gibraltarians are of mixed descent, the inhabitants of the Falklands are British to a man. But unlike the people of Gibraltar, they have never been consulted regarding their future status.

As an appeal from the Falklands to British M.P.s puts it, "The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, laws, customs and culture, because for 135 years they have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life—a very British way of life."

When the Argentine claim was discussed at the U.N. three years ago, Lord Caradon, the U.K. representative, stated categorically that the Falkland Islanders "are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and interests are paramount and we shall do our duty in protecting them."

It is surely unthinkable that Britain would go back on her word in this respect. At least, we hope it is.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

19 MAR 1968

Falkland Islands' future

Opposition M.P.s pressed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Goronwy Roberts, in the Commons yesterday for assurances that the Falkland Islands would not be ceded to Argentina against the will of the population.

Mr Roberts said he was aware the great majority of the population wished to retain British citizenship, and he did not know of any plans to take it away from them.

"In discussions we are conducting with Argentina we have said we shall proceed on the twin principles of consultation and consent."

Extract from
Times, London

16 MAR 1968

CLAIM TO THE FALKLAND ISLES

From Mr. W. W. Blake

Sir,—As one who lived and worked in the Falkland Islands for 18 years, and whose father was born there, I am delighted that publicity is at last being given to the acute fear of Falkland Islanders that the prolonged secret discussions between the British and Argentine Governments are leading to a deal by which willy-nilly they will be swallowed by their large "neighbour" — separated from them by some 300 miles of stormy seas and a language and culture entirely alien.

Everyone visiting the Falklands for the first time, however well briefed beforehand, is surprised to find that their way of life is that of offshore islands of the United Kingdom—a world away from the South American mainland.

It should be better known that the Argentine claim is motivated by the narrowest type of nationalism. There are large undeveloped parts of their own country with vastly greater economic potential. The Falklands have no known or probable mineral resources. By hard work in a rigorous, though much maligned, climate the people somehow manage to produce from pastures which, unimproved, carry one sheep to 4½ acres, enough wool for sale on the London market, at a low enough cost, to support themselves at a good standard of living, and contribute from taxation over the years on companies registered in the United Kingdom far more to the British Exchequer than they have ever received in grants from it.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. BLAKE.

8 Harrington Close, Kingston on Thames, Surrey.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

19 MAR 1968

NO HANDOVER

Secret negotiations are reported to be taking place between Britain and Argentina over the future of the Falkland Islands.

They have been under British sovereignty for over 130 years.

Now there are fears that we may hand them over to the Argentine.

But this is the last thing the inhabitants want.

The sturdy Falklanders are British through and through, by descent and by sentiment.

They must be assured there is no question of Britain handing them over to a foreign Government.

18 MAR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to what extent the future of the Falkland Islands has figured in talks or negotiations with the Argentine Government in recent months.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts: The Falkland Islands have been the subject of discussions between Her Majesty's Government and the Argentine Government since 1966. The talks have been held in accordance with Resolution 2065 (XX) of the United Nations General Assembly of the 16th December, 1965, which called on the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

The negotiations are continuing and are confidential. In these negotiations, Her Majesty's Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event will see that there is the fullest consultation with them.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Sir Knox Cunningham asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the statement relating to the wishes of the people of the Falkland Islands, made by Lord Caradon at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1965, he will give an assurance that no transfer of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands will be made against the wishes of the inhabitants.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts: I have been asked to reply.

Lord Caradon's statement of the 1st of December, 1965, was followed by the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on the 16th of December, 1965, of Resolution 2065 (XX) calling on the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem. In this connection I would refer the hon. and learned Gentleman to my reply today to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison). I can only add that Her Majesty's Government will not fail to take into account the wishes of the inhabitants of the Islands.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

21 MAR 1968

British for ever say islanders

PORT STANLEY, Wednesday.—Newly elected leaders of the 2,000 Falkland islanders today underlined their determination to stay British, despite Argentine claims to the territory.

Said Councillor Sidney Miller: "We will have nothing to do with any suggestion that may jeopardise our way of life." Said Councillor Robin Pitaluga: "We must never stop pressing our desire to remain British."

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

18 MAR 1968

Falkland Islands

66 and 67. Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he is satisfied that adequate arrangements exist to protect the beaches, landing ground and other vital areas in the Falkland Islands in the event of attempted invasion by unfriendly forces; and if he will make a statement;

(2) what plans he has to increase the air defences of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Healey: The Government are always concerned to ensure that adequate arrangements exist for the defence of the Falkland Islands. The level of forces considered necessary may vary at different times: at present our forces consist of a Royal Marine detachment supported as necessary by H.M.S. Protector. There is also a small local defence force. Together these are considered adequate to deal with any situation foreseen at the present time.

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will arrange for a British naval detachment to be based in the Falkland Islands;

(2) if he is satisfied with the civil defence arrangements in the Falkland Islands; if adequate arms are available locally; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Healey: I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to his Questions earlier today.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

18 MAR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDERS WANT VISIT BY BRITISH MINISTER

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER
Commonwealth Correspondent

FEARs that secret negotiations between the British and Argentine Governments will end with the Falkland Islands being handed to the Argentine has made the islanders suggest that a British Minister should visit them. A statement by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, that islanders would be consulted has not allayed fears.

Mr. G. C. R. Bonner, a member of the islands' Executive Council, said in a cable to *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday that Britain should not discuss the sovereignty of the islands without proper local consultation.

"We are now a completely British community and have no desire to be anything else. Nor do we wish to transfer our allegiance from the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth.

Concern at secrecy

"The islanders are very concerned over the secrecy surrounding the present talks. All we desire is to continue our democratic British way of life under the British flag.

"We consider that a Ministerial visit would be useful for us to

emphasise our determination to remain part of the Commonwealth. We insist that we shall not be bartered or exchanged.

"To paraphrase the *"Te Deum,"* in Britain we have trusted, never let us be confounded."

The islanders believe there is a prospect of the islands being handed to the Argentine at the end of a period of joint rule by both Governments.

In the absence of any denial, they believe they might be offered compensation if they decided to quit. This would have only one result, all 2,000 islanders would depart, leaving the Argentine Government to repopulate the islands.

Mr. A. G. Barton, one of the island's Executive Council, arrives in London this week. He will try to bring into the open the British Government's intentions,

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 19 MAR 1968

Falkland talks 'condemned'

Yorkshire Post Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE leaders yesterday pressed for an undertaking from the Government that no steps would be taken to transfer the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine against the wishes of its people.

But despite strong pressure, no firm assurances were given.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told **Sir Cyril Osborne** (Cons., Louth) "I am aware the great majority of the population of the Falkland Islands wish to retain British Citizenship."

'Utter opposition'

Sir Cyril said the citizens of the islands had expressed "utter opposition" to being taken over by Argentine.

"Since there have been rumours the islands are to be surrendered to the Argentine, will you make it clear this will not be allowed against the wishes of the inhabitants?"

Mr. Roberts: "We are well aware of the deep feelings of the islanders about their future. In discussions we are conducting with Argentine we have said we shall proceed on the twin principles of consultation and consent."

Later a group of Conservative MPs, including **Mr. Geoffrey Hirst** (Ind. Cons., Shipley) put down a Commons motion: "Condemning the failure of the Government to give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and its dependencies will not be changed without the express wish of its inhabitants."

The motion also deplored "the existence of any negotiations with Argentina in which the Falkland Islands are not fully represented."

Extract from
Huddersfield Examiner

14 MAR 1968

British Islands

FOUR members of the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands have circularised M.P.s warning that the Government are presently engaged in negotiations which could result in the islands being handed over to Argentina. They plan to visit London to emphasise the islanders' outright rejection of any such move.

Such fears might seem exaggerated were it not for the fact that the Government have admitted that talks with Argentina are taking place without revealing either their course or their intention. Nor can the Government's handling of a similar situation in Gibraltar have convinced islanders from both areas that their continuing British status will be maintained.

Talks with Spain on Gibraltar are to restart on Monday. It is difficult to imagine that there can be anything constructive to say. Spain wishes to annexe the Rock, a prospect which the Government have rightly rejected. Regretting the delay in de-colonisation (in fact, both Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands have long been effectively de-colonised in the sense that each has established integral self-government), the United Nations urged that talks should be taken up as soon as possible. The Government, again rightly, rejected this move until the clause "taking into account the interests of the people of the territory" had been inserted.

The inclinations and interests of the people on the Rock were overwhelmingly demonstrated as pro-British in last year's referendum, and there is every indication that this feeling is shared by the people of the Falkland Islands. The Government would be affirming the spirit of the United Nations resolution if they openly declared now, as they should, that the territories have long been British, are British and will remain so by their own free choice.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

12 MAR 1968 Falklands fear Argentine take-over

By Our Political Staff

The Government may hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine, according to a letter sent to M.P.s by four members of the islands' executive council.

There was immediate speculation among M.P.s last night that the Falklands are being used as a pawn in the prolonged dispute between the Argentine and Britain over the import of meat.

Signed by A. G. Barton, R. V. Goss, S. Miller and G. C. R. Bonner, the letter said: "Are you aware that negotiations are now proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments which may result at any moment in the handing-over of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine." Couched in appealing language, it went on: "Is our tiny community to be used as a pawn in power politics? Do you not feel ashamed that this wicked thing may suddenly be foisted on us? What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing?"

The signatories point out that the inhabitants of the islands have never yet been consulted about their future, and maintain that they do not want to become Argentinians as they are "as British as you are, mostly of English and Scottish ancestry, even to the sixth generation." About half the population, in fact, are reckoned to be of Scottish stock, with a fair percentage from the Highlands and Islands, especially Uist and Lewis.

TWO QUESTIONS

Five out of six were born in the islands, and many elderly people have never been elsewhere. "There is no racial problem—no unemployment, no poverty, and we are not in debt," the letter adds ironically.

On receiving the letter, Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative M.P. for Edinburgh South, tabled two questions, one each to the Foreign Secretary, Mr George Brown, and Mr George Thomson, the Commonwealth Secretary.

He wants to know what negotiations have been going on in recent months with the Argentine Government about the future of the tiny islands in the South Atlantic, and what changes are contemplated in the structure of the islands' government or in its relation with the United Kingdom Government.

Although the Argentine has claimed the islands for the past 50 years and longer, earnest discussions about their future have been going on with Britain for a year.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

12 MAR 1968

'Don't abandon islands' plea

A document protesting that the British Government is about to hand the disputed Falkland Islands over to the Argentine has been sent to London. It has been signed by three unofficial members of the islands' executive council.

The Foreign Secretary and Commonwealth Secretary will be questioned about the document in the Commons by Tory M.P. Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

13 MAR 1968

FUTURE OF FALKLANDS WORRIES MP

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER
Commonwealth Correspondent

QUESTIONS on the future of the Falkland Islands are to be addressed to both Mr. Brown, Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, in the House of Commons today.

Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative MP for Edinburgh South, wants to know how far the future of the Falkland Islands has figured in talks or negotiations with the Argentine Government. He is also asking what changes are now contemplated in the structure of the Falkland Islands government and in its relationship with Britain.

The questions coincide with an appeal from four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council to M.P.s to bring into the open the negotiations taking place between Britain and the Argentine government which, they fear, might end in Britain handing the islands over to the Argentine.

Discussions between Britain and the Argentine have been going on spasmodically since January, 1966 when Mr. Michael Stewart, then Foreign Secretary, visited Buenos Aires following a United Nations resolution.

Argentine pressure has increased in the past two years, and the Argentine Foreign Minister told the United Nations General Assembly last autumn that his country would spare no effort to gain sovereignty over the islands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date
(See information overleaf)

Battle of the Falklands

THE claim of the Argentine to the Falkland Islands, which they insist on calling the Malvinas, is based on proximity and their alleged succession to the rights of Spain. Britain counterclaims that they have administered the islands for 135 years. On these terms, possession of the islands has been disputed for much longer than is convenient to or comfortable for the 2000 or so islanders, most of them of English and Scottish descent. The International Court of Justice and the United Nations have been invoked with markedly unsatisfactory results. In 1964 the islanders told the U.N. committee on colonialism that they wished to maintain their association with Britain; worse, from the point of view of Argentina and, probably, the committee, they had no wish to be independent. In that year and in the following one the committee feebly recommended that Britain and the Argentine

find a peaceful solution. It appears, however, that despite the expressed wishes of the islanders negotiations as to the future of the Falklands still continue, and on these the M.P. for South Edinburgh will question the Foreign Secretary to-day.

That the islanders are seriously afraid that an agreement will be reached over their heads in which the islands will be added to Argentinian territory emerged from this week's message from the four unofficial members of the Falklands' executive council to all British M.P.s. It is difficult to understand why Argentinian claims, which have a very shaky basis, should be entertained at all—save, perhaps, for such reasons of expediency as reflect no credit on the British Government. A record of more than a century's administration certainly constitutes a stronger claim to possession than any tenuous and problematic connections with the former Spanish Empire.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Times, London

12 MAR 1968



Appeal on fate of Falklands

By GEORGE CLARK

An appeal has been sent to all members of Parliament and to *The Times* from four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands' Executive Council, giving a warning that the British Government are now engaged in negotiations which may result in handing over the islands to Argentina.

The four council members, Mr. A. G. Barton, Mr. R. V. Goss, Mr. S. Miller, and Mr. G. C. Bonner, appeal urgently to M.P.s at Westminster to intercede to prevent the Government making an agreement with Argentina over the heads of local inhabitants.

In the Commons on Wednesday Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative M.P. for South Edinburgh, will ask the Foreign Secretary what negotiations there have been recently with the Argentine Government involving the future of the Falkland Islands.

'As British as you are'

The appeal states: "Are you aware that: Negotiations are now proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments, which may result at any moment in the handing over of the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

"Take note that: The inhabitants of the islands have never yet been consulted regarding their future. They do not want to become Argentines. They are as British as you are, mostly of English and Scottish ancestry, even to the sixth generation. Five out of six were born in the islands. Many elderly people have never been elsewhere. There is no racial problem; no unemployment; no poverty; and we are not in debt.

"Are you aware that: The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs, and culture because for 135 years they have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life—a very British way of life, unique in fact, when you consider that the islands are 8,000 miles from the country which they still call 'home', in spite of the Immigration Act.

"Lord Caradon said to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1965: 'The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and their interests are paramount and we shall do our duty in protecting them'. British Ministers have said the same until 1967, since when there has been silence."

Negotiations are confidential

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night that the negotiations with the Argentine Government remained confidential. He could only repeat a statement made by Sir Cosmo Haskard, the Governor of the Falkland Islands, in December last year after he had been in London for talks.

Sir Cosmo said he had been assured that the British Government "are being guided by a strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event the British Government will see that there is the fullest consultation with them".

Mr. Hutchison said last night: "I am utterly opposed to any negotiations whatsoever with the Argentine Government about the Falkland Islands."

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes:—

Talks on the Falkland Islands between Britain and Argentina have continued intermittently since Mr. Michael Stewart, as Foreign Secretary, visited Buenos Aires in January, 1966. There is no sign that the British Government are contemplating any change from their position up to now—that account must be taken of the wishes of the 2,000 or so inhabitants, who in August, 1964, told the United Nations committee of 24 on colonialism that they wished to retain their association with Britain. Argentine pressure has stiffened these views.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Manchester Evening News

13 MAR 1968

FALKLANDS TALKS.—Claim that sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed with Argentine Government made by several Conservative peers today following statement by Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Lord Chalfont said he could not be responsible for conclusions drawn.

Activated Sludge Ltd, Hawker-Siddeley company, has received two contracts worth more than £664,336 to supply sludge treatment plants for Durban, South Africa.

Extract from
Evening News, London

27 MAR 1968

Britain in talks on Falklands transfer

By ARNOLD TURVEY
Evening News Parliamentary Reporter

Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, revealed today that the question of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed in talks between Britain and the Argentine.

But he told the Commons during the closing stages of an all-night marathon sitting that Britain would only agree to such a transfer if the islanders regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their own interests.

One of the objects of the talks between Britain and the Argentine was to secure a satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina.



"We thought it right that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks," he said.

Britain had no doubt that sovereignty was legally ours. The Argentine was equally firmly convinced of their claim, said Mr. Stewart.

He said a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only "as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina in which there would be no harassing, no vexation, no inconvenience and an arrangement also in which there would be fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

IN BUENOS AIRES, Foreign Minister Nicarnor Costa Emdez said Argentina would never accept a plebiscite by the islanders to decide whether they belong to Britain or Argentina.

DEPUTY SPEAKER TAKEN ILL

The all-night sitting of the Commons was dramatically halted at 6.15 a.m. because of the sudden illness of the Deputy Speaker Mr. Sydney Irving.

Mr. Irving, aged 49, who is Labour MP for Dartford was taken ill while overseeing a science debate.

He was taken to Westminster Hospital, where he was discharged after treatment for "a relatively minor matter." He later returned to the House.

Sir Eric Fletcher, another Deputy Speaker, took over to enable the sitting to continue.

The Commons rose at 10.2 a.m. after sitting for 19 hours and 32 minutes. It was the longest sitting since July 13 last year.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
The Times, London

Argentina firm on Falklands

BUENOS AIRES, March 26.—Señor Nicarnor Costa Mendez, Argentine Foreign Minister, said today that Argentine sovereignty over the Falkland Islands could not be submitted to any plebiscite. Restitution of the Falklands to Argentina's flag constituted "the prime objective of the revolutionary Government."

Conversations with the British Government regarding the Falklands "are subordinated to that objective," he said. "The Argentine Government will have the greatest consideration for the present populace of the Malvinas [Falkland] Islands." The Argentine Government was "firmly decided to protect the rights of those people." —*United Press International.*

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
Shropshire Star, Wellington

27 MAR 1968

Falklands stays ours, unless...

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, has assured the Commons that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves. This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart said: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. "I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He said: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

Warning

But he warned M.Ps. that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders' or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

M.Ps. had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

27 MAR 1968



ARGENTINE SAYS: NO PLEBISCITE

BUENOS AIRES, Wednesday. — Foreign Minister Nicarnor Costa Mendez has said the Argentine would never accept a plebiscite by the Falkland Islands inhabitants to decide whether they belong to Britain or the Argentine.

The Minister told reporters after a conference with President Juan Carlos Onganía that the Argentine's stand on the



NICARNOR COSTA MENDEZ

islands "has been clearly stated—it is just the recognition of Argentine sovereignty there. This is our main objective."

He added that "Argentine sovereignty" over the South Atlantic archipelago "cannot be subject to any plebiscite."

—Associated Press.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Bath & Wilts Chronicle, Somerset

27 MAR 1968

Falklands: 'first consent'

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

Extract from
Evening News, London

27 MAR 1968

Britain in talks on Falklands transfer

By ARNOLD TURVEY

Evening News Parliamentary Reporter

Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, revealed today that the question of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was being discussed in talks between Britain and the Argentine.

But he told the Commons during the closing stages of an all-night marathon sitting that Britain would only agree to such a transfer if the islanders regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their own interests.

One of the objects of the talks between Britain and the Argentine was to secure a satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina.

"We thought it right that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks," he said.

Britain had no doubt that sovereignty was legally ours. The Argentine was equally firmly convinced of their claim, said Mr. Stewart.

He said a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only "as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina in which there would be no harassing, no vexation, no inconvenience and an arrangement also in which there would be fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

IN BUENOS AIRES, Foreign Minister Nicarnor Costa Mendez said Argentina would never accept a plebiscite by the islanders to decide whether they belong to Britain or Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Belfast Telegraph

Head Office:

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London Office: Thomson House
200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1

27 MAR 1968

Date.....

Assurance on Falklands

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons to-day that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Extract from
North-Western Evening Mail,
Barrow-in-Furness

27 MAR 1968

Another long 'sit-in'

M.P.s walked out of the House of Commons today after a sitting lasting just over 19 1/2 hours. The House rose at 10.2 a.m. after the longest sitting since July 13 last year.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept them out of their beds. Under this measure M.P.s have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and National interest.

Subjects raised during the night ranged from the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to crime in Glasgow.

NOT BEEN REACHED

But when the Government Chief Whip, Mr. Silkin, moved that discussion on the Bill should end, there were still several subjects in the list which had not been reached.

The previous longest sitting, on July 13, lasted 24 hours 28 minutes, and cut right across the business for the following day, a Friday.

Mr. Michael Jopling (C. Westmorland), speaking in a debate on the need to change the system of agricultural support, said the industry had progressed under the general safeguards of the 1947 and 1957 Agriculture Acts.

But, in spite of this, the industry was not going straight ahead. Incomes and the profitability of agriculture had been rising too slowly over recent years.

Mr. Jopling went on: "Everyone wants agricultural production to increase. But this is not happening because the system makes it too expensive to the Treasury. We estimate that next year we will have spent £286m. on our agricultural support system.

"Obviously it is time the system was changed. As it is, it is quite unsatisfactory."

Mr. Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, said his aim was to achieve the objectives of the 1947 Act. There were advantages in the present system, and he was against "blind rushing away from the present system before considering other systems which it is suggested that we should adopt."

MANY PROBLEMS

Mr. Peart said: "The Government have no intention of rushing into changes of the agricultural support policy which has brought about immense benefits for the farmer and the public.

"Even if we concluded that some changes were necessary there would be many problems to be solved before we could make them."

When Mr. Peart sat down Mr. Silkin moved that the debate should be closed on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

The Bill was given a formal Second Reading.

Extract from
Reading Evening Post

26 MAR 1968

DON'T SACRIFICE ISLANDERS' PLEA



Mr. Andrews

From Bert May,
Wokingham

A WOKINGHAM shopkeeper has sent a personal plea to the Prime Minister asking him not to "sacrifice" the 2,100 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

In his letter to Mr. Harold Wilson, 56-year-old Mr. Albert Andrews says it would be "one of the biggest betrayals in history and to the eternal shame of the mother country."

Mr. Andrews is concerned at recent Press reports hinting that the Government would end the 134-year-old dispute with the Argentine over who should control the island by handing it over to the South Americans.

Loyalty

Yesterday at his grocery shop in Langborough Road, Mr. Andrews said: "The Kelpers — the local name for the islanders — love England and refer to it as home even though most of them have never been here."

Mr. Andrews was a member of an RAOC force of 2,000 men sent to the island in 1942 when it was feared that Argentina would seize the island while Britain was at war.

In his letter Mr. Andrews says it appears obvious from reports that the Government is seriously considering handing over the island.

He says: "Had you been there and experienced the warm-hearted hospitality of the people of the island and seen their intense loyalty to this country and their love for all that Britain stood for you would know how wrong it would be to sacrifice a fine people to the Argentine."

In a statement last week Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said Britain would discuss the future of the islands "in accordance with and in the spirit of the United Nations' resolution."

Extract from
Gloucestershire Echo, Cheltenham

27 MAR 1968

DEPUTY SPEAKER TAKEN ILL Sitting suspended

THE sudden illness of a deputy speaker of the House of Commons caused a suspension of the all-night sitting early today.

Mr. Sydney Irving, who is Labour M.P. for Dartford, was taken ill in the speaker's chair at 6.15 a.m. during a science debate.

One of the clerks told M.P.s that Mr. Irving was not well and that it would take 15 minutes to find a replacement for him.

The debate was resumed about 15 minutes later when Sir Eric Fletcher, another deputy speaker, came to the chair.

Dr. Jeremy Bray, parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Technology, who was speaking at the time of the suspension, said on Sir Eric's arrival: "I trust our colleague will not be indisposed for long."

Mr. Irving was taken to Westminster Hospital but was not detained.

The Commons rose at 10.2 a.m. after a sitting lasting 19 hours 32 minutes—the longest since July 13 last year.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept M.P.s out of their beds. Under this measure, M.P.s have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

Subjects raised during the night ranged from the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to crime in Glasgow.

Commons pledge on Falkland Islands

There would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the islanders' consent, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told the House of Commons today. His statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

"One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina," said Mr. Stewart. "I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

Mr. Stewart warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Hattersley: It is clear what "urgency" means in this context. It requires that by March, 1969, the provisions will be operating, and that is the assurance that I can give the House.

Voluntary Early Warning Arrangements

52. **Mr. Biffen** asked the Minister of Labour what is the number of civil servants fully employed in examining proposed income increases notified under the voluntary early warning arrangements; and what changes in numbers have taken place since devaluation.

Mr. Hattersley: Twenty officials of my Ministry are fully employed on this work and a larger number spend part of their time on it. There has been no significant change since devaluation.

Mr. Biffen: But since it was the assessment of the Government that the necessity for the prices and incomes policy was enhanced by devaluation, can the hon. Gentleman indicate why there has been no increase in the number of civil servants, and can he indicate whether he expects the number to be increased should the Government seek statutory reinforcement for their policy?

Mr. Hattersley: It is the Government's view that devaluation made the successful working of the prices and incomes policy all the more important. Before devaluation it was working successfully with the number of civil servants that we then had. Since devaluation it has been working successfully with the same number of civil servants. As to the future number required to operate the policy, that involves a hypothesis, and, therefore, I should not want to comment on it.

3003 FALKLAND ISLANDS

55. **Sir C. Osborne** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that the overwhelming majority of people living in the Falkland Islands desire to remain British citizens; and if he will give an assurance that these Islands will not be ceded to Argentina, either without a plebescite being held similar to the one in Gibraltar or against the wishes of the inhabitants.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Goronwy Roberts): I am

aware that the great majority of the population of the Falkland Islands wish to retain their British citizenship; I do not know of any plans to take it away from them. In any event Her Majesty's Government will see that there is the fullest consultation with the population.

Sir C. Osborne: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that that will give great comfort to the people in those islands who last year expressed to an hon. Member opposite and myself their absolute keenness to remain British citizens and their utter opposition to being taken over by the Argentine? Since there have been rumours that the islands will be surrendered to the Argentine, will the hon. Gentleman make clear that this will not be allowed against the wishes of the inhabitants?

Mr. Roberts: We are well aware of the deep feelings of the islanders about their future, and in the discussions which we are conducting with the Argentine we have stated that we shall proceed on the twin principle of consultation and consent.

Mr. Luard: Is it not a fact that it was made perfectly clear in public, in the United Nations and elsewhere, that there could be no question of the transfer of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands without the fullest consultation with the inhabitants, and that there is, therefore, no reason whatever for the widespread concern and excessive propaganda on this subject which has been expressed by some hon. Members?

Mr. Roberts: We have made clear in the United Nations and elsewhere that we shall proceed in the way in which my hon. Friend has indicated. I see no reason why there should be any concern in this matter. We shall, as I have said, proceed on the principle of consultation with the islanders.

Mr. Lubbock: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that we preferred his phrase that this would have to be "with the consent" of the islanders and not "with consultation"? Will he make absolutely clear that there is no question of the transfer of sovereignty to the Argentine unless all the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands approve, which is most unlikely?

Mr. Roberts: We are conducting talks with the Argentine about the long-term future of these islands in accordance with

and in the spirit of the United Nations resolution, to which I should think both sides of the House would pay respect. [Interruption.] In any case, this is our policy. This is in accordance with Her Majesty's Government's policy of working within the United Nations and paying full attention to what advice is requested in the United Nations. These talks have proceeded and are proceeding. They cover a wide range of subjects. It is too early to specify what form the consultations will take.

Mr. Maudling: That is not good enough. Will the hon. Gentleman answer clearly the question he has avoided? Do the Government intend to transfer the sovereignty over these people against their wishes to another country?

Mr. Roberts: I have said clearly that we shall proceed on the principle of full consultation and consent. The right hon. Gentleman is well aware that these negotiations are delicate and must be confidential. I have nothing to add to my previous answer.

Mr. Ogden: Can my hon. Friend give an assurance that there will be no agreement between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Argentina before this House has been made fully aware of the proposals and has had the right to comment upon them?

Mr. Roberts: I can give that assurance. Any heads of agreement, any memorandum, arrived at as a result of the negotiations, will of course be published and will be open to discussion in this House and in the Falkland Islands as well.

Mr. Maudling: In reply to my supplementary question, the hon. Gentleman used the word "consent". Will he make it clear that he means the consent of the people themselves?

Mr. Roberts: I stick by the phrase, "consultation and consent". We are endeavouring to solve this problem in a friendly way and that is the way we shall proceed.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order. We must move on.

Mr. Biggs-Davison: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In view of the un-

satisfactory nature of the reply, I beg to give notice that I shall seek to raise the matter on the Adjournment.

GROSVENOR SQUARE (DISTURBANCES)

Mr. Maudling (by Private Notice) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement about the disturbances in Grosvenor Square yesterday.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. James Callaghan): I have had a preliminary report from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Demonstrators gathered yesterday afternoon in Trafalgar Square to protest against American policy in Vietnam and later marched to Grosvenor Square. The route to be followed had been agreed between the organisers and the police. The route was by North Audley Street, then around the three sides of Grosvenor Square not occupied by the United States Embassy, with an exit from the Square by way of South Audley Street. But the organisers were unable to keep control of the march and it is estimated that at one time up to 10,000 people were gathered in the Square.

Access to the United States Embassy was guarded by a strong cordon of police and the organisers were aware that the only people who would be permitted to pass through the cordon were a few representatives of the demonstrators. These representatives presented a petition.

A large number of demonstrators broke into the gardens on the side opposite the Embassy. At first they were held back by the police but then a number of demonstrators began hurling missiles. The police, both on foot and mounted, eventually succeeded in clearing the gardens with much difficulty.

On present information some 45 demonstrators received medical treatment, 117 policemen were injured, of whom 4 have been detained in hospital. Proceedings are being taken against 246 demonstrators, mainly on charges of assaulting or obstructing policemen, threatening behaviour and being in possession of offensive weapons. A number of windows were broken both in the

Extract from
North Western Evening Mail,
Barrow-in-Furness

27 MAR 1968

FALKLANDS: NO HANDING OVER WITHOUT ISLANDERS' CONSENT

'Duty to defend our sovereignty'

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure a relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

NO DOUBT AT ALL

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina area concerned."

ONLY AS PART

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

"To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

IN INTERESTS

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here."

"The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects, and only if it were clear that the islanders, themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

No justification

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear. The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

"The government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests," he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

LIVERPOOL ECHO

DATE

27 MAR 1968

Stewart's

pledge

on islands

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This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine."

"I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Exeter Express & Echo, Devon

27 MAR 1968

Stewart gives a pledge on the Islands

THE Foreign Secretary (Mr. Michael Stewart) assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting, when Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Extract from
Scarborough Evening News, Yorks.

Extract from
Gloucester Citizen

15

27 MAR 1968

27 MAR 1968

NO HAND-OVER OF FALKLAND ISLANDS WITHOUT CONSENT

STEWART'S FALKLANDS

— Foreign secretary

PLEDGE

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

AFTER mounting apprehension that Britain intended to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, made it clear in the Commons early today that the Government had no such ideas.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

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Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear — the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be, first of all, only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Glasgow Evening Times

27 MAR 1968

Falkland Islanders will have a choice

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This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr Stewart revealed—"One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina."

"I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said—"Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

Britain's right

He went on—"In what event, or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

"To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine."

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here."

Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Northern Despatch, Darlington

27 MAR 1968

No Falkland hand-over

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

19½ hours' talk - many topics

MID-MORNING AS COMMONS ENDS ITS SITTING

M.P.s walked out of the House of Commons into the bright sunshine this morning after a sitting lasting just over 19½ hours. The House rose at 10.2 a.m. after the longest sitting since July 13 last year.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

28 MAR 1968

International Press-Cutting Bureau

Extract from THE

Oxford Mail

OXFORD (Evening)

Date 27 MAR 1968

Slow off the Mark

WHO is going to be the first statesman, at the United Nations or elsewhere, to declare that the Falkland Islands under their present administration are "a threat to world peace"?

Peter Simple

PLEDGE ON FALKLANDS

THE Commons was told today there would be no handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the Islanders.

This pledge by Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

He revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argen-

tina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear. The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

The British Government would only agree to a secession if the Islanders regarded any agreement as entirely satisfactory and in their interests.

● The Commons rose at 10.2 a.m. today after an all-night sitting lasting 19 hours 32 minutes. During it a Deputy Speaker, Mr. Sydney Irving, was taken ill in the Speaker's chair, but returned to the House after medical treatment.

The Consolidated Fund Bill had kept them out of their beds. Under this measure M.P.s have freedom to raise a wide variety of topics.

Subjects raised during the night ranged from the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to crime in Glasgow.

When the Government Chief Whip, Mr. Silkin, moved that discussion on the Bill should end, there were still several items in the list that had not been reached.

The previous longest sitting, on July 13, lasted 24 hours 28 minutes, and cut right across the business for the following day, a Friday.

TAKEN ILL

The sudden illness of a Deputy Speaker caused a suspension of the sitting early today.

Mr. Sydney Irving, Labour M.P. for Dartford, was taken ill at 6.15 a.m.

The debate was resumed about 15 minutes later when Sir Eric Fletcher, another Deputy Speaker, came to the chair.

Mr. Irving was taken by ambulance to Westminster Hospital. A hospital spokesman said he was treated for a "relatively minor matter" and allowed to leave.

Mr. Irving then returned to the House.

Towards the end of the sitting the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the House there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

GOVERNMENT'S AIM

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

The idea that there was going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately had no justification.

The Government would agree to a secession only if there were an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects, and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded it as satisfactory and in their interests.

Extract from
Bournemouth Evening Echo, Hants.

21 MAR 1982

MPs' ALL NIGHT MARATHON

Falkland Isles—no scuttle

M.P.s walked out of the House of Commons into brilliant sunshine this morning after a sitting lasting just over 19½ hours.

Near the end of this longest session since July 13 last year they heard an assurance from the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Stewart, that there was no question of handing over the Falkland Isles to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves.

A report in a popular newspaper last Sunday suggested that the British Government was ready to give this group of islands, 400 miles out in the South Atlantic from the South American mainland, to Argentina, who claimed sovereignty AND WITHOUT CONSULTING THE INHABITANTS.

Said Mr. Stewart: "We have no doubt that sovereignty is now legally ours and we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her claim, the Argentine was equally convinced of hers.

"Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately. It has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

Safeguards

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Earlier, MPs had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance

that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

Cause of the Commons all-night marathon was the Consolidated Fund Bill. Under this measure, MPs have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

One of the subjects was the high rate of crime in Scotland, particularly Glasgow.

Mr. Esmond Wright (Cons. Pollock) urged restoration of the death penalty for the murder of policemen or prison officers and for second murders.

Extract from
Nottingham Evening Post
27 MAR 1983

No handover of Falkland Islands without consent

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

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Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

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• The sudden illness of a deputy Speaker, Mr. Sydney Irving, Labour MP for Dartford, caused a suspension of the all-night sitting early today for about 15 minutes.

Extract from
Birmingham Evening Mail

Date 27 MAR 1968

Date.....
(SEE)
**Pledge
on the
Falkland
Islands**

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Mr. Stewart said: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. We thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He added: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

A warning

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Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the aspirations of the Argentine are concerned."

He said: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered."

"My answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

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Extract from
The Lancashire Evening Telegraph
BLACKBURN

Date 27 MAR 1968

Date.....
(See Information overleaf)

**COMMONS IN SESSION FOR
MORE THAN 19 HOURS**

Longest
sitting
since
July

INTER 184
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ILLNESS

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One of the clerks told MPs that Mr. Irving was not well and that it would take 15 minutes to find a replacement for him.

The debate was resumed about 15 minutes later when Sir Eric Fletcher, another deputy Speaker, came to the chair.

It was learned that Mr. Irving was taken by ambulance to Westminster Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said he was treated for a "relatively minor matter" and allowed to leave.

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ISLANDS

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Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine."

"I must tell the House that we thought it right in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentine are concerned."

'RIGHT'

He continued: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here."

The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders, themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Extract from the

Evening Gazette

MIDDLESBROUGH

Date 27 MAR 1968
(See information)

**ISLANDS ARE OURS,
SAYS STEWART**

FOREIGN SECRETARY, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Extract from
Huddersfield Examiner

No hand-over of Falkland Islands without consent

—STEWART

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill. The House did not rise until 10.02 today after a sitting lasting 19hr. 32min.—their longest since July 13 last year.

Mr. Stewart said: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. We thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks.

"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

No justification

Mr. Stewart said: "The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

The transfer of sovereignty could be considered only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here," he added.

Extract from
Gloucestershire Echo, Cheltenham

27 MAR 1968

No hand-over of Falklands without consent

—FOREIGN SECRETARY

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

NO JUSTIFICATION

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which

there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

LIES WITH GOVERNMENT

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the government here. The government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement full satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders, themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from the

EVENING CHRONICLE

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Date

27 MAR 1968

(See information overleaf)

ISLANDS STAY BRITISH, M.P.s TOLD

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina, without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart said: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina."

"We thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

He warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

"Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Bracknell News, Berkshire

28 MAR 1968

PLEA FOR ISLANDS

A PLEA to the Prime Minister not to betray 2,100 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands has been sent in the form of a personal letter from a Wokingham grocer.

Mr. Albert Andrews (56), said in his letter to Mr. Harold Wilson that it would be to the "eternal shame of the mother country if Britain hands over the islanders to the Argentine."

Extract from
Luton Evening News
27 MAR 1968

Deputy Speaker ill in marathon

The House of Commons rose at 10 this morning after sitting 19½ hours. During the session Mr Sidney King, a Deputy Speaker, was taken ill in the Speaker's chair.

This was at 6.15am, during a science debate. The debate was resumed 15 minutes later with Mr Eric Fletcher, another Deputy Speaker, in the chair.

Mr Irving, Labour MP for Dartford, was taken to Westminster Hospital, which he left after treatment. He returned to the House.

Today's sitting was the longest since July 13 last year which lasted 24 hours.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept Members from their beds — under this

measure they have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects.

Subjects raised during the night ranged from the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to crime in Glasgow.

But when the Government Chief Whip, Mr Silkin, moved that discussion on the Bill should end, there were still several subjects in the list which had not been reached.

During the Falklands debate the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, assured the Commons that there would be no question of handing over the islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

Earlier, MPs had pressed him for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Greenock Telegraph, Renfrewshire,
Scotland

27 MAR 1968

Falkland Isles Dispute: Stewart's Statement

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the

House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

A WARNING

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."



MICHAEL STEWART

International Press-cutting Bureau
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post LEEDS

Date 27 MAR 1968

Falkland Islands pledge

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons in a breakfast-time statement today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

The house rose at 10.2 a.m. after a sitting which lasted 19 hours 32 minutes—the longest since July 13 last year when the House sat for 24 hours 28 minutes.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept M.P.s out of their beds. Under this measure they can raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

M.P.s pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the Falkland Islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right that the question of sovereignty should be discussed."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

The sudden illness of a Deputy Speaker, Mr. Sydney Irving (Lab, Dartford) caused a 15-minute suspension of the all-night sitting.

He was replaced by Sir Eric Fletcher, and returned to the House later after hospital treatment.

27 MAR 1968

NEW BRITISH PLEDGES TO FALKLANDS

³⁰⁰³
*'We will not
give way to
Argentina'*

BRITAIN is not planning to hand over the staunchly pro-British Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic to Argentine.

This eagerly awaited assurance was given in the Commons today by Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart.

It came near the end of a marathon all night sitting lasting 19 hours 32 minutes—the longest since July 13 last year.

There was a growing suspicion among islanders—and among Tory MPs—that in secret talks with the Argentine Britain had agreed to hand over the islands. Argentine have been claiming the islands—population 2,000—since 1834.

Sovereignty

Mr Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine."

"We thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks. We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Agreement

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

"In what event, or at what time, could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

"To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, and no inconvenience."

Transfer of sovereignty could only be made with the agreement of the islanders, he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Portsmouth Evening News, Hants.

27 MAR 1968

ASSURANCE BY STEWART ON THE FALKLANDS

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the Islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the Islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned." Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the Islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

Extract from
Edinburgh Evening News

27 MAR 1968

ISLES GIVEN PLEDGE BY MR STEWART

'Our duty to defend'

There was no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without consent of the islanders, Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, assured the Commons today.

Speaking towards the end of an all-night sitting on

the Consolidated Fund Bill. Mr Stewart said: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh S. C.), opening the debate, said that in international law the islands were British. Nearly all countries recognised this, including the United States.

"SHILLY-SHALLY"

He urged that the Government should cease to "shilly-shally." There should be no secret deals involving meat or shipping orders.

He asked the Government to report to the U.N. that they were not prepared to entertain any further negotiations on the islands with the Argentine or any other country and that they would give protection, physical if necessary, to the islanders.

● In Buenos Aires Argentine's Foreign Minister, Senor Nicarnor Costa Mendez, said his country would never accept a plebiscite by the islanders to decide whether the islands belong to Britain or Argentine.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Times, London

28 MAR 1968

Britain gives pledge to Falklands

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid mounting anxiety over reports that a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina was being contemplated by the British Government, Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, made clear in the Commons yesterday that discussions with Argentina were aimed at finding a lasting *modus vivendi* and that a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only if it were clear to the British Government "that the islanders themselves regarded the arrangements as satisfactory to their interests".

Mr. Stewart's statement leaves it open to Argentina to hold out some eventual hope of a transfer, but only if it should one day appear to the islanders to be in their interest. For that to happen the first need is for Argentina to drop its present restrictions on communications between the Falkland Islands and Argentina and to cease other harassments of the islanders—a course which has long been urged upon them by successive British Governments.

Mr. Arthur Barton, a nominated member of the executive council of the Falkland Islands, said in London last night that he thought Mr. Stewart's statement "very satisfactory."

In the Commons Mr. Stewart said:—

"One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

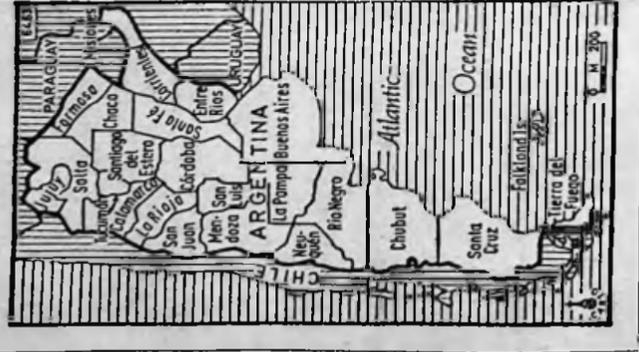
"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

"Let me dispel the fear. The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

In the Lord's Lord Chalfont said there was no question of bartering over the heads of anybody

'IF THE FALKLANDS WANT US - WE STAY'

3003



THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear — the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

He went on: "In what event, or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which here would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects, and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Earlier, M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

International Press-cutting Bureau
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date 27 MAR 1968

Stewart gives MPs assurance on Falklands

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons in a breakfast-time statement today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

The house rose at 10.2 a.m. after a sitting which lasted 19 hours 32 minutes—the longest since July 13 last year when the House sat for 24 hours 28 minutes.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept M.P.s out of their beds. Under this measure they can raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

M.P.s had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the Falkland Islanders that they were going to remain under the British flag.

SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right that the question of sovereignty should be discussed."

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately. I must tell the House that there is no justification at all, either as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

The sudden illness of Deputy Speaker, Mr. Irving (Lab, Darford) led to a 15-minute suspension of all-night sitting. He was replaced by Fletcher, and returned to House later after treatment.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Reading Evening Post

1968

ISLANDERS NOT TO BE SACRIFICED —STEWART

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, gave an assurance in the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders.

Yesterday the Evening Post reported that Wokingham shopkeeper Mr. Albert Andrews had sent a personal plea to the Prime Minister asking him not to "sacrifice" the 2,100 islanders by handing over the island.

Mr. Andrews, aged 56, who has a grocery shop in Langborough Road, said in his letter that such a decision "would be one of the biggest betrayals in history."

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all."

NOVIDADES	Lisboa	INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO PORTO		
REPÚBLICA	Lisboa	
SECULO (O)	Lisboa	
VOZ (A)	Lisboa	
DESPERTAR (O)	Coimbra	

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from Northern Despatch, Darlington

27 MAR 1968

Hand-over only if Falklands agree

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

No doubts

And he went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear — the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

Full safeguards

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves as satisfactory such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Belfast Telegraph

Head Office:

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London Office: Thomson House

200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1

Date 27 MAR 1968

Sun is high as MPs break up 'for the night'

MPs walked out of the House of Commons at Westminster into the bright sunshine to-day after a sitting lasting just over 19 and a half hours. The House rose at 10-02 am after the longest sitting since July 13 last year.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept them out of their beds.

Under this measure, MPs have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

Subjects raised during the night ranged from the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to crime in Glasgow. But when the Government Chief Whip, Mr. Silkin, moved that discussion on the Bill should end, there were still several subjects in the list which had not been reached.

The previous longest sitting, on July 13, lasted 24 hours 28 minutes, and cut right

across the business for the following day, a Friday.

The sudden illness of a deputy speaker caused a suspension of the sitting for 15 minutes.

Mr. Sydney Irving, who is Labour MP for Dartford, was taken ill in the Speaker's chair at 6-15 am.

The debate was resumed about 15 minutes later when Sir Eric Fletcher, another deputy Speaker, came to the chair.

15 - EL II VISITA A AMERICA LATINA EN NOVIEMBRE



LONDRES, 26. — A rainha Isabel deve visitar o Chile, a Argentina e o Brasil nos meses de Novembro e Dezembro — segundo informações de boa fonte.

Só o convite argentino levanta alguns problemas, devido à fase delicada que as relações entre os dois países estão a passar, por motivo do diferendo das ilhas Falkland. Se bem que o governo do general Onganía esteja na disposição de formular o convite dentro de curto prazo, receia-se que o acolhimento que a rainha Isabel teria por parte da população argentina não fosse dos melhores, a menos que, entretanto, se realizassem negociações acerca daquele problema. — (F. P.)

Extract from
Southern Evening Echo, Southampton

27 MAR 1968

MPs TALKED ALL NIGHT

MEMBERS of Parliament walked out of the House of Commons into the bright sunshine this morning, after a sitting lasting just over 19½ hours. The House rose after the longest sitting since July 13 last year.

It was the Consolidated Fund Bill which kept them out of their beds. Under this measure, MPs have freedom to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest, and a vital subject raised during the night included sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, had assured the Commons that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves.

Mr. Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

Two sides "convinced"

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

When the Government Chief Whip, Mr. Silkin, moved that discussion on the Bill should end,

there were still several subjects in the list which had not been reached.

The previous longest sitting on July 13, lasted 24 hours 28 minutes.



MR. IRVING

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

20 MAR 1968

Healey Boob Causes Derision

A representative group of Falkland Islanders has expressed disappointment over the statement of Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, yesterday on the colony.

Mr Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2000 islanders.

The official text of Mr Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Falkland Government, but the islanders heard a BBC broadcast on it.

The recent statement by Mr Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by

HMS Protector caused derision because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said last night Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims the islands and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2000 inhabitants to determine their future.

Extract from
Sun, London

28 MAR 1968

Pledge to islanders

By MICHAEL LAKE, Diplomatic Correspondent

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, Mr. Michael Stewart, gave MPs an assurance in the Commons yesterday that the Government would not give the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders.

Lord Chalfont, Foreign Office Minister of State, repeated the assurance in the Lords, and said that because the Falkland

only 2,100 a plebiscite would not be necessary. The two Ministers gave their pledge after more than a week of evasive answers to questions in the Lords and the Commons.

Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson, who has had to bear the brunt of Falkland Islands concern, insisted that the Foreign Office should be less equivocal and reassure the islanders properly.

Confidential talks will continue informally with London diplomats from Argentina.

Extract from
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks.

27 MAR 1968

Falklands: 'No hand-over without consent'

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, Mr Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr Stewart revealed, "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

And he went on, "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

EQUALLY CONVINCED

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of the Falkland Islands to Argentina in a hat at 16. Spring-steen on John Edward Coill (27), Belfast. D. Cawkwell at Hull Shipyard. At the house of moving a safe in the DOOR MATS were used in the safe for Hull

Safe was
COURT TOLD OF

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

28 MAR 1968

Falkland Isles stay British

After mounting apprehension that Britain intended to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, made it clear in the Commons yesterday that the Government had no such ideas.

He did not go so far as to say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders.

The islanders, who have made it plain that they are not ready for such a move, are not likely to be won over easily by Argentina.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ILL

THE sudden illness of a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons caused a suspension of the all-night sitting early today.

Mr Sydney Irving (Lab., Dartford) was taken ill in the Speaker's chair at 6.15 am.

The debate was resumed about 15 minutes later when Sir Eric Fletcher, another Deputy Speaker, came to the chair.

Mr Irving was taken by ambulance to Westminster Hospital where he was treated for a "minor matter" and allowed to leave.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Manchester Evening News

28 MAR 1968

"DISAPPOINTMENT" IN FALKLANDS

Representative group of Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, residents expressed disappointment over British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart's statement yesterday that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over South Atlantic islands to Argentina without approval of 2,000 islanders.

Date..... 7 MAR 1968

Foreign Secretary's assurance after all-night sitting

NO FALKLAND ISLANDS HAND-OVER UNLESS BY CONSENT

AN assurance was given in the House of Commons today by the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves. This came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned MPs that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear — the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

"RIGHT LIES WITH GOVERNMENT"

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects, and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Earlier, MPs had pressed the Foreign Secretary for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders they were going to remain under the British flag.

Extract from
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

27 MAR 1968

No hand-over without consent—Stewart

FALKLAND ISLANDS

PLEDGE

(By 'Echo' Parliamentary Correspondent)

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons today that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

He went on: "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all."

SAFEGUARDS

"In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?"

"My answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

"The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

21
PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Exeter Express & Echo, Devon

28 MAR 1968

Stewart upsets island folk

A REPRESENTATIVE group of Port Stanley residents has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, yesterday on the colony.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The official text of Mr. Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government in Port Stanley but the islanders heard a B.B.C. broadcast on it.

The recent statement by Mr. Dennis Healey that the islands were guarded by H.M.S. Protector caused derision in Port Stanley because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said last night that Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

28 MAR 1968

Falklands flare-up

By
MAURICE TROWBRIDGE

LORD CHALFONT provoked a storm in the Lords yesterday when he appeared to water down an apparently clear pledge given earlier by Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart that the Falklands would not be handed over to the Argentine without the islanders' consent.

The row broke when Opposition leader Lord Carrington demanded a straight "Yes" or "No" to whether the wishes of the Islanders would be paramount in deciding on a change of sovereignty.

SPECIAL

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said Britain believed that a transfer could be considered only as part of an agreement which would—

SECURE a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and the Argentine; and

SAFEGUARD the special rights of the islanders.

"It would have to be clear to the Government that islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests."

Commented Lord Carrington: "I imagine that means 'Yes.' If so, why did the Minister not say so."

When Lord Carrington asked a second time whether the answer was "Yes" or "No," Lord Chalfont said he thought his meaning was clear.

He went on:—
"The fact that Lord Carrington puts a question in such simple form does not make this a simple matter. I am not prepared to answer 'Yes' or 'No.'"

POWER

Pressed by Liberal leader Lord Byers, the Minister insisted that his statement was completely unequivocal.

The Government thought the community was too small for a plebiscite on the issue.

Said Lord Chalfont: "The power to decide belongs to the British Government. We intend to exercise this power in full consultation with the islanders."

Lord Carrington observed: "Each answer Lord Chalfont

**PEER
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OF**

ISLANDERS COME FIRST?

gives makes us distrust him and the Government even more."

There was no reply when Lord Salisbury asked: "Is it true that the wishes of the islanders are to be paramount? If so, then what is the purpose of negotiation with the Argentine Government?"

EARLIER in the Commons Mr. Stewart had told M.P.s that the question of a transfer of sovereignty had been discussed in confidential talks with the Argentine for the last two years.

NO DOUBT

"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours," he said. "Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But the Argentine was equally convinced of her claim. Mr. Stewart said: "The fear

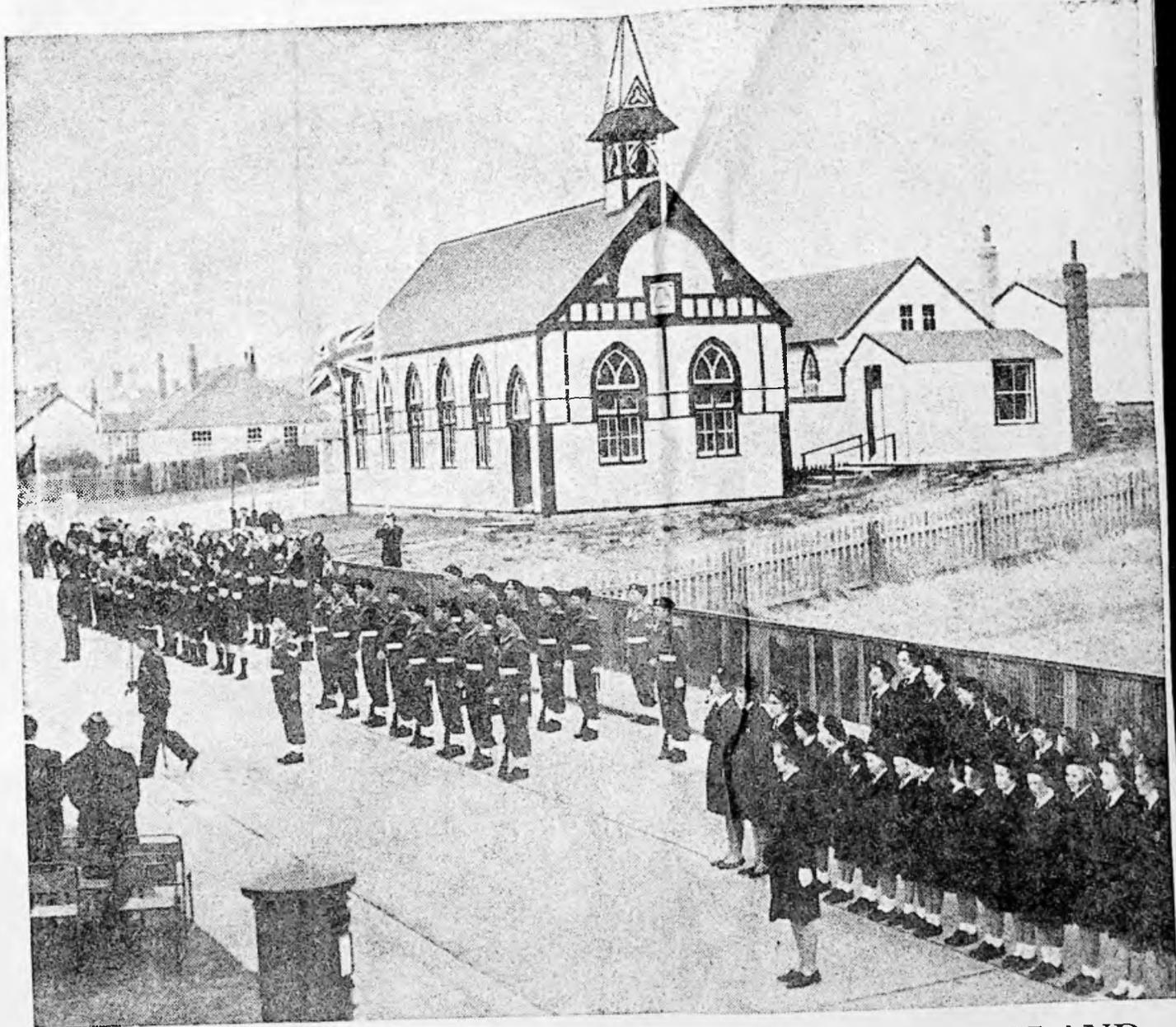
that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification."

A hand-over would be considered only if the Islanders themselves regarded such a step was in their interests.

● A member of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, Mr. Arthur Barton, last night praised the British Press for the part they had played in getting the Government to clarify the situation.

"The Daily Express, The Times, and the Daily Telegraph have done us proud and I am absolutely delighted," he said in London, where he has been having talks with Ministers and officials.

Mr. Barton said he was "content" with the Foreign Secretary's statement, which seemed to contain all they had been struggling for.



IF you're thinking it's a funny looking church for England, it isn't England.

It's somewhere in the Falkland Islands putting up a convincing show of looking like almost anywhere in England.

PARADE

Making everyone feel at home. For to the 2,000 islanders, home is Britain.

Home is the parade outside church for the Queen's birthday.

A PIECE OF ENGLAND 8,000 MILES AWAY

Home is Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade, Army and Sea Cadets.

A Union Jack on the Church lawn. A pillar box where letters to London 8,000 miles away are as safe as the Bank of England.

The colony has changed hands a few times since it was discovered by John Davis in 1592.

The French took

the Islands over in 1764; the British got them back in 1767; let the Spaniards get away with them for a time; and then returned for good in 1832.

CALM

Falkland Islanders, like people in Britain, take life calmly in the main.

Except when there's talk of being handed over to the Argentine.

[DR. BRAY.]

It has been made clear to the staff that for scientific staff over the age of 30 there will be no difficulty about preserving their pension rights, where that is appropriate, about transferring their pensions rights, about single premium annuity schemes, or whatever is the choice of the individual concerned. Whether the pension rights can be put into an industrial scheme depends on how that industrial scheme is drafted. It is not a matter for the Atomic Energy Authority but the industry. If an Atomic Energy Authority scientist goes into a firm which does not offer this facility then his pension rights with the Authority can be preserved and when he reaches retirement age he will receive the value he has earned in the Atomic Energy Authority's pension scheme in addition to any pension he may have later earned in his new job.

I should be happy to look at any particular cases and particular kinds of career services on which problems may arise. If there are difficulties let us look at them. I think that the provisions here are highly favourable by comparison with those available virtually anywhere else. They are a great deal more favourable than those available anywhere else in the public service, and in the Civil Service in particular.

With this background of valuable work at Culham to keep people there and undoubtedly the ready demand for their work in employment elsewhere, I do not think that it can be said that there is any major problem of redeployment at Culham. If the Select Committee has observations to make on this matter, clearly they will be a matter of great interest to the Minister and we look forward to receiving them.

Meanwhile, of course, the work on the future of the nuclear engineering industry goes ahead. The hon. Member asked whether the redeployment at Culham was part of a larger pattern in the Authority as a whole. As the hon. Member knows, there are discussions under way about the future of nuclear engineering and the contribution that the Authority can make. This is a matter which has to be settled as part of the planning of the future work of the Authority, with Culham fitting into the pattern.

INT 0

3003 FALKLAND ISLANDS
6.44 a.m.

Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh, South): I would like to add my good wishes for the speedy recovery of Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member for Dartford (Mr. Sydney Irving), and express my gratitude to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for taking over so quickly at this unexpected hour.

I wish to raise the question of the future of the Falkland Islands and the Falkland Island Dependencies. I am grateful to the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations for being here. I am concerned about this matter because of answers received in this House and in another place in recent weeks. These answers have been unsatisfactory. There are two Motions on the Order Paper. One is No. 203 in my name and the other is No. 206 in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bassetlaw (Mr. Bellenger).

Hon. Members will know that for some time there have been negotiations going on between Britain and Argentina about the Falklands as a result of Resolution 2065/20 in the United Nations General Assembly on 16th December, 1965. I doubt whether the resolution was legal, as the question of sovereignty is involved. It seems to be contrary to Article 2(7) the U.N. Charter.

However, many other factors are involved. The first landing in the Falklands was in 1690 by Captain Strong, who gave the islands their name after Viscount Falkland, Treasurer of the Navy. A settlement was established in the West Island in 1766, but in 1774 the British Government withdrew it on grounds of economy. Our claim to sovereignty was maintained and a leaden plaque was left declaring the Falklands to be the sole right and property of King George III. Since 1832 the islands have been under British control, continuous, open and effective. Although protests from Argentina have been received from time to time, they have been somewhat intermittent. There is no doubt in my mind that in international law the Islands are British. There is a *de facto* right by virtue of occupation, and then by virtue

of time and the law it was clearly *de jure*. Nearly all the countries in the world recognise this, including the United States.

It is particularly significant that in 1947 the British Government offered to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice. A similar move was made in 1955, but both Argentina and Chile declined to submit their case. The reason is that it is very poor. It is also worth noting that in the Special Committee of the United Nations, which sat in 1965, little or no reference was made to the principle of self-determination or the wishes of the people of the Falklands. There is no question that the people of the Islands do not desire a change, and they wish to strengthen their relations with Britain. Anybody who doubts that would do well to read the petitions of the elected members of the Falkland Islands, the chairman of Stanley Town Council, the General Secretary of the Falklands Labour Federation, and many other individual petitions to the United Nations. It is very odd that all those petitions were neglected, and it says little for the wisdom and judgment of the U.N. Committee of 24 on Colonial Questions.

In 1965 Lord Caradon said at the United Nations that the people of the Falklands would not be betrayed or bartered. Their wishes and interests were paramount and we should do our duty to protect them. That was a very admirable statement, but what is the position today? Doubt has been cast on the matter because of two events. First, several hon. Members, including myself, have received a letter dated 27th February, 1968, from the unofficial members of the Falklands Executive Council. The letter expresses grave anxiety about the negotiations and reiterates the wish of the Falklands to remain British and keep their connection with us. On receipt of this letter, an unusual one in my political experience and my colonial service experience, I questioned the Minister of State about the negotiations. That will be found in the OFFICIAL REPORT of 18th March, 1968. The Minister of State replied:

"The negotiations are continuing and are confidential. In these negotiations, Her Majesty's Government are being guided by strong regard for the interests of the people of the Falkland Islands, and in any event

will see that there is the fullest consultation with them."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, 18th March, 1968: Vol. 760, c. 14.]

That is not very satisfactory and is far from the strong and proper words of Lord Caradon. Further oral questioning on 18th March elicited nothing definite and the Minister of State was evasive about "consultation" and "consent", when the transfer of sovereignty was raised. He would not say that the consent of the local people to any transfer would be required. I cannot understand the Government's attitude on this matter, or why they are not more specific and frank to the House. International law is on their side, the wishes of the people are clear. They are of Scottish or English descent, some even to the sixth generation. Most of the 2,100 inhabitants were born there. In their country, there is no crime, no debt and no unemployment. They contributed handsomely to Britain in the last world war.

I ask the Government to cease this shilly-shallying and to state three things definitely. First, will they say that there will be no transfer of sovereignty or sharing of sovereignty without consultation and consent, clearly expressed by the islanders and originating with them? Secondly, will they say that there are no secret deals involving either meat or shipping waters, and thirdly, will the Government report to the United Nations that they are not prepared to entertain any further negotiations on the Falkland Islands, or their future, with the Argentine or any other country? Will they undertake to give complete protection, physical if necessary, to the islands and their inhabitants?

Mr. Clifford Kenyon (Chorley): I hope the hon. Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison) will excuse me if I do not follow him in dealing with the historical role of the Falkland Islands. I want to deal with two major points.

It is not fair for these Islands to be continually in a state of apprehension as to their future. This has been their condition over the last two or three years, because they have been very uncertain, and still are, as to what will occur. This arises mainly from two causes. First is the desire of the United Nations that Britain and the Argentine should have discussions about the future of these

[MR. KENYON.] islands. These discussions are confidential. No one outside knows what is taking place. When such discussions take place, all kinds of rumours arise which are neither denied or confirmed. It is said in many quarters that the Government are negotiating a transfer of the Islands to the Argentine. This is firmly in the minds of the islanders, and I would like my right hon. Friend to give an assurance that will satisfy them once and for all that they are going to remain under the British flag.

Another reason for their apprehension is that, in 1966, a plane was hi-jacked and landed on the Falkland Islands. The islanders were totally unaware of its coming until it was landed by its very skilful pilot on the bumpy race course. His skill avoided what could have been a major disaster. It was a remarkable landing. Islanders went up to see what had happened, assuming that the aircraft had landed because of some fault or shortage of fuel, for example. Two Falkland Islands officials were approaching the aircraft when out of it came armed men, who took them prisoner. One can understand the apprehensions of the people at such an incident. The officials were held prisoner for two or three days.

Finally, the men on the plane—about 20 of them—had to give themselves up and they were taken by a priest to the Roman Catholic school and kept there until Argentine authorities came for them. All of these men were armed. The people of the Islands should be guarded against this sort of thing, and that is why I feel that the Government, taking these two points I have mentioned into consideration, should make a definite statement that the Islands will remain under the British Crown.

The U.N. Charter affirms that every nation shall have the right of self-determination, and every British Colony which has been granted independence has had that right. If they desired, they could vote on it. Every British Colony has had the ability to state its desires and have them made public. The Islanders desire nothing more than what has been granted to every other Colony, the right to express their feelings, wishes and desires on this matter.

As this is a principle of the United Nations they have the right to the support of that body. It is no use carrying on any longer in this uncertain way. Over the last two years these rumours have disturbed the islanders very much, I and the hon. Member for Louth (Sir C. Osborne) visited the Islands twelve months ago, and we found that wherever we went this was the prominent topic. Everyone asked us what the British Government intended to do, whether in Port Stanley, Port Darwin, East Island or West Island, and even on the farm camps right out on the moors. The uncertainty is worrying them. When their whole living is concerned, one can understand their feelings, and it is time the British Government gave a definite assurance that will satisfy the islanders that their future will be secure.

7.3 a.m.

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Chigwell): The House has listened to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Kenyon) with great interest and respect, because he speaks with the authority of an hon. Member who has just recently visited the Falkland Islands, with my hon. Friend the Member for Louth (Sir C. Osborne). He dwelt on the apprehensions of the people there, particularly since the extraordinary incident he has described. I would like to ask whether the Government here are satisfied that the Islands and their dependencies are being adequately safeguarded.

I understand that H.M.S. "Protector" is no longer in the area. What vessel or what arrangements are replacing her? I am sure that the Royal Marine detachment is more than adequate, but would it be desirable to reinforce it? These thoughts will be in the minds of right hon. Gentlemen. I hope and feel with some confidence that the training of the local population to defend themselves, their homes and their farms is going well.

The House is very grateful to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison) for initiating this debate. No one who has sought to catch your eye, Mr. Speaker, has a direct interest in the Falkland Islands, but every hon. Member has an interest in the safety and welfare of our fellow subjects, wherever they may be.

I also feel confident that this debate is being conducted in a spirit of good will towards the Argentine with whom we have so many ties of history and honourable obligation, but it would be false to conceal the clear fact, which was brought out so well by my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South, that no other state has any valid title to the Falkland Islands. I do not wish to put ideas into the head of General de Gaulle, but the French might well say that they have a prior claim to that of the Spaniards which the Argentine claims to inherit, because de Bougainville landed on what the French called Les Malouines in 1764, and that was before any Spanish presence in the Falkland Islands. But if the Argentine claims the Falkland Islands as a successor to the Spanish empire, if Spanish imperialism is so legitimate, so is that of Great Britain. The important fact—at least, to someone like myself who is not learned in the law—is that Britain has been in effective occupation since 1833.

Mention has been made of these confidential negotiations that we understand are going on. From another place we received no clear impression whether sovereignty has been discussed. I should like to know whether sovereignty has been discussed.

We are all glad to see the right hon. Gentleman with us this morning as Foreign Secretary, and we wish him well in all that he does in the public interest. In his previous incarnation at the Foreign Office the right hon. Gentleman said on 14th January, 1966 that Britain did not recognise Argentine sovereignty in the South Atlantic archipelago. That speech was made in Buenos Aires.

My hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South, quoted the fine words of Lord Caradon, and it is a pleasure for me to be able to compliment Lord Caradon on something that he has said at the United Nations. I am not going to repeat the words which have been quoted by my hon. Friend, but I should like to add to what has been placed on the record one other sentence from Lord Caradon's speech on 1st December, 1965 at the General Assembly of the United Nations. He said:

"There can be no question of negotiating the issue of sovereignty and signing away the destinies of whole peoples over their heads."

When the right hon. Gentleman comes to reply he may say "This is all much ado about nothing. Why is such a fuss being made? After all, you do not know that anything untoward is afoot." But, as the hon. Member for Chorley pointed out, the Falkland Islanders have every reason for concern, and so have we. It is significant when *The Times* in a leader of 15th March refers to

"... a Government contemplating a wholly pointless abandonment of people who belong to them and who have trusted them."

The Governor of the Falkland Islands—who is deeply respected by the people there—has been unable, after visits to London, to reassure the people, and Her Majesty's Government have so far been quite unable to reassure the House and the country. I do not like the sound of such words as "delicate, confidential negotiations", and when the words "twin principles of consultation and consent" are used, I ask the right hon. Gentleman what consultation there has been with anyone in the Falkland Islands before these confidential talks began.

I do not wish to delay the House any further. Here are 2,000 islanders, perhaps four-fifths of them British and many of them British of settler descent. They are as much a British community as are the people whom I represent in Essex. They live in harmony. There are no racial or religious conflicts in the Falkland Islands. They have achieved high standards of life and welfare—and at no cost to the British taxpayer. Would that that might be said of some other territories. Indeed, they have made contributions to the Exchequer and, what is more important—as my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South remarked—they have given devoted service to Britain and the Commonwealth in war. One might say that the Falkland Islands are a credit to the British Commonwealth.

Is all this to be undermined, and even thrown away? The United Nations has been brought in. I do not expect that the Foreign Secretary will agree, but I fully endorse what my hon. Friend has said about Paragraph 7 of Article 2 precluding the intervention of the United Nations. I know that that position has been eroded, and I shall not argue that point for the moment, but I shall argue the case of the Falkland Islands people

[Mr. BIGGS-DAVISON.]

for self-determination. Are they to be denied self-determination? Are they to be treated like the people of Dutch West New Guinea who, to the shame of the United Nations and the major powers, were handed to a new colonial master?

While the present Government have been in office many of our friends in distant parts of the world have been abandoned and betrayed, but I do not believe that even Her Majesty's present advisers can let the Falkland Islands down. Let the Queen's Ministers do their duty by the Queen's subjects.

7.13 a.m.

Mr. John Smith (Cities of London and Westminster): I have no direct interest in the Falkland Islands and my constituency is probably more unlike the Falkland Islands than any other part of this country. Westminster represents the centre of the Commonwealth and the Falkland Islands represent its furthest edge. But the mere possibility that these islanders should be bartered away to gratify another Government fills me with indignation and shame and I have sat here until a quarter past Seven this morning in order to say so.

We have always had good relations with Argentina, and many people from this country have helped in the making of the Argentine nation. Our connections and friendship with the Argentine have been and should be of the strongest, but they cannot be based on dishonourable action. To be more practical, it is true that we hope to do substantial trade with Argentina, and we have substantial investments there; but if people see that we are base enough to compromise our honour in the hope of saving our money they will have less compunction in taking our money as well, and we shall end up by losing both.

Surely there comes a point where we must stop letting people down. Surely, in the hope of gain to make these islands a new, unwilling colony of Argentina—which has no claim to them and with which they have nothing in common—whether of law, language, custom, culture or trade, is too much for any Government of this country. I hope that the Minister will give a clear undertaking that the United Nations principle of self-determination will be applied to these Islands, and that if they then wish

to remain under our protection we will protect them permanently.

7.15 a.m.

Mr. Bernard Braine (Essex, South-East): My hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison) has performed a great service tonight in bringing this matter before the House, and he has been supported by unusually strong speeches from both sides. There has, of course, been acute anxiety—I think the Minister is well aware of this—both in this House and in the country ever since the information was wrung out of the Government that they were engaged in secret negotiations with the Argentine Government over the future of the Falkland Islands. There has been anxiety here, and there has been anxiety in the Islands themselves.

At the beginning of March, in company with my hon. Friend, I received a letter from the four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, asking me if I was aware that

"negotiations are now proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments which may result at any moment in the handing over of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine".

I was asked to take note that the inhabitants of the Islands have never yet been consulted regarding their future: that they do not want to become Argentines; that

"they are as British as you are";

and that they are

"mostly of English and Scottish ancestry, even to the sixth generation".

That was the first news that I had that any such negotiations were afoot.

A few days after that I received information from the Falklands confirming the existence of the rumours to which the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Kenyon) made reference, and suggesting that the British Government had been putting a subtle and indirect pressure upon the islanders to accept transfer of sovereignty to the Argentine. As this letter names certain residents in the Islands and certain visitors to the Islands, some of them British, some of them non-British, I shall not read it to the House; we are dealing here with a small community. However, I would ask the Foreign Secretary to accept from me that the letter left me in no doubt as to the feeling of deep anxiety in the Islands,

and a sense of bewilderment and even of anger that any British Government should be treating them in this way.

It may be that when the Foreign Secretary replies to the debate he will say that there is no real substance in all this, but in a situation of this kind it is not always the facts that matter: it is what people believe the facts to be. There can be no doubt, after what has been said in this House tonight, and from the communications we have received from the Islands, that people believe that grounds for anxiety exist.

Indeed, when the matter was raised in another place on 13th March the evasive answers of the noble Lord, Lord Chalfont served only to heighten the anxiety already felt. We were told then that nothing could be said about confidential talks proceeding between the British and Argentine Governments, but that whatever was decided the principles of consultation and consent would be applied. Since we know that the Falkland Islanders are British, since we know that they wish to remain British, and since we know that they have publicly declared to the United Nations itself their wish to remain British, what are these confidential talks about? If sovereignty is not being discussed, what is? If, on the other hand, sovereignty is being discussed, why have the people and their representatives not been consulted? Why has the Governor's Executive Council been kept in the dark?

One member of the Council told hon. Members of this House early last night:

"We have been kept in complete ignorance as to what is going on."

Yet these are the people who are responsible to their own folk in the Islands. These are the Governor's advisers. The Council is the representative body of the Islands. He added very firmly:

"We are British, and we intend to remain so."

If the Government are not preparing to sell our fellow Britons down the river, why then were their leaders not reassured? Why was the Governor not empowered to inform his Executive Council and to speak to this small community and allay their anxieties? Would it not have strengthened our negotiators if they had been able to say to our Argentine friends that the Falkland

Islanders do not wish to become Argentines?

If, as I understand it, the negotiations are taking place in pursuance of Resolution 2065 of the United Nations General Assembly, which called upon the two Governments to find a peaceful solution to the problem, in what way would the openly expressed views of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands be in conflict with that Resolution? That is what puzzles the House, and it is what puzzles the Falkland Islanders. Does not Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations make it plain that the interests of the people of a colonial territory are paramount and that their political aspirations must be respected? We know the political aspirations of the Falkland Islanders. They have made them quite plain.

Yet they have not been consulted about this. I hope that we shall hear some good news from the Foreign Secretary. I take heart from his presence. We all respect him. The attendance of a senior minister is a somewhat unusual step in these debates and, if I may say so, a mark of the importance of the subject. I must say to him, however, that it is really unforgivable for the British Government to indulge in secret talks about the future of these wholly British people without their knowledge and approval.

The impression seems to be widespread in the Argentine that we shall capitulate. I understand that leading newspapers there have said that sovereignty is indeed the nub of the secret talks and that acceptance of this is a victory for Argentine diplomacy. There was a letter in Monday's *Times* from the distinguished naturalist Mr. Peter Scott, who returned from the Falkland Islands recently, passing through Buenos Aires on the way. He wrote:

"... in Buenos Aires I found a general impression that any minute now the *Islas Malvinas*, as they call them, would be a part of Argentina."

So we are dealing not solely with the doubts, fears and anxieties in the Falkland Islands, but with the hopes, aspirations and beliefs of the Argentines themselves.

Who has given them that impression? Who has led them up the garden? I choose my words carefully at this point

[MR. BRAINE.]

I am a Commonwealth man and so are all those who have spoken in this debate. If this is a case of the Foreign Office overruling the Commonwealth Office, heaven help our Commonwealth interests when the merger of the two Departments takes place.

One can understand the desire of Her Majesty's Government to have good relations with the Argentine. As one of my hon. Friends said, there is a long tradition of friendship between our two countries. I would be the last to wish that friendship to be sundered.

Even so, if we learn anything from history it is that we do not earn respect by flabbiness, by weakness, or by pretending that the other side have a case when we know that they have not. The Argentines argue that their claim is based on the fact that Spain owned the Falkland Islands some 200 years ago. As *The Times* said recently, if the Spanish Imperium was legitimate, then so is the British Imperium that succeeded it. They claim that the Islands are theirs on the grounds of proximity. They are 250 miles away. The claim has no basis in truth or in fact.

But all this is to completely miss the point. We are not talking of a group of barren rocks off the mainland of South America or even of a desirable property. We are concerned with a small people of British stock whose forefathers colonised empty land. They did not drive anybody out. They came there, they worked hard, and they have never cost this country a penny. I remember meeting a handful of them during the war. They came across the 8,000 miles of ocean, the grandsons and great grandsons of men who had gone out there, because their Motherland was in danger. I remember these things. Those of us who are Commonwealth men will always remember them. We are concerned here with a small people who are British through and through. It is people we are talking about—people of our own blood and bone, whose feelings and aspirations should be just as much the concern of this House as those of the people of the Outer Hebrides or of the Isle of Wight.

The hon. Gentleman the Member for Chorley speaks with great authority, because he has recently been in the Islands, but what all of us are saying is that the

Falkland Islanders are not to be betrayed. The Government must understand that and must act accordingly. The uncertainty over their future, which has been caused by the Government's evasiveness, must be ended. I trust that when the Foreign Secretary replies he will be able to tell us that in clear and unmistakable terms.

There are two things which we must know. First, that there will be no transfer of sovereignty under any circumstances without the openly expressed wish of the people of the Islands, and, secondly, that the Islands will be protected against any threat to their security, from whatever quarter it may come.

7.28 a.m.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Michael Stewart): The hon. Member for Essex, South-East (Mr. Braine) was right in saying that I thought it right to take part in the debate in view of the importance of the subject and the interest that it has aroused. In general, I am a firm believer in the principle of making junior Ministers do a good deal of work, particularly in the small hours of the morning. However, I thought it proper to depart from that principle on this occasion.

Hon. Members on both sides of the House who have taken part in the debate have asked me a number of questions. In view of the demand that the position should be made quite plain, I shall seek to answer all those questions definitely and, I hope—though I cannot be certain of this—to the satisfaction of hon. Members.

I begin with the question about why there are talks between the Argentine and ourselves on this issue. There is more than one reason. The first is the Resolution passed in the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1965. I cannot accept—but I do not think that this is a major point—the proposition that that Resolution was in some ways *ultra vires*. If Paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the Charter were interpreted in the way that it was sought to be interpreted here, the range of questions left that the United Nations could discuss would be extremely limited.

There are plenty of instances of arguments about sovereignty, or about possible transfers of territory, being regarded

as proper to be discussed in the United Nations. But proper to be discussed is one thing. Agreeing with what has been said in the discussions is another. The United Kingdom did not vote for the Resolution, but it has always been the policy of the Government, and I think rightly, that even when we have not been able to agree with the United Nations we should not treat Resolutions passed in the General Assembly simply with silence, still less with contempt. In the kind of world in which we live it is of great importance to maintain this principle, because, if it can be done, the building up of the authority of the United Nations is of enormous importance both to us and to mankind.

That was one reason, but there was a further reason, and I want to stress this one particularly having in mind the interesting and helpful speech of my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Kenyon). It is concerned with the position of the islanders themselves. There is only one point on which I think I disagree with my hon. Friend, in that he seemed to trace the uncertainty or the uneasiness in the Islands solely to the events of the last two years, but I think he will know that for some considerable time Argentina has advanced her claim, and there has been repeated argument in many different forms about this.

Further, more recently communication between the Islands and the mainland has been cut off. This is a source, to say the least, of vexation and inconvenience to the islanders. Some of them have children in this country for various reasons. From time to time they want to make visits to this country, and the cutting off of direct communication between them and the nearest mainland available to them is, to say the least, a vexation and an inconvenience.

I want the House to notice this further point. In the kind of world in which we live, in which the physical possibilities of travel are always improving, in which, particularly to the younger generation, the possibility of taking part in a wider world is always there, for a small community like this to be seriously at variance with a large continental neighbour could be an increasing source of vexation and uncertainty to the Islands.

It would therefore be wrong to behave as though this aspect of the matter was

of no importance, and one reason for being willing to enter into talks with Argentina was that it was not desirable to have a situation in which there was already this degree of inconvenience and vexation imposed, and to leave simply to fester a situation in which the smaller community was at variance with its nearest mainland neighbour, and a neighbour which, as we all know, is a country of great and growing importance in the world.

I was glad to notice that those hon. Members who raised this matter were anxious to make it clear that they did not do so in any spirit of hostility to Argentina. I think we had to notice that not only Argentina, but Latin America as a whole, is a part of the world that is going to be of increasing importance in trade, and in the United Nations, to which, whatever may be the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite, those nations certainly attach a great deal of importance, and in which they have votes and influence. This seems to be a second reason for entering talks, that it was desirable, if it could be done, to get a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. For that reason, I reject any criticisms of the Government's action in holding the talks at all. It was right to do so, and it would have been short-sighted not to do so. I must therefore answer, "No," to one of the questions of the hon. Member for Edinburgh, South: I would not be prepared to say that there will be no further talks on this issue. It was right to begin them and right that they should continue.

The talks have been at both Ministerial and official level. It is not true to say that they have been conducted—as it has been put—"over the heads" or "behind the backs" of the islanders. There have been consultations with the Governor of the islands, who had authority to acquaint his Executive Council with what Her Majesty's Government were doing—

Mr. Braine: The right hon. Gentleman has made a statement completely at variance with the letter sent to hon. Members by the four unofficial members of the Executive Council and with what one of them, at present in this country, has told us. This must be cleared up: we

[MR. BRAINE.]
understand that there has been no consultation, that the Governor has not been able to explain what is going on, and it is this which is causing the House such deep anxiety. Is the right hon. Gentleman saying that there has been consultation?

Mr. Stewart: I repeat what I said: first, there has been consultation with the Governor; second, he had authority to tell his Executive Council, under the condition of secrecy, which binds it in a way comparable to that of the Privy Council in this country, what we were doing. That is a fact, and I cannot be responsible for statements made by others.

As a further example, there have also been consultations between Mr. Barton, who has been over here, with my noble Friend the Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs. These consultations will continue in such manner and through such channels as seem most useful and appropriate. But it would be wrong to suggest—and I reject the suggestion—that we have done this over the heads or behind the backs of the islanders. As to the nature of the talks themselves—

Mr. Clark Hutchison: I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that the Governor and some members of the Executive Council do not know and have some sort of consultation, but the islanders did not know and, because of the secrecy of the talks, could not know.

Mr. Stewart: That does not conflict with what I have said. Rather, it reaffirms what I have said, in contradiction of what the hon. Member for Essex, South (Mr. Braine) quoted. The consultation which has already gone on is not the end of the matter. It will continue in such form and through such channels as seems most likely to be appropriate and helpful.

It is the normal practice for talks like this to be confidential, but there are some things which it would be appropriate to say about them now. Our object in conducting these talks is to secure a lasting and satisfactory *modus vivendi* between these Islands and Argentina, because we believe this to be a necessary long-term aim of policy. In this way, we are carrying out what Lord Caradon said in the United Nations:

"There are two basic principles we cannot betray; the principle that the interest of the people must be paramount and, second, that the people have the right freely to express their own wishes as to their future."

To answer other questions that have been asked, I endorse and confirm what Lord Caradon said on that occasion. And since we are speaking of the interests of the people, I would like whole heartedly to join in the many tributes that have been paid to this small and valiant community—these valiant, hard-working, law-abiding good friends of this country and good members of the whole human community. Our object in these talks has been to secure that there is a satisfactory arrangement between them and Argentina.

We have thought it right, in pursuance of this objective, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks. Since there has been a good deal of stress placed on this aspect, I will explain why we have taken this view. The hon. Member for Chigwell (Mr. Biggs-Davison) particularly stressed the desirability of good relations with the Argentine. I fully accept the proposition that one cannot buy good relations by giving away things that one should not give away. However, it is also true that if one is genuine in saying that one wants good relations, one cannot refuse to discuss a subject even if one's views and the views of the other party are completely at variance and even if one cannot see, at the beginning of the talks, how those differences are to be reconciled.

The House will accept that there was here a genuine problem to be resolved; our undoubted duties and obligations to our fellow subjects in the Islands and our duty also—again, in their interest—to get a satisfactory agreement, if it could be obtained, and the fact that it would not have been prudent, farsighted and in the interest of the islanders for us to preclude any possibility of discussion by saying that we would not even discuss this question of sovereignty.

As has been pointed out, Governments of both complexions in this country have been prepared to put this question to the International Court. I do not believe, therefore, that there is any valid ground for criticism of what the Government have done, simply on the ground—and I make no secret of this—that this question has formed part of the talks.

We have no doubt whatever that the sovereignty is now legally ours. I need not go over all the legal and historical arguments that have been advanced. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty, as we have towards any other place in our sovereignty, to defend it. I need not say more on this aspect, except to make it quite clear that while some of the detailed questions on defence that have been put to me in the debate are perhaps more matters for my right hon. Friend, we have no doubt that these Islands are in our sovereignty and that we therefore have, as we have for other places in our sovereignty, a duty to provide for their defence.

Having said that, I turn to something which I must say and of which I hope to persuade the House, even if, at first sight, hon. Members may find it a little difficult. If we mean what we say about desiring good relations with the Argentinians, we must at least be prepared to admit that while we are firmly convinced of our legal sovereignty over these islands they are equally firmly convinced of their claim. You get nowhere at all if you start by assuming that the person with whom you are discussing is not even sincere. We have to recognise, therefore, that here there is a problem between two nations who desire to be friendly, who take different views as to what their rights are. It is in the interests of both of them and of the Islands that if possible that dispute shall be resolved. Can it be done? I hope it can. I think it is of great importance for the islanders. If possible it should be done. The House will see from the way I have defined the problem that it will not be easy to do it. Let me at once dispel any fears which I think the hon. Member expressed. Apart from anything else I say, the idea that at any moment there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty has no relation to the facts at all. There is no justification for that in the Islands or as a hope or expectation in Argentina.

I come to what I think the House will regard as really the heart of the matter. At what possible time, or in what possible event or circumstances, could a transfer of sovereignty be made? If we take the view that in order to get a proper *modus vivendi* this country must at any rate be prepared to discuss time

and circumstances in which, if certain conditions were fulfilled, it would agree to cession of sovereignty, the vital question is, in what time, in what circumstances, under what conditions? I think the House will agree that this is really the heart of the matter, and it is to that I now want to address myself. I hope that the House will not feel that I have detained it for too long in describing the matters which have led up to this, because it is extremely important.

We do not want to be at odds with a friendly nation. We do not want to betray people who have a claim on us. This is not a matter which can be quickly dismissed or quickly resolved. I say, in what event or in what time could a transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that my answer would be, first, only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina, in which there would be no harassing, no vexation, no inconveniences, and an arrangement also in which if there were a transfer of sovereignty there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders, the fact of their descent, their language and so on.

That is one condition, that the cession of sovereignty could be considered only as part of an agreement of that nature, but further—notice this—the right to agree to such a cession lies with Her Majesty's Government here. That, of course, is a simple point of law, that the actual power to decide over a transfer of sovereignty lies with Her Majesty's Government here. But I say this quite clearly, Her Majesty's Government would agree to such a cession only, first on the condition I have mentioned that it must be part of an agreement fully satisfactory in other respects, and secondly, only if it were clear to us, to the Government in the United Kingdom, that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests. That, I think, is the matter to which the House has attached the greatest importance, and I hope that what I have said will be carefully noted and weighed.

The Government are entitled to ask for the support and understanding of both sides of the House in this matter, since

[Mr. STEWART.]

it was not one which could be dismissed quickly merely by repeating a slogan or by historical reference. It is part of the changing world in which we live, and in which we have, as I say, to perform our duty to the islanders, a duty which, in my judgment, is performed by the last condition which I have clearly stated, while at the same time seeking a satisfactory relationship both for them and for us with Argentina.

I think that I can claim to have answered clearly the questions which were put to me, and I hope that I have answered them to the satisfaction of the House.

Mr. Clark Hutchison: The right hon. Gentleman has said, "If the inhabitants of the Islands regarded the arrangements as satisfactory". Those are vague words. I asked that there should be no transfer of sovereignty without the consent of the inhabitants, and originated by them.

Mr. Stewart: I could not answer "Yes" to the last phrase, "originated by them", because the subject has already been originated and it is a matter of discussion between them and us.

The hon. Gentleman is not right in saying that the words I used were vague. It must be clear to us that the islanders themselves regard the arrangements as satisfactory. If they regarded the arrangements as satisfactory, they would be consenting to them. If they did not regard them as satisfactory, they would not be consenting to them. I think, therefore, that the meaning of the phrase—

Mr. Clark Hutchison indicated dissent.

Mr. Stewart: I do not understand why the hon. Gentleman claims to see a difficulty there. Surely, what I have said is plain English. It is exactly what I mean, and the meaning is plain.

Mr. Braine: The right hon. Gentleman made plain at the end of his speech that the Government will have full regard for the wishes of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands. As I understand it, their full and openly expressed consent would be necessary before there could be any change in sovereignty. If that is what the right hon. Gentleman means, I am prepared to accept it. I think that that is satisfactory. But he has still not answered one question. If this has been

in the Government's mind all the time, why was there so much secrecy? Why were not the representative institutions on the island told what the negotiations were about? Mr. Barton has said that the Executive Council has been kept in ignorance. Why has this little community been kept in the dark? Why could they not have been told, since it is now clear that the Government are tender for their interests?

Mr. Stewart: First, may I say that the facts about who has been told are exactly as I stated them. Second, to have conducted the whole thing in the light of day, before the whole Island, would have meant, in effect, conducting it before the whole world, with the discussions taking place virtually in public. The hon. Gentleman said that he was a Commonwealth man. But he is used to the processes of diplomacy. He must accept that if one wants agreement there are occasions when one is more likely to get it if there is a degree of privacy about the consultations. It may be a pity that this is so. It may be a pity that human beings are so constructed that one cannot always reach wise decisions by completely public discussions. I think that we were right, in view of the many misinterpretations which may have been put on every sentence said by a diplomat or Minister who took part in the talks, to conduct them as such talks are usually conducted, in private and in confidence, but with the measures we took to see that the Governor was informed and that he had the authority to inform the Executive Council. This was the right balance between taking everyone into our confidence and conducting the talks in a way which gave them some chance of success.

Mr. John Smith: How long does the right hon. Gentleman think that the period of uncertainty will last? How long will it be before we get a bit of certainty about the future?

Mr. Stewart: I do not think that it would be wise for me to try to guess the answer to that question. We have made considerable progress in these talks and I hope that they may reach a satisfactory conclusion. I do not think that it would be sensible to prophesy a date.

Mr. Kenyon: I do not know whether hon. Members know that the Governor

was here in February and would have been informed of the circumstances by the Foreign Secretary. But Mr. Barton had left the Island when the Governor got back and, therefore, he would not know what the Governor had learnt. I know that Mr. Barton went to Germany.

Mr. Stewart: I think I ought to stick to what I know to be fact about the way the Governor has behaved.

RATE REBATE SCHEME

7.57 a.m.

Mr. A. H. Macdonald (Chislehurst): After the significant speech which we have just heard I hope that it is not too disagreeable if I come back to domestic affairs. I should like to address some remarks to the operation of the rate rebate scheme.

This scheme has been well received and I am sure that I am not the only hon. Member who can testify that constituents have found it of material assistance to them in the conduct of their financial affairs. In some respects the publicity for the scheme has been deficient. Not everybody who qualifies for a rebate is aware of the facilities. The scheme has been quite well advertised, but I am a little sceptical about the merits of advertising in this kind of situation. Advertisements are effective when the audiences are prepared beforehand to realise that the advertisements refer to them and can mean direct benefit to them. I am not sure that the people who have read the advertisements realise that the scheme applies to them and that it was something for which they could apply.

In the case of owner-occupiers I am satisfied that there has been no difficulty. A leaflet was circulated with the rate demand on the first occasion after the introduction of the scheme. At the time a rate demand is received the desire of the ratepayer to reduce the rate demand is at its height and therefore the impact of the leaflet is very great. There was a little initial difficulty in getting across to council tenants that they too may qualify for the rate rebate because they pay an inclusive rent. I believe that most local authorities have taken satisfactory steps to make their tenants aware of the facilities available, but I should like to know

if the Ministry has satisfied itself that local authorities have done the necessary work in this connection.

In the main, I am satisfied that people in those two categories who might qualify know about the position. I assume that there will be further publicity, because we are about to extend the scheme. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 16th January:

"... we intend to raise the income limits for the Rate Rebate Scheme in the coming autumn. The qualifying limit for the full rebate will be raised for single persons from £8 per week to £9 per week, and from £10 to £11 for married couples; . . ."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, 16th January, 1968; Vol. 756, c. 1586.]

Because there are new limits, new people will be included, and therefore new publicity is desirable.

The third category of people who may qualify for the scheme are private tenants. I am not satisfied that all who may qualify for rate rebate facilities know that they may do so. How can they know? By the very nature of their circumstances they receive no rate demand. Therefore, I suggest that information about the operation of the scheme be included in the rent book that private tenants must have. I am advised that no legislation is necessary, because powers exist to make regulations in this connection. The Government already by regulation insist that certain information must appear in the rent books of tenants, and I presume that what has been done in one connection may be done in another.

I take it for granted that my hon. Friend the Joint Parliamentary Secretary is very familiar with what appears in a rent book. I am not quite so familiar with it, and therefore I have refreshed my memory. In the sample form of rent book I have here I was interested to see that in addition to information about the rent there is a section to display the owner's name and address, a section summarising extracts from the Housing Act, 1957, and a section setting out regulations applying to a regulated tenancy. In the book that I have here there is also a little section with something about pigeons, but I take it that that is a requirement of the particular landlord and is nothing statutory. If there may be all those things in the tenant's rent book, surely it should be possible to include a little section dealing with the rate rebate scheme?

Extract from
Times, London

28 MAR 1968

Sovereignty of Falklands

The future sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was among the questions being considered in confidential talks with the Argentine Government, stated Mr. Michael Stewart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, early on Wednesday in one of the 13 subjects debated on the second reading of the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill. After a closure motion had been agreed to, the Bill was read a second time at 9.41 a.m., and the House adjourned at 10.2 a.m. after a sitting lasting 19 hours, 32 minutes.

Mr. Michael Stewart said it seemed desirable to get a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and the Argentine. For this reason, he would reject criticism of the Government for holding these talks at all. It would have been short-sighted not to do so.

The talks had not been conducted over the heads or behind the backs of the islanders. There had been consultation with the Governor of the islands, who had authority to acquaint his executive council with what the British Government were doing.

It is normal practice (he said) for talks of this kind to be confidential, but there are some things which I think it would be proper for me to say about them to the House now.

He endorsed and confirmed what Lord Caradon had said about the interests of the people of the islands. One of the objects of the talks had been to secure a satisfactory relationship between them and the Argentine.

We thought it right (he said) that in pursuance of this objective the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks.

If you are genuine in saying that you want good relations, you cannot refuse to discuss a subject even if your views and the views of the other party are completely at variance, and even if you do not see at the beginning of the talks how these conditions can be reconciled.

It would not have been far-sighted or in the interests of the islanders to preclude any possi-

bility of discussions by saying that we would not even discuss this question of sovereignty. We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours.

He would point out, however, that "you get nowhere at all if you start by assuming that the person with whom you are discussing is not even sincere".

Britain had to recognize that there was a problem between two nations which desired to be friendly but who took different views as to their rights. It was in the interests of both, and of the islands, that if possible, that dispute should be resolved.

Can it be done? I hope it can (he said). It is of great importance for the islanders that if possible it should be done.

But the suggestion that at any moment there was to be a transfer of sovereignty had no relation to the facts. The heart of the matter was: at what possible time, or in what possible event or circumstances could a transfer of sovereignty be made?

My answer would be (he went on), first, only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina, in which there would be no harassing, no vexation, no inconveniences, and an arrangement also in which if there were a transfer of sovereignty there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders, for the fact of their descent, their language and so on.

Secondly, the Government would only agree to such a cession if it were clear to us that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

Mr. Clark Hutchinson (Edinburgh S. C.) asked for clarification of the statement that transfer would be considered only if the inhabitants regarded this as "satisfactory".

Mr. Stewart replied: "If they regarded the arrangements as satisfactory they would be consenting to them. If they did not, they would not be consenting."

Extract from

NEWS LETTER BELFAST

Date 28 MAR 1968

3003 Pledge to islanders

After mounting apprehension that Britain intended to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart made it clear in the Commons early yesterday that the Government had no such ideas.

He did not go so far as to say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from

Western Morning News, Plymouth

28 MAR 1968

Falkland fears

JUST what is the Government up to over the Falkland Islands? The statement by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, created only confusion and suspicion. Why hold secret talks about sovereignty of the islands unless there is some possibility of getting rid of them—and for what? According to Mr. Stewart we want a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine, but surely the present arrangement is satisfactory, at least to the islanders.

The way Mr. Stewart spoke it looks as though the Government is quite willing to give up the islands if only it can obtain the agreement of the population. He says there is no doubt about Britain's sovereignty, and certainly we have a far stronger case than the Argentine. In that case, why give them away?

The great majority of the islanders are of British descent, and they have made it clear that they do not want to become Argentinians. Britain has controlled the Falklands for 135 years, and even before then the Spanish recognised the British claim to at least part of the group. But Mr. Stewart infuriatingly says that the Argentine is firmly convinced of the justness of its claim. Every claimant would say his case was the just one. Would Mr. Stewart expect Argentina to admit its case was weak? Another claim by the Argentine, apart from historical reasons is that the islands are only 250 miles from her coasts. On that basis, hardly an offshore community in the world would be safe from being gobbled up by some greedy mainland. In any case, the Argentine Government has said that it will never accept a plebiscite. So Mr. Stewart should break off these pointless talks and tell the Argentinians that the Falklands are not for sale. The islanders are said to be very worried about their future, and from Mr. Stewart's ominous statement they have every right to be.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

29 MAR 1968

FALKLANDERS SUSPICIOUS OF GOVERNMENT

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Falkland Islanders are still suspicious of the Government's intentions, despite the assurance by Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, that there is to be no transfer of sovereignty "immediately," is what sticks in the throat, Mr. F. G. Mitchell, secretary of the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee, made plain in London last night.

The committee was formed on Monday, with Sir John Barlow as chairman, to emphasise that the islanders are opposed to Argentina's claim to sovereignty. Mr. Arthur Barton, a member of the Falkland Island Executive Council, is one of the other five members.

Comment by Lord Chalfont in the House of Lords, that "the islanders' wishes were "paramount," seemed to have clouded the issue, Mr. Mitchell said. Since these were already known, they saw no purpose in continuing talks between Britain and Argentina on the future of the islands.

Extract from
Manchester Evening News

27 MAR 1968

We back you, Britain tells Falklands

B RITAIN is not planning to hand over the staunchly pro-British Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic to the Argentine.

This eagerly awaited assurance was given in the Commons today by Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart.

It came near the end of a marathon all night sitting lasting 19 hours 32 minutes—the longest since July 13 last year.

There was a growing suspicion among islanders—and among Tory MPs—that in secret talks with the Argentine Britain had agreed to hand over the islands.

Argentina has been claiming the islands—population 2,000—since 1834.

Sovereignty

Mr Stewart revealed: "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine.

"We thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks. "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina

was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned.

"In what event, or at what time, could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?

"To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harrassing, and no inconvenience."

Transfer of sovereignty could be made only with the agreement of the islanders, he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from

The Birmingham Post

Date 28 MAR 1968
(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Pledge given on Falklands

After mounting apprehension that Britain intended to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders, the Foreign Secretary, MR. MICHAEL STEWART, made it clear in the Commons early yesterday that the Government had no such ideas.

He did not go so far as to say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders. On this basis, it is certainly not going to happen in the immediate future.

Extract from
Glasgow Evening Times

28 MAR 1968

Stewart disappoints islanders

A representative group of Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, residents has expressed disappointment over the statement of Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart yesterday on the colony.

Mr Stewart told the Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2000 islanders.

The official text of Mr Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the island's Government but the islanders heard a B.B.C. broadcast on it.

Rejected

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Mendez, said last night that Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2000 islanders to determine their future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON S.W.1

Extract from

Birmingham Evening Mail

Date 28 MAR 1968
(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Pledge given on Falklands

After mounting apprehension that Britain intended to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders, the Foreign Secretary, MR. MICHAEL STEWART, made it clear in the Commons early yesterday that the Government had no such ideas.

He did not go so far as to say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders. On this basis, it is certainly not going to happen in the immediate future.

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

28 MAR 1968

Comment**Secret
sell-out?**

THERE can be no quibbling about the Falkland Islands. They are British and must remain British, as long as the 2,000 islanders so wish.

LORD CARADON told the UN bluntly back in 1965: 'The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered.' Yet this is exactly what the Government has just been trying to do.

FOR MR MICHAEL STEWART, the Foreign Secretary, confirms that he has been secretly discussing the sovereignty of the Falklands with the rapacious Argentinians. He did not consult the islanders because he knows that the last thing they want is to be taken over by Argentina.

His excuse was that, although the sovereignty is 'legally ours', talks are better than letting the situation 'fester'. But it is better to speak out clearly than to give the Argentinians false hopes of concessions. If the Government was not selling the Falklanders down the river, what was there to discuss?

Citizens

EVEN now these loyal British citizens, mostly of British stock, cannot sleep soundly. For MR STEWART says only that there is no question of a 'transfer of sovereignty immediately'.

When does he plan to betray them, then? Next year? 1984? And when will he start talks with PRESIDENT DE GAULLE over the sovereignty of the Channel Islands?

The sordid story follows the pattern of the Gibraltar row. Secret talks with the greedy neighbour — growing disquiet in the Colony and in Britain — blameworthy double-talk in Parliament — public outrage — shamefaced statements by the FOREIGN SECRETARY.

The upshot seems to be: We shall stand by our friends, until we can ditch them without anybody noticing in time.

Cynical

MR STEWART justifies this kowtowing to the gross imperialism of Argentina and Spain by saying that 'the building up of the authority of the UN is of enormous importance.'

But it is the cynical double standards of the UN — as shown in its anti-British resolutions on Gibraltar and the Falklands — which do most to weaken its authority.

The UN has continually demanded that Britain take over Rhodesia, a country which has never been directly ruled by Whitehall.

We are forfeiting some £100 million a year in a futile effort to exercise our shadowy sovereignty in Rhodesia by trade sanctions.

Yet our sovereignty in the Falklands, as in Gibraltar, is real and of long standing. To stick to our rights and to do our duty would cost only a few firm words.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

28 MAR 1968

**BRITAIN CLEARS DOUBTS
ON FALKLANDS****PLEDGE TO ISLANDERS**By MICHAEL HILTON
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT will not agree to any transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands which does not meet with the consent of the inhabitants.

This was made clear in statements made in Parliament yesterday by Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, and Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office.

The statements represent the clearest pledge yet given by the Government. They have been made because of disquiet expressed by the islanders and by Opposition M.Ps.

The Government has been holding talks with Argentina, which has long claimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The talks were recommended by a United Nations resolution.

The Government has until now been unwilling to make a flat statement about the future of the islands while the talks were in progress. Mr. Stewart said yesterday:

"No justification"

"Let me dispel the fear. The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned.

"In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered?

"To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here.

"The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of

all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Senor Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina's position "has been clearly stated. It is just the recognition of Argentine sovereignty there."

"This is our main objective." Argentina would never accept a plebiscite by the islanders to decide their future.

Before making his statement in the House early yesterday morning, Mr. Stewart had asked Senor McLoughlin, Argentine Ambassador in London, to call on him the previous evening at the Foreign Office.

It is assumed that he informed the Ambassador on the nature of the statement.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Sketch, London

28 MAR 1968

**FALKLANDS:
'WE STAY
BRITISH'**

A GOOD news cable was sent to the Falkland Islands last night telling the islanders: "We are staying British."

Yesterday in the Commons Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart said there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to The Argentine without the islanders' consent.

Last night Mr. Arthur Barton, the Falkland Islands' emissary in London, said:

"I am satisfied that our rights are not going to be traded away in secret talks. This dispute has been a running sore for 135 years."

Mr. Barton, a member of the Island's Legislative Council, recorded a radio broadcast for the islanders to be sent out from Port Stanley late last night.

28 MAR 1968

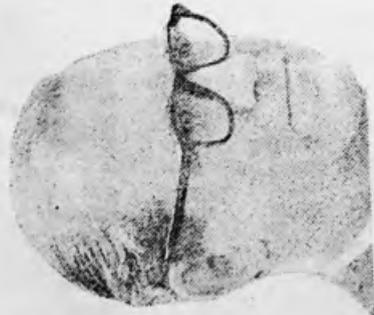
Fear for the Falklands

THERE WERE new fears last night for the future of the Falkland Isles.

The fears were aroused by slippery Government statements about secret talks with Argentina.

The 2,000 islanders had believed that a tough, behind-the-scenes fight by Mr George Thomson, the Commonwealth Secretary, had saved them from being engulfed.

But yesterday, when Tory and Labour



THOMSON: Secret talks

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

28 MAR 1968

Falklands will not be transferred without consent

Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, assured M.P.s near the end of the all-night sitting that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders.

Mr Stewart said one of the Government's objects had been to ensure a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. So they had decided that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in talks with the Argentine Government.

"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

No harassing

There was no justification in the fear that there would be a transfer of sovereignty immediately.

"In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be

the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders." The right to agree to such a secession lay with the Government who would only agree on condition that an agreement was "fully satisfactory" and only if the islanders regarded it as satisfactory and in their interests.

Concerned

Opening the debate, Mr S. Linnburgh (C.) said he was deeply concerned about the matter because of recent answers in both the Lords and the Commons.

For some time there had been negotiations between Britain and the Argentine about the future of the islands as a result of a resolution by the Security Council. In international law the islands were British, and nearly all countries recognised this.

There was no doubt that the islanders themselves wanted to strengthen their relations with Britain, and he could not understand the attitude of the Government.

They should cease to "shilly shally," and state that there would be no transfer of sovereignty or sharing of sovereignty without consultation and consent of the islanders. There should be no secret deals involving meat or shipping orders.

He asked them to report to

—By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

backbenchers sought a categorical pledge that the islanders' interests would always be paramount in deciding any transfer of sovereignty, they were denied a straight 'Yes' or 'No' in both the Commons and the Lords.

The only fear Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart bashed completely was 'that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately.'

That last word was enough to send shudders across the South Atlantic to the hundred-odd islands some 400 miles north-east of Cape Horn.

Mr Stewart gave his assurance in the

Commons just after midnight, as MPs neared the end of their marathon all-night sitting. He said there was no question of the Falklands being handed over to Argentina without the consent of the islanders.

But later in the day suspicious Tories returned to the subject in the Lords. Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, put it this way when he was questioned by Opposition leader Lord Carrington: "The Government believes that a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina, and one which would fully safeguard the special rights of the islanders."

Lord Carrington wasn't happy. He

imagined the answer meant yes, the wishes of the islanders would be the prime consideration. But why wouldn't Lord Chalfont say so?

The Minister was not to be drawn. 'I have tried to convey my meaning,' he said, 'and I think that meaning is clear.'

Lord Carrington observed sourly: 'Each answer you give makes us distrust the Government even more.'

The champion of the islanders' cause, George Thomson, had toe-to-toe arguments with former Foreign Secretary George Brown during months of secret talks between Britain and Argentina.

At one stage Mr Thomson was spending more time fighting for the Falklanders than he was giving to the problems of Rhodesia or Malta's docks.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Nottingham Guardian Journal

28 MAR 1968

The deciding factor

IN the old days, when British influence counted for more in the councils of the nations than it does now, and when the Royal Navy could claim to be the policeman of the seas, it was customary to refer to the Falkland Islands as one of the far-distant outposts of Empire.

Today, however, we no longer have an Empire. Its place has been taken by the very loosely-knit assortment of countries, most of them independent, which we call the Commonwealth.

But the Falklands still come under Britain's jurisdiction, though how long they will continue in their present status is an open question. Yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told the House of Commons that it was a matter to be decided by the islanders themselves.

The statement was in reply to Members who had asked for an assurance that would satisfy the islanders that they were going to remain under the British flag. For of course the Argentine has its eyes on the Falklands, and, said Mr Stewart, it is as convinced of the rightness of its claim as this country with regard to the right to our continued jurisdiction.

Thus the dispute between the two Governments is likely to be long drawn-out. Disputes of this kind generally are. And then even if the matter were to be put to the vote of the islanders themselves, we could not say in advance just how the voting would go. But whatever the verdict might be, we could not tolerate any forcible takeover by the Argentine.

M.P.s SIT FOR 19 HOURS

M.P.s left the House of Commons yesterday morning after a sitting lasting more than 19 and a half hours, the longest sitting since July 13 last year, when the House considered the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill.

They had been discussing the Consolidated Fund Bill, which allows M.P.s to raise a wide variety of subjects, both of constituency and national interest.

The all-night sitting was suspended for 15 minutes when Mr Sydney Irving, a Deputy Speaker, was taken ill in the Speaker's Chair at 6.15 a.m.

The debate was resumed when Sir Eric Fletcher, another Deputy Speaker, came to the chair.

the U.N. that they were not prepared to entertain any further negotiations on the subject and that they would give the islanders protection, physical if necessary.

Mr Bernard Braine (C., Essex S.E.) said: "God help the Commonwealth when the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices merge. If a betrayal of the Falkland Islands is an example of the Foreign Office overruling the Commonwealth Office, then all I can say is: 'God help our Commonwealth interests' when the two merge."

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Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

28 MAR 1968

28 MAR 1968

Falkland commuter wants a poll

Healey gives them a laugh in the Falklands

Western Mail
Reporter

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands, Thursday.—Defence Minister Denis Healey's recent statement that the Falkland Islands were guarded by the 31-year-old ice patrol ship Protector caused derision today — because the ship was 15 days' northbound towards a breaker's yard.

The Protector, refitted in 1955 for service in the area is to be replaced eventually by a ship bought from a Danish firm.

Replying to a question in the Commons 10 days ago on whether the Islanders could repel an invasion, Mr. Healey said that a British marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.
—*Reuter.*

commander of the Falkland Island defence corps.

"All the islanders are armed with guns and some have Bren-guns. I would not like to say that they would fight for their independence but I know that I would.

"We have no problems on the island. Everybody is working, there is no poverty and there is no mixture of races. We want to stay within the Commonwealth or be independent," he said.

cerned at statements being made at the moment

"I think more political pressure is being put on the Government. When the ban on imports of Argentinian meat is raised, trade with Britain could be one way to exert pressure."

"The future of the Falkland Islands must be definite. The islanders would prefer to be independent than be subjected to any rule from another country besides Britain"

The farm was built up by Mr. Greenshields's father who settled there and worked for Falkland Island Company. But after saving enough money he decided to buy some land and branch out on his own.

"My father had to sleep in a barrel before he built his farmhouse. After he died the farm passed to my mother, my brother and myself," said Mr. Greenshields.

His mother Mrs. Malvinia Greenshields, returned to her native Caernarvon during the war while his father stayed as

A Welsh farmer who commutes between North Wales and his 140,000-sheep ranch in the Falkland Islands said last night he was pressing for a referendum on the island's future.

Mr. Harland Llewelyn Greenshields aged 40, who spends six months of every two years on the islands where he has 20,000 sheep told me. "The 2,000 people who live on the islands are British and would never consider being ruled by an Argentine Government."

More urgent

"The recent promise by the British Government that the islands would stay British was given by Lord Caradon on behalf of the Government in 1965 at the U.N. but I feel that present Argentinian claims are being seriously considered.

"Argentina have been claiming the islands for the past 100 years. Now their claims are more urgent.

Mr. Greenshields, who now lives on his 160-acre cattle farm at Caethrw, near Caernarvon, was born in the Falklands. He said that many of the people there were con-

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks

28 MAR 1968

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

KEEN NOTICE will be taken by the British people of the pledge (clear and categorical) given in the House of Commons yesterday by the new Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, that the Government will not agree to any transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands which does not meet with the consent of the inhabitants of the islands themselves.

There has been much disquiet recently that the conversations that have been going on between British representatives and the Argentine Government—which has laid claim to the islands and in so doing has received some backing from the United Nations—would lead to an ignominious handing over of the islands to a foreign Power. Now, Mr Stewart will be held firmly to his promise.

The fact of the matter is that the British people are becoming more and more sceptical of what Labour Ministers say. With a flourish of Union Jacks and general jubilation, the Gibraltarians, for instance, hailed Mr Wilson's assertion, made not so long ago, that Gibraltar was British, would remain British and that Spanish claims to the territory (the United Nations' oddly anti-British view notwithstanding) would be rejected with the disdain they deserved. Yet what has happened? Talks with Spain on the future of Gibraltar continue and it is not surprising therefore that in Gibraltar there is a growing sense of frustration and unease.

The trouble with this Government is that it continually lays itself open to the charge of duplicity. Having made firm assertions of policy on this or that, thereby stilling all too often well-founded fears that it is, in fact, planning something to the contrary, it then attempts to ease public opinion away from its professed intention and, in the end, produces a *fait accompli* that completely devalues its word. These are dangerous tactics.



INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Northern Despatch, Darlington

28 MAR 1968

Falklanders 'vexed'

A REPRESENTATIVE group of Port Stanley residents has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, yesterday, on the colony.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The recent statement by Mr. Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by HMS Protector caused derision there because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

Replying to an opposition question on whether the islanders could repel an invasion, Mr. Healey said in the Commons on March 18 that a British marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.

The 31-year-old ice patrol ship, refitted in 1955 for service in the Falklands area, is due to be replaced by a ship bought from a Danish firm.

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said last night that

Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2,000 islanders to determine their future.

Extract from the

Shields Gazette

and Shipping Telegraph

Incorporating The Shields Evening News

Date 28 MAR 1968

ISLANDERS PLEASED, BUT ARGENTINE UNMOVED

The 2,000 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands rejoiced at the news of Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart's pledge that the islands would not be handed over to Argentina without their consent.

The news of Mr. Stewart's statement in the Commons was heard in BBC news broadcasts. No official statement will be made until the British Government directly contacts island officials, reports UPI.

But in Buenos Aires the Argentine Minister of Foreign

Relations, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, repeated that Argentine sovereignty over the islands cannot be submitted to a plebiscite.

He added: "Argentina is ready to consider the situation of the inhabitants of the islands with all the care the case requires, and to protect the rights and interests of the population."

Talks between Britain and the Argentine over the future of the islands are being held at the behest of the U.N. Security Council.

Extract from the

Evening Express

ABERDEEN

28 MAR 1968

Date.....
'See information overleaf.'

Stewart

upsets

Falkland

Islanders

A GROUP representing residents of Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, on the colony.

Mr Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2000 islanders.

The official text of Mr Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government in Port Stanley, but the islanders heard a BBC broadcast on it.

The recent statement by Mr Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by HMS Protector caused derision there because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

Replying to an Opposition question on whether the islanders could repel an invasion, Mr Healey said in the Commons on March 18 that a British Marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.

The 31-year-old ice patrol ship is due to be replaced by a ship bought from a Danish firm.

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Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2000 islanders to determine their future.

Extract from the

Daily Record

Scotland's National Newspaper
GLASGOW

Date 28 MAR 1968
(See information overleaf)

Falklands to stay British

THE Falkland Islands won't be handed over by Britain to Argentina. Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart told the Commons yesterday that the Government had no such ideas.

He did not say that sovereignty would never be transferred, but he did stress that it would be done only with the consent of the islanders.

And in the Lords, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lord Chalfont said the interests of the Falkland islanders were "paramount" and the Government would take full account of their wishes.

International Press-cutting Bureau
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date 28 MAR 1968

Stewart disappoints Falkland Islanders

A representative group of residents in Port Stanley (Falkland Islands) has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart, on the colony, cables Reuter today.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The official text of Mr. Stewart's statement has not yet been received by island officials but residents heard a BBC broadcast on it.

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony

Extract from
Ipswich Evening Star, Ipswich

28 MAR 1968

Small islands, but with big problems

BRITISH sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has been in dispute for about 200 years.

First it was the Spaniards who claimed the Islands—more than 100 of them—from Britain. But for the last 138 years ownership of the territories has been disputed by Argentina.

Argentina and the British Government agreed a few months ago to have further talks on the Falklands after an exchange at the United Nations. "Papal title" succession to Spain and occupation before Britain are the reasons Argentina gives for her claim.

But the Island's early history is linked almost entirely with Britain. An English sea captain, Davis, first sighted them in 1592.

The name Falklands probably dates from the first recorded landing made in 1690 by Captain Strong of the "Farewell." Spanish sailors dubbed the islands the "Malvinas," the French "Malouines."

Postponed

A British expedition planned in 1749 was postponed because of Spanish protests. In 1764, Bougainville of France founded Port Louis in East Falkland.

In 1765 a British squadron surveyed the Islands, and took formal possession of what became Port Egmont in West Falkland. The next year a small British garrison was established there, and the French handed over Port Louis to the Spaniards. They re-named it Soledad.

In 1770 a strong Spanish expedition from Buenos Aires forced the British to surrender—and nearly started war between Britain and Spain. The British returned by

Since 1908 the government of the Falkland Islands has included that of the dependencies as well.

In the last twenty years, small parties of Argentinians have landed to "take over" the Falklands—but have been expelled by Britain.

The Falkland Islands are valuable to Britain as a base for Antarctic exploration. Port Stanley,

the capital, has "Bobbies" in English uniforms, red pillar-boxes and croquet lawns.

Wool is the big business of the Falklands on which 600,000 sheep graze. There are more than 2,000 inhabitants. But it is lonely life, and alcohol consumption is high: an average of 40 bottles of liquor a person is drunk yearly.



THE FALKLAND ISLANDS are in the news again. In the Commons yesterday, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, gave an assurance that there would be no question of a hand-over to Argentina without the islanders' consent. There is no doubt, writes OLIVE PARK, that a British sea captain first discovered the Falklands in 1592, but there has been an almost uninterrupted succession of disputes and invasions for the past two centuries.

agreement in 1771, but six years later the Spaniards destroyed the British settlement. From 1775 Spain kept a governor at Soledad.

Meanwhile, Captain James Cook surveyed and took possession of South Georgia in 1775, and discovered the South Sandwich Islands.

In 1806 the Spanish governor was withdrawn from Soledad, and five years later the revolutionary junta at Buenos Aires removed the inhabitants.

William Smith discovered the South Shetland Islands in 1819. In 1820 the government of the United Provinces of La Plata claimed the Falklands as a former Spanish possession.

Arrested

In 1828, Louis Vernet, a naturalised Argentinian was appointed governor of the settlement he had founded. Vernet arrested three American ships for breaches of the seal-fishing regulations in 1831, and took one of them into Buenos Aires as a prize.

The United States retaliated by sending a warship to demilitarise the Argentinian post in the Falklands in 1832 a new Argentinian governor was murdered in a mutiny.

On December 20, 1832 a small British squadron took formal possession of Port Egmond and on January 3, 1833, compelled the Argentinian garrison at Soledad to surrender.

Through the years, successive Argentine Governments have protested that the Falklands are theirs and postage stamps were even printed showing them as Argentine territory. In 1946 the Argentine took its claim to the United Nations.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Daily Mirror, London

28 MAR 1968

FALKLANDS: NO HAND-OVER IF PEOPLE REFUSE

FIRM pledges were given yesterday that Britain would not hand over the South Atlantic Falkland Islands colony without the consent of the 2,000 islanders.

Argentina claims the islands, and the question of transferring sovereignty has been discussed in secret talks with the Argentine Government.

Anxious

But Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart told anxious MPs, during an early-morning sitting, that an essential condition of any transfer would be that the islanders regarded it as being in their interests.

This pledge was later repeated in the Lords by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs.

But he rejected a suggestion that a plebiscite be held.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

28 MAR 1968

IN ON ISLANDS FIGHT

As argument flares over the future of those remote islands in the South Atlantic, the £2,000,000 Falkland Islands Company, virtually the only organised commercial concern operating there, finds itself playing a key role.

The firm is deeply involved in backing the campaign to stop the Government handing over the colony to Argentina. And the primary concern is for the people's future.

People unsettled

Falkland Island's London office has been open since Monday for meetings of all those in the fight, including the islands' official envoy, Mr. Arthur Barton, formerly the company's manager in Port Stanley, the capital.

The present London manager, Mr. Francis Mitchell, is secretary of an emergency committee which includes two MPs. "It has been formed to make it known what the Falkland Islanders' wishes are, and what sort of people they are," Mr. Mitchell tells me.

"What worries us as a company is that the hard-working

people on whom we rely are becoming very unsettled."

Falkland, as well as owning 275,000 sheep and half the land, also runs the island's shipping line, bank, and various stores. There were 2,172 islanders at the last count, 98.3% of them British. And like the Gibraltarians they're intensely patriotic... "More British than the British," as Mr. Mitchell says.

Extract from
Northern Daily Mail, HartlepoolExtract from
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

28 MAR 1968

28 MAR 1968

Foreign Secretary disappoints the Falkland Islands

A REPRESENTATIVE group of Port Stanley residents has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, yesterday on the Colony.

Mr Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The official text of Mr Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government in Port Stanley but the islanders heard a B.B.C. broadcast on it.

The recent statement by Mr Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by H.M.S. Protector caused derision because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

[Replying to an Opposition question on whether the islanders could repel an invasion, Mr Healey said in the House of Commons on March 18 that a British Marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.

[The 31-year-old ice patrol ship, refitted in 1955 for service in the Falklands area, is due to be replaced by a ship bought from a Danish company.]

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said last night that Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2,000 islanders to determine their future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

28 MAR 1968

Islands will decide future

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons yesterday that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart said, "One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

Defend

He added, "We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours and we have a clear duty to defend it."

But he warned M.P.s that while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, Argentina was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr. Stewart said, "Let me dispel the fear—the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

"The Government would only agree to secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Parliament

No surrender of Falklands says Stewart

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, assured the Commons early yesterday that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the consent of the islanders. This statement came towards the end of an all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Mr. Stewart said: "Let me dispel the fear — the idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

He went on: "In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders.

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

Pressed to reply

Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Con., Edinburgh South), opening a debate on the islands, had asked the Government to report to the United Nations that they were not prepared to entertain any further negotiations.

The interests of the islanders were paramount and the Government would take full account of their wishes, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said in the Lords yesterday.

The Minister had been repeatedly pressed for a definitive answer on the sovereignty of the islands. The Marquess of Salisbury later asked: "Is it true that the wishes of the islanders are to be paramount? If so, then what is the purpose of negotiation with the Argentine Government?"

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

30 MAR 1968

Island race

Sir,—I would like to add to your leading article on the Falkland Islands (March 26): there seems to be little doubt in the minds of the Argentinians as to whom the Islands belong. In the programme for the Racing Club-Celtic football match, an article states that Argentinian territories include an Antarctic zone and also the Islas Malvinas (Falklands).—Yours faithfully,

Bernard Crowley.

33 Winster Road,
Eccles, Manchester.

Extract from
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

28 MAR 1968

LONDON LETTER—*Lacking power and hope: Falklands' future:
Cold chicken for good relations: Campaign for rescue.*

Scorn and anger but few new ideas

ALDWYCH HOUSE, W.C.2, Wednesday Night,

S CORN and anger flew across the House in the first full-scale debate on Rhodesia since the Tiger talks, but few helpful ideas on ending the quarrel could be discerned in the uproar.

Mr. Wilson's scorching condemnation of the Lardner-Burkes and Duponts was considered by Mr. Heath to be heated and intemperate. Mr. Heath's suggestion that sanctions had ranged the majority of Africans as well as Europeans behind the Smith régime was considered by Labour back-benchers to be almost indecent.

On the one side, it was argued that the only course was to strengthen sanctions, because no settlement was possible with men who could not be trusted to honour it. On the other, it was suggested that there must be negotiations to bring Rhodesia to a new legality. It all sounded like a dispute between men who realise they lack both power and hope.

Guarantees

THE rough, tough school would have liked the Foreign Secretary to slam the door in the face of the Argentinians so that there would be manifestly no danger, today or tomorrow, of agreement over the Falklands.

Mr. Stewart refrained from obliging and he has his reasons. It would be unjust to conclude that, among them, was any intention of selling out. There

From our own staff

is a legitimate distinction between the present desires of the 2000 inhabitants and their possible long-term interests and the Government wants to avoid prejudicing both. The population is dwindling, since children sent away to be educated are not always anxious to return.

It is, moreover, not impossible that an Argentinian régime more liberal than the present one would make an agreement that the islanders themselves considered in their interests. The position is secured by the undertaking that their wishes will be respected.

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 28 MAR 1968

Peers press for 'yes' or 'no' on Falklands

BRITAIN has no intention of handing over the Falkland Islands to The Argentine, and the interests of the Islanders are "paramount." These two points were stressed yesterday after mounting apprehension about the future of the Islands.

In the House of Lords, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said the Government would take full account of the Islanders' wishes. He had been repeatedly pressed for a "no nonsense yes or no" answer with regard to the sovereignty of the Islands.

And in the House of Commons earlier yesterday, Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, stressed that the Government had no intention of making any move which did not conform with the Islanders' wishes.

He did not, however, say that sovereignty would never be transferred. But it would only be done with the Islanders' consent.

After Lord Chalfont had made his pledge in the Lords, the Marquess of Salisbury asked: "Is it true that the wishes of the islanders are to be paramount? If so, then what is the purpose of negotiation with The Argentine Government?"

Lord Carrington said: "Each answer Lord Chalfont gives makes us distrust him and the Government even more."

He had asked for an undertaking that the wishes of the Islanders would be paramount in deciding whether or not sovereignty should be transferred.

Lord Chalfont said: "The British Government believes that a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the Islands and The Argentine, and one which would fully safeguard the special rights of the Islanders."

Secondly, it would have to be clear to the Government that the Islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

Lord Carrington: "I imagine that that means 'yes.' If so, why did the Minister of State not say so? He gave some very ambiguous answers when I asked about this some 10 days ago."

Lord Chalfont: "I am not responsible for what he infers from my answer. The answer was in clear, carefully chosen words, to indicate what I mean and what the Government means."

He added that this was a subject for confidential negotiations with another sovereign State, but Lord Carrington queried: "Is the answer 'yes' or 'no'?"

Lord Chalfont: "The fact that he puts a question in such simple form does not make this a simple matter. I am not prepared to answer 'yes' or 'no.' I have tried to convey my meaning, and I think that meaning is clear."

Overwhelming wish

Lord Balfour later asked if Lord Chalfont could not answer "yes" or "no," adding: "Is the Government satisfied that it is the overwhelming wish that the islanders should remain British subjects?"

Lord Chalfont: "I am afraid that 'yeses' and 'noes' are not going to be in great profusion. It is not only a question of whether the islanders are to remain British subjects: there is the question of the territory as well."

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

28 MAR 1968

Date
(See information overleaf)

Future of Falkland Isles colony remains uncertain

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The future of the Falkland Islands colony and its 2000 people, mainly sheep farmers of British stock, remains uncertain after statements yesterday by the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons and by Lord Chalfont in the House of Lords.

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS
29 MAR 1968

Date

Falklands: 'Running sore ...'

THE British Government would agree to cession of the Falkland Islands only if it were clear that the Islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests, said Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Joint Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in the Commons last night.

Mr. Roberts was replying to an adjournment debate moved by Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Cons., Chigwell), who had said that he did not believe that any agreement for the transfer, pooling or adulteration of British sovereignty could guarantee the rights, liberties and civilisation of the Islands.

If after an agreement, Islanders emigrated, "that might be regarded as a solution to an awkward problem. But it would be a solution of shame and infamy."

Remarks in the House of Lords on Wednesday by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, had caused "doubt and anxiety" about the Government's intentions

over the Falkland Islands and "dismay" in the Islands themselves, said Mr. Bernard Braine (Cons., SE Essex).

Mr. Roberts said: "The Islands have constituted a running sore in our relations with Argentina for over a century. Without betraying our obligations to the Islands we want to do what we can to improve relations with Argentina and Latin America as a whole.

Extract from
Hastings Evening Argus, Sussex

28 MAR 1968

Stewart's promise upsets islanders

PEOPLE who live in Port Stanley are disappointed by yesterday's pledge on the future of the Falkland Islands given by the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The official text of Mr. Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government, but the islanders heard a B.B.C. broadcast.

DERISION

The islanders regard it in the same light as the recent statement by Mr. Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by H.M.S. Protector. This was greeted with derision because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said Argentina had no reason for not continuing with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims South Atlantic colony rejected a British plebiscite among islanders to determine their future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Guardian, Manchester & London

30 MAR 1968

Shares plunge

POLITICAL disturbances surrounding the Falkland Islands are having repercussions on the London Stock Exchange.

Shares of the Falkland Islands Company have withered from a peak of 38s in 1967, and are today changing hands at 26s 3d,

reflecting both the fears of a handover of the islands by Britain to Argentina, and the depressed fortunes of the company.

The firm is one of those old ventures set up by royal charter in 1851. Its original aim was to tame wild cattle living on the islands, but business was poor until the company decided to switch to sheep rearing and began to reap rich rewards.

Rich rewards, that is, until recently, when the bottom fell out of the wool market. Although profits are still in the region of £300,000 a year the group was recently forced to cut its dividend. Present efforts are concentrated on diversification outside of the 275,000 sheep the group owns and the large estate interests in the Falklands. The main moves have been into catering and ship chandlery.

No sovereignty doubts

"While not doubting that sovereignty is legally ours the question of sovereignty has been included in our discussions."

The transfer of sovereignty would have to be as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the Islands and Argentina, in which there would be no harassment and no inconvenience for the Islanders. There would also have to be the fullest security for the rights of the Islanders.

"The final right regarding sovereignty lies with the United Kingdom Government," said Mr. Roberts. "They would only agree if it were clear that the Islanders themselves regard such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests."

Mr. Roberts added: "If and when proposals were made, possibly for a cession or transfer of sovereignty, there would be ample opportunity for the Islanders and the people of this country, and for this House..."

Islanders are 'disappointed'

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands, Thursday

REPRESENTATIVES of Port Stanley residents have expressed disappointment over the statement of Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, on the colony yesterday.

The official text of Mr. Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government here, but the Islanders heard a BBC broadcast on it.

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony, and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite to determine their future.—Reuter.

30 MAR 1968

The Falklands fight comes to London

By FREDERICK COLBERT

For over a hundred years the Falkland islanders have staunchly and proudly proclaimed: "We are British and we don't want to be anything else."

To make sure the British Government has not overlooked this plea from 8,000 miles away, Mr. A. G. Barton, unofficial member of the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands, is in London to lobby MPs.

His visit comes at a time of sharply mounting Tory suspicion that the Government is on the point of giving in to the age-old question of Argentina's claim to the Falklands and is about to sell the islands down the river—the Rio de la Plata, to be precise.

Argentina has laid claim to the 200 islands—which lie about 400 miles off the coast—since 1832. She was wrongfully dispossessed, she says, when two British warships visited the islands and expelled the remnants of the Argentine garrison.

Way of life

The British first settled there in 1766 and it was not until 1820 that the government in Buenos Aires—after declaring its independence from Spain—sent a ship to the islands to proclaim its sovereignty as successor to Spain.

In 1964 the question of the Falklands was put before the United Nations, which instructed Britain and Argentina "to find a peaceful solution."

Why do the Falkland Islanders want to remain British?

The easy answer, says Mr. Barton, is: "We are British. Ninety-eight per cent. three per cent. of our population of 2,172 are of British stock. For over 100 years the islands have been as much a part of Britain as the Isle of Wight."

But there is more to it than that. The whole way of life is British to the core. When a Falkland islander talks of "home", means Britain.

The islanders claim that if you plucked a man from Britain and set him down in the Falklands, the only difference he would notice was the lack of tension and pressure which is too much a part of life in Britain today.

No public debt

The whole economy of the islands is geared to Britain. The main exports—wool, skins and hides—are all sold through London. Eighty per cent of islands imports come from Britain. The currency is Sterling.

And on these happy islands there is no public debt—revenue exceeds expenditure—and there is no unemployment.

No wonder they do not want to change it for the uncertainty and disadvantage of rule under Argentina.

"Argentina's only interest in

us is one of prestige," claims Mr. Barton.

"We want what we have always had, a settled community. One certainly could not describe Argentina, and South America in general as a settled community."

"To become a part of Argentina would mean a new way of life, one which would be quite alien to us."

"We would be subject to new laws, new taxes (much higher than in the Falklands,) a new language and a new currency."

The economy, the islanders fear, would be bound to suffer. "It would be very disadvantageous to sell our products through South America," says Mr. Barton. "The markets are uncertain and the prices fictitious."

Following his talks here Mr. Barton believes that the islands—which in square miles cover an area the size of Northern Ireland—have been granted a reprieve by the British Government.

But cynics among officials in London, who have watched the Empire fade away, are still asking—"For how long?"

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
Financial Times, London

28 MAR 1968

Britain seeks to avoid showdown over Falklands

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE CONSERVATIVE Opposition is plainly not satisfied with the statements first by the Foreign Secretary in the Commons early yesterday morning, and then by Lord Chalfont in the House of Lords yesterday afternoon, on British policy towards the Falkland Islands.

Neither Minister would give the categorical assurance sought by the Opposition that sovereignty would never pass to Argentina, which claims the territory. Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, admitted that the question of sovereignty had been discussed with the Argentine authorities.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said: "The Government believes that a transfer of sovereignty could be considered only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the island and Argentina, and one which would fully safeguard the

rights of the Islanders."

It is generally accepted that the 2,000-odd islanders to a man want to preserve their present ties with Britain. The Conservative view is that this fact makes any discussion with Argentina on sovereignty unnecessary.

Nationalistic

There are, however, other considerations, not least a feeling in some diplomatic circles that if Britain has given up its interests in areas of rather greater strategic importance, there is little case for holding on to the Falkland Islands.

The other point is that if Argentina sought to press its claim militarily, this could be seriously embarrassing. The present military Government in Argentina is a highly nationalistic one, and in recent weeks the general tone of the statements of General Onganía has become more nationalistic than

ever. The claim to the Islas Malvinas—as they are called in Argentina—is an emotive one.

The most likely explanation of British policy is that the Government is seeking to avoid any sort of confrontation with Argentina and is doing this by being prepared to enter into reasonable discussions.

The problem is an extra sensitive one because of the obvious analogies to Spain and Gibraltar, and Guatemala and British Honduras. In all three cases a local power is claiming territory where Britain has a clear responsibility but from which it gets little or no return.

Apart from the wishes of the local populations, a further obstacle to a settlement is that Argentina is thought to be politically unstable. Guatemala is in a state of suppressed civil war and Spain is ruled by General Franco.

MAR 1968

As long as Britain doesn't let us down...

From JOHN SMITH
PORT STANLEY,
Thursday.

ONE soldier for every hundred thousand acres of land leaves the Falkland Islands defence force "a little thin on the ground if it comes to trouble," said its commander, Richard Goss.

"But as long as we know—and the Argentine knows—that Britain won't let us down we'll be okay."

We were talking in Port Stanley, the capital of these British islands, after it had been revealed in the House of Commons that Britain had been discussing the sovereignty of the Falklands with the Argentine.

We might have been talking in the high street of a British county town. Land Rovers going up and down the street... neatly dressed housewives coming out of the shops, baskets laden with English food... school children in caps and gym-slips walking down the hill from school.

Apprehension

Behind us, the Union Jack fluttered over the harbour. A "bobby" in his blue uniform passed by, wishing us "Good afternoon."

Nothing could be more British or more peaceful in the cool autumnal sunshine. And yet, beneath it all, is some apprehension.

Falkland Islanders may be British to the core, but they have come to realise increasingly over the past few years that they are 8,000 miles away from Britain.

They feel that because they are out of sight they may well be out of mind. They know that the Argentine never relents in its demand to take them over. And when news comes of Britain discussing the islands' future with Buenos Aires, naturally it is disturbing.

Said Richard Goss: "We were dismayed at the news that the ice patrol ship Protector, normally in our area, is going to the breakers' yard. We really need protection in fact as well as in words."

Two years ago, an Argentine political group crash-landed an airliner on the racecourse here and raised the Argentine flag.

Goss and the island defence force (British uniformed and equipped) took care of them. But, as he said today, if there was a really determined attempt to invade "we are a little worried that it would take British forces a couple of weeks to get here."

The only protection Britain gives the island is a platoon of Royal Marines.

Spectator

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Two Shillings

ENOCH POWELL: POWER & THE PRIME MINISTER

**MURRAY KEMPTON: CAPTURING MR NIXON
AN AMERICAN LOOKS AT BRITISH STUDENTS**

HOMAGE TO JORGE LUIS BORGES

ROBERT HUGHES: OPTING OUT OF AUSTRALIA

George Brown's bargain basement

In the months before his departure from the Foreign Office, it now transpires, Mr Brown embarked upon a clearance sale of former Colonial Office properties. British Honduras was offered to Guatemala, the Virgin Islands to the United States, the Falkland Islands to Argentina. Gibraltar had reluctantly to be withdrawn from the catalogue in deference to Labour party susceptibilities over General Franco, and it was presumably felt that China would not be interested in purchasing Hong Kong—or that the Americans would cause trouble if she were. The wishes of the inhabitants of these territories were, of course, of little concern to Mr Brown. They were liable at any moment to become a charge upon our balance of payments; they caused us embarrassment at the United Nations; they distracted the Foreign Secretary's attention from more important matters such as Europe, Colonel Nasser, and the way the Government was being run: they had to go.

The most outrageous of these attempted transactions was that which involved the Falkland Islands, which have enjoyed uninterrupted British rule for more than a century and a quarter. Almost all the inhabitants of these somewhat inhospitable islands off the southern tip of South America are of British (mostly Scottish) descent; five-sixths of them were born there. They depend for their livelihood on the export of wool, which passes through the UK market and benefits the British balance of payments; and more than 90 per cent of their imports also come from this country. They are thus not a charge on our monetary reserves, and if ever the Argentinians chose to attack them they could be defended at modest cost. They were, if possible, even more determined to

remain subjects of the Crown than were the citizens of Gibraltar. Yet in spite of this they were in grave danger of transfer to Argentinian sovereignty: and maybe they still are.

Late in 1965 the United Nations passed an innocuous-sounding resolution calling upon Britain and the Argentine to compose their differences over the Falkland Islands, bearing in mind the interests of the islanders. There was no reference to sovereignty; on the other hand there was also no reference to the wishes of the inhabitants. Early in 1966 Mr Stewart visited Buenos Aires, and shortly thereafter strictly confidential negotiations between the two governments began.

From the outset the Argentinians made it clear that they were only interested in discussing a transfer of sovereignty. Under the circumstances the British government might have been expected to conclude fairly quickly that no purpose would be served by continuing the negotiations. This did not happen: instead, as Mr Stewart admitted on Wednesday morning, there seem to have been prolonged secret talks with a view either to a condominium or to a transfer of sovereignty at a later date. This dishonourable attempt to curry favour with the Argentine at the expense of the 2,500 Falkland Islanders, who were kept in the dark throughout, was in flat contravention of the pledge given only a few months before by Lord Caradon, Britain's representative at the United Nations, that 'there can be no question of negotiating the issue of sovereignty and signing away the destinies of whole peoples over their heads. The people of these territories are not to be betrayed or bartered.'

By the beginning of this year matters were gathering momentum. Argentina was in the

market for a large quantity of warships (reputedly £150 million worth). The row over the ban on imports of Argentine meat during the foot-and-mouth epidemic had led to an Argentinian ban on British exports. There was the prospect of a state visit by the Queen to South America this autumn. Mr Brown, having been frustrated by the Prime Minister's volte-face in his efforts to secure the South African arms deal, determined to secure an alternative outlet in Buenos Aires, and looked upon the Falkland Islands as a convenient sweetener for the deal. According to unconfirmed but circumstantial reports he offered to sell the islands to the Argentine outright, and everything had been agreed except the precise terms of sale.

The islanders would presumably have been compensated by the British government out of the money realised by the sale, and no doubt granted a quota for immigration to the Outer Hebrides which would be opened as soon as the vexing matter of the Kenyan Asians had been settled to Mr Callaghan's satisfaction. Then, by a stroke of good fortune, the gold crisis supervened and Mr Brown withdrew to Swadlincote.

Meanwhile, the islanders and their friends in Britain had been busy. A well-organised lobby alerted MPs of all parties; and when a question was put to the Foreign Office ten days ago and received a stonewalling reply, the luckless Mr Goronwy Roberts had to face a solid wall of fury from the Opposition without a murmur of support from his own back benches. It may not be an exaggeration to suggest that the Government could not have survived the revelation of the Foreign Secretary's plans for the Falklands. Fortunately, however, Mr Brown's depart-

ture from office has enabled the Foreign Office, pressurised by the CRO, to draw back from the brink. The Falkland Islanders may be able to sleep secure once more. The key point here is Mr Stewart's undertaking on Wednesday that transfer of sovereignty would take place only 'if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded [an agreement with the Argentine] as satisfactory and in their interests.' But having led the Argentinians to believe that what they call the *Islas Maldivas* were theirs for the plucking, the Foreign Office cannot hope to extricate itself now without doing far more serious damage to Anglo-Argentinian rela-

tions than could ever have resulted from a refusal to discuss the issue of sovereignty in the first place.

To the Government and to its Opposition critics the disposal of Britain's remaining colonies and the withdrawal from military bases east of Suez are part of the same process, inevitable to the one, inexcusable to the other. But in reality there is all the difference in the world between, on the one hand, the abandonment of an attempt to police the world, which is plainly beyond our resources, and, on the other, the transfer of loyal subjects of the Crown to alien rule against their will. In the case of Hong Kong we have to

accept that we could not hope to defend the colony if the Chinese decided to seize it. But this is not true of Gibraltar, or British Honduras, or the Falkland Islands (and it would be intolerable if the selective Socialist conscience enabled the Government to make distinctions between the three). We can, if necessary, defend the Falklanders against Argentina, and that we must be prepared to do. The tragedy is that the whole affair has been so mismanaged that British willingness to come to the islanders' assistance is all too likely to be tested. If the Argentinians now felt constrained to launch a military attack, Mr Brown would bear the sole responsibility.

The Czechs behave as Czechs

The Czechs are rigorous critics of themselves. In 1956, they used to say, the Hungarians behaved like Poles, the Poles like Czechs—and the Czechs like swine. This time, however, they are behaving like Czechs.

Comparisons with the events of 1956 should not be pursued too far. Seen from the Kremlin, the intolerable aspect of the 1956 revolution was that it was overtly anti-Russian in its motivation. Spearheaded by the Poles and the Hungarians, the entire satellite empire—with the exception of the faithful Bulgars and (for different reasons) the East Germans—appeared to be on the point of forcibly removing the Russian yoke. The Budapest students' first demand was for an end to compulsory Russian language courses.

So the Russian tanks moved in, and ostensibly the revolt was crushed. But in practice it was the rebels who won. The attempt to impose a pervasive Russian hegemony over the whole of eastern Europe was abandoned, and the concept of 'national' communism was accepted. The assertion of independence in its most prickly, gaullist form has been conceded only in Rumania; but while East Germany remains a special case the acknowledgement of Russian leadership is today not markedly less conditional in eastern Europe outside Rumania than is the acceptance of American leadership in western Europe outside France.

So it is hardly surprising that the explosion of popular resentments in Czechoslovakia should be directed, not against the Russians, but against the old-style stalinist local leadership symbolised by ex-President Novotny: against the persistent mismanagement of the country's economy, and the stifling of opinion, particularly among the young. It is particularly fitting that this should occur in Czechoslovakia, for of all the former satellites Czechoslovakia is the one which made the greatest success of parliamentary democracy between the wars.

To this extent the Russians have less to fear, and are therefore less likely to intervene. The possibility of Soviet economic sanctions against Czechoslovakia need not be taken very seriously. If Mr Ian Smith can do it, we can be sure that Mr Dubcek would not have much difficulty in following his example. In any case the Russians have accepted, and learnt to live with, a parliamentary democracy on their borders in Finland. The Finns have always accepted that their geographical situation imposes limitations on their freedom of external manoeuvre; the Czechs would surely settle for restraints of this kind even if they were more severe.

The final outcome of the experiment on which Czechoslovakia has embarked cannot yet be predicted. There is a clear contradiction in terms between concepts of rival

political groupings and of a dominant Communist party. Mr Dubcek may hope that freedom of expression and disputation can be contained within the ranks of the party. But if representatives of the old political parties—the People's party, or the Socialists (both admittedly theoretical partners with the Communists in the existing regime)—are to be allowed to compete with the Communists for votes or to assert their independence in parliament, is it conceivable that the Communists would be prepared to see themselves outvoted? Perhaps the Czechs had better enjoy their freedom while it lasts.

Each successive stage in the disintegration of the Communist monolith brings anguished regrets from Washington that the West does not offer a more cohesive pattern to appeal to the East. But, in fact, it is the diversity of attitudes and policies in the West that has contributed largely to the diversity of attitudes in the East. A thousand flowers cannot bloom on one side of the former Iron Curtain alone. Just as the single-minded Atlantic Alliance of the early 1950s was the reflection of stalinism in the Kremlin, so the reassertion of national identities in the East must be reflected in the reassertion of nationalisms in the West. This may make for a more difficult and intractable world for the diplomats: but it is an infinitely more fulfilling world for the individual citizen.

PORTRAIT OF THE WEEK

Hell, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, might be just around the corner. This view he offered the TUC, who were asking for a 6 per cent growth rate and getting half that. He was said to be reserving Limbo for the Department of Economic Affairs, although (or because) the Prime Minister thought it most useful. The Stock Exchange, relieved to learn that Hell was not here already, pushed share prices to another new record.

Mr Desmond Donnelly was expelled from the Labour party; but Mr George Brown made up his mind not to resign the deputy leadership, an event described by the *Evening Standard* as 'GEORGE SITS TIGHT.' His successor at the Foreign Office, Mr Stewart, confirmed suspicions that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands has been discussed with the Argentine government. There was no question, said Mr

Stewart, of ceding the Falklands without the islanders' consent. Other islanders, though, felt their liberties eroded as the Government planned to repeal the Ship Money Act 1640 and all but a clause of Magna Carta. Voting took place in by-elections at Labour-held Acton, Dudley and Meriden and Conservative Warwick and Leamington, with the Tories hoping for a grand slam.

Pocatello, Idaho, heard from Senator Robert Kennedy, whose campaign for the Democratic nomination drew encouragement from the polls but none from Senator Eugene McCarthy. To President Johnson's anxieties was also added an outbreak of the black death in Saigon—the ideal place for it, said a spokesman of the World Health Organisation; American troops struck back at the plague-bearing rats with poisoned peanut butter. Miss Vanessa Redgrave

denied having said that anyone who didn't support the Vietcong was a Fascist; and was cast as Mrs Pankhurst in *Oh What a Lovely War*.

Bodies and wreckage were found from the Aer Lingus Viscount which came down in the Irish Sea, but they gave no clue to the cause of the accident, which killed sixty-one people.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home offered to negotiate with Mr Ian Smith. Mrs. Castle, turning her ministry's attention from drink to decibels, announced plans for punishing the noisy driver; there would be listening posts at the roadside.

Professor Richard Russell, late of the Royal College of Art, recommended 'modesty screens' for the desks of secretaries in mini-skirts. 'In the country's present state,' said Professor Russell, 'we need to cut office distractions to a minimum.' No doubt he had looked around the corner.



Two fleets, perhaps, but only one flag

India

Ships against a neighbour

FROM OUR INDIA CORRESPONDENT

The Indian navy like its counterparts elsewhere has ambitions. Some naval planners, their horizons widened by the new equipment India is buying, look forward to taking over some part of Britain's role in the Indian ocean after 1971. Their ideas have no political backing. As Mrs Gandhi has said, non-aligned India has no plans for any regional military arrangements. Nor are there any plans for a deal with Moscow to provide shore facilities for the Russian navy in exchange for warships. The defence minister on Monday said that visits by Russian naval units, and the Russian naval chief, fell into the same pattern as visits from Britain and Australia earlier in the year.

Yet Indian opinion is not averse to a Soviet presence. Until Asian countries can begin to build an indigenous security system capable of deterring China, the best thing from an Indian point of view would be a situation in which the Americans and Russians balance each other operationally in the Indian ocean as they already do, to some extent, in political influence in the subcontinent.

This attitude is strengthened by the rather vague proposals some American policy planners have put forward for new Cento-type arrangements in the Persian Gulf area in which Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia are cast in the leading roles. India's naval build-up is geared to the limited purpose of self defence—on the assumption that the main threat comes from Pakistan. This explains the interest in anti-submarine capability with frigates (which the British are helping to build) and reconnaissance aircraft (for which Air India's cast off Constellations are being used for want of more suitable planes).

It also explains the acquisition of four submarines from Russia—the first is due to arrive this summer—to intercept Pakistani shipping and isolate Pakistan's east wing from the west.

Obsolescence is a serious problem. India's major ships are 20 years old or more. The lone aircraft carrier has a flight of Sea Hawks which are equally obsolescent but cannot easily be replaced because the carrier's decks are too small for modern carrier-based aircraft. India can afford neither a new carrier nor a new cruiser. Modernisation is starting from the other end, to replace small ships first. This year's budget allocated £10 million for capital expenditure on the navy, a jump of 80 per cent over last year. Most will go towards new ships already contracted for, such as the Russian submarines. Major expansion will have to wait until 1971 when the first frigate is commissioned. Two more will follow shortly thereafter. Only then could India hope to have a two fleet navy, one for the Arabian sea and another for the Bay of Bengal.

Falkland Islands

Far from Gib, too



the Falkland Islands that had been de-

manded amid mounting clamour for two weeks. Mr Stewart said there was no question of transferring the islands to Argentina unless the 2,000 islanders agreed, and that a transfer could only come about as part of an agreement that safeguarded their rights and created a quite new relationship between the islands and Argentina.

The government had better reasons for its reluctance to take up such a firm public stand than its loudest critics granted it. The case of the Falklands is not, in fact, closely comparable with that of Gibraltar. The islands are 300 miles from the mainland—whose nearest sector is desolate southernmost Patagonia, a region which itself attracts very few Argentines. They are a good thousand miles south of Buenos Aires, which is actually farther away than Montevideo.

From time to time, most notably during General Perón's regime, governments in Buenos Aires have thought it politically useful to encourage or fabricate a campaign for the "recovery" of these islands (which knew a short-lived Argentine settlement during the 1820s). But very few Argentines really care; no campaign to match the Franco government's effort against Gibraltar has been mounted in recent years; nor has Buenos Aires been inflicting on the islanders the kinds of unpleasantness that Madrid has laid upon the Gibraltarians during the past three years.

Since 1966 politely discreet Anglo-Argentine talks have gone on without creating noticeable alarm; but during recent elections to the Falklands' eight-member legislative council fears were voiced about an imminent handing over of the islands to Argentina. The council's four elected members circularised British MPs with an appeal that reaffirmed the islanders' unanimous wish to remain under British rule, and complained that they had not been adequately informed about the continuing talks. One result of the ensuing publicity was, inevitably, the making of some strong official statements in Buenos Aires.

Now it must be hoped that there and in London commonsense will prevail over any urge to build up the issue into a sharper confrontation. Obviously Britain can neither dispossess the Falklanders nor transfer them against their will to the control of a government which, whatever guarantees it offers, is wholly alien to them. But Britain does not relish the idea of having to hold this remote dependency for ever; the hardy sheep farmers of the Falklands pay their own modest way and need no direct subsidies, but there could be a price paid in Argentine ill-will. If Argentina really wants the Falklanders ever to accept a convenient attachment to the nearest mainland, its best course would be to stop frightening and alienating them and try instead to cultivate their confidence and friendship. In that respect, a certain parallel can after all be drawn with the case of Gibraltar.

continued on page 37

Extract from The
**LIVERPOOL
DAILY POST**

Date.....**30 MAR. 1968**

The isles of contention

Back at the Foreign office, Mr Michael Stewart finds himself faced with the problem of the Falkland Islands, long claimed by the Argentine. This week he declared that there could be no question of handing over the islands without the islanders' agreement.

Here **GAMINI SENEVIRANTE** fills in the background to a 135-year-old quarrel.

No-one knows who discovered the 200 Falkland Islands. But the first important date is 1494 when a Papal Bull divided the New World between the two great maritime nations of the time, Spain and Portugal.

The provisions of the Bull meant nothing to the islands for several hundred years. In 1690 Britain's Captain Strong made the first known landing on the islands. He named them after the then Treasurer of the Navy, Viscount Falkland.

Seventy-five years later a French nobleman, de Bougainville, who had recently suffered defeat by the British in the Canadian wars, established a settlement in East Falkland and, so well prepared was his expedition, it could well have flourished.

But Spain lodged an immediate protest and France, anxious to maintain the cordial relations which existed between the two countries at the time, handed over the settlement on payment of £24,000.

No sooner had de Bougainville and the French been sent home than Spain found another interloper.

Unknown to each other, the French and British had established settlements on the islands about the same time. The British settlement, set up by Captain McBride, was in Sanders Island off West Falkland and, unlike the French, they intended to stay.

Events surrounding this settlement, at Port Egmont, are important to the argument and negotiations of to-day.

Spain's mystery climb-down

The Spaniards, in 1770, sacked the settlement and sent the settlers back to Britain. But the following year the Spanish returned Port Egmont to



Britain. A new settlement was established which, in 1774, was withdrawn by the British Government, leaving behind only a leaden plaque claiming British sovereignty over the Islands.

Why the Spaniards went back on their military exercise and why the British withdrew the settlement after just three years, have become central to the current issue.

Meanwhile, the old French settlement in East Falkland—named Soledad by Spain—continued, administered from the Argentine. In 1811 it was abandoned. But the Viceroy in Buenos Aires continued to owe allegiance to Spain till her colonies assumed independence and formed the United Provinces in 1816.

While severing connections with Spain the new United Provinces claimed the mother country's rights and territories. In 1820, the Falkland Islands were formally claimed by the Argentine.

In 1826 a settlement was re-established in Soledad under an ex-pirate, Louis Vernet. Two years later he was named Governor of the islands by the Argentine Government. Britain protested, but did nothing else.

Governor Vernet committed the indiscretion of holding three United States ships for sealing in the island's waters.

The American reprisal was to send in a warship, Lexington, which shelled and destroyed the Soledad settlement.

It was an opportunity for Britain to move in. She did, expelling what remained of the Argentine garrison and, in 1833, appointing Captain Onslow, who led the occupying force, to control the islands.

Britain had full American support and the joint power was too much for the Argentine. Britain has been in occupation since.

Had Palmerston a secret?

The present Argentine claim is based on supposed inheritance of the rights and properties of the Spanish empire. It offers an intriguing answer as to why Spain went back on its "violent enterprise" in 1771 and why Britain withdrew its settlement three years later.

The answer, as given by Count Moreno to Lord Palmerston in 1833, has been maintained since. It is that Spain and Britain made a secret agreement—the one, to deny its violent intent and give back the settlement, the other, to withdraw after a spell.

Lord Palmerston denied any such agreement. He said the British withdrew for purely economic reasons. Some scholars however believe there is evidence to support the possibility of a secret agreement.

The point is strengthened by the fact that Britain had nothing to do with the islands from the time of withdrawal till 1832. Spain had full sovereignty during this period.

There is also the Nootk Sound Convention of 1790 between the two Powers when Britain undertook not to intrude on Spanish-occupied territory in South America.

The Argentine answer to Britain's claim, by undisputed occupation for nearly 140 years, is that this is purely a matter of might. Britain had it, the Argentine did not.

Each year since 1833 the Argentine has formally protested to the British, challenging their right to control the islands (land area 4,618 square miles).

The islanders, just over 2,100 at the last count, are nearly all of British descent, and anxious to remain British.

The Argentine says recent talks with Britain have been satisfactory; the British Government, that they have been friendly.

The islanders are becoming increasingly anxious.

Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

29 MAR 1968



Mr. MICHAEL STEWART
... Britain will hold on.

STEWART ANGERS ISLANDS

PORT STANLEY
(Falkland Islands),
Thursday.

A representative group of Port Stanley residents are disappointed over yesterday's statement by the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic Islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The recent statement by Mr. Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by HMS Protector caused derision here because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

Marines

Replying to an Opposition question on whether the islanders could repel an invasion, Mr. Healey had said in the Commons that a British Marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.

Extract from
The Times, London

29 MAR 1968

When to test Falkland reactions

MR. BIGGS-DAVISON (Chigwell, C.) in an adjournment debate on the constitutional future of the Falkland Islands, said there was doubt about the British Government's determination, or even intention, to maintain British sovereignty for as long as the islanders wished to stay British.

He regretted that the Foreign Secretary had failed to allay suspicions in the debate in the Commons but even more that Lord Chalfont had raised fresh suspicions in the Lords later. Lord Chalfont had distinguished between the future of the islanders as British subjects and the future of the territory.

Would the Government give a simple affirmative answer that they would undertake in no circumstances to transfer British sovereignty unless it was the declared wish of the inhabitants?

MR. GORONWY ROBERTS, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Caernarvon, Lab.), said that there was no dichotomy between the Foreign Secretary's speech and what Lord Chalfont had said. There was no difference of meaning or intention between what the Foreign Secretary had said so lucidly and categorically and the requests being made in this debate. It was remarkable that the statements had been called into question.

The transfer of sovereignty could only be considered if certain important safeguards, explained by the Foreign Secretary, were satisfied.

There had been no move towards any change in the present circumstances in the islands, and the Government had no plans for any change. If and when proposals were made for a constitutional change that would be the time to consider any special means of testing the islanders' reactions.

The House adjourned at 10.59 p.m.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

29 MAR 1968

More talks on future of Falklands

By PATRICK KEATLEY, our
Commonwealth Correspondent

In spite of the very considerable parliamentary crisis over the Falkland Islands, leading to the assurance from the Foreign Secretary, Mr Stewart, it now appears that confidential negotiations between Britain and Argentina are to be resumed.

The news was received by some Opposition MPs at Westminster last night with incredulity, since they had taken Mr Stewart's statement in the Commons on Wednesday to mean that any suggestion of a hand-over of the colony to the Government of General Ongana had been firmly and finally put aside.

The immediate response of the Falkland Islanders themselves has been to reactivate an earlier plan for further lobbying missions to London by the MPs in their own Parliament.

The first of these, Mr Arthur Barton, who arrived in London a week ago, believed—not without reason—that his task was done when Mr Stewart spoke in the Commons and his words were echoed by Lord Chalfont in the Upper House. But it is now clear that only a further barrage of straight political lobbying at Westminster will provide any hope of peace of mind for the islanders.

Prepared to isolate Rhodesia regime

Sir Alec reports on his trip

No return UDI—M

3003

Mr Wilson, in the debate on Rhodesia, announced that the

oldest laws of history that where there is no provision for the counting of heads and men are

November. But there was still a clear refusal to consider any external safeguards for the

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, shadow spokesman on foreign affairs, said:

"The future of peace in Africa very largely hangs on whether now if so required.

Mr Heath, calling for resumption of negotiations, said it was hopeless to try to force Rhodesia back to the

in Salisbury. "We are not going to talk in the shadow of the gallows."

Mr Wilson, opening the debate, said it took place against a background of anger and passion among peoples and governments of practically every nation of the developing and emergent world, and others besides. Twenty-eight months of illegality and oppression, and now these executions, had focussed the spotlight on the world stage.

The danger was that, if we appeared to be condoning illegality and oppression on the ground that those responsible for it had white skins, Britain would be driven further and further in the eyes of the world into an apparent identification with the minority of countries whose actions had been repeatedly condemned by the whole civilised world.

Referring to the men executed Mr Wilson said: "We, all of us, have deplored the resort to force and violence and murder, but in the eyes of their fellow Africans these are freedom fighters. We must recognise that the way they were done to death has transformed them in African eyes into martyrs and not murderers."

"However much we may deplore the use of violence, it is one of

House resulting from that is that, whereas he and his colleagues, clearly believe these suggestions would fulfil the Six Principles, we after a most careful study believe they would not, and we have told Sir Alec that."

Sir Alec had rightly claimed that there had been some movement on the part of the Smith Regime on the question of the blocking mechanism. But what was suggested "would not have comprised an effective blocking quarter." The proposal was unrealistic.

Mr Wilson continued: "This morning I saw another newspaper report claiming, probably rightly, inside information from Rhodesia on this question."

The report stated: "They agreed that Mr Smith would drop his demands for whites to be able to vote on a block voters' roll and Britain would drop its demand that a block of Africans in Parliament would have certain powers of veto."

Sir Alec Douglas-Home: "There is not a word of truth in that newspaper report."

Mr Wilson: "I am glad to hear that and it was not my interpretation." He agreed that there had been some advance in the extreme position taken by Mr Smith last

Sanctions had had a crippling effect on sectors of the Rhodesian economy. "But it would be unrealistic to begin to claim that that effect has had the political consequences either of overthrowing the regime or of achieving a change of heart on the part of the regime—or of enough of them to cause them to change direction. And it would be idle to pretend either that this is yet in sight."

Most countries had taken swift action following alleged evasion of sanctions but there had been more difficulties with oil sanctions. Transport complications enabled not only Portuguese and South African authorities but also oil suppliers using Lourenco Marques to disclaim responsibility for what got through to Rhodesia.

Mr Wilson said that the Government had warned Commonwealth colleagues and the UN that they could not accept unwise proposals involving a head-on confrontation with South Africa.

The Prime Minister concluded: "The Governor knows we have never slammed the door and neither shall we slam the door." The doors were slammed by the rejection of the rule of law, of the courts, of the Royal Prerogative three weeks ago.

Concern for other whites

Mr Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, winding up, answered Mr Heath's question whether he (Mr Thomson) had sought the Governor's advice on the petitions for mercy for the executed Africans.

Mr Thomson said that, when the petitions were submitted he had already received an expression of the Governor's views on the desirability of the condemned men seeking the exercise of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

It was better that the Governor's view should remain confidential. "I wish to protect the Governor. I do not wish to shelter behind him."

When the petitions were subsequently received and I was faced with the duty of deciding what advice to tender on them I already knew the Governor's views."

It was not necessary for him to seek them at that point, though he kept in continuous consultation with him (the Governor) throughout the weekend.

The view expressed by Mr Turton (C. Thirk and Malton) that the prerogative had been delegated to the Governor under the 1961 Constitution was wrong.

He deplored the character of the attacks made during the debate on the speech of the Prime Minister. "No one in Britain has done more, more often, or showed greater ingenuity in seeking a just settlement."

The Opposition appeared to be suggesting that the Government, because time was short, should seize the opportunity of reaching any settlement with the illegal regime, however inconsistent with the Principles and pledges involved, "before the regime purported to buttress their so-called independence by proclaiming a republic."

"We should not fall into this

trap. Declaration of a Republic would complicate some of our problems, but the regime won't become more legal by declaring itself a Republic. If they do so, the declaration will be invalid. It will not lead to international recognition or lessen the regime's isolation."

The real problem now was that behind the curtain of censorship, Mr Smith was propagating with considerable success the idea that sanctions were a three-year wonder and that in a few months the world would grow weary of them, and Rhodesia's prosperity would be restored.

"I tell the House plainly and bluntly that my own assessment of the situation may be summed up in three short words: no short cuts." To those who "now advocate

surrender," he said: "It would be the end of the Commonwealth and imperil the lives of many British communities in emergent nations."

The Conservative amendment would tear the Commonwealth apart. "I can only conclude that the Opposition do not mind tonight if they do divide the Commonwealth so long as they unite the Conservatives." They had listened today to Mr Heath, "to one of the most appeasement-minded speeches in this House since Munich."

The Conservative amendment was asking the Government to "negotiate about surrender."

The Opposition amendment was defeated by 331 votes to 237; Government majority 94.

The Government motion was approved without a division.

Dispute too personalised

Mr Reginald Maudling, Deputy Opposition Leader, winding up for the Opposition, said the dispute had become too much personalised. We must get away from this.

"I think," he said, "there are many people inside and outside this House who would say it would be a tragedy if this settlement was deferred while two rather insecure men bickered at one another from a distance of 5,000 miles."

After saying that to try tougher sanctions—"which I suspect is what the Government may have in mind—would be a disastrous failure," Mr Maudling challenged Mr Wilson: "Is the Prime Minister really saying he cannot negotiate with Mr Smith?"

Mr Wilson: "What I said was, we cannot negotiate with any authorities or purported authorities in Rhodesia until they have broken with racialism."

Mr Maudling: "That is not good enough. I say again, can you or

can you not negotiate with Mr Smith? If you say you cannot negotiate with Mr Smith, then you cannot negotiate at all. There is no alternative."

Mr Wilson: "The position is exactly the same as it was at the time of Tiger, when Mr Smith agreed to free himself of being a prisoner of the racialists. We are prepared to deal with anyone who is not a prisoner of the racialists."

Mr Maudling: "But since the breakdown of the Tiger you have negotiated with Mr Smith through the Commonwealth Secretary. Are you unwilling to do so now? It is only with the regime that negotiations can take place."

He went on: "Only a most bigoted and irresponsible Prime Minister could resist an opportunity to negotiate. If you vote against our amendment tonight you will be voting against negotiation and for chaos."

Mr Maudling said the Opposition was condemning all acts of violence and terrorism and regretting the circumstances in which the Africans were executed. The Opposition was saying that the time was now for negotiation

He believed that if he had had the Commonwealth Secretary and the Lord Chancellor with him in Salisbury two weeks ago the chances of signing a complete settlement would have been very high. "If the hangings had not intervened the Government could not conceivably have avoided renewing contact with him (Mr Smith)."

Statement of fact

Mr Shinwell (Lab. Easington) said the Prime Minister's speech was one of the most realistic he had made. It was a statement of fact.

"Let us have no more pretence from the other side that the majority of them are in favour of Ian Smith and the illegal regime—let there be no mistake about that. It's about time these things were said in this House."

"To send a force to Rhodesia was 'unmitigated and unadulterated rubbish.'" But Mr Shinwell went on: "Of course we could do something to help the Africans in Africa, who are our coloured friends. We might provide them with arms. Honestly, I would not object to that. If they want to have a go at the Rhodesians, let them have a go."

Mr Jeremy Thorpe, Liberal leader said he could not believe that there was much hope for a settlement with Rhodesia. If there was ever a third world war it would be a clash of colour, not ideology.

"In the Commonwealth, with all its imperfections, we have helped to create one world-wide organisation in which people of every colour and creed can sit down in complete equality and reasonable trust."

"Rhodesia is a direct and fundamental threat to this concept of equality, as it is based on the permanent supremacy of a small white minority. It is vital that this country, with its great imperial history, should not let this rebellion succeed."

On sanctions he said that it was possible, as the state of international relations was so fragile, that we could not get international cooperation. "Then not only do we fail but the prospect of a non-racial society fails and the United Nations itself stand condemned."

Mr Arthur Bottomley (Lab. Middlesbrough E.) recalled that when he was Commonwealth Secretary in 1964 Mr Smith was in London and went to a dinner party in Downing Street, and it was thought that a settlement with Mr Smith had been reached.

"But on the final issue he ran away and went back on his word—and he could not be found. What makes Sir Alec change his mind and believe that Mr Smith would behave any differently today?"

Mr Gilbert Longden (C. Herefordshire SW) said he was afraid he had never believed and did not now believe the Rhodesian Front would honour a settlement based on the Six Principles. Had not the time come when we should admit failure and let Rhodesia go her own way outside the Commonwealth?

Today's business

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Shops (Sunday Trading) (No 2) Bill, second reading; Foreigners' part in violence outside US Embassy on March 17.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Commonwealth Telecommunications Bill, second reading.

Falkland wishes come first

Mr Stewart, Foreign Secretary, said early yesterday in a Consolidated Funds Bill debate that there would be no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders themselves.

"One of our objects has been to ensure that there is a satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine. I must tell the House that we thought it right, in pursuance of this, that the question of sovereignty should be discussed in these talks."

"We have no doubt at all that sovereignty is now legally ours. Since it is in our sovereignty we have a clear duty to defend it." But while Britain was convinced of her legal sovereignty, the Argentine was equally firmly convinced of her claim.

Mr Stewart went on: "Let me dispel the fear. The idea that there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty immediately has no justification at all, either as far as the islanders, or as far as the hopes and aspirations of Argentina are concerned."

"In what event or at what time could the transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that, my answer would be first of all only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine in which there would be no harassing, no inconvenience, and arrangements in which there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders."

"The right to agree to such a secession lies with the Government here. The Government would only agree to such a secession, first of all on condition that there must be an agreement fully satisfactory in all respects and only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory and in their interests."

IN THE LORDS . . .

Lord Balfour of Inchrye C. asked whether the Government would hold, under independent supervision, a plebiscite for the islanders so that they could make known their wishes.

Lord Chalfont replied that the Government did not believe it was necessary to hold any plebiscite.

"We are inclined to think that the community is too small for it to be necessary and the power to decide belongs to the British Government. We intend to exercise this power in full consultation with the islanders, but see this consultation as a continuing process. It is too early to try definitely to establish now the details of this process in the future."

Ombudsman-plus

A Private Member's bill, which would permit the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) to investigate administrative action taken on behalf of local authorities, was given a formal first reading. The bill is sponsored by Mr Evelyn King (C. Dorset W.). Second reading was put down for May 24.

Extract from
Daily Mirror, London
29 MAR 1968

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

30

29 MAR 1968

Outpost

3003
IN A QUIET corner of the London Stock Exchange there are occasional transactions in the shares of a little known company — The Falkland Islands Company Limited.

Fears that Britain might hand the Falkland Islands over to Argentina have pushed the price of the shares down from 38s., at one time last year, to around 26s. each. It is the lowest they have been for at least six years.

The Falkland Islands Company was incorporated by Royal Charter from Queen Victoria in 1851 in those great days when the outposts of Empire were being explored.

Its objects: to tame wild cattle living on those wild islands and, thus, to make profits for the venturesome London investors. These investors were induced to put up their money on the strength of a prospectus containing the glowing motto: "May Fortune Shine on the Tamers of Wild Cattle."

The cattle, however, weren't keen to be tamed.

The company's fortunes turned when it hit on the idea of breeding sheep instead.

Today, it has a flock of 275,000 sheep—and owns about half of the Falklands.

The sheep produce over 2,000,000 lbs. of wool a year, which is sold on the London Wool Market.

Half the working population

The Lion's Share

of the Falkland Islands work for the company.

The company has been diversifying its interests rapidly in recent years.

It owns the biggest ships' stores group in the South of England.

It does the catering for trippers to Longleaf, the stately home of the Marquess of Bath, and recently brought some penguins from the Falklands for the Longleaf menagerie.

Profits are about £300,000 a year, but recently the company has had to reduce its dividend.

This is nothing to do with the threat of an Argentinian takeover however. Merely that wool prices have fallen.

ROBERT HEAD

Falklands are a running sore, says Minister

By GEOFFREY WAKEFORD

TWO thousand Falkland Islanders want Britain to call off the secret talks with Argentina about their future.

Until she does they will go on suspecting that the Wilson Government means to hand them over.

Remarks in the House of Lords on Wednesday by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, had caused 'doubt and anxiety' about the Government's intentions. Mr Bernard Braine, Tory MP for South-East Essex, said in the Commons adjournment debate last night.

Earlier Tory Mr John Biggs-Davison had asked: 'If it became clear to the people of the Falkland Islands that Britain was preparing to disown them, what could they do other than accept the best terms available?'

Kelpers

'I don't believe that any agreement for the transfer or pooling or adulteration of British sovereignty could guarantee the rights, liberties and civilisation of the islands.'

Mr Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said there was no evidence of dismay in the Falklands over Lord Chalfont's statement.

He added: 'The islands have constituted a running sore in our relations with Argentina for over a century. Without betraying our obligations to the islands we want to do what we can to improve relations with Argentina and Latin America as a whole.'

Most islanders spring from families—mostly Scottish—who have been in the Falklands for five or six generations. They are called 'kelpers' from the masses of seaweed washed up around the 4,700 square miles of islands (two large ones, 200 islets).

But they depend entirely on sheep farming and sell their wool to Britain—in a good year up to £1 million-worth.

Out of this they buy up to about £500,000 British goods every year, representing £4. out of every £5 of imports.

Poverty is non-existent. The Falklands—uninterruptedly British for 136 years but claimed by Argentina because Spain once tenuously held them—have the highest living standard of any country between Cape Horn and the Caribbean.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

29 MAR 1968

FALKLANDS FURORE

3003
FEARS that the British Government was preparing to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the practically unanimous wishes of the population were the inevitable result of the persistent absence of clear assurances to the contrary. Although Mr. STEWART possibly gave grounds for fresh misgivings by saying that there would be no transfer of sovereignty "immediately," he did go on to say that any agreement would have to be approved by the population. This undertaking, it appears, was delayed in order to avoid prejudicing the discussions.

Argentina has shown no such restraint, but insists on full sovereignty, makes veiled threats of aggressive action, and persists in harassing the islands. Now that Mr. STEWART has cleared the air, it is to be hoped that Argentina will start trying to co-operate over these windswept islands instead of fermenting a dangerous and damaging dispute over them. It is up to her to persuade the tiny alien population, with good deeds, if she can, to throw in their lot with their big neighbour. Unless they freely do so, Britain can only stand firm on their behalf.

International Press-Cutting Bureau
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

Extract from the

Evening Express

ABERDEEN

30 MAR 1968

Date.....

A very interesting and topical talk was given by Mr G. H. Roberts, Mutchalls, on the Falkland Islands, where he was born, to members of the Stonehaven Round Table on Tuesday night in the Marine Hotel, Stonehaven. The next meeting, on April 9, will be the a.g.m., at which Tablers John Radford and George Wood are due to retire.

* * *
All club badges of the Stonehaven Motor Club sold to members recently should be returned to secretary Mr Fred Park. Another reminder—annual subs. of 10/- are now due.

29 MAR 1968

STAND FIRM ON FALKLANDS



WYATT

3003 by WOODROW WYATT

WHY is the Government playing the fool over the Falkland Islands?

For around two years it has been holding secret talks, about the ownership, with Argentina. She claims they belong to her.

Yet the Falkland Islands are as British as Hampstead Garden Suburb. They were found by an Englishman, John Davis, in 1592.

There are 260 of them covering an area 120 miles long and sixty miles wide—250 miles from Argentina.

There were no human inhabitants of any kind before 1592—and never had been. Apart from birds, there was only one kind of animal—a sort of wolf dog. Even that became extinct in 1785.

Belonged

Once Spain, when Argentina was her colony, kept a settlement there. When the Spaniards were turned out of Argentina in 1811, the Spanish settlement was withdrawn.

Before that, the Islands were occupied alternately by Britain, France and Spain.

Britain always maintained that the Islands belonged to her. In 1833, after some desultory attempts by the Argentines to establish a settlement, the British came back. At the time the Islands were uninhabited.

● Since then, the Islands have been occupied exclusively by people of British descent.

There are only 2,100 of them. Nearly all were born there. Half of them are descendants of Britons who settled there more than 100 years ago.

The basic industry is sheep farming. The Islands are completely self-supporting. They ask for no subsidy. They have been made prosperous by the Islanders' own efforts.

For Argentina to claim them, is as silly as if we were to demand the return of Bordeaux.

As a matter of fact, it is sillier. At least we occupied Bordeaux for several centuries and it was once part of England.

THE most that the Argentines can claim is that occasionally, during a fifteen-year period at the beginning of the nineteenth century, they had small military settlements there. They never established farming or any other industry.

So why on earth is the Government discussing the sovereignty of the Islands with the Argentines?

In the first place, because of a resolution passed by the general assembly of the United Nations in December, 1965. That called upon Britain and Argentina to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.

The resolution originated with a United Nations Committee.

That Committee was foolishly allowed, by the British Government, to visit the Islands in 1964—thus making it look as though the United Nations had some claim to interfere.

The Committee were told by all the Islanders, without exception, that they wished to remain British.

But in the United Nations today, any half-baked banana republic, or newly-emerged African State, can raise a cheer by denouncing the poor old British for colonialism.

So the general assembly passed the resolution in an anti-British attempt to down us.

● But there is not one Argentinian living in the Islands.

The fact that it has just come out that Britain appears to be reaching some sort of agreement with Argentina, has naturally alarmed the Islanders. It has also given rise to the expectation

in Argentina that they are about to acquire the Falkland Islands from us.

"The negotiations are slow and confidential and I cannot say anything, except that I am optimistic," said Argentina's Foreign Minister on March 13.

Who made him optimistic? The British Government, by not standing firmly by the Falkland Islanders.

Obviously the talks would not be taking place at all, unless we were admitting the right of Argentina to discuss the ownership of the Islands.

IN the House of Commons, at the crazy time of 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the Foreign Secretary vacillated. He would not pledge that in no circumstances would the Islands' sovereignty be changed.

He said ominously: "We have made considerable progress in these talks and I hope that they may reach a satisfactory conclusion."

The only satisfactory conclusion for the Argentinians is the Islands ending up as theirs.

Lord Chalfont, another minister at the Foreign Office, was even worse on Wednesday afternoon in the House of Lords. He said it was not for the Falkland Islanders to decide the future of the Islands, but for Her Majesty's Government.

He put a great question mark over their future sovereignty. He promised only full consultation with the Islanders. He refused to promise that the Islands would never, at any future date, be handed over without their consent.

● This is utterly disgraceful. What does self-determination mean if the wishes of 100 per cent of a population can be disregarded?

Granting independence to countries who want it is quite another matter. So is allowing Cyprus, in response to local demand, to join up with Greece.

It is absolutely intolerable for us to bow to pressure from anti-British elements in the United Nations to give territories up to countries which have no connection with them.

If we do that with the Islands where shall we be on Gibraltar?

Although the Gibraltarians want to stay British to a man, Gibraltar is part of the Spanish mainland. It was obviously Spanish until we took it over.

IN September, 1966 an aeroplane load of Argentinians arrived to try to take over the Islands by force.

Surely one of the warships used in our hopeless attempt to stop Rhodesia getting oil could be detached to look after the Falkland Islands at this difficult moment?

Argentina's Minister of Defence declared on Wednesday that the Falkland Islands are indefensible. You can hardly blame the Falkland Islanders for being a bit jittery when they see the British Government shilly-shallying.

The other main reason for our peculiar behaviour is trade. We want to have good relations with Argentina.

No doubt. But don't the Argentinians want to have good relations with us?

Pretexes

In 1966, we bought £71,000,000 worth of goods from Argentina and they only bought £23,000,000 worth from us. In 1967, it was £72,000,000 worth from Argentina and only £25,000,000 worth from us to them.

If anybody had any guts in the Foreign Office they would tell the Argentinians bluntly that if they don't shut up we will stop buying their meat. We would have quite a good excuse anyway apart from the Falkland Islands. It was Argentinian lamb that caused our foot and mouth disease.

We may not be as powerful in the world as we once were, but we do not have to be shoved around by everyone on the flimsiest of pretexes.

● Injustice is injustice, whether 2,100 or 2,100,000 people are affected. The talks with Argentina should be stopped at once.

29 MAR 1968

FO merger was put up by Brown

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF
WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

MR. BROWN, former Foreign Secretary, made his first intervention today in Commons exchanges since his resignation speech. It followed a statement by the Prime Minister on the amalgamation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices.

In his statement, Mr. WILSON said he hoped it would be possible to put the amalgamation into practical effect by the autumn with one member of the Cabinet responsible for the conduct of both Foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

Mr. BROWN asked if the Prime Minister would make plain to the House that this was not a new decision.

"It was a recommendation the Commonwealth Secretary (Mr. Thomson) and myself made to you some time ago to speed up the decision already made to combine the two departments in terms of Ministers."

There was Opposition laughter when Mr. Brown added: "The reason for doing it is clearly to avoid having Ministerial arguments, and therefore encouraging civil servants to encourage Ministerial arguments."

Mr. WILSON replied: "I think you would be the first to say I cannot recall any case of disharmony of argument between yourself and the Commonwealth Secretary. With that part of the question I cannot express agreement."

"With the rest of the points I am in full agreement."

LOGICAL STEP Interests of territories

The Prime Minister said there had already been a considerable degree of integration and the time had now come to take the final short and logical step.

"The organisation is now being worked out. It will be largely on a geographical basis but with strong functional departments in support."

"I have asked the Foreign Secretary (Mr. Stewart) to bear in mind the importance of making satisfactory arrangements to ensure that the interests of the dependent territories will continue to receive close and sympathetic attention."

"The amalgamation of the two offices implies no change in our attitude or approach to the Commonwealth connection. In the new office the responsible Ministers will attach fully as much weight to the views of other Commonwealth Governments as they have always done."

"In particular, I should like to emphasise that Commonwealth High Commissioners in London will continue to have ready access to me and to other British Ministers and their departments in exactly the same way as at present."

When the single office was established the Foreign Secretary would be responsible for it.

NAME PROBLEM Not "External Affairs"

Mr. SHINWELL (Lab., Easington) said there would be general support for telescoping departments and perhaps it might be useful to telescope other departments. (Opposition cheers.)

"Nevertheless, is there not an impression as a result of this decision that we will not be so much concerned with our Commonwealth associations and obligations in the future?"

Mr. WILSON said he had tried to deal with that question in his statement. No other Commonwealth Government had just one department dealing with Commonwealth relations.

He was not in a position to say what the name of the combined department would be, but it would not be External Affairs.

There would be one Secretary of State who, together with his junior Ministers, would answer Commons questions of a specific Commonwealth character as well as questions about foreign countries.

Mr. HEATH, the Opposition Leader, said the amalgamation was of major importance in the organisation and machinery of government. "We shall want to consider the details of the proposals the Prime Minister is presumably going to put before the House."

CONFLICTING CLAIMS

Maudling's doubts

Mr. MAUDLING, Deputy Opposition Leader and spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, said there might be a conflict between the claims of foreign policies and dependent territories such as Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

He asked if it was satisfactory that these disputes should be resolved at departmental level rather than Cabinet level with full representation of both points of view.

Mr. WILSON pointed to the subject of Rhodesia in which there was a great world interest apart from our dependent territory interest. It would be much better for a single Minister to be able to assemble all the issues for decision and, if necessary, consult his colleagues.

In reply to Mr. STEEL (Lib., Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles), who asked about economies, Mr. WILSON said that already there had been some evidence of greater efficiency in working because of the pooling of services.

"Naturally, we look for greater efficiency and economies. In addition, there is the inquiry we are making into the question of staffing of overseas posts."

[Continuation from Col. 1864]

**FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
DEPENDENCIES**

Motion made, and Question proposed,
That this House do now adjourn.—[*Mr.*
Gowrlay.]

10.30 p.m.

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Chigwell):
Earlier today the Prime Minister announced the impending amalgamation of the Commonwealth Office with the Foreign Office. The timing of his statement can only have increased the fears felt in Gibraltar, British Honduras and in the Falkland Islands—already the subject of a breakfast time debate in the all-night sitting—that in future Commonwealth obligations may come second to the expediencies of foreign policy.

I am most grateful for the opportunity of reverting to the question of the Falkland Islands after the ambiguities of the Foreign Secretary in that debate and those of the noble Lord, Lord Chalfont, in another place. Apart from their constitutional future, the security of the Falkland Islands is causing more immediate apprehension. This has just been voiced for example, by the senior elected member of Stanley Town Council, Mr. Goss.

During the all-night sitting, I put some questions to the Foreign Secretary about naval and local protection and the Royal Marine detachment. The Foreign Secretary decided that these vital matters were not for him. I hope that we may find some comfort tonight. The Foreign Secretary said, on that occasion, as he had indicated in a speech in Buenos Aires in 1966, that Britain does not recognise Argentine sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. We have no doubt that Britain is the sovereign Power. What is in doubt is the Government's determination, or even intention, to maintain British sovereignty as long as the Falkland Islands wish to remain British.

The Foreign Secretary went on to specify circumstances in which British sovereignty might be transferred. This was more than an academic speculation. It is admitted that British sovereignty is the subject of discussion in the Anglo-Argentine talks. The Foreign Secretary

did not rule out a cession of sovereignty. He insisted that it be part of a satisfactory agreement, satisfactory that is in the eyes of the islanders.

Let us suppose—I regret to have to make this supposition, but there is more than one example in our imperial history of the abandonment of loyal overseas communities—that there is a Minister, or Ministers, eager for the reduction of our country to a little Britain freed from too onerous overseas responsibilities, particularly those which can prove an embarrassment to our commerce and diplomacy, and therefore a decision has been made to surrender at some future moment sovereignty in return for a special privileged status for the Falkland islanders. I do not know if this is the case, but let us suppose that it is. If it became clear to the people of the Falkland Islands that Britain was preparing to desert them, what could they do other than accept the best terms obtainable and any agreement then proffered would have to be considered satisfactory. The decision, in the event, whether the agreement was indeed "satisfactory to their interests" would be made by their British betrayers.

I do not believe that any agreement for the transfer or pooling or adulteration of British sovereignty could guarantee the rights of the Falkland islanders. The Argentine authorities might be acting in good faith, but either they or their successors would find it difficult to exempt the islanders from conscription and to confer other privileges denied to other minorities within their great republic. It is likely that, whatever was written in the agreement, the islanders, or many of them, would seek new homes in Australia, perhaps or New Zealand. That might be regarded as a solution of the problem, but it would be a solution of shame and infamy.

I regret that the Foreign Secretary failed to allay existing suspicions and that Lord Chalfont in another place aroused new suspicions. The noble Lord distinguished between the status of Falkland islanders as British subjects and the future of the territory settled by British folk at the expense of no native population, for when they came there was none. What ingenious constitutional or citizenship device buzzes within that agile mind? We can all have our

[MR. BIGGS-DAVISON.]
guesses. Perhaps the Minister of State will tell us what in fact it is all about.

Strangest of all was the noble Lord's rejection of a request for a plebiscite on the absurd ground "that the community is too small." But democratic processes are most appropriate to small communities of common outlook, and the consultation of a few is all the easier to arrange. When it suits them, the Government treat the United Nations Charter as though it were holy writ, but the Falkland islanders are denied any assurance that they will be free to exercise the right of self-determination enshrined in the Charter.

Of course, good relations with Argentina are most important. There are valuable deals afoot. I am all for reducing the persistently adverse balance of trade between the United Kingdom and Argentina. I will spare the House any reference to the Prime Minister's objection to selling frigates to what he called "fascist" Spain with its design on Gibraltar. The question I put is: how are good relations furthered by the discussion of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with the power that claims to possess them? Unless—and I prefer not to accept this—the Government are bent on betrayal, they are raising false hopes in Argentina which, if dashed, may turn to sour resentment. The Government might be accused of perfidy, but I do not believe that right hon. and hon. Gentlemen sitting there will be party to so sordid a deal.

Another interpretation is that the present dangerous confusion is the mark of a battered, flabby, divided Administration lacking courage, confidence and conviction. But unfortunately they are the Government of the day, so I beg for their reassurances tonight.

May I ask the Minister of State, when he replies, to give a simple affirmative answer to one question: will Her Majesty's Government undertake that in no circumstances will they transfer or share British sovereignty in and over the Falkland Islands and dependencies unless that is the declared wish of the inhabitants? Let it go forth from this House tonight that those who have trusted us and fought for us and died for us and who desire to live in a British way,

on British territory, under the British flag, will not be abandoned by the country that they still call home.

10.37 p.m.

Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh, South): I want but one thing; an express undertaking from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs that there will be no transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, sovereignty of people or land, to any other country without the express consent of the inhabitants of those Islands. Yes or no, that is what I want.

10.38 p.m.

Mr. Bernard Braine (Essex, South-East): I intervene very briefly to put one question. It is really the same question that has just been asked by my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Mr. Clark Hutchison) and my hon. Friend the Member for Chigwell (Mr. Biggs-Davison). I do so, because, since the Foreign Secretary addressed the House early yesterday morning on this subject, answers were given in another place by the noble lord, Lord Chalfont, which have, once again, aroused doubt and anxiety about the Government's intentions. My information is that dismay has also been caused in the Falkland Islands. One member of the Legislative Council has already telegraphed his fears to this country on the subject.

We on this side want a straight answer to the question: will Her Majesty's Government make it clear beyond any doubt that there will be no transfer of sovereignty in the Falkland Islands against the wishes of the wholly British population of that territory?

10.39 p.m.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Goronwy Roberts): There has been a substantial debate on this subject within recent memory, and the Foreign Secretary then made what most right hon. and hon. Members regarded as a full and admirably clear statement about Her Majesty's Government's attitude on this matter. I want to say at the outset that I see no dichotomy at all between what he said early yesterday morning and what my noble Friend Lord Chalfont said in another place in answering questions on this matter.

I go further. I understand and appreciate the deeply sincere feelings which

animate hon. Members on both sides in regard to the future of the Falklands. My hon. Friend the Minister of State and I—indeed I believe everyone—share these feelings full. I do not believe there is any difference of meaning and intention between what my right hon. Friend said so lucidly and categorically yesterday and the requests made by the hon. Member for Chigwell (Mr. Biggs-Davison) and others tonight. It simply involves a replacement of considered words which really mean what they say by words which the hon. Gentleman proposes. I stick by the words of my right hon. Friend, which are clear beyond any doubt.

I ask the hon. Gentleman and the House to ponder on this point: hon. Members who are sincerely concerned about the future of the Islands might consider whether constantly to cast doubt on assurances such as those given by my right hon. Friend yesterday morning might not recreate the very anxieties it was his genuine purpose to allay. It is quite remarkable that the statement he made should be called into question. Frankly—and I make no partisan point of this—I cannot think of a better way of expressing the intentions which we all share.

The hon. Gentleman raised one or two questions relating to the United Nations. This links with criticisms which have been made about whether these talks should have been started at all. My right hon. Friend gave very cogent reasons why they should have been started and should continue. The first relates to the United Nations. Resolution 2065 of the 20th Assembly, in December, 1965, invited the United Kingdom and Argentina to come together to seek a peaceful solution of the differences between them, and in the spirit of that Resolution we responded and the discussions have proceeded and may well proceed and continue in an effort to compose the dispute between two countries which have long been friends, and, indeed, allies.

There is, secondly, the fact that the Islands have constituted a point of resentment, almost a running sore, in our relations with Argentina for well over a century, and, without betraying our obligations to the population of the Islands, we want to do what we can to improve relations with Argentina and with Latin

America as a whole. I am sure that the hon. Gentleman and the hon. Member for Essex, South-East (Mr. Braine), who speaks for the Opposition on these matters, will agree that there is need for good relations with Argentina and South America generally. The hon. Gentleman has said so, and his hon. Friend has made this clear. He knows that this is so. In supporting that cause of the people of the Islands, which we all equally cherish, the House will agree that a secure and prosperous future for them rests largely on good relations between them and the mainland.

There is another reason for the talks. More recently there has been an interruption of communications between the Islands and the mainland. This has meant difficulty, inconvenience, even vexation, as my right hon. Friend said. It is right that we should sit down and talk with Argentina about ways and means of solving these practical difficulties.

Mr. Braine: Who is causing these difficulties? Are they being caused by the Falkland islanders?

Mr. Roberts: They are caused, of course, by the situation in the area. The hon. Gentleman, a former Minister, will understand when I say that, whatever the causes of these difficulties, it is right that we should sit down with the Argentinians and try to resolve them. We believe that if we can get a satisfactory agreement with Argentina this will be in the best interests of the islanders in the end.

For these reasons, while not doubting that sovereignty is legally ours, the question of sovereignty has been included in our discussions. But the question of a transfer of sovereignty can be considered only if certain important conditions are satisfied. The first is that it would have to be, if there were proposals, as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the Islands and Argentina, in which there would be no harassment and no inconveniences for the islanders. There would also have to be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the Islands. I cannot emphasise too strongly that the final right to agree to any cession of sovereignty lies with Her Majesty's Government here in the

[MR. ROBERTS.] United Kingdom. But they would agree to such a transfer, if a proposal were made, only on the conditions I have already mentioned and—I spell this out once more—only if it were clear to Her Majesty's Government that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

Mr. William Molloy (Ealing, North): Whilst I can see the good sense of talking to anyone about communications, I hope that my hon. Friend will say that there is not the slightest chance of Her Majesty's Government being conned into a discussion about the future of the Falkland Islands. That does not arise.

Mr. Roberts: I am not quite sure what reply my hon. Friend would like to that intervention. If I repeated the words of my right hon. Friend he might find that his anxieties were fully allayed. He said:

"... only if it were clear to us, to the Government in the United Kingdom, that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, 26th March, 1968; Vol. 761, c. 1464.]

Clarity cannot proceed beyond that.

Mr. Biggs-Davison: Does that mean that the hon. Gentleman does reply in the affirmative to my question and that there will not be cession of sovereignty if it is not the desire of the people of the Falkland Islands? If he says that he prefers his words, and they mean the same as mine, I am content.

Mr. Roberts: The hon. Gentleman is at least as intelligent as I am. He can read; he can hear. What possible lack of clarity can there be in the sentence I have repeated? To go on about words and phrases and to extract from them the substance of continual argument can only re-create the very anxieties we are all anxious to allay.

Mr. Braine: I wonder if the hon. Gentleman, before he sits down, would clear up one point, because I must say he is not being very clear or helpful, although I know he is trying to be.

It is simply this—at no stage have the people of the Falkland Islands been consulted about the negotiations. The Legis-

lative Council is in complete ignorance of them. Members of the Governor's Executive Council know about them, but are under oath not to reveal what they know. The people have not been consulted. Yet we all know that the Falkland Islanders are British, wish to remain British, and have told the United Nations so. Why cannot they be consulted now? Why cannot the hon. Gentleman say straight out that there can be no question of the British Government ceding sovereignty here over the heads of these people? Why cannot he give a straight answer to a straight question?

Mr. Roberts: I have already given a straight answer. The hon. Gentleman wants his own words. I really must remind hon. Members opposite of what I have just said—by this continual questioning of a sincere and carefully phrased assurance by the Foreign Secretary they are in danger of creating anxieties which, as I said, we had hoped to allay.

On the question of consultation—

Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles (Winchester): Will the hon. Gentleman give way?

Mr. Roberts: I have given way generously. I am most anxious to make clear to the House what Her Majesty's Government's attitude is, which I am satisfied is an honourable and practical one.

Now consultation must be a continuous process. We are in close touch with opinion on the Islands, and will continue to be so. We are certainly in no doubt about their present feelings. For instance, a few weeks ago at a general election on the Islands all the candidates expressed themselves as strongly opposed to a transfer of sovereignty. There has been no move towards any change in the present Constitution, and Her Majesty's Government have no plans for any change, as we believe that these arrangements are working satisfactorily.

If and when proposals were made for a constitutional change, then that would be the time to consider any special means of deciding the islanders' reactions. In the meantime consultations will continue, as my right hon. Friend said yesterday, "in such manner and through such channels as seem most useful and appropriate".

Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles: I thank the hon. Gentleman for giving way. I hope he will understand that none of us who are concerned in this matter wish to add fuel to the flames in any way, quite the reverse. But there have been occasions recently when the Government had difficulty about other foreign affairs, which were previously within the province of H.M. Government, and these have been handed over to the United Nations. Will the hon. Gentleman say that in no circumstances will this problem, which is a specifically British one, be handed over to the United Nations or be considered suitable to be dealt with by the United Nations?

Mr. Roberts: This is such a hypothetical question that really I should not be drawn into a hypothetical answer. I can see no prospect of this. One cannot look indefinitely into the future. But the question that has been raised is impossible to answer because there is no evidence of a possibility of this arising.

Reference was made to dismay in the Falkland Islands as a result of the statement made yesterday. We have no evidence of this. On the contrary, Mr. Barton of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, who is in London, has said that he regards the Foreign Secretary's statement as satisfactory.

Mr. Braine: He may now have said that, but this was before the noble Lord, Lord Chalfont, spoke. I have in my hand a telegram from the senior member of the Legislative Council saying "dismay reply Clark Hutchison". That was the reaction in the Islands.

Mr. Roberts: I think on reflection and study the hon. Gentleman, and everyone else reading the exchanges in the other place yesterday and relating them to the very clear and full statement of my right hon. Friend yesterday, will see that there really is no disparity. I cannot understand why there should be any anxiety or dismay as a result of what was said in another place yesterday.

Mr. Biggs-Davison: The Minister of State is being very considerate. Would he think it right to clear the point up and end the discussion by saying that the Foreign Secretary has said, in other words, that sovereignty will in no way be ceded against the wishes of the Falkland

islanders? If that is the significance of the Foreign Secretary's words, it will be a great comfort. Will he please give the answer "Yes"?

Mr. Roberts: I can only quote my right hon. Friend. His words are available in the OFFICIAL REPORT. I have quoted them four or five times tonight. The hon. Gentleman knows that they are perfectly clear.

Mr. Clark Hutchison: No.

Mr. Roberts: To try to extract an answer in his own words instead of the Foreign Secretary's words is really not worthy of the hon. Gentleman as a Parliamentary performer.

Mr. Roy Roebuck (Harrow, East): Will my hon. Friend—

Mr. Roberts: I really must get on.

A question has been raised about the future security and defence of the Islands. This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, who told the House on 18th March that Her Majesty's Government are always concerned to ensure that adequate arrangements exist for the defence of the Falkland Islands. At present, our forces consist of a Royal Marine detachment and a small local defence force. Together these are considered adequate to deal with any situation foreseen at the present time. I might add that we do not expect a recrudescence of the unfortunate incident to which reference was made in the debate yesterday morning.

I hope that I have given the House the Foreign Secretary's assurance in a way which will enable us all to accept his words as meaning what they say—

"... only if it were clear to us, to the Government in the United Kingdom, that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests"

would Her Majesty's Government agree to a cession.

Mr. Roebuck: My hon. Friend has spoken of the assessment which Her Majesty's Government have at present made about the feeling of the islanders. What steps have they taken to communicate this feeling to those responsible in Argentina?

Mr. Roberts: We have had and are having discussions with Argentina. In the course of those discussions, which

[MR. ROBERTS.]
are confidential, no doubt, as occasion demands, such points are raised and made. We are in constant communication with the Governor, who in turn has been authorised to convey to members of the Executive Council what Her Majesty's Government are doing. I understand the difficulties of members of the Executive Council, who are under oath of secrecy not to impart this information to the islanders themselves. But this is inevitable because, in the normal course of diplomacy and international discussions there must be secrecy. Nevertheless, as

I said, if and when proposals are made, possibly for a cession or transfer of sovereignty, there would be ample opportunity for the islanders and the people of this country, for this House—

The Question having been proposed after Ten o'clock and the debate having continued for half an hour, MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at one minute to Eleven o'clock.

Extract from
The Times, London

29 MAR 1968

Fighting for the Falklands

Taking up the cudgels on behalf of the Falkland Islanders is the islands' main commercial concern, the £1,800,000 Falkland Islands company. Francis Mitchell, the company's secretary and London manager, is the secretary of an emergency committee, which includes John Smith, Conservative M.P. for the Cities of London and Westminster.

The company has a fascinating history. It is one of the few incorporated by Royal Charter (Hudson's Bay and Royal Exchange are others). This was granted in 1851, when the company, then led by Samuel Fisher Lafone, acquired a block of land with a view to taming the islands' wild cattle and selling meat. Before many years had passed, the shareholders were so dissatisfied with the way things were going that they formed a shareholders' committee.

The company found its feet in the 1880s thanks to the "forcefulness of character" of Mr. F. E. Cobb, an ancestor of John Cobb, the racing motorist, who was killed two weeks before he was due to become chairman of the company. F. E. Cobb decided there was no future in cattle and took the company into sheep farming. With the flock now 275,000 head, it remains the mainstay of the company's income.

In recent years the company has diversified and now owns the largest ship's chandler on the south coast of England, services the major car ferries, and operates vending machines. The present chairman is Patrick David Lafone Ainslie, who, as his third name suggests, is a descendant of the founder. The 600 shareholders are virtually all British, many resident in the Falklands.

They just cannot contemplate the islands going to Argentina. "Such a breach of faith would be a terrible shock to us all", says Mitchell. The company's business has not been harmed yet, but Mitchell is fearful that unless all uncertainty is removed workers in this very British community might become unsettled and go to Australia or New Zealand and the flow of new immigrants would dry up. The shares, quoted on the London Stock Exchange, have been relatively uninvolved by the uncertain-

Business Diary



Frits Goldschmeding and Gerard Daleboudt : selling the secretaries

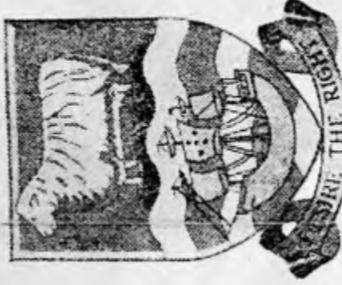
ties and at 26s. 7½d. last night were less than 2s. below the price 10 days ago.

Extract from

Daily Express, London

29 MAR 1968

The shield of freedom



FALKLAND'S EMBLEM

BEHIND
IT,
THE
WILL
TO
GO
ON BEING BRITISH

From JOHN SMITH
PORT STANLEY,
Thursday.

IT was the commander of the Falkland Islands Defence Force speaking.

"We've got one soldier for every hundred thousand acres of land," said Richard Goss.

"So we're a little thin on the ground if it comes to trouble.

"But as long as we know—and the Argentine knows—that Britain won't let us down we'll be okay."

We were talking in Port Stanley, capital of the Colony, after it had been revealed in the Commons that Britain had been discussing the sovereignty of the Falklands with the Argentine.

THE BOBBY

We might have been talking in the High Street of a British county town.

Land-Rovers going up and down the street... neatly dressed housewives coming out of the shops, baskets laden with English food and gym slippers walking down the hill from school.

Behind us the Union Jack fluttered over the harbour. A "bobby" in his blue uniform passed by wishing us "Good afternoon."

Nothing could be more British or more peaceful in the cool, autumnal sunshine. Yet beneath it all, is some apprehension.

Falkland Islanders may be British to the core but they have come to realise increasingly over the past few years that they are 2,000 miles away from Britain.

They feel that, because they are out of sight, they may well be out of mind.

Said Richard Goss: "We were dismayed at the news that H.M.S. Protector, normally in our area, is going to the breaker's yard. We really need protection."

THE FLAG

Two years ago an Argentine political group crash-landed an airliner on the racetrack here and raised the Argentine flag. Goss and the 60-man Island Defence Force (British-uniformed and equipped) took care of them.

But, as he said today, if there was a really determined attempt to invade the Islands "we are a little worried that it would take

British forces a couple of weeks to get here."

The only protection Britain gives the island is a platoon of Royal Marines... a squad of whom were marching down to the harbour past a row of Victorian houses prominently marked "Jubilee Villas 1897."

No one else but the British have lived here. Of the present 2,117 population, only ninety are not totally British in extraction.

When Britain decided to found a colony on the island in 1833, the first colonists were British soldiers and their wives and children.

Their descendants have built a good life for themselves. They live a quiet, uncluttered, uncomplicated, totally British existence without any of the pressures of modern day Britain.

THE LIVING

The economy is based on sheep farming. It has given the islands self-sufficiency. Income tax at 5s. 9d. in the pound enables them to run their own affairs and give every citizen a standard of living which, on average, is higher than Britain.

Cigarettes are 1s. 9d. for 20, Scotch 37s a bottle. In the main street of Port Stanley there are 14 shops which provide everything the islanders need.

And that everything is British—washing machines, vacuum cleaners, sweaters, stoves, jam, biscuits and tea.

The streets with their neat suburban houses, each with large flower-filled gardens, go down to the sea front, and the only incongruous note is the penguins parading slowly up and down.

What would happen to these people if the Argentine—which has been laying claim to the islands since 1834—were to succeed in it and take them over?

Nearly everyone I spoke to had the same answer. "We couldn't live here, we would have to give up everything and go home... to Britain."

"But we can't believe it will ever happen," said one woman. "It's an impossible thought. Is it?"

Richard Goss, who is also a member of the Island's Executive Council, said: "We've got nothing against the Argentine—except our determination to remain in what we are: British."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Daily Express, London

29 MAR 1968

IN PARLIAMENT
LAST NIGHT...

'Dismay in islands', Tories accuse

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign Office, had caused "doubt and anxiety" about the Government's intentions over the Falklands, the Commons was told last night.

Mr. Bernard Braine, from the Opposition Front Bench, alleged also that Lord Chalfont's remarks in the Lords on Wednesday had brought "dismay" in the islands themselves.

Lord Chalfont said Britain believed a transfer to the Argentine could be considered only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and the Argentine and safeguard the special rights of the islanders.

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Tory, Chigwell) said last night: "I don't believe that any agreement for the transfer or pooling or adulteration of British sovereignty could guarantee the rights, liberties, and civilisation of the islands."

"It is likely that whatever was written in the agreement the islanders would seek new homes in Australia or New Zealand."

'INFAMY'

Angrily he added: "That might be regarded as a solution to an awkward problem. But it would be a solution of shame and infamy."

He urged: "Let it go forth from this House that those who have trusted us, fought for us, and died for us, and desire to live in the British way, in British territory and under the British flag will not be abandoned by the country they call home."

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Joint Minister of State, Foreign Office, denied there was dismay in the islands. He said: "Without betraying our obligations to the islands we want to do what we can to improve relations with Argentina and Latin America as a whole."

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date 29 MAR 1968
(5)

STEWART DISAPPOINTS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

PORT STANLEY,
Falkland Islands, Thursday.

A representative group of Port Stanley residents has expressed disappointment over the statement of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, yesterday about the colony.

Mr Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argen-

tina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2000 islanders.

A recent statement by Mr Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by H.M.S. Protector caused derision among the islanders because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard.

Replying to an Opposition question on whether the islands could repel an invasion, Mr Healey said in the House of Commons on March 18 that a British Marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by

the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose.

The 31-year-old ice patrol ship, refitted in 1955 for service in the Falklands area, is due to be replaced by a ship bought from a Danish firm.

In Buenos Aires the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, said last night that Argentina saw no reason for not continuing talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands.

Argentina claims the islands and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the islanders to determine their future.—Reuter.

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 29 MAR 1968

'Derision' in Falkland Islands

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands, Thursday
REPRESENTATIVES of Port Stanley residents have expressed disappointment over the statement of Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, on the colony yesterday.

Mr. Stewart told the House of Commons that Britain would not transfer sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands to Argentina, which claims them, without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

The official text of Mr. Stewart's statement has not yet been received by the Government here, but the islanders heard a BBC broadcast on it.

The recent statement by Mr. Denis Healey that the islands were guarded by HMS Protector caused derision here — because the ship had left 15 days earlier for a breaker's yard!

Argentina claims the British South Atlantic colony, and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the 2,000 islanders to determine their future.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
The Times, London

29 MAR 1968

DOUBTS FELT IN FALKLANDS

PORT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS, March 28.—A representative group of Port Stanley residents has expressed disappointment over the statement on the colony made yesterday by Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Stewart told the Commons that Britain would not transfer her sovereignty over the islands to Argentina without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

A recent statement by Mr. Healey, the Defence Secretary, that the islands were guarded by H.M.S. Protector caused local derision because the ship was 15 days northbound towards a breaker's yard.

(Replying to an opposition question on whether the islanders could repel an invasion, Mr. Healey said in the House of Commons on March 18 that a Royal Marine detachment and the local defence force, supported as necessary by the Protector, would be adequate for this purpose. The 31-year-old ice patrol ship Protector, refitted in 1955 for service in the Falklands area, is due to be replaced eventually by a ship bought from a Danish firm.)

In Buenos Aires Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said last night that Argentina saw no reason for not continuing her

talks with Britain on the Falkland Islands "under the rule set by the United Nations".

He declined to comment on the Commons debate on the subject because he had "only partial and unofficial reports" of Mr. Stewart's speech. Dr Costa declined also to comment on the talks, recommended by the United Nations Assembly in 1966 and which both Governments have agreed to keep secret.

Argentina claims the British colony and has rejected a British suggestion for a plebiscite among the islanders to determine their future.—Reuter.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: A Falkland Islands emergency committee has been set up in London under the chairmanship of Sir John Barlow, a director of The Falkland Islands Company and a former M.P. for Middleton and Prestwich. The committee has expressed relief at the Government's statement that sovereignty over the islands will not be transferred to Argentina unless the islanders consider this to be in their interests. At the same time, members feel that unless Whitehall is reminded of the situation, the islanders may find themselves alone and geographically isolated. The committee includes Labour and Conservative M.P.s.

DIARIO DE LEÓN León	DIARIO REGIONAL Valladolid
PROA León	EL NORTE DE CASTILLA Valladolid
DIARIO DE BURGOS Burgos	LIBERTAD Valladolid
LA VOZ DE CASTILLA Burgos	LA VOZ DE MEDINA Medina del Campo
DIARIO PALENTINO El Día 3003 Palencia	CORREO DE ZAMORA INFERIO Zamora
CAMPO SORIANO HOGAR Y PUEBLO	LA GACETA REGIONAL

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING BUREAU

33

Gran Bretaña no está dispuesta a reintegrar a la Argentina la soberanía de las islas Malvinas

Practica la misma política que en Gibraltar

LONDRES

(Crónica especial para PROA del corresponsal de Pyresa).

Luz sobre las conversaciones anglo-argentinas a propósito de la soberanía de las islas Malvinas, que Argentina reclama como una herencia de España arrebatada por la Royal Navy, en 1833. Hemos hablado y hablaremos de la soberanía de ese territorio", declara en el Parlamento Michael Stewart, ministro de Asuntos Exteriores.

Luz en gozo: Inglaterra no está dispuesta a liquidar esa colonia. "No tenemos la más ligera duda sobre nuestros derechos soberanos", apostilla Stewart.

La última afirmación aparece naturalmente en vuelta en algodón al estilo británico: "Queremos asegurar buenas relaciones entre isleños y argentinos. Nuestra voluntad de cooperación es absoluta y el diálogo prosigue". Pero el ultraje a Hispanoamérica no se borra con algodón.

REFERENDUM

Las islas Malvinas tienen dos millares de habitantes: cuatro de cada cinco son ingleses instalados a raíz de la usurpación. No hay que ser profeta para adivinar el resultado de ese referendun. Y el caso de Gibraltar anticipa cuál será la táctica siguiente: "el pueblo ha elegido permanecer bajo el pabellón británico: respetemos y defendemos su voluntad".

LIBERTAD

Uno de los mayores tópicos que circulan por el mundo es el de "Inglaterra, país de la libertad".

Todavía no hace un mes que Inglaterra conmemoró el año mundial de la Declaración de los

derechos humanos con la felonía más descarada de nuestra época: privar de su pasaporte -de su condición básica ciudadana- a millón y medio de personas porque eran de color.

Eso sí, la ceremonia tuvo todos los ingredientes democráticos: votación en el Parlamento (372 diputados contra 62) y firma de puño y letra a cargo de su majestad. Huelga añadir que el pueblo afectado por la nueva acta parlamentaria no tuvo la más remota ocasión de expresar su voluntad por un referendun

ARGENTINA

Con una impavidez -que muchos califican de tenacidad, aunque tiene otro nombre más sonoro- Inglaterra ensaya de nuevo la partitura "que decida el pueblo", ahora a propósito de las islas Malvinas, como antes en Gibraltar (22.000 habitantes entre ambas colonias).

No resulta, pues, extraño que ya se escuchen aquí enérgicas protestas del Gobierno argentino.

Las Malvinas -roca y arena- por su proximidad a la Antártida y al Estrecho de Magallanes ocupan un lugar estratégico; pero si Argentina cierra las puertas al suministro de los isleños, la vida será allí prácticamente imposible. Exactamente como en el caso de Gibraltar.

Para que el Gobierno argentino no adopte una postura extrema -más que justificada- Londres mantiene conversaciones con Buenos Aires (y con Madrid) y en homenaje al tópico de la libertad recurre al truco del referendun sobre poblaciones mínimas y artificiales.

Será preciso encontrar otros nombres que los de "diplomacia" y "democracia" para definir exactamente el fenómeno británico.

Antonio CASTRO

Extract from
Capé Argus, Cape Town, South Africa

Extract from
Natal Daily News, Durban, S. Africa

12 MAR 1968

12 MAR 1968

QUESTION ON FALKLANDS

LONDON, Tuesday. — A group of Falkland Islanders warned in a document published here today that the British Government might hand the disputed islands to Argentina.

The appeal, addressed to members of the British Parliament, came from four unofficial members of the Falkland Island Executive Council and urged M.P.s to intercede to prevent the Government making any agreement with Argentina over the heads of the inhabitants.

The Foreign Secretary (Mr. George Brown) will be asked about it in the Commons tomorrow by a Conservative M.P., Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison. — Sapa-Reuter.

Islanders fear take-over

LONDON, Tuesday. — A group of Falkland islanders warned in a document published here today that the British Government might hand the disputed islands to Argentina.

The appeal, addressed to members of the British Parliament, came from four unofficial members of the Falkland Islands Executive Council.

They said the Government now was engaged in negotiations which might result in handing the islands to Argentina, and urged MPs to intercede to prevent the Government making any agreement with Argentina over the heads of local inhabitants. — Sapa-Reuter.

International Press-Cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON S.W.1.

Extract from
Halifax Evening Courier
and **Guardian**
(HALIFAX, ENGLAND)

Date.....11...APR.1968...

Argentina rejects idea of referendum

Buenos Aires, Thursday.
THE Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued here last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum." — Reuter.

Extract from the

Gibraltar Chronicle

Date 28 MAR 1965

Foreign Secretary upholds rights of Falklanders

LONDON, Wednesday — The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Michael Stewart, made a statement in the House of Commons today on the Falkland Islands: I begin with the question about why there are talks between the Argentine and ourselves on this issue. There is more than one reason. The first is the Resolution passed in the General Assembly of the United Nations in December, 1965.

The United Kingdom did not vote for the resolution, but it has always been the policy of the Government, and I think rightly, that even when we have not been able to agree with the United Nations we should not treat resolutions passed in the General Assembly simply with silence, still less with contempt.

That was one reason, but there was a further reason. . . . It is concerned with the position of the islanders themselves. . . . for some considerable time Argentina has advanced her claim, and there has been repeated argument in many different fora about this. Further, more recent communication between the island and the mainland has been cut off. This is a source, to say the least, of vexation and inconvenience to the islanders. Some of them have children in this country for various reasons. From

time to time they want to make visits to this country, and the cutting off of direct communication between them and the nearest mainland available to them is to say the least, a vexation and an inconvenience.

. . . It is not desirable to have a situation in which there was already this degree of inconvenience and vexation imposed, and to leave simply to fester a situation in which the smaller community was at variance with its nearest mainland neighbour, and a neighbour which, as we all know, is a country of great and growing importance in the world . . .

This seems to be a second reason for entering talks, that it was desirable, if it could be done, to get a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina. For that reason, I reject any criticisms of the Government's action in holding the talks at all. It was right to do so and it would have been short-sighted not to do so . . .

I would not be prepared to say that there will be no further talks on this issue. It was right to begin them and right that they should continue.

subjects in the islands and our duty also — again, in their interest — to get a satisfactory agreement, if it could be obtained, and the fact that it would not have been prudent, farsighted and in the interest of the islanders for us to preclude any possibility of discussion by saying that we would not even discuss this question of sovereignty.

As has been pointed out, governments of both complexions in this country have been prepared to put this question to the International Court. I do not believe, therefore, that there is any valid ground for criticism of what the Government have done, simply on the ground — and I make no secret of this — that this question has formed part of the talks.

We have no doubt whatever that the sovereignty is now legally ours. I need not go over all the legal and historical arguments that have been advanced. Since it is in our sovereignty, we have a clear duty, as we have towards any other place in our sovereignty, to defend it. I need not say more on this aspect, except to make it quite clear that . . . we have no doubt that these islands are in our sovereignty and that we therefore have, as we have for other places in our sovereignty, a duty to provide for their defence

If we mean what we say about desiring good relations with the Argentinians, we must at least be prepared to admit that while we are firmly convinced of our legal sovereignty over these islands, they are equally firmly convinced of their claim. You get nowhere at all if you start by assuming that the person with whom you are discussing is not even sincere. We have to recognise therefore, that here there is a problem between two nations who desire to be friendly, who take different views as to what their rights are.

It is in the interests of both of them and of the islands that if possible that dispute shall be resolved. Can it be done? I hope it can. I think it is of great importance for the islanders. If possible it should be done. The House will see from the way I have defined the problem that it will not be easy to do it . . . apart from anything else I say, the idea that at any moment there is going to be a transfer of sovereignty has no relation to the facts at all. There is no justification for that in the islands or as a hope or expectation in Argentina.

I come to what I think the

House will regard as really the heart of the matter. At what possible time, or in what possible event or circumstances, could a transfer of sovereignty be made? If we take the view that in order to get a proper modus vivendi this country must at any rate be prepared to discuss time and circumstances in which, if certain conditions were fulfilled it would agree to cession of sovereignty, the vital question is, in what time, in what circumstances, under what conditions? I think the House will agree that this is really the heart of the matter and it is to that I now want to address myself . . .

We do not want to be at odds with a friendly nation. We do not want to betray people who have a claim on us. This is not a matter which can be quickly dismissed or quickly resolved. I say, in what event or in what time could a transfer of sovereignty be considered? To that my answer would be, first, only as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina, in which there would be no harassing, no vexation, no inconveniences, and an arrangement also in which if there were a transfer of sovereignty there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders, the fact of their descent, language and so on.

That is one condition, that the cession of sovereignty could be considered only as part of an agreement of that nature, but further — notice this — the right to agree to such a cession lie with Her Majesty's Government here. That, of course, is a simple point of law. That the actual power to decide over a transfer of sovereignty lies with Her Majesty's Government here. But I say this quite clearly, Her Majesty's Government would agree to such a cession only, first on the condition I have mentioned that it must be part of an agreement fully satisfactory in other respects, and secondly, only if it were clear to us, to the Government in the United Kingdom, that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

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Extract from
Bucks Herald, Aylesbury

- 4 APR 1968

Important lesson from Labour defeat

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON to be learned from the by-elections at which the Conservatives gained sweeping victories last week was the fact that Labourites must have voted for the Tories. This was the opinion of Mr. John Ward, Wessex area chairman of the Conservative Association, at the annual meeting of Aylesbury Divisional Conservative Association in Wendover Memorial Hall on Friday night.

"To the Labour Party at last it has been demonstrated that they've been rumbled, not only by Conservatives but by their own supporters," he said. "If there is one mile of moral fibre left in this Government they will be resigning en bloc today."

"Never has there been a clearer demonstration that the country as a whole is fed up with them."

Socialists made a lot of fuss about vested interests, said Mr. Ward. The most vested of interests to them was clinging to power at any cost.

As Government failure followed failure, more and more erosion of freedom was to be seen, he said. This was what the Conservatives had to stop.

TORY RULE WASTED

Slamming the Budget, Mr. Ward said that by it the 13 years of Tory rule had become wasted. The Government had mismanaged everything it had attempted to do — it had not even managed George Brown properly.

"One thing you can say for George Brown is that at least because he fundamentally disagrees with his colleagues he has had the courage to leave them and get out."

"Maybe it will be shown in time that he was the one man

who had the courage to do the right thing at the right time."

The Labour Party was going to destroy itself from within, said Mr. Ward. What the Conservatives could do was, to start with, ensure the same success as achieved at Derby in local government elections this year.

"We can also understand and explain our own policies," he said. "We are not taking over on a false prospectus. What you'll get is integrity, honesty and well-planned government. We are going to need it."

Sir Spencer Summers, M.P. for the Aylesbury Division, is still recovering from an operation and was unable to be at the meeting. But he was represented by Lady Summers, and in a speech read for him by the agent, Mr. Michael Lewis, Sir Spencer also blasted the Budget and the Labour Government.

Lady Summers said her husband's address was written before the news of the by-elections broke.

"We have all had a tremendous filip and have been inspired by what has happened," she said. "My husband did want me to say how much he hopes this news will still voices of criticism which are still apparent about our leader. We have an excellent leader, and we hope our future Prime Minister."

In his prepared statement, Sir Spencer said people were apt to judge the Budget in the context of today. But it must not be forgotten that it should never have been necessary.

"If the Government had tailed public expenditure severely immediately following devaluation, it would not have been necessary to depreciate the standard of living of the individual as drastically as the Budget does," the speech read.

"Let there be no doubt that the so-called 'cuts' announced after devaluation are not real 'cuts' at all. They are merely reductions in the expanded programme already planned. In fact, we shall spend more money next year than we are spending now."

"By allowing people something like three months in which to buy much of what they wanted before prices went up, much of the success intended by the Budget was automatically lost."

He was completely opposed to restricting increases in wages and salaries by legislation, and was appalled at the latest suggestion that there should be a law eliminating overtime.

"We would all agree that we have got the wrong Government. What is worse is that the Government is always wrong," observed Sir Spencer.

It had been consistently wrong over Rhodesia, and had now virtually blocked the last opportunity to resolve the dispute; wrong over the Falkland Isles because negotiations with the Argentine should never have been allowed to start; wrong over the sale of arms to South Africa, which even George Brown was said to have thought to have been a mistake; and wrong over Stansted, a blunder which might be reprimed.

The Transport Bill he described as "outrageous" and bound to increase the cost of production, prejudicing export prospects and probably ultimately adding to the rates.

The first two duties of the Government were to protect the interests of the nation and to preserve the value of its currency, said the M.P.

He thought that by pulling out prematurely from the Far and Middle East and through five consecutive reductions in our Forces, the Government had failed under the first heading; and by devaluation had failed under the second.

STEADY PROGRESS

The executive committee's report on the work of the association said the past year was one of steady progress. Branches responded well to heavy financial demands and of the 28 individual quota targets, no fewer than 19 were reached or exceeded.

The direct quota figure of £3,259 was a record, as was the £1,151 from direct subscriptions.

A particular word of praise went to Brill branch, which paid nearly four times its quota target, and to Whitechurch branch, re-formed after a period of inactivity, which had promptly paid its quota in full. The Aylesbury and Chesham branches had contributed more than ever towards their quota targets.

As part of a political contact programme, it was hoped to form a Divisional Policy Group this year. And the aim of the Divisional Supper Club, to be launched this month, will be to attract young married couples to the association.

More than 200 events were organised by the branches during the year, excluding the weekly meetings of the four Young Conservative branches. Many branches reported increased memberships at the end of last year.

In the Aylesbury constituency a membership target of 50 per cent. of the Conservative vote at the last general election — amounting to 12,000 members — was set for the coming year.

General Sir Geoffrey Scoones, the retiring president, said the by-election results were highly satisfactory. But they might also be dangerous, because they could lead to apathy. Pressure could be reduced.

Officers elected were: President, Cllr. M. W. Buckingham; vice-presidents, Major P. T. C. McGee, Captain L. M. Paterson and Col. L. Teiley; chairman, Mr. C. A. G. Savidge; vice-chairmen, Mr. B. de Burgh Sidley, Mrs. G. O. Turner and Miss P. A. Negrutti.

The meeting agreed to send a message of good wishes to Sir Spencer. Mr. Ward was thanked by Mr. Savidge and the retiring officers by Mr. R. Basiger, chairman of the Prestwood branch.

- 2 APR 1968

Extract from The
**LIVERPOOL
DAILY POST**

Date..... 1 APR 1968

³⁰⁰³
**Farmer seeks a
referendum on
the Falklands**

A plea will reach an M.P. from a Welsh farm this week urging him to press for an immediate referendum to decide the future of the Falkland Islands.

It will come from Mr Harland Greenshields, aged 40, who is now at the family's 160-acre farm at Caeathraw, near Caernarvon.

In October he will be off on a periodic visit to a 140,000-acre farm in the Falklands, owned by himself, his brother, and mother. It has 20,000 sheep, hundreds of cattle and horses.

Mr Greenshields, Falklands-born, who commutes between North Wales and the South Atlantic, fears that the islands could be sold in a quiet deal with Argentina.

Yesterday, he wrote to Mr David Gibson-Watt Conservative spokesman for Welsh affairs suggesting a referendum of the 2000-odd Falklanders.

**Majority want to
stay British**

Mr Greenshields explained yesterday: "I know that 99.9 per cent would wish to remain British. This would resolve it once and for all, and let the world know what the islanders themselves think. It might even satisfy the U.N. sub-committee on Colonial Affairs."

The family station in the Falklands was set up a century ago by Mr Greenshields' great-grandfather. Mr Greenshields spends six months in every two years there.

Mr Greenshields suspects that a secret deal with Argentina could be negotiated to compensate the South Americans for loss of meat exports because of the foot and mouth epidemic, and so ensure that orders for British warships are not cancelled.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

2 APR 1968

³⁰⁰³
**"Great relief"
for Falkland
Islanders**

The wishes of the Falkland Islanders were "absolute conditions," said the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Gilbert Longden (Con., S.W. Herts) told him: "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders."

Mr Gordon Campbell (Con., Moray and Nairn) had said earlier that Mr Stewart's statement on March 27 had been vague.

He asked for assurances that "sovereignty will not be transferred to any country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course, and they had proper opportunities to express their views."

Mr Stewart said: "What I said was not vague. I said exactly what you have said, and I repeat it now."

³⁰⁰³
**Falkland
Islanders
are free
to choose**

The wishes of the Falkland Islanders were "absolute conditions," the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, said in the Commons yesterday.

After questions from MPs, Mr. Gilbert Longden (Con. South-west Herts.) told him: "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders."

Mr. Gordon Campbell (Con. Moray and Nairn) said earlier that Mr. Stewart's statement on March 27 had been somewhat vague and he asked for assurances that "sovereignty will not be transferred to any country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course and they had proper opportunities to express their views."

Mr. Stewart said: "What I said was not vague. I said exactly what you have said and I repeat it now."

Secrecy

Mr. Bernard Braine (Con. South-west Essex), from the Opposition Front Bench, said that some of the difficulties sprang from the fact that negotiations were conducted in secrecy without the islanders knowing anything about them.

He asked Mr. Stewart: "Would you say whether you envisage steps being taken at an early stage to see what the wishes of the islanders are by means of a referendum?"

Mr. Stewart: "As no agreement on the transfer of sovereignty was made, this does not arise. The wishes of the islanders are absolute conditions."

International Press-Cutting Bureau
1 Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from

The Press and Journal

ABERDEEN

2 APR 1968

Date.....

(See information overleaf.)

FALKLANDS — STEWART'S ASSURANCE

THE WISHES of the Falkland Islanders were "absolute conditions" said Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart in the Commons yesterday.

And after there had been further questions from M.P.s. Mr Gilbert Longden (C.—S.W. Herts) told him. "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders and I am grateful for it."

Mr Gordon Campbell (C.—Moray and Nairn) had said earlier that Mr Stewart's statement, made on March 27, had been somewhat vague and he asked for assurances that "sovereignty will not be transferred to any country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course and they had proper opportunities to express their views."

Mr Stewart said: "What I said was not vague. I said exactly what you have said and I repeat it now."

Mr Bernard Braine (C.—S.W. Essex), from the Opposition Front Bench, said that some of the difficulties sprang from the fact that negotiations were conducted in secrecy, without the islanders knowing anything about them.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Sun, London

- 2 APR 1968

Far away

JOKE AT yesterday's Foreign Office daily Press conference. After some chat about the Falkland Islands business, one correspondent asked the FO official: "Can you confirm a report that Mr. Brown, while still Foreign Secretary, offered the Virgin Islands to the United States?"

The official, remembering it was April 1, gave this straight-faced reply: "I am not in a position either to confirm or deny."

It reminds me of a former Colonial Secretary who was once caught out in the House, when it became clear he did not know where the Virgin Islands are.

He saved himself with a quip. "I may not know where the Virgins are," he said, "but I do know they are some distance from the Isle of Man."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from

"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

1 APR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mrs. Ewing asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how many meetings have been held between Her Majesty's Government and the Argentinian Government in March 1968 at which the future of the Falkland Islands has been discussed.

Mr. M. Stewart : One.

Mr. Roberts: I agree that the T.O.S. are an effective and efficient force for internal security in that area, and we shall do everything possible to see that they continue to be so.

3003 FALKLAND ISLANDS

4. **Mr. G. Campbell** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what negotiations have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and Argentina about the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

49. **Sir F. Bennett** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what negotiations have taken place between the United Kingdom and the Argentine on the future of the Falkland Islands; and whether he will make a statement.

51. **Mr. James Davidson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what consultations he has had with the Government of the Argentine regarding the future status of the Falkland Islands.

57. **Mr. Fisher** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what negotiations are taking place with the Government of the Argentine concerning the future of the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

58. **Mr. Scott-Hopkins** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present state of negotiations with the Argentine concerning the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

61. **Mr. Braine** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how far the future of the Falkland Islands is under discussion in the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and the Argentine Government; whether he will give an assurance that there will be no change in the sovereignty of this British territory without the full approval of its inhabitants; what consultations there have been with representative organisations in the Falkland Islands; and whether he will make a statement.

63. **Mr. Longden** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the object of the present negotiations between this country and the Argentine Republic concerning the Falkland Islands.

67. **Sir Knox Cunningham** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a further statement with regard to his negotiations with the Government of the Argentine on the question of the Falkland Islands.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Michael Stewart): I have nothing to add to what I said in the House on 27th March about the Anglo-Argentine talks on the Falkland Islands.—[Vol. 761, cols. 1458-67.]

Mr. Campbell: As that statement was somewhat vague, will the right hon. Gentleman now give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falklands will not be transferred to any other country unless a majority of the islanders favour such a course, and have been given a proper opportunity to express their views?

Mr. Stewart: What I said was not vague at all. I said exactly what the hon. Gentleman has just said, and I repeat it now.

Mr. Davidson: Will the right hon. Gentleman say what were the exact intentions of the Argentine Government, and what were their demands?

Mr. Stewart: I think I explained to the House that Argentina raised the question of the transfer of sovereignty. Our object in the talks has been both to preserve the interests of the islanders, and to see that for the future they can live on good terms with their large neighbour.

Mr. Fisher: I hope that I heard the right hon. Gentleman aright. Will he emphasise, with unambiguous clarity, that in this matter we rest on the principle of self-determination for the islanders?

Mr. Stewart: I really have been quite unambiguous about this already. I said in the House that one, though only one, of the conditions in which we could consider a transfer of sovereignty was that it was clear to us that the islanders themselves regarded the conditions as satisfactory.

Mr. Braine: Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that part of the difficulty springs from the fact that the negotiations were conducted in secrecy, without the islanders knowing anything at all about them? Will he say whether he

envisages steps being taken at an early stage to ascertain the wishes of the islanders, already expressed at the United Nations, by means of a referendum?

Mr. Stewart: That would not arise unless an agreement were reached which was satisfactory in other respects. I made that clear to the House. If no agreement envisaging transfer of sovereignty at all were reached, this question would not arise, but the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition. With regard to the secrecy of the talks, I think the hon. Gentleman understands that conversations of this kind are regularly conducted confidentially, and I explained to the House the steps that we had taken to inform the Governor and authorise him to inform the Executive Council.

Mr. Longden: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his answer this afternoon will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders, and that we are grateful to him for that?

Mr. Stewart: I am obliged to the hon. Member for that remark. I may fairly say, however, that I have said nothing in the House this afternoon that I did not say earlier.

Sir Knox Cunningham: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his refusal to use clear and specific words has caused grave and justifiable disquiet? Is he now saying that there will be no transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands without the consent of the inhabitants?

Mr. Stewart: I said that a few moments ago. The statement that this has caused grave disquiet is not correct. Mr. Barton, a member of the Executive Council who has been over here recently, described my statement as very satisfactory.

Mr. Whitaker: Nevertheless, will my right hon. Friend have no objection if he thought it helpful for there to be a referendum in the Falkland Islands under United Nations supervision to establish what the wishes of the inhabitants are?

Mr. Stewart: I have said that I do not think that this question arises at present—nor should I want to lay down precisely what mechanisms we might adopt in a situation that has not yet arisen.

ANGLO-GERMAN OFFSET AGREEMENT

5. **Mr. Frank Allaun** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a statement about the British Army of the Rhine offset talks in Bonn.

Mr. Mulley: With permission, Mr. Speaker, I will answer this Question and Questions No. 54 and No. 77 at the end of Question Time.

EUROPE (ARMED FORCES)

6. **Mr. Frank Allaun** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a statement about the progress of discussions within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation of mutual balanced forces reductions in Europe.

Mr. Mulley: These discussions are going forward in the context of the intensified studies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on disarmament and practical measures of arms control.

Mr. Allaun: How soon may we expect a definite proposal—since N.A.T.O. started these discussions four months ago? Secondly, does my right hon. Friend agree that these talks might be started by mutual example rather than by a formal East-West agreement, as the Defence Minister stated on 4th March?

Mr. Mulley: On my hon. Friend's first point, I should like to be able to assure him that I expect early results, but I am afraid that these are extremely detailed and complicated matters, and I would not expect quick results. On the question whether one should start, and not attempt to put the matter on a basis of mutuality, as he knows there have been redeployments of both the United States and British forces in the last year, and so far there has been no corresponding reduction by the Soviet Union.

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE (SIR CON O'NEILL AND MR. CHRISTOPHER SOAMES)

7. **Mr. Boyd-Carpenter** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a statement on the offer of resignation by Sir Con O'Neill, Deputy Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

- 2 APR 1968

FALKLANDS: STEWART UNDERLINES PLEDGE

By DANIEL McGEACHIE

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, came under renewed pressure in the Commons yesterday about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Gordon Campbell (Tory, Moray and Nairn) said Mr. Stewart's last statement had been "somewhat vague."

He sought an assurance "that sovereignty will not be transferred to any country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course and there have been proper opportunities for them to express their views."

Mr. Stewart told him: "What I said was not vague. I said exactly what you have said and I repeat it now."

Mr. Bernard Braine (Tory, South-East Essex) said that part of the difficulties sprang from the fact that negotiations were conducted in secrecy and islanders knew nothing.

He asked if Mr. Stewart envisaged a referendum.

Mr. Stewart answered: "As no agreement on the transfer of sovereignty was made this does not arise."

The Foreign Secretary was told by Mr. Gilbert Longden (Tory, South-West Herts): "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders."

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 3 APR 1968

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assistance he is giving for the improvement of harbour facilities in Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, with particular reference to piers and cranes;

(2) what financial assistance he is giving to the Government of the Falkland Islands for the building of a new airfield in the islands.

Mr. George Thomas: No request for assistance has been received from the Falkland Islands Government for the improvement of harbour facilities in Port Stanley, nor has there been a request for financial assistance for the building of a new airfield in the islands.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 3 APR 1968

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence what training the members of the Royal Marine detachment in the Falkland Islands give to the local defence force.

Mr. Healey: The Royal Marine party in the Falkland Islands assists the local defence force in training for home guard duties which includes basic weapon training, and training in minor tactics and communications. Small scale exercises with the defence force are held from time to time.

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence, how frequently the Royal Marine detachment in the Falkland Islands is changed; and what plans he has to increase it.

Mr. Healey: The Royal Marine detachment is relieved annually. In answer to the second part of his question I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 18th March.—[Vol. 761, c. 78.]

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence, what ship is to replace H.M.S. "Protector" in the Falkland Islands area; and if he will give an assurance that this ship will be a naval vessel built as such and not a converted merchantman.

Mr. Healey: The ice patrol ship H.M.S. "Endurance" will replace H.M.S. "Protector" later this year. H.M.S. "Endurance" was formerly the icebreaker "Anita Dan" and is now being converted to R.N. requirements to suit her for the rôle she is to undertake.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

- 2 APR 1968

New statement on Falklands

By our Commonwealth
Correspondent

A further statement by the Foreign Secretary on the Falkland Islands affair in the Commons yesterday appears to remove some of the ambiguity which puzzled and worried MPs on both sides of the House when Mr Stewart gave his previous explanation last Wednesday.

Although he was still unwilling to come out with a forthright commitment to the holding of a referendum, the Foreign Secretary said that an absolute condition before any change of sovereignty could be contemplated was that the wishes of the citizens of the colony themselves should be ascertained. But he insisted that this remains a hypothetical situation because there is no proposal to hand over the islands to Argentina at the present time.

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

- 3 APR 1968

SPEAKING OUT FOR THE FALKLANDS

WHAT was originally intended to be a quiet leave, seeing friends and seeing Britain again, turned out to be a hectic round of official meetings and interviews for Mr Arthur Barton, from the Falkland Islands.

Mr Barton, nominated by the Governor to the Islands' executive council, has been telling MPs of all parties how much the Falkland inhabitants like the Union Jack flying over them and how little they want an Argentinian flag put up in its place.

He went to the islands as a young man in 1921—and was a farmer before taking up politics.

The colony is similar to parts of Scotland, he says, and many of the people there are of Scottish descent. There are no Argentinians among the population of 2100.

□ □ □ □

Extract from
Morning Advertiser, LondonExtract from
Times, London

Extract from:

- 2 APR 1968

- 2 APR 1968

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date - 2 APR 1968

STEWART'S
PLEDGE ON
ISLANDS

YESTERDAY, Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, reaffirmed in the Commons the statement he made in the House last week on the question of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Gordon Campbell (C, Moray and Nairn) had complained that that statement was "somewhat vague." He asked for an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falklands would not be transferred to any other country unless a majority of the islanders favoured such a course and had been given a proper opportunity to express their views.

Mr. Stewart: "What I said was not vague at all. I said exactly what you have just said and I repeat it now."

During further exchanges on this issue, Mr. Gilbert Longden (C, South-West Herts) said: "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders and I am grateful for it."

SIR CON'S CASE

Mr. Stewart, also answered questions about the pending resignation of Sir Con O'Neill, deputy under-secretary at the Foreign Office.

He said the reasons for the resignation were set out by Sir Con in a personal statement issued with Mr. George Brown's consent.

Sir Con will leave the Foreign Office in mid-April.

"I share the regret that the diplomatic service should be losing such an able and devoted officer," declared Mr. Stewart.

About the appointment of Mr. Christopher Soames to be Ambassador in Paris, the Foreign Secretary said he was appointed by Mr. Brown (then Foreign Secretary) in the confident belief that he would fill the role with distinction.

Mr. Stewart said: "I share that view."

Mr. Stewart added: "The appointments of distinguished public figures to senior diplomatic posts are not infrequent.

"That does not imply a shortage of career diplomats qualified to fill these posts, but simply that particular persons outside the service may be particularly qualified to fill a particular post at a particular time."

Falklands talks

MR. CAMPBELL (Moray and Nairn, C.), questioning the Foreign Secretary about the Falkland Islands talks, said.—As what was said was somewhat vague, will he now give an assurance that sovereignty will not be transferred to any other country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course and are given a proper opportunity to express their views?

MR. STEWART.—What I said was not vague at all. I said exactly what the hon. gentleman said, and I repeat it now.

MR. BRAINE (South-East Essex, C.) asked whether the Foreign Secretary envisaged steps being taken at an early stage to ascertain the wishes of the islanders by means of a referendum.

MR. STEWART.—That would not arise unless an agreement were reached which was satisfactory in other respects. If no agreement envisaging the transfer of sovereignty were reached, this question would not arise, but the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

- 2 APR 1968

FALKLANDER
WISHES

'ABSOLUTE'

By LLEWELYN CHANTER
Commonwealth Correspondent

THE wishes of the Falkland Islanders are "absolute" so far as the transfer of sovereignty of the islands to Argentina is concerned. This assurance was given by Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Gilbert Longden, Conservative MP for S.W. Herts, said this would bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders.

No agreement on the transfer of sovereignty had been made, Mr. Stewart said, therefore the question of a referendum did not arise.

Statement 'satisfactory'

Mr. P. G. Mitchell, secretary of the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee, told me yesterday that Mr. Stewart's statement was satisfactory as far as it went. The islanders were as greatly interested in the long-term prospects. If the islanders' wishes were paramount, then further negotiations with Argentina would seem to be useless.

He had received a cable from Mr. R. V. Goss, elected member of the Executive Council thanking everyone concerned for the "wonderful response to our cause" from all Falkland Islanders.

Falkland
Islanders'
wishes
'absolute'

THE WISHES of the Falkland Islanders were "absolute conditions," said the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, in the Commons yesterday.

After there had been further questions from MPs, Mr. Gilbert Longden (Cons., South West Herts.) told him: "Your answer will bring great relief to the Falkland Islanders and I am grateful for it."

Mr. Gordon Campbell (Cons., Moray and Nairn) had said earlier that Mr. Stewart's statement on March 27 had been somewhat vague, and he asked for assurances that "sovereignty will not be transferred to any country unless the majority of the islanders favour such a course and they had proper opportunities to express their views."

Mr. Stewart said: "What I said was not vague. I said exactly what you have said and I repeat it now."

Secret negotiations

Mr. Bernard Braine (Cons., South East Essex), from the Opposition Front Bench, said that some of the difficulties sprang from the fact that negotiations were conducted in secrecy without the islanders knowing anything about them.

He asked Mr. Stewart: "Would you say whether you envisage steps being taken at an early stage to see what the wishes of the islanders are by means of a referendum?"

Mr. Stewart: "As no agreement on the transfer of sovereignty was made, this does not arise. The wishes of the islanders are absolute conditions."

A plea that Britain should take the initiative on the Gibraltar problem was made by Sir Arthur Harvey (Cons., Macclesfield).

Mr. Stewart had told the House: "Before the talks began we made it clear to the Spanish Government that the question of Gibraltar could not be discussed solely on the basis of the United Nations General Assembly resolution last December, which we thought a bad resolution and which we voted against."

"The Spanish delegation insisted, as the talks progressed, that no other basis was possible and this prevented any real progress from being made."

Mr. George Jeger (Lab., Goole) asked: "Is it not obvious that talks with Spain about Gibraltar bring us nothing but snubs and humiliation? Is it not time the Government considered retaliation against Spanish acts to the detriment of Gibraltar?"

Mr. Stewart asserted: "We wish to take a form of action which would be useful and helpful to Gibraltar."

Ann ³⁰⁰³ speaks out for the islanders

Evening Post Reporter

The 2,000 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, Britain's windswept colony 300 miles off the coast of Argentina, are disturbed. The Argentine claims sovereignty of the islands, yet these people are of British descent and live the British way of life.

A 27-year-old Leeds girl, Ann Gisby, lives and works in the Falkland Islands; she has been there for four years. In her last letter home, she describes the anxiety of the islanders for their future. "People down here are really getting worked up about the threat to hand the Islands over to the Argentine," she says.



Miss Ann Gisby.

and the people that life out there was British to the core.

Ann, who went to Beeston Hill School and Thoresby High School, Leeds, trained as a teacher at Scarborough. After her sister Jean went to Canada, she, too, decided she wanted to see something of the world.

Ignoring the advertisements for the more comfortable jobs, she plumped for the Falkland Islands. After a three-year contract she came home for a time, but by then was so in love with the colony that she went back again.

Island dismay

Ann, who is teaching at a junior school in Port Stanley and is employed by the British Government, is anxious to draw attention to the islanders' dismay. But, she adds: "My hands are tied, because I am a Government employee and I don't think we are allowed to get mixed up in politics." Ann's father, Mr. John Gisby (61), of Lawrence Avenue, Leeds 8, who works as a security checker, said that it was clear from Ann's descriptions of the islands

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

Merge now, scuttle later ³⁰⁰³

FOR A LITTLE WHILE, till the fuss dies down, the Falkland Islands are freed from fears of a Foreign Office sell-out to Argentina. But what happens to the Islands, and to our other 26 remaining colonial dependencies scattered round the globe, once Foreign Office and Commonwealth Office are merged on schedule? The new, combined Ministry—whatever its name—will lack even a Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs, never mind one for the colonies. Administratively, the world will simply be carved into contiguous segments. Commonwealth States, with full diplomatic paraphernalia, have little to fear from this: but colonies like British Honduras—threatened with Guatemalan absorption—are far more vulnerable. Time and again, over Falklands, Gibraltar and other hapless territories, the FO have wanted to do a soft and easy deal; only Commonwealth Office pressure at Cabinet level has curbed them. Merge away this CO counter-pressure and there's no "moral tension" left; just a greedy slope to facile surrenders.

LETTERS of opinion

The risks you run ³⁰⁰³ when you say 'Check my tyres, please'

WILL the proposed charge of one shilling to guarantee accurate tyre pressure gauges in garages also guarantee good service from garage staff?

Last week I asked the attendant at a large London garage to check the pressures on my fiancé's rear-engine car. They should be 14lb. in the front and 26lb. in the rear.

The attendant, after informing me scabbingly that "they don't even register on the gauge," proceeded to pump in air.

Fortunately my fiancé checked them for himself just before we drove on to the M1. The result: 42lb. in the front tyres and 62lb. in the rear.

(Miss) MARSHA DAWSON,
Devonshire Place Mews, London, W.

MR. JENKINS called Mr. Heath a hypocrite for saying that if the Tories are returned to power they will reduce taxation. It is pertinent to remember that during the 13 "wasted years of Tory misrule" Income Tax was, in fact, reduced from 9s. 6d. in the £ to 7s. 9d. and that during this period the standard of living went up by 50 per cent in real terms. It is also worth remembering that while taxation was reduced, pensions were increased. For instance, a pension of a single man in 1951 after six years of the Socialist millennium was a mere 26s. 6d. per week but by 1964 was £3 7s. 6d. Who is the hypocrite?

J. R. TOWNSON,
Hisher Swan Lane, Bolton.

LORD CHALFONT says the Falkland Islands are too small in population to have a plebiscite on their future. I suppose by the same token

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His nerve

MR. WILSON said at Liverpool (after the by-election results): "We are not going to lose our nerve." What he really meant was, "We are not going to lose our jobs."

FRED PHILLIPS,
Crofton Lane, Orpington, Kent.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Londoner, London

26 APR 1968

Life in ³⁰⁰³ the Falklands

What is life like on the Falkland Islands that the inhabitants so vociferously object to annexation by Argentina?

There are 200 islands and a mere 2,712 islanders, who devote themselves to sheep farming. Port Stanley, the capital, boasts a population of 1,200 people, who live a peaceful, healthy life in a climate resembling that of Northern Scotland. They have an artistic bent, judging from their stamps.

There are no cinemas, no theatres, and no bingo halls. The people amuse themselves with whist drives, weekly dances in the Assembly Hall, and occasional film shows on the projector with which every village is provided.

The diet sounds a little monotonous: the staple dish is mutton and potatoes, known as 365 because they eat it every day. But fresh fruit and frozen food arrive monthly from the South American coast 400 miles away.

There seem to be few real, rather than sentimental advantages in belonging to Britain. Under the new Immigration Act, Falkland Islanders, 98 per cent of whom are fifth generation British subjects, are forbidden entry to Britain for prolonged stays.

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Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

3 APR 1968

WAY OF THE WORLD

3003

Absolute

AS far as the transfer of the Falkland Islands to Argentina is concerned, says the Foreign Secretary, the wishes of the islanders are absolute. This statement seems satisfactory enough, though the islanders, who even in their remote fastnesses may have heard something of the Labour Government's record in plain dealing, would be well advised to scrutinise each word and letter carefully.

One fact about this peculiar affair is worth noting. Throughout it, every single plea on behalf of the Falkland Islanders, every single protest against the injustice they have been threatened with has come, as far as I know, from the Conservatives.

This may seem odd, but it is not. The official Labour party is essentially a party of internationalism. Where the interests of people of British stock are concerned, whether in Rhodesia or the Falkland Islands, or even at home, it may try to be impartial; but in fact it is instinctively prejudiced, often without knowing it. The evil of patriotism is part of Socialist dogma.

In this the official Labour party less and less represents its own traditional supporters. However gullible they may be in some ways, they at least know one thing: that to be on the side of your own people is a fundamental law of life. Isn't that one reason—quite as important as any economic reason—why they are deserting the Labour party, today in hundreds, tomorrow perhaps in thousands and millions?

The Conservative party is the patriotic party or it is nothing. If it does not stop talking about economics for a moment to make this absolutely clear, it will not win those Labour deserters to its side. Where will they go? Your guess is as good as mine.

People and Parties



INSPIRED by the current boom in D. H. Lawrence (drools REX HICKFIELD), I dropped in on Connie Mellors (Lady Chatterly that was) and ex-gamekeeper and nature-writer

Oliver Mellors in their Kensington flat. I found her just as I remembered, still beautiful in her late sixties, elegant, yet with a hint of sadness in her blue-rinsed hair.

I asked if she'd been consulted about the Royal Court productions of Lawrence's plays or the filming of "Women in Love" at his Nottinghamshire birthplace. She shook her head.

"I'm afraid these 'avant garde' people don't want to know me now," she laughed. "I suppose they think I'm 'square,' not 'with it,' almost a part of the 'Establishment.'" She laughed again.

"One television producer did come to see me to offer me a small part in some programme they were doing about David's—I mean D. H. Lawrence's—life. I'm afraid Oliver was really awfully rude to him. He's been terribly difficult about the BBC, you see, ever since they dropped 'Woodland Ways,' his children's natural history series, you know."

She smiled ruefully as her husband, still tall, erect and handsome, wandered in from his study next door, a suspicious look clouding his mane of white hair.

"Look here, Connie," he began. "I must say it's a most ghastly bore—I mean, er, dunna thee worrit, little lass," he said, recovering himself at sight of me. His voice died away in an incoherent mutter, in which I could just distinguish the words "blood," "oneness" and "grey modernity."

"You see how it is," Connie said ruefully, as he wandered vaguely out of the room again. She sighed. "I sometimes think Sir Clifford has had the best of it. He's still living down in Nottinghamshire, you know, and tremendously active. I believe he runs a youth club at Eastwood and takes a great interest in jazz and protest and drugs and theatre and all that sort of thing."

"Did you read that series of articles he wrote in the *Sunday Defective*: 'How I Got Switched On at 85'?"

Legal Posy

NOT long ago the House of Lords was discussing certain provisions of the Theft Bill, provisions so typical of our age and country that they would hardly be conceivable at any other time or place.

These provisions concern property in the countryside, in particular the property known as wild flowers and fruits such as mushrooms, which people were formerly accustomed to pick as



they pleased, unless the landowner could prove damage and trespass (he could not prosecute them for stealing).

The new Bill, with the laudable idea of protecting the diminishing stock of wild plants, complicates the matter unbelievably. The person who picks a flower or a mushroom or cuts holly from a tree may now be prosecuted for stealing if he does it "for reward, sale or other commercial purpose" or if he can be shown to have injured the growth of the plant.

A tangled growth of abstract legalism will now spring up over the fields where children once picked mushrooms in the dew, the woods where they picked flowers. Not that it will grow for long. Soon the bulldozers (or the more awesomely-named earth-moving machines) are likely to solve this little social problem by sweeping away flowers, mushrooms, children and laws together.

To the Nth Power

THIS apartheid-like treatment breeds things like Black Power," says a coloured woman singer barred from a working men's club at Wolverhampton. "To arrive in an expensive car, wearing an expensive coat and then to be stopped from entering this club by a tatty little man in a £10 suit is ludicrous."

No doubt it is. But there is also something ludicrous about this aggressive display of Money Power (what does that breed? Poverty Power?). Amid the unceasing uproar about racial discrimination, we forget that there are other kinds of discrimination too, all breeding their appropriate kinds of power to the delight and enrichment of publicists, social problematologists and assorted mischief-makers.

If this expensive singer owned an expensive club and this tatty little man in his £10 suit arrived at the door, would she let him in? And if she didn't, would it get into the papers?

Peter Simple

Extract from
Sidcup & Kentish Times

- 5 APR 1968

Notes from Westminster

IF an M.P. voluntarily stays up all night to make a speech in Parliament, is this praiseworthy determination or just obstinate folly? This was my situation last week; naturally I feel it is quite creditable, but I have to confess my wife adopts a somewhat different attitude.

Periodically Parliament considers a Consolidated Fund Bill. This is the formal instrument by which Parliament authorises the Government to spend the money that taxpayers have contributed. Centuries ago M.P.s fought for and obtained the right to express their complaints and to get an answer from the Government before they would approve such a Bill. This was their method of controlling the Government.

Nowadays we have different ideas, but the tradition still continues, and before the Bill is passed any M.P. has the right to raise any subject he chooses, and the Government must reply.

BALLOT FOR SPEAKERS

The drill is that those M.P.s who wish to speak submit their names (and their subject) to the Speaker, who then runs a ballot to determine the order of speaking, and a list is published. The debate starts at 3.30 in the afternoon and continues until 10 the next morning, and any subject not reached by then simply falls.

Other M.P.s may join in if one of the listed subjects interests them, but no M.P. may speak more than once. When all M.P.s who wish to speak on a subject have done so, the appropriate Minister will reply; no vote is taken (except at the very end) and the debate moves on to the next subject.

Twenty-eight members went in for the ballot, and I was drawn at No. 12. This is a bad place. Experience shows that in the 18½ hours available there is usually time to discuss about a dozen subjects; so the members drawn, say 1 to 9, could feel pretty confident they would get their chance to speak; whereas the wretched member drawn 28 knew he had no hope, and went home to bed. But a draw at 12 is on the borderline, and means hanging about all night with any certainty of speaking at all.

TO REMAIN BRITISH?

The subjects ahead of me were varied, including the development of the South West, coal policy, crime in Scotland, and the Falkland Islands. This last subject was raised by Mr. Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh South)

By Alderman
A. Macdonald,
M.P.

and really showed the value of the Consolidated Fund debate.

It had become known that the Government were having talks with the Argentines (who claim the Falkland Islands are theirs) but no statement had been issued, and anxiety was mounting. Mr. Hutchison was supported by members on both sides, including Mr. Kenyon (Chorley), who has recently visited these islands and knows the inhabitants' wishes.

These members, by using the Consolidated Fund procedure, were able to compel the Foreign Secretary to appear in person and tell the House what had been going on; and they were able to obtain an assurance that the islands will not be transferred to the Argentine unless the islanders themselves wish it.

(I recently had the privilege of meeting a spokesman from the Falkland Islands; and I can say the islanders do not wish it. There are only 2,000 of them, but all British, and they want to stay that way).

CAUGHT NAPPING

But to return to the debate, the prize for determination must surely go to Mr. Jopling (Westmoreland) who wished to speak on agricultural prices, and was drawn at 22. With only three hours to go the debate was still on No. 11, and anybody else might have given up; but Mr. Jopling was sharp enough to notice that Nos. 14 to 21 had scratched—they had gone home.

My debate (on the rate rebate scheme) did not take long, Mr. Fletcher (Ilkeston) who followed me was not too lengthy (on the Middle East), Nos. 14 to 21 did not appear—they must be kicking themselves now for losing their chance—and so at 9 a.m. Mr. Jopling, against all expectation, found himself rising with an hour still to go in which to make his case.

The man who was caught short by all this was the Minister of Agriculture. Of course he was in the House to hear Mr. Jopling and reply, but thinking there were plenty of speeches still to come he had retired to his own room for a

nap, and Mr. Jopling saw he would be speaking to nobody.

Then the procedure of the House showed itself at its most ridiculous. A Government Whip sped out to fetch the Minister. But there is no provision to suspend the debate for five minutes in a case like this, and so Mr. Jopling was obliged to invent bogus points of order off the cuff, to spin out time. The Speaker did not care for this, and told Mr. Jopling to get on with it. Fortunately the Minister arrived just in time.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Time & Tide, London

5 APR 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

'We want to stay British'

PORT STANLEY — The 2,117 British inhabitants of these islands are genuinely afraid that the Argentine's claim for control might lead to the British Government 'doing a Gibraltar'.

Reports have reached here that Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has rejected the idea of a plebiscite. There is no need for one as the islanders, only 90 of whom are not totally British in extraction, unanimously reject the suggestion of Argentinian control and are wholly determined to remain British.

The Argentine has claimed the Falklands since 1834—two years after they finally became British after being under British, French, British and then Spanish control—and news of discussions of sovereignty have worried the islanders.

For although their way of life is wholly British they realise the islands are 8,000 miles away from Britain. But if the Argentine were to get control the islanders talk of 'going home'—to Britain.

Lack of British protection is also disturbing. Said Richard Goss, commander of the Defence Force: 'We were dismayed at the news that HMS *Proctor*, normally in our area, is going to the breaker's yard. We really need protection in fact as well as in words.'

If there was any trouble 'we are a little worried that it would take British forces a couple of weeks to get here'.

The economy of the Falkland Islands is based on sheep farming. And, on average, the standard of living is higher than that in Britain.

Extract from
Christchurch Star, New Zealand

28 MAR 1968

5m Choose To Remain British

By James Davies

LONDON.

WHEN a Falkland Islander talks of "home" he doesn't mean the rainswept sheep pastures of the South Atlantic. He means Britain—8000 miles away.

Probably he has never been there. But he drinks bottled Bass, plays whist, waits eagerly for his air-mailed London newspaper—and speaks English.

And his fervent belief in things British finds tongue in sentiments like those of Legislative Council member Richard Goss. Voicing fears that Britain and the Argentine were engaged in secret handover talks, Goss said last week:

"No place on God's earth is more British than the Falkland Islands, so there can be no doubt that we are British. And it follows that we must and will get a fair deal."

A naive belief, the cynics will say, as nations scramble hurriedly for independence. But one passionately shared wherever the Union Jack still flies.

From Gibraltar, where the posters proclaim "We're O.K. with the U.K.", to palm-treed Lautoka in Fiji, where the children going to Natabua Secondary School pass night and morning through a pair of giant decorative gates—erected in honour of the British taxpayer.

Responsible

THERE are twenty-one dependent territories for which the Commonwealth Office is responsible. About 5.5m people live in them.

They spread from Antarctica to the Mediterranean, from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

Some teem with multi-racial life like Hong Kong with its 3¼m population. Others are little more than coral specks in the ocean like Pitcairn, the Mutiny on the Bounty isle where 107 people live—some of them still called Fletcher Christian.

The people who belong to this far-flung club speak many tongues and inherit vastly differing cultures.

But they share a pride in their association with Britain that the U.N.O. committees on colonialism find too bizarre to swallow.

Pro-British Riot

IN the Maldives—that necklet of atolls strung through the Indian Ocean south of Ceylon—they even had a pro-British riot.

That was eight years ago and it took a sophisticated touch of gunboat diplomacy—a Soccer match between the locals and the crew of H.M.S. Ganges—to restore sanity and end the self-proclaimed pro-London United Suvadive Republic. The Maldives are now independent.

In Fiji (where the last recorded case of cannibalism was only ninety years ago), they will have none of it. The native Fijians, outnumbered by the Indians, brought there by Britain to work in the cane fields, asked for the same status as the Isle of Man. It was refused.

But its leaders constantly reiterate the theme: "There must be a continuing link with the Crown."

Paradise

IN the 92-island Seychelles group, a paradise of coconut trees, and perpetual sunshine in the Indian Ocean, British-trained barrister James Mancham is also pushing for integration with Britain.

Mr Mancham, aged 29, is leader of the majority Democratic Party. He says that 50,000 Seychellois, spread over 800 miles, are not a viable proposition for independence.

"In any case we don't want it," said Mr Mancham, who speaks Creole and is of French-Chinese stock. "We cannot afford it and we are hopeful of some form of integration—perhaps on the lines of the Channel Islands."

Some of Britain's territories are coveted by other nations. Spain puts unsubtle pressure on Gibraltar. Guatemala claims the tiny sugar colony of British Honduras (pop: 100,000) perched on the Yucatan Peninsula of Central America.

Fierce Desire

THE people in both fiercely proclaim their desire to go along with Britain.

Asked why, Gibraltar's Chief Minister (Sir Joshua Hassan) once said: "Because we are patriotic—and I'm not ashamed of the word. We were brought up to the British way of life and that is the way we want to continue."

In the Falklands, which the Argentine calls the Malvinas, they know all about the Dunkirk spirit.

When the boarding party from the Argentine invaded the islands in its DC3 eighteen months ago, the one thing that upset the islanders was that their weekly game of whist at St Mary's Church was interrupted.

Farm manager Roy Cove, a candidate for the Legislative Council, said last week: "The old British spirit is still there. What has been ours for 135 years is worth fighting for. If we are sold down the river by smooth-tongued politicians, we shall have 50m Britons behind us."—Express Feature Service.

5 APR 1968



Howling at signs

WORDS like "unbelievable" ... "eyesore" ... "monstrosities" ... these were some of the more polite remarks made about the new continental type road signs which Hampshire County Council erected, at the request of the Ministry of Transport, in the north-east corner of the county around Hartley Wintney and out to Micheldever.

The plan was to blanket a whole area of the country and see the effect of the signs, some of which were 12ft. high, others 10ft. by 8ft.—and many erected at tiny road junctions!

The effect of the signs was not long in arriving—a howl of criticism.

Now I see the cost of the adventure—no one really had any idea of it at the time—has been worked out. It came to a total of over £160,000.

It seems remarkable that the Ministry of Transport should embark upon a project to consider covering the whole of the country with these new signs at such enormous costs when urgent road projects are being shelved.

The point has been taken up by Hartley Wintney Rural District Council. In an official report commenting on the scheme they are to tell the Ministry they think it "sound in principle" ... but ...

They are against the new signs in country roads particularly at the present time, when a "pressing" need exists for economies and they say there were far too many signs, and many were too large.

The final comments of the council are: "The many signs as provided for in the pilot scheme, were a distraction to motorists, contrary to the interests of road safety and most detrimental to the rural character of the area."

Tom Bargate's TOPICS of the HOUR

In Fareham's French 'twin' ... Prince Charles (and Bargate) slept there

PRINCE CHARLES' archaeological probings in France last week inevitably led him to Brittany, a treasure house of folklore, Celtic culture and prehistoric sites.

And focal point of his tour was Vannes, Fareham's twin-town on the beautiful Golfe du Morbihan.

French journalist colleague Robert Druais of "La Liberte du Morbihan", who covered the first half of the twinning in Fareham in 1966, tells me that Fareham's name was discreetly dropped in the Royal ear.

It happened as the Prince left l'Hotel des Colonies in the port of Vannes where he was wined and dined in the Breton style which still brings the juices sluicing round my palate.

Robert's article says: "At 2.40 pm Prince Charles left the hotel, but not without thanking proprietors Mme. and M. Roger Guitard and taking a keen interest on learning that Vannes was twinned with the English town of Fareham in 1966."

While the Prince strolled among the tumuli, caverns and other prehistoric antiquities it appears most of the real digging for calligraphic records was done by the Breton reporters—trying to "unearth" him.

The visit was strictly informal and the Prince's movements elusive and unpredictable.

However, Robert has an unquestioned ability always to be in the right place at the right time and after reading his full-page feature on the Royal visit to Vannes he must have stuck closer to Prince Charles than his personal detective.

By the way, just to revive gastronomic memories for the Fareham contingent, the Prince's lunch at l'Hotel des Colonies comprised: huitres du Golfe, des brochettes de coquilles Saint-Jacques, des filets de sole a l'Armoricaine (all fish specialities), glace aux crepes dentelles de Quimper, cafe Moka et fine-Bretagne all washed down with famous Muscadet sur lie 1965 and Saint-Emilion 1964 ...

And I admire the Prince's choice of hotel. You see, I slept there last year. Only the best for Bargate ...

Playing safe

TWO-YEAR-OLD Alison Jane Hodgson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hodgson, of Shorts-road, Fair Oak was winner of the chief prize—a holiday in Yugoslavia for two—in a Reading Labour Party draw.

Instead of the holiday abroad, her parents have decided to invest most of the alternative £50 in her name until she is old enough to appreciate a holiday in Yugoslavia or the country of her choice.

And to ensure that Alison is able to eventually enjoy the promised holiday, they are spending about £10 of the money on a special child's car safety seat for her use when travelling in father's car.

Mr. Hodgson is vice-chairman of Eastleigh Constituency Labour Party.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN of Alresford and District Wine Circle is Mr. John Grapes.

By now he's probably fed up with the jokes, so tread carefully.

Falkland memory

TAKING a close interest in the future of the Falkland Isles is Mr. Alfred Trigg, of 104, Lions-lane, St Leonards. He's an ex-naval man



Prince Charles listens to his tutor, Professor Glyn Daniel.

—Photo: "La Liberte du Morbihan".

who spent some time there in the 1920's.

"I hope they will not be handed over" to Argentina because the islanders are more British than the British," he said.

Mr. Trigg was in a ship which called at the island at the time of the unveiling of a war memorial in 1927.

The memorial commemorated an event in December 1914 when a British naval squadron defeated a German squadron and saved the island from occupation by the enemy.

A chief engine room artificer, Mr. Trigg served with the Navy from 1911 to 1933.

Over a year ago his home was severely damaged by fire. Luckily the outbreak did not destroy his treasured photographs taken at the Falkland Isle ceremony over 40 years ago.

Sea tragedy

A SMALL writing table and an oil-painting are among reminders of a sea tragedy that shocked the country at this time 90 years ago.

The table is in use at the offices of Mr. Walter Gray, a member of Sandown-Shanklin Urban Council. And the Council-owned painting is now in store at Shanklin Town Hall.

The writing table was made from timbers of HMS Eurydice, which capsized in Sandown Bay towards the end of March, 1878, with the loss of several hundred lives.

There were only two survivors—Able Seaman Benjamin Cuddi-

ford, of Plymouth, and Ordinary Seaman Sydney Fletcher, of Bristol.

The Eurydice, 921 tons, was struck by a sudden and savage squall "that rushed down from the high lands down Lucombe Chine accompanied by a blinding fall of snow."

Salvage went on for months before Eurydice, chained to hulks, was towed and finally beached at Yaverland Fort. She was afterwards taken to the breakers.

When tragedy struck she was on her way to Spithead after a successful cruise to the West Indies.

Built in 1843 she became one of the quickest and smartest 26-gun frigates in the Royal Navy. She was converted to a training ship for ordinary seamen by John White's yard at Cowes in 1876.

Extract from
Nottingham Evening Post

9 APR 1968

ON THE SQUARE

Ex-Navy man says 'keep Falklands'

THE remoteness of the Falkland Islands, so near to Antarctica, often leads people to wonder why Britain should be reluctant to give up this barren spot when she has got rid of apparently far more valuable possessions.

But their strategic usefulness become obvious to people who have been there, notably to those in the Services.

The recent revival of the Argentine claim to the islands led Mr. George Gunn to send the Post and News a reminder of the importance of these islands and of their essentially British flavour.

Mr. George Gunn, who is manager of the Reform Club, Victoria Street, Nottingham, is in favour of giving a short answer to the covetous Argentinian claims. The Falklands are so British that to anyone who has been there it is astonishing that their sovereignty could be questioned, he says.

Mr. Gunn served throughout the 1939-45 war as a regular in the Navy and his particular role was as a diver, inspecting the hulls of warships for damage.

He is proud of his tour of a duty in the cruiser Hawkins, which steamed 100,000 miles between 1940 and 1941 covering the vast South Atlantic seas in search of German submarines and surface raiders.

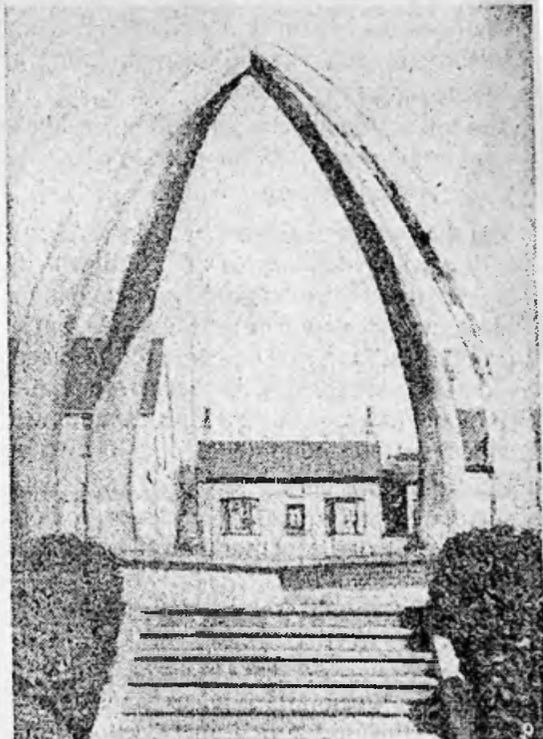
Plate battle

When the Battle of the River Plate was joined with the famous raider Graf Spee, the Hawkins, steaming hundreds of miles at top speed, reached the scene after the enemy had taken refuge and was there when the Graf Spee was scuttled.

After the battle, the British wounded from the Ajax, Exeter and Achilles were tended in Port Stanley's hospital and the dead were buried in the islands.

Mr. Gunn, who ended the war as a master-at-arms, changed to a destroyer squadron when the Hawkins was damaged below the water line by a collision with an unidentified object, believed to be an enemy submarine.

The Falklands have a noted place in British Naval history. The most famous engagement near there was in 1914, when a German squadron whose aim was to capture the islands.



One of the "sights" in the Falkland Isles, an archway of whale jawbones which decorates the entrance to the church at Port Stanley—one of the pictures taken by Mr. Gunn.

Bases needed

Mr. Gunn emphasised how useful such bases as the Falklands and Simonstown were to the Navy when only 48 hours is permitted in neutral ports under international law.

Not so long ago, he says, the islands were the favourite haunts of seals, several varieties being found there in their thousands, together with sea elephants, huge colonies of penguins, kelpier geese and other rare birds. The principal industry is sheep raising, for wool, but mutton for the winter months is cleverly preserved in huge barrels, using pure mutton fat as a seal. Peat is used extensively as fuel.

There is a Protestant church, unique with its archway of whale jawbones, and Methodist chapel. Roman Catholics are served by an erudite but jovial Jesuit priest. Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, red pillar boxes and Bobbies' helmets help to complete the traditional British scene."

Extract from
Manchester Daily Mail

10 APR 1968

Thomson backs island talks

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

TORY worries about the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar were voiced again in the Commons yesterday when several MPs complained about the perils of 'private' talks.

Mr George Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, repeated the Government's contention that the possibility of talks with Argentina or Spain did not undermine the rights of British subjects to 'self-determination.'

He told MPs: 'The wishes of the Falkland Islanders are "an absolute condition." But it would clearly be much in their interests if they were to feel that there was an acceptable *modus vivendi* to arrive at with their neighbours on the mainland of South America 200 miles away.'

Mr Michael Hutchison (Con., Edinburgh South) asked: 'Do you realise that the Falkland Islands are British? And will you terminate immediately any negotiations with the Argentinians?'

Mr Thomson replied: 'No—for the reason I have just given.'

Feeling

Similar questions over Gibraltar included this one from Sir Frederic Bennett (Con., Torquay):—

'Are you aware that the riots which took place over the weekend were not just a matter of a few hooligans, as was suggested to the House on Monday?'

'They represented widespread feeling in Gibraltar that the British Government should have talks with Gibraltar and not with Spain.'

Mr Thomson: 'There are conflicting views about the origins of the troubles, but it is generally accepted that the actual violence was the work of an unrepresentative group of young hooligans.'

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

10 APR 1968

Falkland Islands

PEOPLE 'WILL BE CONSULTED'

Asked for an assurance that the Falkland Islanders would have guarantees no less than those given to the Gibraltarians, Mr. THOMSON, Commonwealth Secretary, said the people had direct franchise and there would be the fullest consultation with the elected representatives.

Referring to "substantial guarantees" given in speeches by the Foreign Secretary, he said the wishes of the islanders were an absolute condition.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

10 APR 1968

A modus vivendi for Falklands

While reaffirming that there would be no change of status of the Falkland Islands without the consent of the islanders it would clearly be much in their interests if they were to feel that there was an acceptable *modus vivendi* to arrive at with their neighbours on the mainland of South America 200 miles away, Mr Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, said.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C. Edinburgh S): "Will you terminate immediately any negotiations with the Argentine?"

Mr Thomson: "No, for the reason I have just given."

Sir Frederic Bennett (C. Torquay) had asked earlier: "If you don't think that a direct referendum, such as took place in Gibraltar, is necessary, would you say that it is because you know the answer in advance and will you remove from the record the word 'immediate' when it was said that there would be no immediate transfer of sovereignty from the Falkland Islands without consent?"

Misunderstanding

Mr Thomson: "With regard to the second part, I think there has been a great misunderstanding that some fundamental change was imminent. Nothing of that sort has ever been the case."

"With regard to the question of how the Falkland Islands people will be consulted, it is too early to pre-judge that question, because first of all we have to have something to consult them about and we have not reached that stage yet."

Mr Neil Marten (C. Banbury): "In view of the use of the word 'imminent,' can you expand your answer and give an absolute assurance that there will be no change in the status of the Falkland Islands without the consent of the Falkland Islanders?"

Mr Thomson: "That is exactly what I sought to do in the answer to the original question."

Extract from
Yorkshire Evening Press, York

11 APR 1968

Argentine 'no' to referendum

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

Parliament was told last month that Britain would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants wanted it. Last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

NATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
Cork Evening Echo, Eire

11 APR 1968

Argentina Rejects Falklands Proposal

The Argentine government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it were clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued last night the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."
—(Reuter).

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Manchester Evening News

11 APR 1968

Argentina rejects isles referendum

Argentina has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry said: "The recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."—Reuter.

Extract from
Gloucestershire Echo, Cheltenham

11 APR 1968

Argentine's 'No' to Falklands referendum

The Argentine government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future, reports Reuter from Buenos Aires.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued in Buenos Aires last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that: "The recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Glasgow Evening Times

11 APR 1968

Argentine "No" to Falklands plan

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

British Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued in Buenos Aires last night the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
The Times, London

10 APR 1968

Guarantees to the Falklands

SIR JOHN LANGFORD-HOLT (Shrewsbury, C.) asked the Secretary of State what machinery he would establish to ascertain the views of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands on the status of those islands.

MR. THOMSON said that the British Government's views had been made clear by the Foreign Secretary on March 27 and April 1 and by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Goronwy Roberts) on March 28, in the House of Commons.

SIR JOHN LANGFORD-HOLT.—The Secretary of State has said that constitutional guarantees have been given to the people of Gibraltar. Will he assure the House that no less guarantees are available to the people of the Falkland Islands?

MR. THOMSON.—There will be the fullest consultation with the elected representatives. The Foreign Secretary gave guarantees in the speeches to which I have referred, and he said that the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition.

SIR FREDERIC BENNETT (Torquay, C.).—If the Secretary of State does not think a direct referendum, such as that which took place in Gibraltar, is necessary, is that because he knows the answer in advance?

Will he remove from the record of what was said by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the one unfortunate word "immediate", when it was said there would be no immediate transfer of sovereignty without the consent of the Falkland Islanders. Will he now, once and for all, expunge the word "immediate"?

MR. THOMSON.—I think there has been a great misunderstanding that some fundamental change was imminent. Nothing of that sort has ever been the case. It is too early to prejudge how the islanders would be consulted, because first we have to have something to consult them about and we have not yet reached that stage.

The wishes of the Falkland Islanders (he added) are, as the Foreign Secretary said, an absolute condition, but at the same time, it would be much in the interests of the Falkland Islanders if they were to feel that an acceptable *modus vivendi* was arrived at with their neighbours on the mainland of South America 200 miles away.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING
BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

DERBY EVENING
TELEGRAPH

Date 11 APR 1968

Falklands future

Argentina has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

LIVERPOOL ECHO

DATE

11 APR 1968

Argentina

30
03 says No

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

British Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

Extract from
Watford Evening Echo

11 APR 1968

38

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald
GLASGOW

Date 12 APR 1968
(See information overleaf)

Argentina's 'No'

³⁰⁰³
The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland islanders to decide their own future.

ARGENTINE REJECTS REFERENDUM PLAN

³⁰⁰³
BUENOS AIRES, Thursday.

The Argentine Government have again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland islanders to decide their own future.

Mr Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communiqué issued last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of Argentine Sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum." —Reuter.

Extract from
Bristol Evening Post

11 APR 1968

Rejected again

²⁰⁰³
The Argentine Government have again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland islanders to decide their own future.

Extract from
Lincolnshire Daily Echo, Lincoln

11 APR 1968

Vote idea rejected

³⁰⁰³
The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

12 APR 1968

ARGENTINA REJECTS FALKLANDS PLEA

³⁰⁰³
BUENOS AIRES, Thursday.—
The Argentine Government have again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

In a communiqué issued here, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

15 APR 1968

No referendum

³⁰⁰³
Buenos Aires, April 14
The Government of Argentina has again rejected the idea of a referendum on the future of the Falkland Islands. A communiqué here said: "The recognition of the Argentine sovereignty on the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum." —Reuter.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

12 APR 1968

³⁰⁰³
The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

Britain and West Germany signed an agreement in Bonn yesterday offsetting the foreign exchange cost of British Forces in West Germany by about £73 million.

Extract from

The Star

SHEFFIELD

11 APR 1968

Date
(See information overleaf)

Argentine rejection

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future. 3003

Extract from
Greenock Telegraph, Renfrewshire,
Scotland

11 APR 1968

Argentina Rejects Referendum

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

Extract from
Northern Daily Mail, Hartlepool

11 APR 1968

ARGENTINA REJECTS FALKLANDS PROPOSAL

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued in Buenos Aires last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

Extract from the

South Wales Echo

CARDIFF

11 APR 1968

Date
(See information overleaf)

No referendum—say Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Thursday.—The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

In a communique issued last night, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the recognition of the Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."—
Reuter.

FOLHA DO DOMINGO Faro	INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
GAZETA de CANTANHEDE Cantanhede	
GAZETA DO SUL Montijo	
GUARDA (A) Guarda	
MADEIRA POPULAR Funchal	
NOTICIAS DO CARTAXO 3003 Cartaxo	28. MAR. 1968

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON S.W.1

Extract from
Birmingham Evening Mail

Date 14 APR 1968

Argentine's No' to referendum

The Argentine Government has again rejected the idea of a referendum for the British-ruled Falkland Islanders to decide their own future.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, told Parliament last month that the British Government would agree to a secession of sovereignty only if it was clear the 2,000 inhabitants regarded such an agreement as in their interests.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated in Buenos Aires that "the recognition of Argentine sovereignty upon the Falkland Islands cannot be subjected to any referendum."

243
ISABEL II VISITA A AMÉRICA LATINA EM NOVEMBRO



11.04.68, 20 - A rainha Isabel deve visitar o Chile, a Argentina e o Brasil nos meses de Novembro e Dezembro - segundo informações de boa fonte.

Só o convite argentino levanta alguns problemas, devido à fase delicada que as relações entre os dois países estão a passar, por motivo do diferendo das ilhas Falkland. Se bem que o governo do general Onganía esteja na disposição de formular o convite dentro de curto prazo, receia-se que o acolhimento que a rainha Isabel teria por parte da população argentina não fosse dos melhores, a menos que, entretanto, se realizassem negociações acerca daquele problema. — (F. P.)

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Sunday Express, London

21 APR 1968

TORIES FEAR GRAB IN HONDURAS

3003 Sunday Express Political Correspondent

THE TORIES are sharply on the alert this week for any sign of a Government sell-out of British Honduras to neighbouring Guatemala.

For decades Guatemala has claimed sovereignty over the tiny, 114,000 - population Colony in Central America.

Mr. Bernard Braine, Tory Commonwealth spokesman, recalled in a statement yesterday how strong Opposition pressure was needed before the Government had given satisfactory assurances over Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

Proposals to end the dispute with Guatemala are under study this weekend by Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary.

They were finally put forward to Britain on Thursday by an American lawyer, Mr. Bethuel Webster, who was nominated by the U.S. State Department three years ago as official mediator.

The Foreign Office would give no details yesterday of what is in the report. There will be a

clamp-down until Mr. Stewart is ready to make a Commons statement—probably this week.

Reports, which are so far not denied, suggest that the Webster proposals call for much closer links between the two countries, including defence and foreign affairs.

In his statement Mr. Braine said: "In this last stage of colonial responsibilities small peoples like British Honduras must be protected from undue pressure from their more powerful neighbours."

"We shall insist, therefore, that the people of this territory are fully consulted before any of the mediator's proposals are implemented."

"It may be that British Honduras will first be given independence and that would be a matter for negotiation between the territory's leaders and the British Government."

Mr. Braine added pointedly: "However, after recent experiences in Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands the Opposition can be expected to exercise the utmost vigilance. We shall call for an early Government statement."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Wool Record, Bradford

19 APR 1968

Falkland wool prices rise

Prices for wool from the Falkland Islands were reported after this season's first auction sale to be back around the levels of the start of last season, after falling by about 30% during the season.

Extract from

THE TABLET

LONDON

Date.....20 APR 1968

One Man's Westminster:

Patrick Wall, M.P.

³⁰⁰⁸
CONTROVERSY is, I suppose, the essence of politics, and Parliament went on its Easter holiday with past disputes still smouldering and major rows ahead.

Mr. Wilson's Mark II Government got off to a poor start when the House galloped through Questions on Monday and Mr. Greenwood, the Minister of Housing and Local Government, was not in his place to answer Question No. 63. This led to a short but spirited exchange in which Mr. Peart, appearing for the first time as Leader of the House, promised that he would see that this would never happen again.

The Cabinet reshuffle is interpreted as a move by the Prime Minister to strengthen his own position by promoting his strongest and ablest supporters, Mrs. Castle and Mr. Crossman. The fact that it has not yet involved the more junior ministers has caused some heart burning, but hope rises eternal. Among those expected to get position in the second half of the reshuffle is Mrs. Shirley Williams, whose ability and friendliness is recognised on both sides of the House.

Commonwealth controversies were well aired, the Opposition attacking the Government's lack of action over Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands and British Honduras on several occasions. The anxieties of the critics were considerably allayed by the Commonwealth Secretary, who announced constitutional talks with the Gibraltar Government in June, and said there was no question of any fundamental change over the Falkland Islands and that there was also no question of any forced amalgamation of British Honduras with Guatamala.

Bi-partisanship over Rhodesia having ended, the subject has now become one of acute controversy. Mr. Thomson complained that the Opposition was trying to build up Mr. Smith, but was forced to concede Mr. Maudling's point that sanctions had indeed strengthened his position. It is clear that if the United Nations decide on the re-enforcement of sanctions, such as the cutting of all communications with Rhodesia, this will become a major issue not only in Westminster but in the country as a whole. Foreign aid is another issue that could

become controversial and cut, to some extent, across party lines. A statement on the recent UNCTAD conference in New Delhi made the best of a lack of agreement over methods of closing the gap between the "haves" and "have nots." At least the "haves" accepted an aid target of 1 per cent of their GNP as opposed to the previous interpretation of 1 per cent of net national income. Later it was announced that in the years 1964-67 Britain had contributed a total of £654 million in aid, which information led to demands from both sides for a debate on this.

With this background, the announcement of increased postal charges was greeted with groans and a complaint that private enterprise would not be allowed to raise its prices in order to make a profit of 8 per cent. Mr. Mason, the new Postmaster General, hit back by saying that the additional £40 million on telecommunications and £27 million on postal charges would contribute to an investment in the next three years of £1,100 million on telecommunications and £100 million on the postal side.

It is generally believed that other rude shocks await the general public as the penalties of devaluation and the effect of the budget work through the economic system, bringing increased prices and increased taxes and therefore diminishing incomes. The major battle ahead is therefore the Government's prices and incomes legislation, designed specifically to keep down both incomes and rising costs.

Parliament has been overshadowed by the tragic murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and the appalling orgy of looting it unleashed in the USA. Could it ever happen here? Now, after the Easter recess, the Government will introduce their second Race Relations Bill based on conciliation with legal enforcement in the background. Will it work or will it create further friction?

* * * M.P.s from both sides of the House are reporting Parliament. Mr. Patrick Wall is Conservative M.P. for Haltemprice. Mr. James Dunn, Labour M.P. for Kirkdale, will be occupying this column for the next four weeks.

Extract from
Sun, London

25 APR 1968

Wrangle over Queen's tour

By MICHAEL LAKE

Diplomatic Correspondent

THE CABINET face tricky political decisions over a possible visit to Argentina by the Queen.

Yesterday it was announced that the Queen and Prince Philip are to visit Brazil and Chile in November.

And it is possible that their tour will be extended to include Argentina and the British-owned Falkland Islands.

But only two days ago the SUN disclosed that an Argentinian vendetta against Britain is costing both countries millions of pounds in trade.

The reasons for the vendetta are Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, and Britain's ban on some meat imports because of the foot and mouth epidemic.

Before the Queen sets out for South America, the Cabinet will have to decide whether she can go to Argentina in safety.

PROMISE

If not, should she visit the Falkland Islands without going to Argentina and risk offending the Argentinians even further?

The Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. George Thomson, who recently assured Falkland Islanders that they would not be "sold out" to the Argentine, is believed to favour a visit to the colony.

Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, favours a visit to Argentina as a means of improving relations.

In the meantime feelers have been put out by both Britain and Argentina on the problems.

Both sides are hoping that the meat crisis will sort itself out soon and that the Falkland Islands issue can somehow be swept under the carpet before the Queen goes to South America.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

25 APR 1968

ARGENTINE AND FALKLAND ISLANDS

Q3. Mr. Wyatt asked the Prime Minister whether he will invite the Head of the Government of the Argentine to London for discussions on matters of mutual concern.

The Prime Minister: President Onganía would be welcome in London at any time, but I believe that matters of mutual concern to the two countries are being satisfactorily handled through normal diplomatic channels and by direct contacts between British and Argentine Ministers whenever necessary.

Mr. Wyatt: Will the Prime Minister confirm that he has told the President of the Argentine that there is no question whatever of our handing over sovereignty over the Falkland Islands; and, if that is so, will he immediately bring to an end the secret talks which have been going on about the Falkland Islands because, if we will not hand over sovereignty over them, there is nothing whatever to discuss?

The Prime Minister: I have had no direct contact with the President of the Argentine, so I could not have made a statement of that kind. But the position has been made perfectly clear, with my agreement, by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the Argentine Ambassador. What the Argentine Ambassador was clearly told in March was said

to the House at an early hour of the morning during the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill. I have nothing to add to what my right hon. Friend said.

Viscount Lambton: Has the Argentine declined to sign a contract for the purchase of ships from Scottish dockyards unless there is agreement with the Argentine over the Falkland Islands?

The Prime Minister: I have not heard of that, but I should be glad to make inquiries about it. It is a fact that, for a time, a number of contracts with exporters from this country, private exporters in nearly every case, were held up because of the ban on the importation of meat from the Argentine. There is no doubt that there was a semi-boycott of that kind. I have not heard of the particular case to which the noble Lord refers, but I shall be glad to look into it.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: If, as the Prime Minister says, there is no question of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine, what has been the point of holding the discussions?

The Prime Minister: There have been a number of questions involved in the talks, and there is no doubt that the Argentine Government want us to hand the islands over. They have now had their answer.

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Extract from
Manchester Daily Mail

25 APR 1968

The Queen may go on Argentine peace trip

By GEOFFREY WAKEFORD

THE QUEEN will visit Argentina this year if the estrangement caused by Britain's ban on meat imports and the Republic's claim to the Falkland Islands can be removed.

Talks are now going on between London and Buenos Aires about 'the possibility of arranging a visit,' the Foreign Office said last night.

There is a strong chance that the Queen and Prince Philip will sail or fly down to the Falklands, as they will be in South America next November on State visits to Chile and Brazil.

A visit to the 2,000 people in Britain's island colony would be possible whether the Queen was invited to Argentina or not. Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart is taking a calculated risk in agreeing to discuss a State visit to Argentina. One of the risks is a snub by Argentina.

Mr Stewart's big headache is Argentina's threatened reprisals against British export trade for the ban—recently lifted—on Argentina's meat imports here.

But Argentina's revived claim to the Falklands, pressed through the United Nations, is a major cause of coolness between the two countries.

In spite of recent assurances, the islanders strongly suspect that Mr Wilson's Government would hand over the Falklands to Argentina tomorrow if it could find a good excuse.

Publicly, Mr Stewart and his fellow Ministers have told Parliament that the wishes of the islanders are 'an absolute condition' to be fulfilled before sovereignty is discussed.

A team of four Argentine veterinary experts is now carrying out its own tests in Britain into suspected links between imported South American lamb and the foot-and-mouth outbreaks.

The Queen will be the first reigning British sovereign to visit South America. Elaborate plans are being made by Chile and Brazil to ensure a resounding success.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

25 APR 1968

THE QUEEN TO VISIT BRAZIL

By WALTER FARR
Diplomatic Staff

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Prince Philip, is to pay State visits to Chile and Brazil in November. This will be the first time that a reigning British sovereign has visited South America.

Talks have also begun on a possible visit to Argentina. But it was made clear last night that a decision has not yet been reached, because exchanges are continuing between the two Governments.

A visit by the Queen to Argentina would raise the question of whether she should go to the Falkland Islands to which Argentina lays claim.

A judgment will, it is explained, be made as to whether the political climate is such that a State visit by the Queen to Argentina would be advisable now. For this reason discussions of a possible visit have included a review of the Falkland Islands situation.

It would have to be clear that no effort would be made in Argentina to exploit a State visit by, for instance, staging demonstrations.

Extract from
Daily Sketch, London

25 APR 1968

Row over 'peace trip' plans for the Queen

THE Queen was at the centre of a political squabble last night as plans were announced for her to visit South America.

She has accepted an invitation for herself and Prince Philip to make State visits to Chile and Brazil in November.

But, in what is interpreted in Whitehall as a peace making move, the Foreign Office announced that talks are

being held for her to visit the Argentine on the trip.

And at the same time the Commonwealth Relations office admitted that the possibility of the Queen visiting the pro-British Falkland Islanders is also under review.

If the Queen visits the Argentine the 2,000 British Falkland Islanders may feel that Britain is contemplating a sell-out of their islands.

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

25 APR 1968

The Queen may go on Argentina 'peace trip'

By GEOFFREY WAKEFORD

THE Queen will visit Argentina this year if the estrangement caused by Britain's ban on meat imports and the republic's claim to the Falkland Islands can be removed.

Talks are now going on between London and Buenos Aires into 'the possibility of arranging a visit,' the Foreign Office said last night.

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A visit to the 2,000 people in Britain's island colony would be possible whether the Queen were invited to Argentina or not.

Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart is taking a calculated risk in agreeing to discuss a State visit to Argentina. One of the risks is a snub by Argentina.

Mr Stewart's big headache is Argentina's threatened reprisals against British export trade for the ban — recently lifted — on Argentine meat imports here.

Secret

But Argentina's revived claim to the Falklands, pressed through the United Nations, is a major cause of coolness between the two countries.

Despite recent assurances the islanders strongly suspect that Mr Wilson's Government would hand over the Falklands to Argentina tomorrow if it could find a good excuse.

Publicly Mr Stewart and his fellow-Ministers have told Parliament that the wishes of the islanders are 'an absolute condition' to be fulfilled before sovereignty is discussed. Yet secret talks on this issue have not been abandoned.

A team of four Argentine veterinary experts is now carrying out its own tests in Britain into suspected links between imported South American lamb and the foot-and-mouth outbreaks.

Argentine meat imports were banned last September. But for the past ten days Argentina has been free to export beef, though not lamb, to Britain. So far she has ignored the lifting of the British embargo.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

25 APR 1968

Threat of row over royal tour

By MAURICE TROWBRIDGE

THE Queen became involved last night in Britain's squabble with the Argentine over the Falkland Islands. First it was announced that the Queen and Prince Philip will pay state visits to Chile and Brazil in November.

Then the Foreign Office said a visit to the Argentine was also being considered by both Governments.

The catch is this: It would seem odd if the royal couple, while in Latin America, did not also visit the fervently British Falkland Islands. And the Commonwealth Office admitted that a Falklands visit "would come under review—but no comment is possible now."

Softly

Whitehall is treading gingerly because of fears that an announcement now would spark anti-British protests in the Argentine, which claims sovereignty over the Falklands. It was even being suggested that the Argentine Government was making it a condition of a visit there that the Queen should not go to the Falklands.

Chilly relations over the Falklands have become even chillier since Britain's ban on Argentine meat because of foot and mouth.

Extract from

The Birmingham Post

Date 26 APR 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Attack on BBC for 'racism'

VISCOUNT MASSEREENE AND FERRARD (Con.) asked the Government, in the Lords yesterday, to issue a directive to the British Broadcasting Corporation "to promote racial hatred against a fellow member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation."

This was in view of the tone of "three anti-German programmes put out on February 10 and 25 and March 11."

BARONESS PHILLIPS replied that the Government was not aware that the BBC intended to foster antagonism.

Lord Massereene and Ferrard said that many people abroad regarded the BBC as the voice of the nation and it behooved the Corporation to keep as far as possible off any matter which might be construed as racial, or even political, bias.

Baroness Phillips agreed, but made no comment when Lord Leatherland (Lab.) asked: "If the BBC can attack the British Government quite freely, why not the German Government also?"

Lord Massereene and Ferrard asked in view of a statement in the Lords by Lord Chalfont last month that the Government were inclined to think the Falkland Islands community too small for a plebiscite, why a small compact population was not suitable for this.

LORD SHEPHERD, Minister of State, Commonwealth Office, said: "It appears to be unnecessary and unsuitable in the circumstances of the Falkland Islands, particularly as we regard consultation with the people as a continuous process."

He added: "The type of consultation we have in mind will be quite suitable. It will certainly be democratic and, by this process, not only shall we be satisfied ourselves, but shall also satisfy Parliament that the wishes of the people are clearly understood."

Bristol Siddeley: Two deprived of public posts

Yesterday in Parliament

OPPOSITION SHOUTS OF 303 'DISGRACEFUL'

RAF ORDERS 'DECEPTION'

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

MR. WEDGWOOD BENN, Minister of Technology, announced in the House of Commons tonight that two leading members of Bristol Siddeley Engines had been dismissed from Government appointments following the official finding that the company had "deceived" the Government over R.A.F. contracts.

Labour Members cheered and Conservatives shouted "disgraceful!" as he said the Government had concluded it would not be right for Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith, former chairman, and Mr. Brian Davidson, former business director, to remain on certain public bodies. Letters were being sent terminating their appointments.

The Minister was speaking in a debate on reports into the affair by a committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of Sir Roy Wilson, president of the Industrial Court, and by the Public Accounts Committee.

Moving a resolution to accept the conclusions of the report, he said the debate would mark the end of a discredited contracting system and the beginning of a new one, requiring equality of information between Government departments and contractors.

An opposition amendment rejected those conclusions which condemned identifiable individuals on the ground that they were denied basic rights of natural justice.

Mr. Corfield, Conservative spokesman on aviation, declared that the Government either did not care for justice or deliberately intended to be unjust for some ulterior motive.

MILLIONS INVOLVED

"Explosive" issues

Mr. BENN moved that the House accept the conclusions of the report of the committee of inquiry into certain contracts made with Bristol Siddeley Engines.

The House would also be discussing another Government motion that it take note of a report from the Committee of Public Accounts on this matter and the Opposition amendment criticising the first report for condemning identifiable individuals "denied, by the procedure adopted, the basic rights of natural justice."

The matters to be debated were most serious and involved millions of public money, the administration of the Government's contract procedures and the behaviour of individuals occupying responsible positions in Government and industry.

Three reports had been presented to the Commons covering these questions, but the Government's first motion related to the Wilson Committee report.

The relevant events began nine years ago and the end of them had not yet been seen. With these ingredients the debate could easily become explosive, but this would be inappropriate.

MINISTRY ORDERS

Reasonable prices proviso

The background to the issue was well known. Part of the defence work carried out by Bristol Siddeley, and the contract from the former Ministry of Aviation, consisted of overhauling engines and repairing components and parts.

The Ministry placed annual contracts for the work, with a provision that reasonable prices be paid.

The company submitted quotations for each contract and in most cases the Wilson Committee found that these included an exorbitant element of profit, based on inflated estimates.

The department's technical cost staff made their own estimates and, according to the Wilson Committee, failed to detect the gross over-quoting.

As a result, on the overhaul contract the company made a profit of about 74 per cent. on costs of about £9,500,000, in the years 1959-63. In these figures they made about 105 per cent. profit on costs of about £4,400,000 on the overhaul of two types of engine.

On the contracts for the repair of spare parts in 1959-65, profits were about 40 per cent. on costs of just under £8 million.

The company had not volunteered the necessary information about 1967, after a great

been suitably reprimanded after an internal inquiry. Certain staff had been moved and in one case retired from the service.

On the prospects of further recoveries he said the Government were here dealing with Rolls-Royce, who were entirely quittance in this affair. "We are only discussing it because they are now the owners of Bristol Siddeley."

Rolls-Royce had been asked to discuss other contracts with the department. He would advise the House when these discussions were completed.

Apart from matters to be further discussed with Rolls-Royce the case was almost closed except for one issue especially concerning the Government. This was the most difficult issue of all.

It raised the question of what the Government should do in respect of the leading industrialists responsible for Bristol Siddeley affairs when the events took place.

Two of these, Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith and Mr. Davidson, had been appointed by the Government to public positions.

In considering the action to take, the Government had the Wilson report but that the Public Accounts Committee, in its latest report, had said the evidence of these two men fell short of the accurate, complete and frank response to the committee's questioning which the Government was entitled to expect and that in almost every relevant passage the witnesses used words capable of more than one meaning.

In the light of the report before the House the Government had concluded it would not be right for these two men to remain members of certain public bodies.

There were Government cheers and Opposition shouts of "disgraceful!" as he announced that

Greenwood's Remis

Statement—P28

letters had been sent terminating their appointments to those bodies.

Mr. BENN added that the decisions were taken only after the most careful consideration and were absolutely unavoidable. "Those who hold Government appointments must enjoy public confidence."

Mr. CARR asked that he should tell the House the nature of these appointments and say why only these two men had been singled out. What about the managing director and other senior executives?

Mr. BENN said the managing director of Bristol Siddeley at that time holds no public appointments. He was dealing simply with the two leading industrialists who did so.

In the case of Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith his appointments were the membership of the Standing Advisory Committee on the pay of the Higher Civil Service, the review body on the remuneration of doctors and dentists, and the advisory council of the Overseas Services Resettlement Bureau.

Mr. Brian Davidson had been appointed a member of the Monopolies Commission.

DISCREDITED SYSTEM

"A stylised game"

Turning to the future he said that the most important single thing the debate could achieve would be to mark the end of an old and completely discredited contracting system and to begin with a new one.

No responsible member of the Government or anyone in industry could be satisfied with a system of Government contracts which had become what Sir Roy Wilson had called "a stylised game."

Frederick Corfield

Tory fears of injustices

Mr. CORFIELD (C. Gloucestershire S.) moved the Opposition amendment which accepted the conclusions of the report "except in so far as it condemned identifiable individuals, denied, by the procedure adopted, the basic rights of natural justice."

He said the Opposition was concerned only with the injustices that might be done to named individuals.

Mr. BENN's statement in regard to the public positions held by Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith and Mr. Brian Davidson had introduced a new element into the debate.

He regretted this, and pointed out that a section of the Public Accounts Committee report made it quite clear they had concluded that in no part of that evidence were the witnesses intentionally intending to mislead.

These people themselves were in no position to send for other witnesses. If the committee was not satisfied it was for them to do that.

clude all members of the board and senior executives and executives in a more junior position. But only five of the board and three others were invited to give evidence and the rest were condemned unheard.

Of the large estimating staff only four gave evidence and only two were involved in the subject matter of the inquiry.

GRAVEST DOUBT

Levels of management

His studies revealed the gravest possible doubt as to whether members of the board who were not members of the executive committee either knew, could have known or even ought to have known at the time, of the high profits achieved or budgeted for.

These people were easily identifiable and it seemed to him imperative that the House should be clear about which levels of management knew or had means of knowing the extent of the profits.

It should be clear what was the extent to which the procedure, the conclusions of the report and the Government's acceptance might have inflicted injustice.

DAMAGED CAREER

Report "unfair"

No one who read the Press could doubt the damage already inflicted on the career and reputation of Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith. No one could doubt that the Minister's speech had added immeasurably to that damage.

If the Government had studied the report before they had decided to publish and accept its conclusions, they must have been fully aware of most of the defects, and could easily have discovered others.

If they failed to conduct such a study, they were grossly negligent and because of their position and responsibility every bit as negligent as anyone in Bristol Siddeley even on the most adverse reading of the report.

If they had studied the report, they must have known in many respects that it was unfair. Either they simply did not care for justice or deliberately intended to be unjust from some ulterior motive.

Mr. Corfield said that, if inevitably he had had to criticise the Wilson report, that was something he regretted, but he regarded it as of far less importance than injustice to individuals. There were basic defects in the procedure for this purpose.

"In being asked to accept these conclusions without any qualifications, as the Government are doing, as a House we are forfeiting any right we have to remain an important part of the honourable concept of the high court of Parliament." (Opposition cheers.)

Firm's 'brazen apologia'

Mr. EDELMAN (Lab. Coventry, N.) said the defence, or apologia, published by Bristol Siddeley could only be described as brazen. This essay in self-justification was an exercise in semantics.

The victim of these exactions was the nation. It was the taxpayer who was being plundered, yet Mr. Corfield had sought to give the directors of Bristol Siddeley haloes and wings.

It was his firm conviction that what they saw in the three reports was only the tip of the iceberg.

CRUCIAL ISSUES

Committee divided

Sir JOHN VAUGHAN-MORGAN (C. Reigate), chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, which examined the Bristol Siddeley matter, said there could have been no purpose or gain by witnesses in wilfully misleading the committee.

At the very least the committee should have given witnesses the benefit of the doubt.

"A chairman of a Select Committee presenting a report does not normally burden a report with his own views as opposed to those of the committee, but this is exceptional because on each of these crucial issues there was a division in our ranks, and the final report does not, therefore, represent the draft I proposed to the committee.

"My own view is that on all the issues the committee had ample evidence from which to draw the right conclusion, which was that Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith and Mr. Davidson did not seek to mislead the committee on these issues."

Winding up for the Opposition, Mr. CARR concluded this affair, "We condemn in part, we condemn the deed, we must make that clear."

"This was a day of shame both for the company and for the department. A great responsibility and a large sum of public money duty in its elementary duty guarding expenditure."

Mr. BENN said two men at least and branded their prof of guilt he had taken action which he hoped the Opposition would finally reject. The Minister censured the that.

"This report should not have gone on the public record containing these grave imputations against identifiable individuals without more evidence to support those charges."

"If he adheres to this action the Minister is not fit to hold office. This is the stuff of which tyranny is made, and if it is not nipped in the bud it will grow. I beg the Minister to again."

UNHAPPY DEBATE

Diamond's hope for future

Mr. DIAMOND, Chief Secretary, said it had been an unhappy debate, but it was an occasion from which lessons could be, and were being, learned as to a new relationship between Government and industry, so it was not a depressing occasion.

That relationship in future would be based on a desire to protect the community through equality of information and encouragement of the contractor by rewarding efficiency by paying a premium on managerial skill rather than on negotiations.

"Having drawn the right conclusions we may properly forget these unhappy events and look forward to a period of greater co-operation, greater understanding and greater efficiency."

The Opposition amendment was defeated by 112 votes to 176. The Government majority was 64. The Government motion was approved without a division.

INQUIRY OFFER ON ARGENTINE SHIPS DEAL

The PRIME MINISTER said in the Commons that he would look into a suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish dockyards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland Islands.

He told Viscount Lambton (C. Berwick-on-Tweed), who had asked whether this was true: "I haven't heard about this." It was true that a number of contracts with private exporters from this country were held up because of the ban on the importation of meat from the Argentine.

Mr. WOODROW WYATT (Lab. Bosworth) had earlier asked the Prime Minister whether he would invite the head of the Argentine Government to London for discussions on matters of mutual concern.

Mr. WILSON: I have had direct contact with the Prime Minister to confirm that there was no question whatever of the Falkland Islands or the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") "If that is the case, you now immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on? If we have going to hand over sovereignty there is nothing to discuss."

Mr. WYATT, in a supplementary question, asked the Prime Minister to confirm that the Prime Minister was not questioning the Falkland Islands or the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") "If that is the case, you now immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on? If we have going to hand over sovereignty there is nothing to discuss."

Mr. WILSON: I have had direct contact with the Prime Minister of the Argentine, so I have made a statement of no kind. The position has not perfectly clear with my agreement, by the Foreign Secretary to the Argentine Ambassador.

Extract from
Western Mail, Cardiff

25 APR 1968

A ROYAL POSER

³⁰⁰³
The Queen's acceptance of invitations to pay state visits to Chile and Brazil in November has produced a delicate international dilemma which could lay the Government open to the charge of "dragging the Queen into politics."

And, last night, Foreign Office officials had no answer to two vital questions about the Royal trip.

First, can she visit Chile and Brazil without calling on one of Britain's best customers, the Argentine Republic?

Secondly, can she visit the Argentine without calling on the Falkland Islands, the British dependency which is claimed by the Argentine as part of its territory?

The Foreign Office admitted that the British and Argentine governments are considering the advisability of issuing an invitation, but they might be unable to prevent hostile demonstrations taking place if the Queen visited her Falkland Island subjects.

NATIONAL PRESS CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from the

Daily Record

Scotland's National Newspaper
GLASGOW

26 APR 1968

Date.
(Sec

Wilson is quizzed over 'ban' on Scots yards

HAROLD WILSON was quizzed yesterday on reports that the Argentine had refused to buy ships from Scottish yards.

The Premier was asked if the Argentine Government refused to sign a contract with a Scots yard unless an agreement was reached over the Falkland Islands.

The "ban on ships"

issue was raised by Viscount Lambton, Tory M.P. for Berwick-on-Tweed.

Mr. Wilson replied that he had heard no reports that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract with Scottish yards.

Earlier Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, Labour M.P. for Bosworth, asked Mr. Wilson to confirm that there was no question whatever of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

Mr. Wyatt said: "If that is the case,

would you immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on about the Falkland Islands."

Mr. Wilson replied that he had had no direct contact with the president of the Argentine. But he said that the position had been made clear to the Argentine Ambassador.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Northern Echo, Darlington

26 APR 1968

Falklands trade 'ban'

³⁰⁰³
MR. Wilson said in the Commons that he would look into a suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish dockyards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland Islands.

He told Viscount Lambton (C, Berwick), who had asked whether this was true: "I haven't heard about this." It was true that a number of contracts with private British exporters were held up because of the ban on the importation of meat from the Argentine.

He would be very glad to look into the matter mentioned.

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (L, Bosworth) asked the Prime Minister to confirm that there was no question of handing over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine. This was greeted with loud cries of "Hear, hear" from various parts of the House.

"If that is the case, would you now immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on about the Falkland Islands? "If we are not

going to hand over sovereignty there is nothing to discuss."

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter (C, Kingston-upon-Thames) asked if there was no question of handing over the Falkland Islands, what had been the point of holding these discussions.

Mr. Wilson: "There have been a number of questions that have been involved in the talks. The Argentine Government want us to hand over the Falkland Islands. They have now had their answer."

International Press-cutting Bureau

1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN

LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 26 APR 1968



VISCOUNT LAMBTON
"Is the report true?"

Ship order reported blocked by Argentine

MR. WILSON said in the Commons he would investigate a suggestion that The Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish dockyards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland Islands.

He told Viscount Lambton (Cons., Berwick-on-Tweed) who had asked whether the report was true: "I haven't heard about this."

Mr. Wilson added that it was true that a number of contracts with private exporters from this country were held up because of the ban on the importation of meat from The Argentine. He would be very glad to look into the matter mentioned.

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Lab., Bosworth) had earlier asked the Prime Minister whether he would invite the head of The Argentine Government to London for discussions on matters of mutual concern.

Normal channels

Mr. Wilson replied: "President Onganía would be welcome in London at any time, but I believe that matters of mutual concern to the two countries are being satisfactorily handled through normal diplomatic channels, and by direct contacts between British and Argentine ministers whenever necessary."

Mr. Wyatt, in a supplementary question, asked the Prime Minister to confirm that there was no question whatever of handing over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to The Argentine. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear").

"If that is the case, would you now immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on about the Falkland Islands?" he added. "If we are not going to hand over sovereignty there is nothing to discuss."

Mr. Wilson: "I have had no direct contact with the President of The Argentine, so I could not have made a statement of that kind."

'Position clear'

"The position has been made perfectly clear to the Argentine Ambassador. What the Argentine Ambassador was clearly told in March was said to the House at an early hour of the morning during the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill. I have nothing to add to what the Foreign Secretary said."

Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter (Cons., Kingston-upon-Thames) asked if there was no question of handing over the Falkland Islands, what had been the point in holding these discussions.

Mr. Wilson: "There have been a number of questions that have been involved in the talks, and there is no doubt that The Argentine Government want us to hand over the Falkland Islands. They have now had their answer."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks
25 APR 1968

THE DAILY MAIL

ESTABLISHED 1885, INCORPORATING THE HULL PACKET (1787) and the HULL EVENING NEWS
HEAD OFFICE: Jameson Street, Hull (Tel. 27111, STD 0482)
LONDON: Carmelite House, E.C.4 (Tel. Fleet Street 6000)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1968

THE QUEEN AND ARGENTINA

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT has an unfortunate penchant for creating embarrassing situations. It certainly seems to have tripped up over the projected visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to South America. The visit itself is to be commended: the blunder lies in suggesting that the tour should be extended to include Argentina.



Bearing in mind the present state of tension between Britain and the Argentine, created by Argentina's heated claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the British ban (now partially lifted) on Argentinian meat imports, such a proposal at the present time bristles with difficulties. For the Queen to visit the Argentine without first calling in on the Falkland islanders (who are among the staunchest and proudest of her overseas subjects) would at once provoke unfavourable reaction in the islands. On the other hand, if she went to the Falklands, thereby asserting her rightful claim to be ruler of the territory, hostility would almost certainly be sparked off in an already disgruntled Argentina.

It is the first duty of the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, to resolve these questions before recommending an Argentinian visit.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

26 APR 1968

ARGENTINE · HOLDING BACK SHIP ORDERS

Viscount Lambton (C., Berwick-on-Tweed) asked the Prime Minister if it was true that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish yards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland Islands.

Mr Wilson said a number of contracts with exporters were held up because of the ban on the importation of meat from the Argentine. He had not heard of any particular case, but he would be glad to look into the matter if details were sent to him.

Extract from
Western Daily Press, Bristol

26 APR 1968

Rumour of trade hold-up over islands

By Our Parliamentary
Reporter

The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday he would look into the suggestion that the Argentine Government had refused to sign a contract for ships from Scottish dockyards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland Islands.

He said he had not heard the rumour when Viscount Lambton (C., Berwick-on-Tweed) asked if it was true.

But he added that some contracts with private exporters from this country were held up because of the ban on meat imports from the Argentine.

Secret talks

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Lab., Bosworth) asked Mr. Wilson earlier whether he would invite the head of the Argentine government to London to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Mr. Wilson replied: "President Ongania would be welcome in London at any time, but I believe that matters of mutual concern to the two countries are being satisfactorily handled through normal diplomatic channels, and by direct contacts between British and Argentine ministers whenever necessary."

Mr. Wyatt also asked Mr. Wilson to confirm that there was no question whatever of handing over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

"If that is the case, would you now immediately bring to an end the secret talks that have been going on about the Falkland Islands?" he said.

Clearly told

"If we are not going to hand over sovereignty there is nothing to discuss."

Mr. Wilson replied: "I have had no direct contact with the President of the Argentine, so I could not have made a statement of that kind."

"The position has been made perfectly clear with my agreement by the Foreign Secretary to the Argentine ambassador."

"What the Argentine ambassador was clearly told in March was said to the House at an early hour of the morning during the debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill. I have nothing to add to what the Foreign Secretary said."

Extract from
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

26 APR 1968

Medicine exemptions agreed

Morning Telegraph
Lobby Staff

The Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, yesterday announced final arrangements for exemption of patients from prescription charges.

These have been agreed with doctors and chemists in England and Wales. Regulations to be laid before Parliament will bring them into effect from June 10.

Patients entitled to exemption on the grounds of age will simply complete a declaration on the back of the prescription form. The chemist will then not levy a charge.

Exemption certificates will be given to expectant and nursing mothers, persons suffering from conditions requiring continuous medication, and most people receiving supplementary benefit. There will also be arrangements for charges to be refunded where appropriate.

Mr. Robinson said yesterday that these arrangements would in due course be replaced by others including special provision for persons who were not exempt but required numerous prescriptions.

Senior chairman

Mr. John Jennings, (Con. Burton) has been appointed senior chairman of the standing committee on the Finance Bill which will make Parliamentary history when it starts operating.

It will have about 50 members with Mr. Roy Jenkins, Chancellor, leading for the Government and Mr. Iain Macleod, Shadow Chancellor, for the Opposition.

Contract inquiry

The Prime Minister said in the Commons yesterday that he would look into a suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish dockyards unless there was an agreement about the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Harold Wilson told Viscount Lambton (Con. Berwick-on-Tweed) who had asked whether this was true:

"I haven't heard about this."

27 APR 1968

The Falklands

^{See} REPLIES which the Prime Minister gave to questions in Parliament about the future of the Falkland Islands can hardly be regarded as satisfactory.

Asked if there was any truth in the suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from British shipyards unless there was an agreement over the Falklands, Mr. Wilson said he had not heard about it.

When pressed to confirm that there was no question whatever of handing over the sovereignty of these islands to the Argentine, he replied that "the position has been made perfectly clear, with my agreement, by the Foreign Secretary to the Argentine Ambassador."

While it is only reasonable that diplomatic negotiations should be kept confidential while in progress, the Government should surely make its position on the sovereignty of the Falklands as clear as it has done over the status of Gibraltar. In both cases Britain's duty is to make sure that the wishes of the inhabitants are respected.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

26 APR 1968

Date
(See information overleaf)

Wilson to act on ³²⁰³ Argentine ship order fears

The Prime Minister said in the House of Commons yesterday that he would look into a suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from Scottish yards unless there was an agreement over the Falkland

Islands.

David Stark, Our Shipbuilding Correspondent, writes:—Two Clyde shipyards are at present in the market for naval orders, valued at several million pounds, for Argentina.

Yarrow (Shipbuilders), Scotstoun, a member of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and the group's naval builders, will be tendering for the construction of frigates—the type of frigate having not yet been decided.

Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman of the company and deputy chairman of the group, said last night that to his knowledge the dispute concerning the Falkland Islands had not affected discussions and negotiations were continuing.

On the lower reaches of the river, Scotts' of Greenock, a member of the Scott Lithgow group, are tendering for the building of submarines. An official of the company said negotiations were going on and were proceeding amicably.

Mr Michael Scott, chairman of the Scott Lithgow group, returned earlier this week from Hong Kong where he signed contracts for two bulk carriers for World Wide (Shipping) announced recently. Contact was also made with Chinese owners regarding new tonnage, and the company consider that prospects of business are good.

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Bournemouth Evening Echo, Hants.

27 APR 1966

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date 25 APR 1966
(See information overleaf)

Queen will visit South America in November

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to pay state visits to Chile and Brazil in November. They may also visit Argentina.

An announcement yesterday from Buckingham Palace stated:—
"The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have accepted with great pleasure the invitation of President Frey to pay a State visit to Chile during November.

"They have also accepted with great pleasure an invitation from the President of Brazil to visit his country in the same month."

It was announced later by the Foreign Office that the British and Argentine Governments were studying the possibility of arranging a royal visit to the Argentine at the same time.

The Argentine Government's claim to the Falkland Islands has created a delicate situation as far as a possible visit by the Queen to Argentina is concerned.

Britain's recent ban on Argentine beef shipments because of the foot-and-mouth epidemic is another factor which has strained relations between the two countries.

The Queen and the Duke are assured of a warm welcome from the Brazilian people and the British community there.

It is believed they will visit Brasilia, the modern new capital 600 miles inland, which celebrated its eighth anniversary last Sunday, and the industrial centre of Sao Paulo as well as Rio de Janeiro.

It will be the first time a reigning sovereign has visited South America. The Duke of Edinburgh included Chile and Brazil in his South American tour in 1962.

The visit to Chile is in return for the State visit which President Frey and his wife made to Britain in July, 1965.

FALKLANDS

REPLIES which the Prime Minister gave to questions in Parliament about the future of the Falkland Islands can hardly be regarded as satisfactory.

Asked if there was any truth in the suggestion that the Argentine Government had declined to sign a contract for ships from British shipyards unless there was an agreement over the Falklands, Mr. Wilson said he had not heard about it.

When pressed to confirm that there was no question whatever of handing over the sovereignty of these islands to the Argentine, he replied that "the position has been made perfectly clear, with my agreement, by the Foreign Secretary to the Argentine Ambassador."

While it is only reasonable that diplomatic negotiations should be kept confidential while in progress, the Government should surely make their position on the sovereignty of the Falklands as clear as they have done over the status of Gibraltar. In both cases Britain's duty is to make sure that the wishes of the inhabitants are respected.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Sunday Express, London

128 APR 1966

OUR rather odd Foreign Office is dickering with the idea of sending the Queen to visit the Argentine. But no mention of a visit to the nearby loyal British Falkland Islands which the Argentine is demanding from us. If the Queen visits the Argentine without looking in on the Falklands it will rightly arouse apprehension and anger among the Falkland Islanders. While if she goes there, the Argentine will feel resentful—and perhaps show it. What a predicament to shape for our Queen. She should go to the Falklands and leave the Argentine alone. Even if that upset the F.O.'s apple-cart.

30 APR 1968

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Written Answers

30 APRIL 1968

Written Answers

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The amount of Income Tax payable by a married man, with two children of school age, on an earned income of £1,000 per annum, is £6 5s. in the year 1968-69.

Falkland Islands (Taxation)

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what is the present level of Corporation Tax in the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Whitlock: There is a company tax of 5s. 9d. in the £ with an additional profits tax of 2s. in the £.

	General	Commonwealth Preferential
TOBACCO		
Cigars	20s. per lb.	19s. 3d. per lb.
Cigarettes	10s. per lb.	9s. 6d. per lb.
Manufactured tobacco	6s. per lb.	5s. 7d. per lb.
WINES	6s. 6d. per gallon	4s. 6d. per gallon
SPIRITS	126s. per gallon	

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what are the rates of Income Tax now applicable in the Falkland Islands; and how much Income Tax a married man with two children of school age will pay on an income of £1,000 per annum in 1968-69.

Mr. Whitlock: The following are the rates of tax applicable in the Falkland Islands.

	£	s.	d.
First	150	...	Nil
Next	100	...	1 0
	200	...	2 0
	250	...	2 6
	250	...	3 0
	1,050	...	3 6
	4,000	...	4 6
Over	6,000	...	5 9

A married man with two children of school age would pay £26 on an income of £1,000 for the 1967 to 1968 assessment year. The tax year starts on 1st July and certain amendments in tax legislation are under consideration for introduction in the 1968-69 year.

Gibraltar (United Kingdom Defence Costs)

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what is the approximate per capita contribution of the citizens of Gibraltar to United Kingdom defence costs.

Mr. Whitlock: The citizens of Gibraltar do not contribute directly to United

23 K 35

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs, what is the present level of Capital Gains Tax in the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Whitlock: There is no Capital Gains Tax.

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what are the present rates of excise on tobacco, wines and spirits in the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Whitlock: There is no excise duty on tobacco, wines and spirits, but the following import tariffs apply:

Kingdom defence costs. The Gibraltar Government, however, make an annual contribution towards the costs of the Gibraltar Regiment, equivalent to 5s. 5d. per head of the population.

Falkland Islands (United Kingdom Defence Costs)

Mr. Hooley asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what is the approximate per capita contribution of the citizens of the Falkland Islands to the United Kingdom defence costs.

Mr. Whitlock: The people of the Falkland Islands do not contribute directly to the defence costs of the United Kingdom, but the approximate per capita contribution by the people to maintain the Islands' Volunteer Defence Force is about 32s.

BRITISH HONDURAS

80 and 81. Viscount Lambton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1) if he will publish the correspondence between Her Majesty's Government, the President of the United States of America and the President of Guatemala, relevant to the proposed change of status of the Crown Colony of British Honduras;

(2) what stage has been reached in the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government, the President of the United States of America and the President of

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

- 1 MAY 1968



MR. MICHAEL STEWART

FALKLANDS: STEWART TRIES TO EASE TENSION

Evening Standard Political Editor

A renewed British effort to de-fuse the row with the Argentine about the future of the Falkland Islands was made by Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, when he received the Argentine Ambassador, Senor Brigadier Don Eduardo F. McLoughlin, in Whitehall today.

Mr. Stewart is believed to have taken the line that discussions about the situation can reasonably continue so long as the Argentine Government understands that Britain will positively not surrender sovereignty of the Falklands so long as the Islanders wish to remain British, as they do.

The British view of the discussion of questions like communications and supplies for the Falklands will help to reduce tension. The Argentine officials are being told that the Islanders might one day find that there are advantages in closer association with the Argentine if it is seen that there is a desire for co-operation.

Queen's visit

The possibility of the Queen visiting the Argentine in November when she will be going to neighbouring Chile and Brazil, was probably mentioned at today's Foreign Office talks.

It seems quite likely that the Argentine will be included in the itinerary for the Royal visit provided there is no new diplomatic crisis in the meantime.

The final position about the Queen's plans need not be taken for some months yet.

Extract from
Evening News, London

- 1 MAY 1968

ROYAL TRIP-ENVOY CALLS ON STEWART

By JOHN DICKINSON

Evening News Political
Correspondent

The Argentine ambassador Brigadier Don Eduardo McLoughlin called at the Foreign Office today for talks with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart.

In the general context of Anglo-Argentine relations, it is possible that the visit of the Queen in November to Latin America was discussed.

The Queen is due to visit Chile and Brazil. Both the British and the Argentine governments would like her to visit the Argentine as well.

The barrier to such an occasion is the embarrassment be-

tween the two countries over the British dependency of the Falkland Islands.

Take-over claims

For a long period the Argentine has laid claims to sovereignty over the islands, a cause which is a central issue in Argentinian politics.

The British Government are anxious to maintain good relations with the Argentine for trade and diplomatic reasons, but Mr. Stewart has made it plain Britain will respect the wishes of the 2,000 Falkland Islanders to stay British.

Mr. Wilson's Government will not advise the Queen to visit the Argentine unless they can be confident there is no security risk and that the dispute over the Falklands will not mar the visit.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

- 1 MAY 1968

NEW ANTARCTIC ISLAND TO BE NAMED SOON

A new island, formed by volcanic eruption near the British Antarctic base at Deception Island, has been mapped but not yet named.

A name will probably be chosen for it by the Antarctic Place Names Committee next year said Sir Vivian Fuchs, director of the British Antarctic Survey at Southampton yesterday. He said that the Royal Society and the BAS would begin a joint exploration of the new island in November.

Sir Vivian was at Southampton to welcome back 18 men who arrived from Antarctica where they had been for periods of up to two years in the Royal Research Ship Shackleton.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 1 MAY 1968

**Falkland Islands (British
3003 Navy Visits)**

33. **Mr. Wingfield Digby** asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many of Her Majesty's ships, apart from H.M.S. "Protector", and from what stations, have visited the Falkland Islands during each of the last three years; and what plans he has for such visits during the coming year.

Mr. Healey: No visits were paid in 1965. Two frigates from the former South Atlantic and South American Station visited Port Stanley in 1966. One frigate of the Western Fleet visited the Islands in 1967.

As regards the second part of the Question, it is not the custom to disclose future dispositions of the Fleet.

Extract from

THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

Date **1 MAY 1968**

(See information overleaf)

Talks on Falklands
Argentina's Foreign
Minister, Nicanor Costa
Mendez, said yesterday that
talks with Britain over the
Malvinas (Falkland) Islands
will start today. 3003

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 1 MAY 1968

3003 Falkland Islands

2. **Mr. Biggs-Davison** asked the Secretary of State for Defence what new arrangements have been made for the defence and security of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

6. **Mr. Marten** asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider establishing a military airfield in the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Healey: No change has recently been made in the general arrangements for the defence of the Falkland Islands. Although the Government will continue to keep under review the need for any variation in these arrangements, there is no necessity at present foreseeable for a military airfield.

Mr. Biggs-Davison: Are the Government determined to defend the Falkland Islands? As earnest of their resolve to maintain the right of the Falkland Islanders to remain British, will they recommend that Her Majesty should include the Falkland Islands in any royal visit to that part of the world?

Mr. Healey: The latter part of the question is not for me. As to Her Majesty's Government's intentions to defend the Falkland Islands, they are exactly the same as those of the previous Administration, and similar arrangements are being made by this Government as were made by the previous Government.

Mr. Marten: Would not an airfield enable aircraft from an aircraft carrier to land in a crisis as well as being of great civil use? Are the plans for the defence of the Falkland Islands really the same as they were under the previous Administration, or are they less?

Mr. Healey: Certain adjustments have been made in the plans in the last few years. As I said in my Answer, we keep the problem under review and make any further changes as they become necessary. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that if it were necessary to land aircraft in the Falkland Islands in an emergency this could be done.

Extract from
Scottish Daily Mail, Edinburgh

- 2 MAY 1968

talks on
Falklands
rift

By Daily Mail Reporter

FURTHER talks between Argentina and Britain took place in London yesterday over the future of the Falkland Islands.

Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, and the Argentine Ambassador, Señor Eduardo McLoughlin, are thought to have discussed an improvement in communications between the islands and the Argentine about 250 miles away.

At present, because of the dispute with Argentina over sovereignty, there are no air or shipping links between the two.

In the background is the possibility of a visit to Argentina by the Queen when she is in South America this autumn, and the dispute over Argentina's meat exports.

The Government has been asked repeatedly for assurances that there will be no 'sell-out' over the Falklands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

- 2 MAY 1968

New move on Falklands

By NIGEL GREENHILL

THERE were more talks between Argentina and Britain over the future of the Falkland Islands yesterday when Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, met the Argentine Ambassador in London. They are thought to have discussed an improvement in communications between the islands and the Argentine mainland. At present—because of the dispute over sovereignty—mail and supplies for the 2,000 islanders have to come from far-off Uruguay.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

- 2 MAY 1968

FALKLANDS TALKS

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, had a 20-minute meeting with Brig. Eduardo F. McLaughlin, the Argentine Ambassador, yesterday. A Foreign Office spokesman said that it could be assumed that they discussed the Falkland Islands.

Extract from
Time & Tide, London

- 8 MAY 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Queen's tour
plans threat

The question whether the Queen would visit the Argentine during her South American tour involved the Falkland Islands which the Argentine claimed from Britain.



► The Queen: threat to her South American tour.

It would seem odd if the Queen and Prince Philip did not visit the fervently British islands while in South America, but an announcement now might set off anti-British protests in the Argentine.

It was suggested that the Argentine Government was making it a condition for visiting the country that the Queen should not go to the Falkland Islands.

The Falklands have been peacefully occupied by Britain since 1833. The population of 2,102 is nearly all of British descent and about four-fifths were born in the Islands. More than half can trace their origins back to 1850 or earlier.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

- 2 MAY 1968

London meeting

Mr Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, met the Argentine Ambassador, Brigadier Eduardo F. McLoughlin, for 20 minutes at the Foreign Office in London yesterday. It could be assumed they talked about the Falkland Islands.

Extract from

LLOYD'S LIST AND SHIPPING GAZETTE

(SEE OVERLEAF)

- 1 MAY 1968

THE CLYDE

Argentine Orders Negotiating

3003

GLASGOW, Tuesday

At Greenock yesterday, the Scott Lithgow group carried out the first of a series of launches for Norwegian owners which are foreshadowed by the substantial number of ships they have on their books for owners in that country. The ceremony was that of a liquefied petroleum gas carrier, ordered from Scotts' of Greenock and built at their Cartburn shipyard, the ship being named by Mrs. Aud Jebsen, wife of Mr. K. J. Jebsen of the owning company.

The vessel, the *Gas Lion*, is the first ship of this type to be built on the Clyde and is 430 ft. long, 63 ft. in beam and 39 ft. deep. The deadweight capacity is 9,330 tons and the cargo is carried in three large tanks, each independent of the ship's structure and each fully insulated. The total carrying capacity of the tanks is 11,800 cubic metres. The ship will be capable of handling propane, butane, anhydrous ammonia or butadiene, and these will be carried at atmospheric pressure and at a maximum temperature of minus 50 deg. C.

The main propelling machinery will consist of a Scott-Sulzer diesel engine of the 7RD68 type developing 8,000 metric b.h.p. at 135 r.p.m. and giving a speed on loaded trials of 16½ knots.

Scotts' of Greenock and Yarrow (Shipbuilders), Ltd., are both at present negotiating for orders worth several million pounds for Argentina, and although some anxiety has been expressed in Parliament that such orders are being held up by the Argentine Government until an agreement is reached on the Falkland Islands dispute, the two Clyde concerns say that this does not seem to have affected their negotiations.

A spokesman for Scotts' said that they were tendering for "Oberon" Class submarines and that discussions

were going ahead quite amicably. Yarrow (Shipbuilders) are seeking orders for frigates, but so far the type has not been decided.

Mr. Michael Scott, chairman of the Scott Lithgow Group, returned last week from Hong Kong where he signed the final contracts for two bulk carriers for World Wide (Shipping), the contracts having been announced some time ago. He also took the opportunity to speak to other local shipowners regarding orders for new tonnage and the company consider that opportunities for business in this area are good if prices can be brought down to compete with those offered by Japanese yards.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

- 2 MAY 1968

Digby queries Navy visits to the Falklands

3003
MR. SIMON WINGFIELD DIGBY, M.P. for West Dorset, asked the Secretary of State for Defence in the House of Commons, how many of Her Majesty's ships, apart from H.M.S. Protector, and from what stations, visited the Falkland Islands during each of the last three years, and what plans there were for visits during the coming year.

Mr. Denis Healey, in a written reply, said: "No visits were paid in 1965. Two frigates from the former South Atlantic and South America station visited Port Stanley in 1966. One frigate of the Western Fleet visited the islands in 1967. As regards the second part of the question, it is not the custom to disclose future dispositions of the fleet," said Mr. Healey.

Mr. Digby also asked how many of Her Majesty's ships, and of what type, had been engaged on the Beira patrol during the last two years.

Mr. Healey replied: "In the two years from March, 1966, when the patrol began, 46 different warships had been employed on the patrol.

"These have included aircraft carriers (which took part in the early stages of the patrol), destroyers and frigates and coastal minesweepers."

Mailed from 33

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Extract from
Christchurch Star, New Zealand

3 APR 1937

Falklands: Back Comes a 135 - year - old Quarrel

LONDON.

NOBODY knows who first "discovered" the two hundred Falkland Islands. But as events were to have it, the first important date in their history is 1494, when a Papal Bull divided the New World between the two great maritime nations of the time, Spain and Portugal.

The provisions of the Bull meant nothing to the islands for several hundred years. In 1690, Britain's Captain Strong made the first known landing on the islands.

Seventy-five years later, a French nobleman, de Bougainville, who had recently suffered defeat by the British in the Canadian wars, took an expedition to South America with his own plans for restoring his country's lost glory in the north.

He established a settlement in East Falkland and, so well prepared was his expedition, it could well have flourished.

But Spain lodged an immediate protest and France, anxious to maintain the cordial relations which existed between the two countries at the time, handed the settlement to Spain on payment of something around £24,000.

By Gamini Seneviratne

BY this time, it must be noted, the powers of the two Iberian nations were practically spent. Britain and France were the maritime leaders.

No sooner had de Bougainville and the French been sent home than Spain found another interloper on its land.

Unknown to each other, the French and British had established settlements on the islands about the same time. The British settlement, set up by Captain McBride, was in Sanders Island off West Falkland and, unlike the "friendly" French, they certainly intended to stay.

Events surrounding this settlement, at Port Egmont, are important to the argument and negotiations of to-day.

When the British refused to leave, the Spaniards, in 1770, sacked the settlement and sent the settlers back to Britain. The two countries were now on the verge of war.

But the following year the Spanish repudiated their "violent enterprise" and returned Port Egmont to Britain. A new settlement was established which, in 1774, was withdrawn by the British Government, leaving behind only a leaden plaque claiming British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Why the Spaniards went back on their military exercise and why the British withdrew the settlement after just three years have become central to the current issue.

Abandoned

MEANWHILE, the old French settlement in East Falkland, named Soledad by Spain, continued—administered from the Argentine capital—till 1811, when it was abandoned.

The old Spanish empire was crumbling. Spain itself was ruled by the French. But the viceroy in Buenos Aires continued to owe allegiance to Spain till the colonies assumed independence and formed the United Provinces in 1816.

While severing connections with Spain, the new United Provinces claimed the mother country's rights and territories. In 1820, the Falkland Islands were formally claimed by the Argentine.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

0 75 miles

South Atlantic



In 1826, a settlement was re-established in Soledad under an ex-pirate called Louis Vernet, and two years later Vernet was named governor of the islands by the Argentine Government. Britain protested, but did nothing else.

Three more events remain to be recorded. First, Governor Vernet committed the indiscretion of holding three United States ships for sealing in the islands' waters.

The American reprisal was to send in a warship, the U.S.S. Lexington, which shelled and destroyed the Soledad settlement.

It was an opportunity for Britain to move in. It did, expelling what remained of the Argentine garrison and, in 1833, appointing Captain Onslow, who led the occupying force, to control the islands.

U.S. Support

BRTAIN had full American support and the joint power of the two was too much for Argentina to do anything about. Britain has been in occupation since.

This long, unchallenged control is the main point of the British claim to the Falkland Islands. Clearly, Buenos Aires never had effective control since the Soledad settlement was abandoned in 1811.

The Argentinian claim stems from inheritance of the rights and properties of the Spanish empire. It offers an intriguing answer as to why Spain went back on its "violent enterprise" in 1771 and why Britain withdrew its settlement three years later.

The answer, as given by Count Moreno to Lord Palmerston in 1833, has been maintained since. It is that Spain and Britain

An old dispute—the quarrel between Britain and the Argentine over the Falkland Islands—has blown up again. Fears have been aired in Britain that the Government has been secretly working out a deal to "sell out" the islanders to the Argentine. This article looks at the history of the Falklands affair. . .

made a secret agreement—the one, to deny its violent intent and give back the settlement; the other, to withdraw after a spell.

Lord Palmerston denied any such agreement. He said the British withdrew for purely economic reasons. Some scholars, however, believe there is sufficient evidence to suggest that a secret agreement is at least a possibility.

The point is strengthened by the fact that Britain had nothing to do with the islands from the time of withdrawal till 1832. Spain had full sovereignty during this period.

There is also the Nook Sound Convention of 1790 between the two Powers when Britain undertook not to intrude on Spanish-occupied territory in South America.

Might

ARGENTINA'S answer to Britain's claim, by undisputed occupation for nearly 140 years, is that this is purely a matter of might. Britain had it, Argentina did not.

Each year since 1833, the Argentine has formally protested to the British, challenging their right to control the islands (land area 4618 square miles).

The islanders, a little more than 2100 at the last count, are nearly all of British descent and are anxious to remain British citizens. They fear, and are now almost convinced, that Britain is preparing to sell them down the river.

What now? Argentina says the recent talks with Britain have been satisfactory. The British Government, that they have been friendly.

Meanwhile, the islanders are becoming increasingly anxious. They may not have to wait long—but for what?

Extract from

Buenos Aires Herald

Argentina

Date: 21 MAR 1968

BRITAIN MAY SELL SHIPS TO ARGENTINA

London

BRITAIN is in contact with the Argentine government about the possible sale of ships, defence secretary Denis Healey told parliament yesterday.

He was replying to opposition Conservative member Michael Hutchison who suggested an Anglo-Argentine deal concerning naval or other ships might "have something to do with the future of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands."

Hutchison was referring to Britain's confidential talks with Argentina about the British-ruled islands which are claimed by Argentina.

Healey did not give details in parliament about the number or type of ships involved and officials sources were later unable to elaborate. (Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from

Natal Daily News, Durban, S. Africa

29 MAR 1968

Falklands hope to stay British

By Alvin Shuster

BRITAIN, trying to close down the empire, has run into problems with 2,000 islanders living 8,000 miles from here. They want to remain British — and that could prove awkward.

They live off the coast of Argentina in the Falkland Islands, a supply and docking base in the days when Britain ruled the waves.

Like the empire itself, British seapower is no longer what it used to be and to keep a colony that far away might well prove to be a burden. Recently Mauritius, another island useful in the days of seapower, ended its status as a colony and became independent.

Interests

Britain has been negotiating with Argentina over the fate of the islands. The residents there, most of English and Scottish descent, feel the talks are going against their interests. Their officials notified all Members of Parliament this week that the talks could well result in handing the islands over to Argentine — much against the islander's own desires.

This month, members of the House of Lords asked the Government whether Britain was now in fact about to bargain away the sovereignty of a British colony.

Some Lords suggested a referendum like the recent one in Gibraltar, where a majority of residents said they preferred colonial links with Britain rather than Spanish rule.

Lord Chalfont, a Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs, replied that it was "too early to comment on the suggestion of a referendum," but he said the Government was being guided by a "strong regard for the interests of the islanders."

So far, Lord Chalfont said, the islanders have not been informed of the progress of the discussions, which were suggested by the United Nations Committee on Colonialism four years ago.

Wool

In the negotiations, the British are understood to be pressing Argentina to establish some links to the Falklands rather than to continue to show its irritation by making life difficult for the islanders.

Argentina does not trade with the islands, just 250 miles away, and permits no boat service. The only regular service is a small boat that travels once a month between the Falklands and Montevideo, Uruguay.

The economy of the islands is based almost entirely on wool that is exported direct to Britain.

In reply to British suggestions of closer contacts, Argentina is understood to be pressing for agreement in principle on eventual cession as a first step. — New York Times.

Extract from

Buenos Aires Herald

Argentina

Date: 23 MAR 1968

Islander in talks with Commonwealth Minister

London
A REHUR Grenfell Barton, an executive councillor for the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands, met for an hour yesterday with Lord Shepherd, Minister of State for Commonwealth affairs.

Residents of the southernmost islands in Britain's possession have been protesting secret talks held by Britain and Argentina. The Latin American nation claims the islands, which are largely British settled, under Spanish treaties from the early exploration days. (UP)

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

Christchurch Star, New Zealand

25 MAR 1968

FACT, COMMENT, GOSSIP

By P. Familias

THE exchanges on operations on the Lyttelton waterfront have prompted a reader to inquire if some personal details could be given about Captain H. J. C. Van Lent, who has been outspoken CAPTAIN'S about port problems. Captain CAREER Van Lent has willingly made available much material about his life. He has provided copies of testimonials from his marine employers, and has authorised me to publish what is relevant. This I am happy to do.

Captain Van Lent was born in Holland in 1918, and after schooling spent two years in the Netherlands Nautical Training Academy. Then he went to sea for practical experience, working in coastal vessels, sailing, training ships, and foreign-going freighters.

He joined the Shell Company in 1938, and in the following year received his master's ticket. From then, and right through World War II, and up to 1949, he was at sea, in command from 1942 to 1949. And during the war period his service was in the highly risky tanker business. Twice he was torpedoed, and on one occasion was in the water for forty-eight hours before being rescued.

In 1950 he went to Indonesia in the employ of a firm engaged in shipping agency work, in stevedoring, in wharfing, in carrying branch manager, and at times would have one thousand daily labourers under his control. Operations extended over six large wharf sheds and three quays, and every day four or five foreign-going ships would be serviced.

Captain Van Lent was forced into an abrupt change of career by Indonesian independence. His firm was confiscated by the waterfront union in 1956, and he was ordered to leave the country within twenty-four hours. He lost all his property and belongings.

He went back to Holland, and ten years ago came to New Zealand. During that decade he has worked in Nelson, Wellington, and latterly Christchurch, and for a time was a watersider in the capital. Though now engaged in a shore job, he retains his interest in all things nautical. He is a committee member of the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Company of Master Mariners.

Captain Van Lent is now a New Zealander. He was naturalised in 1963.

A COPY of the petition sent to British members of Parliament by the people of the Falkland Islands who object to the handing over of their homeland to the Argentine has reached Christ- ISLANDERS church. It was sent to Mr COMPLAIN R. T. Turnbull, of Memorial Avenue, by his son, Captain D. H. Turnbull, who for nearly nine years has been master of the British Antarctic survey ship, Shackleton, which, for several months of the year, is based in the Falklands.

The petition points out that the Falklands people—"as British as you are"—have never been consulted about their future and the present negotiations between the British and Argentine governments.

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture, because for 135 years they have happily pursued their own way of life, a very British way of life, unique in fact when you consider that the islands are 8000 miles from the country which they still call 'Home' in spite of the Immigration Act," states the petition.

"We need your help," says the petition, which poses four questions for British M.P.s to ponder:

"Is our tiny community to be used as a pawn in power politics?
"Do you not feel ashamed that this wicked thing may be suddenly foisted upon us?
"What can you do to prevent it?
"What are you doing?"

MR TURNBULL tells me that his son, Timaru-born but an old boy of Christ's College, has his permanent home at Southampton, but for most of the year is engaged in Antarctic waters on missions

COLLEGE of re-supply and exchanges of OLD BOY scientific teams, some fresh from England, others due for relief. Captain Turnbull got his sea training as an apprentice with the Port Line, and after some experience on the New Zealand coast, went to England where he gained his extra master's certificate. He was appointed as a ship surveyor with the Ministry of Transport, but the call of the sea was too strong to be denied so he took the appointment of master of the Shackleton, a ship specially strengthened for ice conditions and something of the type of the Magga Dan, recently in New Zealand waters after making her debut in this part of the world as an Antarctic cruise ship.

Captain Turnbull works in close association with Sir Vivian Fuchs, of Everest and Antarctic fame, who is head of the British Antarctic Survey. Indeed, Mr Turnbull has a treasured souvenir of a visit to England not so long ago—a photograph of himself, his son and Sir Vivian Fuchs standing on the deck of the Shackleton.

The Shackleton is due back in Southampton early in May when Captain Turnbull will spend some brief months at home. It is his present hope to see out a full ten years in the ship of which he speaks so warmly in his letters. Captain Turnbull is a member of a family with the sea in their blood for the family business is the Timaru shipping agency firm of D. C. Turnbull and Company.

★

A MUSIC teacher colleague, Miss Irene Lassen, pays a warm tribute to the late Mr Arthur Bell, who was a singing teacher of note for many years. "Many of the leading singers in Christ-

TRIBUTE TO church and other parts of New Zealand came from his studio," writes Miss Lassen.

"Some to-day are broadcasting celebrities." Miss Lassen remembers Mr Bell's outstanding voice when he was chosen as a soloist for the first visit to New Zealand of the pianist, Eileen Joyce, when she was a young woman. "The community will feel the loss of such a singer and teacher," writes Miss Lassen.

España

TANGER

Fecha 27 APR 1968



UNA VIJITA COMPROMETIDA PARA LA REINA ISABEL

La reina Isabel II de Inglaterra tiene proyectado para el próximo mes de mayo un viaje por diversos países suramericanos. Pero a causa del problema de las Malvinas el periplo se presenta bastante delicado y es posible que incluso se cancele. Ayer, un portavoz del Gobierno argentino informó que no se había cursado ninguna invitación a la soberana para que visitase el país hispano que el hecho de no hacer Argentina en el viaje revulvaría, por parte de la reina, una acertada parábola al tener que poder sentir de manifestaciones hostiles a su persona.

Las Islas Malvinas se encuentran a unos 50 kms. al este del Estrecho de Magallanes, en el Atlántico, a la altura del paralelo 52, es decir tienen una superficie total de 11.718 kms. cuadrados y una reducida población de dos mil quinientos habitantes —súbditos británicos— las Malvinas fueron descubiertas por el gran navegante Magallanes, pero hasta 1763 no fueron ocupadas. Se encargaría de ello Luis Antonio de Bougainville, el navegante francés que se distinguió en la toma de Quebec (1759) junto al general Montcalm. Fue este Bougainville quien les dio el nombre de «Malvinas», fundado en una de sus islas principales la ciudad de Port-Saint-Louis. Dos años más tarde la presencia francesa en las islas puesto que en 1765 la escuadra del comodoro Byron las asoló en un acto típico de la Marina inglesa de entonces. Un siglo atrás, el capitán inglés John Strong les había bautizado con el nombre de Falkland en honor de un protector que se llamaba así.

Cuando Bougainville se retiró y se protestó la toma de posesión inglesa, España obtuvo la soberanía sobre las islas en 1770 logándose al fin a un acuerdo con Inglaterra por el que se retiró de las Falkland en 1774. Después, al acceder Argentina a la independencia, se hizo cargo este país de su administración, volviendo a emplearse el nombre de «Malvinas» pero españolizado en «Malvinas». Argentina envió a un gobernador, Luis Vernet. Pero el archipiélago fue tomado otra vez por los ingleses que expulsaron a la guarnición argentina en 1833 y en 1851 elevaba las islas a la categoría de colonia, cuando los argentinos no tenían poder para protestar con eficacia aunque no han dejado de hacerlo con todos sus medios. El interés estratégico de las islas, que habían entrevisto los ingleses, se puso de manifiesto durante la I guerra mundial, cuando la escuadra británica derrotó a la flota alemana en la célebre batalla de las Falkland.

Este es, en resumen, la historia de las islas que reivindica la República Argentina y que Inglaterra se niega a devolver. Los Gobiernos de los dos países en litigio se han opuesto a un referéndum de la población ya que los ingleses desean proteger a sus súbditos allí instalados que viven de la cría de ganado y los argentinos no quieren oír hablar de una discusión del principio de soberanía. Hace algún tiempo que existen conversaciones secretas entre los dos países, pero hasta ahora no han dado ningún resultado. Es lógico que la reina Isabel, tema que su avanzado viaje tropiece con una hostilidad manifiesta de los argentinos, unánimes en la reclamación del archipiélago.

Extract from
Christchurch Star, New Zealand

Falkland Islands

THERE can be no quibbling about the Falkland Islands. They are British and must remain British, as long as the 2000 islanders so wish. Lord Caradon told the United Nations bluntly back in 1965: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed by barter." Yet this is exactly what the Government has just been trying to do. For Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, confirms that he has been secretly discussing the sovereignty of the Falklands with the rapacious Argentinians. He did not consult the islanders because he knows that the last thing they want is to be taken over by Argentina. His excuse was that, although the sovereignty is "legally ours," talks are better than letting the situation "fester." But it is better to speak out clearly than to give the Argentinians false hopes of concessions. If the Government was not selling the Falklanders down the river, what was there to discuss?—"Daily Mail," London.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Montreal Star, Canada

30 APR 1968

Falklands oppose takeover

OTTAWA, April 30 — The 2,200 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, some 375 miles northeast of Cape Horn, are petitioning a few individual Canadians as well as British MPs in their campaign to stay British.

This petition says the British government at any moment may hand over the Falklands to Argentina without so much as asking the islanders their opinion.

Some residents here have received copies of the petition and one was made available to The Canadian Press.

The islanders do not want to become Argentinians, says the petition, and it demands:

"What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help!"

Foreign Minister Ortiz of Argentina has declared that the Falklands are "an integral part of our national soil" and that this country must have them back.

The Falklands were Spanish when Argentina won its independence in 1816 and became Argentine territory at that

time. The British expelled an Argentine garrison in 1833 and the islands were settled by the British in 1842.

In 1966, the British government stated that the islands, sovereignty was British and not negotiable. Lately, however, it has kept silence on their future.

The only town in the Falklands, where the main industry is sheep farming, is Port Stanley. There is no airfield and a few Canadian Beaver sea planes.

The main supply ship runs about once a month between Port Stanley and Montevideo, Uruguay. Smaller boats ply among the islands, delivering passengers, mail and good

Extract from
Hobart Mercury, Tasmania

THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS ARE PUZZLED PEOPLE

IT is reported in a letter to the London "Times" that an albatross has recently made its home on an island off the coast of Scotland.

These magnificent Antarctic birds have been stranded in the Northern Hemisphere before, the letter-writer recalls. Only too often they find the inhospitality of the northern gulls and gannets very disconcerting.

The puzzlement of the albatross is shared by another visitor from the South Atlantic who has just arrived in Britain. He is Mr. A. G. Barton, one of the four elected members of the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands. Mr. Barton is worried about the talks now going on between the British and Argentine Governments about this diminutive British colony. He and his 2,000 co-islanders are convinced that Britain is about to hand over the Falklands, after 130 years of uninterrupted rule, to the Government in Buenos Aires.

The Falkland Islands — East Falkland and West Falkland, both of about 2,000 square miles in area — are only 300 miles off the coast of Argentina. The Argentine Government has been claiming them as part of its territory on and off since they gained their own independence from Spain in 1816. They

have certainly been pressing their claim at the United Nations ever since that body was founded.

The Falkland Islanders and the British Government have learned to live with this. Ships calling at Stanley, the colony's capital, for example, dock at

less than sovereignty over the islands, which they call the Malvinas.

The majority of the Falkland Islanders are of English stock, and all of them are now English-speaking. Some have come to work in the British Government's wireless station, but most are descendants of the whalers and seal fishermen who settled there in the 19th century. Today, they mostly farm sheep. Their exports of wool and whale and seal oil more than pay for the islands' import needs.

DAVID PERMAN
writes from LONDON

Montevideo in Uruguay, not Buenos Aires. And periodical "invasions" by groups of young Argentine extremists are dealt with as unemotionally as possible. When the last invaders came in a hijacked aircraft in 1966, the colony's Governor kept the Argentinians in their plane lest any Falklander cause a diplomatic incident by snooting at them.

This long-standing comic opera situation has now been changed by the decision of the British Government to talk to Argentina about the Falkland Islands at the behest of the United Nations Committee on Colonialism. In the islanders' view, there is nothing to talk about. It is plain to them all — and to many British members of Parliament — that the Argentinians will accept nothing

But — and this brings us back to the unfortunate albatross — Britain is no longer the "home" that the Falkland Islanders have always considered it. The British Government is reducing the size of its empire and other commitments overseas at a rapid rate.

And the tradition of friendly relations between Britain and Argentina — which have always kept the Argentine claims on the Falklands within moderate bounds — have now been soured by the dispute over whether imported Argentine meat caused the recent very serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom.

One would like to think that Mr. Barton will get back to the Southern Hemisphere safely and be able to report that the northerners are friendly. It is doubtful if the albatross ever will.

'We're As British As Westminster'

LONDON.—The trouble with the world these days is that you can't get away from it. Take the Falkland Islanders. Who'd ever think they'd become an international problem?

By GENE
SHERMAN

For 135 years 2000 of them, nearly all of British origin, have been raising a few sheep, processing a few whales, sipping a bit of English bitter now and then and minding their own business.

They like it that way on their hilly, cool, moorland islands in the South Atlantic about 500 miles north-east of Cape Horn.

But now other people are minding their business. Namely Britain and Argentina.

The Buenos Aires Government wants the island back. Its claim is geographic (the Falklands are part of the continental shelf off the Argentine coast) and historic (Argentina moved in when the British and French moved out in 1820).

"No!" says the Crown colony. Like the Gibraltarians, the Falklanders want to remain British.

"We're as British as Westminster," said the spokesman for four Falklanders who showed up in London recently to demand recognition.

"We don't want to become Argentines. We're mostly of English and Scottish ancestry, even to the sixth generation. Five out of six of us were born on the islands. Many elderly people have

never been anywhere else. We have no racial problem, no unemployment, no poverty, no debts.

"We don't want to submit to a foreign language, law, customs, and culture, because for 135 years we've happily pursued our own peaceful way of life."

Reconsidered

John Davis, an English explorer, first sighted the Falklands in 1592. But the French first settled them in 1764. They built a village on East Falkland.

The next year, the British built a village on West Falkland. When both countries abandoned the colonies, the Argentinians grabbed East Falkland.

Twelve years later the British reconsidered again and recaptured the islands "for the protection of the seal fisheries."

They became the southernmost organised colony of the empire. Spain got in briefly, but bowed to the British claim.

The Argentinians have been determined to regain them since the British, according to the Buenos Aires Government, dispossessed them from what they call the Islas Malvinas.

Three years ago the General Assembly of the United Nations gave an okay for talks between the two countries. They've been going on secretly since 1966.

More than the islands' 62 square miles is at stake.

Fearful

"The people of this territory are not to be betrayed, bartered," Lord Caradon, the United Nations when resolution was passed, "wishes and interests paramount."

So far, the Falklanders have not been consulted by Argentina, maintaining their "interests" rather than their "wishes" should be considered, rejects a plea.

It's all very friendly present. But the Falklanders are fearful that the remote and windy island with its more than 2 million sheep may become a "Bull" before they can say "Bull."

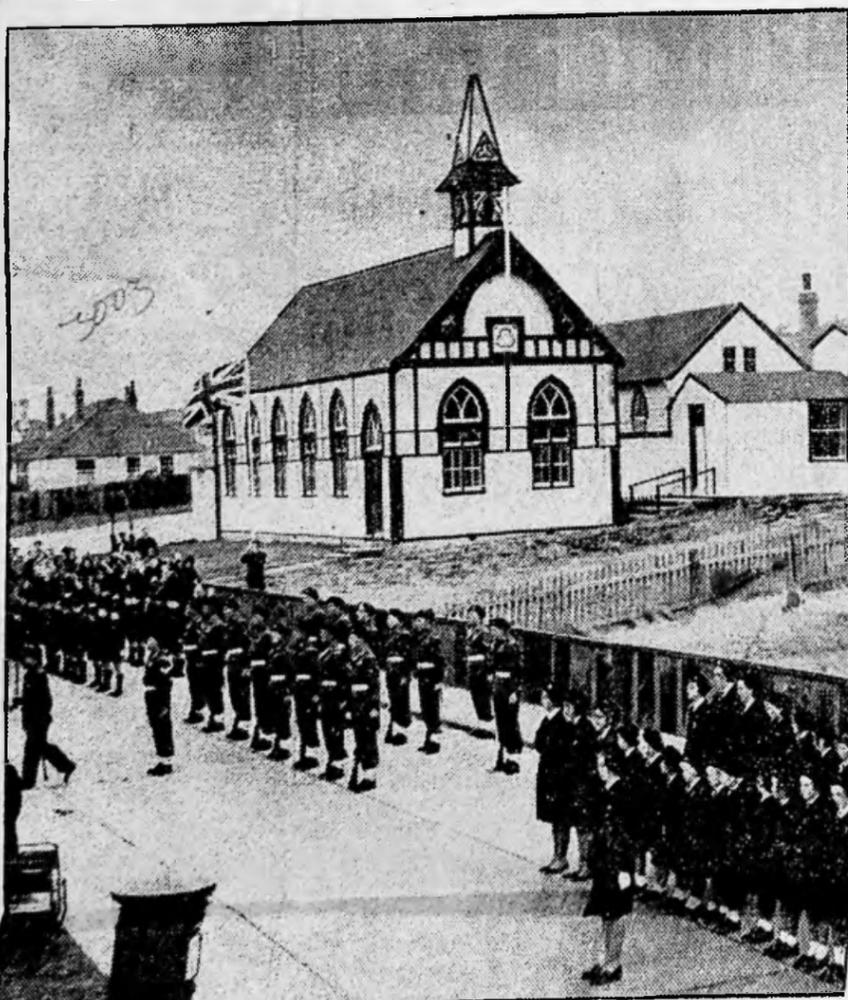
The fate of the island won't tip the balance of power. But it shows how hard it is to get things done these days.

(Since the above was published, the British Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, has announced that the Falklands will be handed over to Argentina without the consent.)

Extract from
Wellington Evening Post, New Zealand

- 6 APR 1968

FALKLANDERS' PROBLEM



If you're thinking it's a funny looking church for Britain . . . it isn't Britain. It's a parade of sea and army cadets and girl guides outside a church in Stanley in the Falkland Islands. The occasion was the Queen's birthday.

Extract from
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks
- 2 MAY 1968

THE DAILY MAIL

ESTABLISHED 1885, INCORPORATING THE HULL PACKET
(1787) and the HULL EVENING NEWS

HEAD OFFICE: Jameson Street, Hull (Tel. 27111, STD 0482)
LONDON: Carmelite House, E.C.4 (Tel. Fleet Street 6000)

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1968

3003 LOST PRIDE

THE MAY DAY BATTLE outside the House of Commons yesterday was a monstrous thing to have happened. It pinpointed a situation of which most people in this country are heartily sick—the never-ending stream of protest demonstrations, the yelling students who seem to have nothing better to do than make a complete nuisance of themselves, the provocations to violence, the wanton assaults by the

antis—this on the anti-s—that. Is all this merely a passing phase of unrest or does it mirror a deeper malaise? It is fashionable in certain quarters — notably among the so-called “progressives,” the self-opiniated, unkempt, belligerent “pacifists,” the Left-wing intellectuals who appear to see good in every country but their own—to deride the Britain of the early half of the century. Times were hard in those days, there were many social injustices—but there were also pride in one's country, a sense of social discipline sadly lacking in many sections of the community today, a common interest in the nation's standing abroad and a regard for moral principles that put character and backbone into the British race.

Somehow and soon, unless the country is to drift further into the morass, a start towards recovery must be made. In the first place, what Britain needs above all else is strong, effective leadership free from self or party interest, free from gimmickry. The people for the most part resent the inadequacies, the hostilities, the lack of purpose and drive which they see around them today.

In the field of international affairs (and in the past Britain's record in this sphere was a proud and honourable one of fair dealing) we appease the clamouring voices in the United Nations, we put expediency before what is right. We upset our friends and those who depend on us—the Gibraltarians, the Falkland Islanders, the Malaysians. We loosen our ties with our own kith and kin in Australia, New Zealand and Southern Africa. Once, the Englishman's word was his bond; today, alas, there are blots on the escutcheon.

Fortunately, there are signs that the British people have had enough of the catalogue of governmental mismanagement. They are eager to put their hands to the task of revitalising the nation, ending incompetence, finding a new pride and purpose in achievement. They want to end the slide.

AS
WE
SEE
IT

Extract from
Irish Times, Dublin

- 2 MAY 1968

On the Agenda

Although the question of the future of the Falkland Islands has rather receded from the headline prominence attained some weeks ago, it remains a matter calling for rather more than the usual diplomatic niceties. The visit to the Foreign Office today of Señor McLoughlin, the Argentinian Ambassador, is taken as representing yet another round of discussions. It is believed that Britain is taking the line that as long as the islanders can remain British for as long as they wish there is no reason why the item cannot remain on the agenda.

The Queen's tour of South America, although many months away, has some bearing on the matter. She is to visit Brazil and Chile and the eventual decision as to whether or not to include the Argentine may well depend on the subject of the Falklands being kept well below crisis point.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

Date 3 MAY 1968

Will Britain pull out?

By JOHN FISHER, Our Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Argentine Ambassador in London, Señor Brigadier Don Eduardo F. McLoughlin, called on Mr. Michael Stewart at the Foreign Office this week. Subject: The Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands—like British Honduras, Aden, and, I am afraid to say, Gibraltar — have gradually become an embarrassment to Britain.

They are 8,000 miles away and are not easily reached. There is no airfield. You can, of course, reach the islands by sea, but you cannot take your ship on to Buenos Aires harbour because if you do the Argentinians will claim you have entered their territory illegally without having cleared Customs.

Cold and windy

Mail or parcels cannot go via Buenos Aires, the nearest big harbour though it is 1,200 miles away, for they are likely to be “returned to sender” or, at least delayed and re-addressed to the Malvinas Islands, which is the

Argentine name for the archipelago.

In terms of hard cash, the Falkland Islands are not much of a catch. Most years there is a sizeable deficit in the Budget. Nor can it be said that every other prospect pleases.

The islands are about the same distance south of the Equator as London is north “But apart from hours of sunshine which are similar” (to use the official words of the Commonwealth Office Year Book) “there are marked climatic differences.”

These, include a strong wind which blows throughout the year. The temperature falls at times to 10 degrees below freezing.

The Falkland Islands are scattered over some 4,700 miles of the ocean and are noted for their treeless moorland scenery—liberally strewn with angular boulders. Stanley, population 1,000, is the only town.

The children take their lessons either in very small schools or from teachers

who travel on ponies from place to place. A boarding school which opened 10 years ago had to close for lack of support. There are no roads except in Stanley.

The total population is just over 2,000 (compared with 20,000 holders of British passports in the Argentine) and the main activity is sheep-raising.

Conquest

It's surprising that the Argentine want to claim this British “jewel.” But as a matter of national prestige they claim that they succeeded by right of conquest to the empire of Spain which once controlled most of South America.

They argue that even if the population is of British descent, it is artificially maintained. The natural geographical link is with the Argentine.

They threaten that any Falkland Islander who lands in the Argentine Republic, may be called upon to pay taxes as Argen-

tine citizens and, if necessary, do military service.

Such sanctions are, of course, ineffective. The islanders go instead to Montevideo, in Uruguay. They can export their wool clip direct to England.

The sanctions, as often happens, instead of bringing them to their knees, have made them more loyal than ever to their own government. They speak no Spanish and would probably rather leave their homes than be ruled by Argentinians.

The solution? A treaty on the lines of the proposed Anglo-Guatemalan agreement would be the least desirable approach, because this would make the islanders part of a political wrangle here and would reduce the chances of any reasonable compromise.

A campaign to induce the islanders to move might be equally unsuccessful for the same reason.

It could well be that the best policy of all is to wait and see.

During the past 60 years,



the population of the Argentine has increased from five million to 22m. That of the Falkland Islands has increased by approximately 50. There is a marked shortage of females.

It is probably the women who feel most the disadvantages of housekeeping 8,000 miles away from “civilisation” and who are least interested in working their fingers to the bone in a land which, year after year, is going to become less and less attractive compared with other places

Extract from
Wellington Evening Post, New Zealand

FIVE MILLION WANT TO STAY BRITISH

By James Davies in the "Daily Express," London

WHEN a Falkland Islander talks of "home" he doesn't mean the rainswept sheep pastures of the South Atlantic. He means Britain—8000 miles away.

Probably he has never been there. But he drinks bottled Bass, plays whist, waits eagerly for his airmailed London newspapers—and speaks English.

And his fervent belief in things British finds tongue in sentiments like those of Legislative Council member Richard Goss. Voicing fears that Britain and the Argentine were engaged in secret handover talks. Goss said:

"No place on God's earth is more British than the Falkland Islands, so there can be no doubt that we are British. And it follows that we must and will get a fair deal."

A naive belief the cynics will say as nations scramble hurriedly for independence. But one passionately shared wherever the Union Jack still flies.

From Gibraltar, where the posters proclaim "We're OK with the UK" to palm-treed Lautoka in Fiji, where the kids going to Natabua Secondary School pass night and morning through a pair of giant decorative gates—erected in honour of the British taxpayer.

There are 21 dependent territories for which the Commonwealth Office is responsible. About 5,500,000 people live in them.

They spread from Antarctica to the Mediterranean, from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

Some teem with multi-racial life such as Hongkong with its 3,750,000 population. Others are little more than coral specks in the ocean such as Pitcairn, the Mutiny on the Bounty isle where 107 people live—some of them still called Fletcher Christian.

The people who belong to this far-flung club speak many tongues and inherit vastly differing cultures.

But they share a pride in their association with Britain that the UNO committees on colonialism find too bizarre to swallow.

In the Maldives—that necklet of atolls strung through the Indian Ocean south of Ceylon—they even had a pro-British riot.

That was eight years ago and it took a sophisticated touch of gunboat diplomacy—a Soccer match between the locals and the company of HMS Ganges—to restore sanity and end the self-proclaimed pro-London United Suvadive Republic. The Maldives are now independent.

In Fiji (where the last recorded case of cannibalism was only 90 years ago) they

... at a time when British talks with Spain on Gibraltar are commencing once again, attention focused on the other outposts of the old Empire. Places still in need of the protection of Britain . . . places which should not be forgotten by Britain just because they are small.

will have none of it. The native Fijians, outnumbered by the Indians brought there by Britain to work in the cane fields, asked for the same status as the Isle of Man. It was refused.

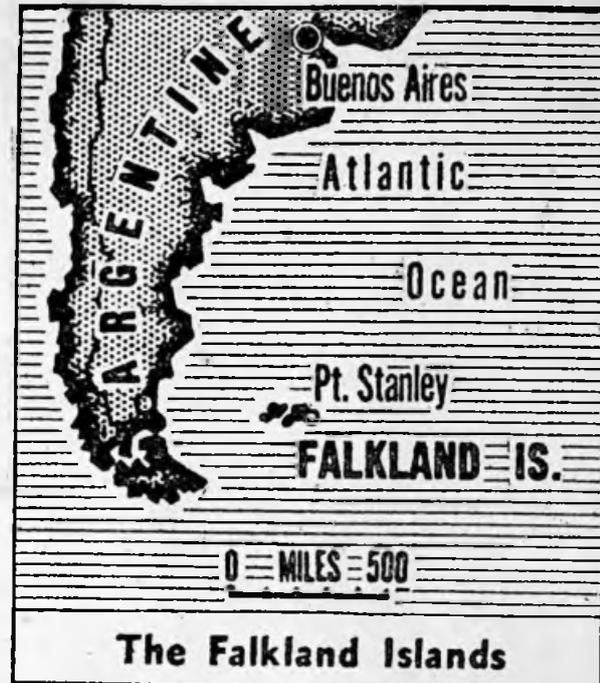
But its leaders constantly reiterate the theme: "There must be a continuing link with the Crown."

In the 92-island Seychelles group, a paradise of coconut trees and perpetual sunshine in the Indian Ocean, British-trained barrister James Mancham is also pushing for integration with Britain.

Their Wish

Mr Mancham, 29, is leader of the majority Democratic Party. He says that 30,000 Seychellois, spread over 800 miles, are not a viable proposition for independence.

"In any case we don't want it," said Mr Mancham, who speaks Creole and is



The Falkland Islands

of French - Chinese stock. "We cannot afford it and we are hopeful of some form of integration — perhaps on the lines of the Channel Islands."

Coveted

Some of Britain's territories are coveted by other nations. Spain puts unsubtle pressure on Gibraltar. Guatemala claims the tiny sugar Colony of British Honduras (pop: 100,000) perched on the Yucatan Peninsula of Central America.

The people in both fiercely proclaim their desire to go along with Britain.

Asked why, Gibraltar's Chief Minister Sir Joshua Hassan once said: "Because we are patriotic — and I'm not ashamed of the world. We were brought up to the British way of life and that

s the way we want to continue."

Spirit

In the Falklands, which the Argentine calls the Malvinas, they know all about the Dunkirk spirit.

When the boarding party from the Argentine invaded the islands in its DC3 18 months ago the one thing that upset the islanders was that their weekly game of whist at St Mary's Church was interrupted.

Farm manager Roy Cove, a candidate for the Legislative Council, said this week: "The old British spirit is still there. What has been ours for 135 years is worth fighting for. If we are sold down the river by smooth-tongued politicians that spirit remains in Britain — we shall have 50,000,000 Britons behind us."

Southland Daily News,
Invercargill, New Zealand

28 MAR 1968

Falklands To

Bowling Analysis	
O. M. R. W.	9 3 19 0
P. Clark	21 11 40 6
G. Thomson	13 3 34 0
M. Pascoe	10 2 32 1
B. McKechnie	9 2 17 1
A. Henry	1 0 14 0
J. Shaw	12 2 26 1
R. Stewart	

SOUTHLAND BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

First Innings 93
Second Innings 15

M. Calbraith c Blair b Wyeth 15
N. Adam b MacKenzie 8

Part of wickets: one for 5, two for 10, three for 71, four for 109, five for 110, six for 146, seven for 168, eight for 179, nine for 179.

Extract from
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

- 7 MAY 1968

Tories want stronger foreign policy

One Conservative member suggested yesterday that the Government's foreign policy was to disarm, apologise and retreat, another said that the Gibraltar situation had been aggravated by negotiations about the Falkland Islands and British Honduras.

In a statement on the closure by Spain of the land frontier with Gibraltar, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, had said the restrictions were like the earlier one, unjustified.

Mr. Stewart continued: "Her Majesty's Government remain determined to sustain the people of Gibraltar in the difficulties which they are facing as a result of the policies of the Spanish Government."

Holiday issue

Mr. John Tilney (Con., Liverpool Wavertree) suggested that Britain should clamp down on tourists visiting Spain.

Mr. Stewart said it was doubtful whether it would be proper to tell individuals where they should or should not spend their holidays.

Mr. Stephen Hastings (Con., Mid-Bedfordshire) suggested that a suitable description for the British Government's foreign policy would be "apologise, disarm and retreat."

Mr. Stewart: "You are always trying to make mischief and always doing it with complete success: In this case we have neither apologised nor retreated."

'Sick and tired'

Sir Arthur Harvey (Con., Macclesfield) said: "Many people think the situation has been aggravated by the Government's negotiations with the Argentine, and over British Honduras.

"Every few months we are told by the Foreign Secretary that something will be done.

"The British people are sick and tired of the British Government trailing its coat-tails behind General Franco. Will you take an initiative?"

Mr. Stewart: "Since November 1966, £2 million has been given in development aid to Gibraltar and in budgetary aid by the British Government.

"When one talks of action, one has got to consider what kind of action will help the people of Gibraltar."

Extract from
Oldham Evening Chronicle, Lancs.

- 6 MAY 1968

Oldham Evening Chronicle

MONDAY, MAY 6, 1968.
TELEPHONE MED 2121

Britain and the Rock

GENERAL FRANCO is playing politics again. Beset by problems at home, the Spanish dictator has renewed the pressure on Gibraltar to divert attention from the demonstrations against his own regime.

For Gibraltar, however, the price of being a political pawn is high; the new Spanish restrictions will virtually kill the colony's position as a tourist staging post, delivering a major blow against the economy.

The need for Britain to confirm categorical support for the people of Gibraltar is, therefore, increased. Such a move would certainly bring protests, notably from the United Nations, who have been pressing for the decolonisation of the Rock, but the Government's case is immeasurably strengthened by Gibraltar's near-unanimous wish to stay British.

This is a fact consistently ignored by Spain in her claims to sovereignty over the Rock, and if Britain were to forsake the colony, it would be an act of cruelty and indifference. Surely, the people of Gibraltar are entitled to decide their own destiny.

The United Nations' attitude here must be ignored. The judgments of this august body are often held to be infallible, but where is the justice in forcing a people, against their will, to bow to the rule of a Fascist dictator?

Britain's duty is clear. There must be no half-hearted gestures, no indecisive pandering, as in the case of the Falkland Islands. The Government should declare its unqualified backing for Gibraltar.

The possibilities of a resort to force are slight. General Franco is undoubtedly keen to get his hands on the Rock, but it is unlikely that he would be prepared to go to war in order to fulfil his childish fancies.

Apart from this, Gibraltar is economically more valuable to Spain if she remains intact. The 5,000 Spaniards who daily cross the border at La Linea to work in the colony take home more than £2 million a year in foreign exchange, which is hardly to be sneezed at.

It is also highly unlikely that a threat of armed action by Britain would spark off international repercussions. With the Gibraltarians' own wishes in the foreground, Britain has all the right on her side. Spain, in any case, has few friends abroad.

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post LEEDS

Date - 9 MAY 1968

Falklanders appeal to Canadians

The people of the Falklands Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British, says Associated Press.

They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says.

"They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life."

It asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Huddersfield Examiner

8 MAY 1968

Falklanders ask Canada to help

Ottawa. — People of the Falklands Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British. They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them. — AP.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
South Wales Evening Post, Swansea

- 8 MAY 1968

Falklanders appeal to Canadians

The people of the Falklands Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British, says Associated Press from Ottawa.

They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

The petition asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need help."

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 6 MAY 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

59. Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what has been the cost to public funds of the publicity through the British Embassy in Buenos Aires and by other methods to explain the Government's policy regarding the future of the Falkland Islands.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Goronwy Roberts): To explain Her Majesty's Government's policy about the future of the Falkland Islands is part of the normal duties of certain departments in the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office and of Her Majesty's Embassy, Buenos Aires. It is not possible to isolate the cost to public funds of this aspect of their work.

Mr. Clark Hutchison: In that publicity, will our Embassy in Buenos Aires and Her Majesty's Government make it plain to the people of the Argentine that the Falkland Islands are British and wish to remain British? There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of the people of the Argentine.

Mr. Roberts: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made a full statement on the matter on 27th March and subsequently in answer to Questions on 1st April. I am told that the Argentine Press carried a full and factual report of both statements, and our position is wholly understood in that country.

Mr. Braine: Has the Government's policy in the matter yet been fully explained to the people of the Falkland Islands?

Mr. Roberts: The Governor of the Falkland Islands is kept closely informed of developments in the matter, and he is authorised to inform the Executive Council of the Islands of developments, in confidence.

Extract from
Nuneaton Evening Tribune

8 MAY 1968

Falklanders appeal to Canadians

The people of the Falklands Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their effort to stay British. They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says.

"They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life." It asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help."

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 7 MAY 1968

COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Falkland Islands

64. Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to establish a direct air link between the Falkland Islands and Chile.

Mr. Whitlock: There is no airfield in the Falkland Islands, but the Governor is examining a possible site on which the Board of Trade are being asked to provide technical advice.

65. Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what communications he has received from the Australian and New Zealand Governments about the future of the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement on the discussion he has held with the representatives of these Governments on this subject.

Mr. George Thomson: No communications about the Falkland Islands have been received from the Australian or New Zealand Governments nor has the subject been discussed with them.

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to establish a tanning factory in the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: None. No request has been received from the Falkland Islands to do this.

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what discussion he has had with the Falkland Islands Government about establishing a canning factory for pet foods in the Islands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: No approach has been made to me on this subject by the Falkland Islands Government.

Extract from
Shropshire Star, Wellington

8 MAY 1968

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They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says. "They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life."

Extract from
Evening News, London

- 8 MAY 1968

PLEA TO CANADA TO HELP ISLANDS STAY BRITISH

Ottawa.—The people of the Falklands Islands, Britain's tiny bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are now petitioning Canadians in their bid to stay British.

They say the British Government may hand them over to Argentina, which claims them, "at any moment."

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says. "They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life."

It asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help."

Extract from
Worcester Evening News, Worcester

8 MAY 1968

Islanders appeal to Canadians

OTTAWA, Wednesday.—The people of the Falklands Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British.

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Extract from
Dublin Evening Press

- 8 MAY 1968

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Extract from
Manchester Evening News

- 8 MAY 1968

Islanders appeal to Canada

PEOPLE of the Falkland Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British. They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them. "The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says. "They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life." It asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help."

184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from the

DERBYSHIRE ADVERTISER DERBY

THE COUNTY NEWSPAPER
17 MAY 1968

Date
(See i

DERBY TEACHER FOR FALKLAND ISLANDS

Soon to leave for the Falkland Islands to take up a teaching appointment, will be Mr. Peter Bernard Gilding (23), of 40, Belper Road, Derby, who has been recruited by the Ministry of Overseas Development as an assistant master. He is due to travel to Montevideo on July 17th, where he and his wife will board the H.M.V. Darwin on July 19th to sail for the Islands.

He will be required to teach general subjects to 12- to 15-year-old children and will probably be posted to Stanley, the capital, on East Falkland, but may teach anywhere in the Islands.

He has been designated under the overseas service aid scheme, introduced as a means by which the Government assists with the remuneration, passage costs and other allowances of British officers serving overseas.

Mr. Gilding is married to a State Registered Nurse.

International Press-cutting Bureau
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

22 MAY 1968

Date

Airline sues hi-jackers

The Argentine State airline instituted proceedings for damages against 17 young men and a woman who hi-jacked one of its DC4 aircraft to "occupy" the British-Administered Falkland Islands on September 26, 1966, Reuter reports from Buenos Ayres.

The group alleged that the hi-jack was a publicity stunt and suggested a settlement by paying one Argentine Peso (about a farthing).

Court sources said the airline's demand was for 11,179,727 pesos (about £13,500).

The hi-jackers had wanted to protest against Britain's administration of the islands which Argentina claims as part of its territory.

Extract from

"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

21 MAY 1968

Falkland Islands (Emigration)

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs how many people have emigrated permanently from the Falkland Islands in the last three years.

Mr. George Thomson: 113 people.

Extract from
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

21 MAY 1968

Falklanders want a firm Britain

A MEMBER of the Falkland Island Legislative Council, Mr. S. Miller, has called for a British statesman "with the courage of a Pitt or a Churchill" to end the present British talks with Argentina over the future of the bleak South Atlantic islands, which Argentina claims are hers. The senior councillor, Mr. R. V. Goss, speaking at the first meeting of the newly-elected council yesterday, also urged Britain to consider further the defence of the Falklands.

Another member, Mr. R. M. Pitaluga, said he felt the island's future sovereignty was still very much in doubt and that the islanders could not relax for a moment until they got full, firm and final assurances from Britain that they would not be handed over to Argentina in any circumstances.

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

22 MAY 1968

Falklands visit?

The Queen may visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour later this year, Mr George Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, told the Commons yesterday—'although there are a number of practical difficulties.'

Extract from
Daily Express, London

11 MAY 1968

DAILY EXPRESS

THE INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPER

OPINION

NOTICE

TO
QUIT

NOBODY can doubt the meaning of the sensational results in the municipal elections.

It is a national decision. It is a nationwide vote against the Government.

Half-way through the life of the régime, the electors choose this way—the only way available—to demonstrate their utter lack of confidence in the Administration.

Legally, of course, Mr. Wilson can go on governing, against growing derision in Parliament, contempt in the country, and cynicism abroad.

Would it be wise to do so?

☆

WOULD it be wise for Labour members of Parliament to lend themselves to it? It would be said of them, however untruly, that they were holding on to their positions because of their salaries.

Should Mr. Wilson resign then and hand over his burden to one of his colleagues? Surely not.

They are all in this together. All have contributed to the catastrophe.

All, together, join in the responsibility for the mad Rhodesian policy and the muddled South African policy.

All, together, are responsible for the policies on Honduras, the Falklands, and Gibraltar which have brought so much needless humiliation on this country.

And now what?

☆

THERE is only one answer: The men responsible, faced by the disavowal of the people, should make their case in a General Election and accept the verdict of the electors.

For what is the alternative? To go on, through mounting dislike, to final destruction.

Does Mr. Wilson want to end his political career like Hitler in the bunker in Berlin, issuing orders to armies that exist only in his imagination?

Extract from
Spectator, London

10 MAY 1968

George's bargain base

Sir: Your issue of 29 March has arrived in Argentina, allowing us here your leading article concerned chiefly with the future of the Falkland Islands. To read indeed, with increasing disbelief.

'An Argentine military attack! Sir, can you be serious? The reasonable settlement of international differences is not assisted by the invention of such fantasies. Government, press and public opinion in Argentina concentrate exclusively on diplomatic solutions to the problem, and the government has already shown its good faith by utterly unsympathetic treatment of the small Condor group which attempted to land on the islands in 1966.

Your righteous condemnation of 'the transfer of loyal subjects of the Crown to alien rule against their will,' must make entertaining reading in Kenya, Rhodesia (need one go on), and as in this case, unlike the others, the transfer though against their will might be in their best interest, this would seem an appropriate moment to prefer the voice of reason to the *vox populi*. Moreover, in the case of Argentina we should be acting to please a friend and traditional trading partner of Britain.

As you mention, the islands are 'somewhat inhospitable.' The Argentines are, of course, stupid to care about such a territory and so, logically, are the British. The attempt to bring this absurd pantomime to an end, so far from being 'outrageous,' is entirely honourable. The Argentines want the islands and we, surely, do not. Our only, albeit important, interest is in the welfare of the 2,500 inhabitants.

There is, then, ample room for the negotiation which seems to cause you such horror. It is surely not beyond the wit of the Foreign Office to come to an arrangement which would preserve the rights of language, religion and property of the Falkland islanders, and so assuage their apparent terror of their Argentine neighbours. Alternatively, as you so scornfully say, they might be resettled in the Outer Hebrides or indeed elsewhere in the British Isles, where they would find the small conveniences of modern life which at present they lack.

The Argentine National Territory of Tierra del Fuego and the Islands of the South Atlantic, of which the Falklands would form a part, is already a tariff-free zone, and so those inhabitants who chose to remain would be able to import goods freely from England, and would presumably continue to export their wool to England like the vast majority of Patagonian *estancieros* (many of whom are former Falkland islanders who have 'voted with their feet' for integration with Argentina).

They might even be better off as a favoured part of Argentina: Tierra del Fuego certainly displays a remarkable concentration of Mercedes and private aeroplanes, and the naval base which would inevitably follow Argentine occupation would certainly increase the islanders' prosperity.

On a more trivial level may one point out that the Spanish name for the islands is *Islas Malvinas* (a direct translation of the original French name *Isles Malouines*), and not as you suggest *Islas Maldivas*. Perhaps this is the explanation of the extraordinary tone of outraged virtue which was adopted in your article; Argentine claim to the Maldives would be rather excessive. And so all those sleepless Falkland islanders can relax again; the atmosphere in Argentina has always struck me as admirably restful.

Mervyn Samuels
Av. Luro 3201, Mar del Plata, Argentina

We apologise for the misprint 'Maldivas' for 'Malvinas.' We prefer 'Falklands' anyway.
Editor, SPECTATOR.

Extract from
Hereford Evening News

- 8 MAY 1968

Islanders appeal to Canadians

OTTAWA, Wednesday.—The people of the Falkland Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British.

They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

"The people of these islands do not wish to submit to a foreign language, law, customs and culture," the petition says.

"They have happily pursued their own peaceful way of life, a very British way of life."

It asks Canadians: "What can you do to prevent it? What are you doing? We need your help."

Extract from

The Press and Journal

ABERDEEN

Date - 6 MAY 1968
(See in)

WHILE the attention of the world is focused on race riots, war in Vietnam, and the American elections, today John Fisher takes a close look at a little bit of forgotten Britain with its own worries — its future and what the British Government are going to do about it.

Problem in our auld lang syne islands

IT MUST be worrying to be one of the Falkland Islanders and to watch the light-hearted manner in which Britain is handling the fate of other British colonies—British Honduras, for instance.

For it is obvious from the treaty which Britain is seriously considering making with Guatemala (according to which the defence, foreign policy, internal affairs and trade, of British Honduras would, in practice, if not in theory be dominated by the Guatemalans) that the conclusion of a similar

by **JOHN FISHER**

our Diplomatic Correspondent

treaty between Britain and the Argentine, handing over the Falkland Islanders to new masters, is by no means remote.

In fact, the Argentine ambassador in London, Senor Brigadier Don Eduardo F. McLoughlin, called this week on Mr Michael Stewart at the Foreign Office to discuss these very matters.

The fact is, of course, that the Falkland Islands—like British Honduras, Aden, and I am afraid to

say Gibraltar—have gradually become an embarrassment to Britain, and, with the forthcoming merger between the Commonwealth Office and the Foreign Office, stand very little chance of getting preference over the Argentine in the foreign policy of Her Majesty's Government.

In material terms this is understandable. The Falkland Islands 8000 miles away are not easily reached. There is no airfield, and when an Argentine plane attempted an emergency landing on the racecourse, the plane sank into the ground up to the axles of the under-carriage.

Of course, you can reach the Islands by sea but, if you do so you cannot take your ship on to Buenos Aires Harbour, because, if you do, the Argentinos will claim that you have entered their territory illegally without having cleared customs.

Facilities

Again, if you send mail or parcels to the Falkland Islands, they cannot go via Buenos Aires, the nearest big harbour though it is 1200 miles away, or, if they do, they are likely to be "returned to sender" or, at the very least, delayed and re-addressed to the Malvinas Island which is the Argentine name for the Archipelago.

Also, the Falkland Islands are not easily defensible. In the good old days, Britain had a secure base in the south Atlantic at Simonstown in South Africa, but, since Britain has had to carry out most of the terms of the agreement under which they were granted facilities at this base, their position is no longer secure.

In other words, in terms of hard cash, the Falkland Islands are not much of a catch. In fact, most years there is a sizeable deficit balance in the budget. Nor can it be said that every other prospect pleases.

The Islands are about the same distance south of the

Equator as London is north, "but apart from hours of sunshine which are similar" (to use the official words of the Commonwealth Office Year book) "there are marked climatic differences."

These, it explains, are due to the fact there is a strong wind (mean annual speed 17 knots), which blows throughout the year. And the temperature habitually falls at times to 10 degrees below freezing.

The Falkland Islands are scattered over some 4700 miles of the ocean and are noted for their treeless moorland scenery, liberally strewn with angular boulders. Stanley, population 1000, is the only town.

The children take their lessons either in very small schools or from teachers who travel on ponies from place to place. A boarding

school, which opened ten years ago, had to close for lack of support. There are no roads except in Stanley and no canal or rail services.

The total population is just over 2000 (compared with 20,000 holders of British passports in the Argentine) and the main activity is sheep-raising.

It's really surprising that the Argentines want to claim this British "jewel." But as a matter of national prestige they claim that they succeeded by right of conquest to the empire of Spain, which once controlled most of South America.

They argue that, even if the population is of British descent, it is artificially maintained in the islands, the natural geographical link of which is with the Argentine.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

21 MAY 1968

LEADERSHIP IS MAJOR NEED IN BRITAIN, REPORT SAYS 'Return to righteousness'

Britain needs inspired and responsible leadership, but it is not clear where such leadership is to be found, says the Church and Nation Committee in a supplementary report issued on the eve of the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"There is too much disillusionment with political parties, and too much complexity in the economic issues involved, for effective leadership to be likely to arise in these areas of our national life," the committee state.

"It remains true that it is righteousness alone that exalts a nation. It is therefore to a new understanding of the righteousness of God that we must turn."

This means the right use of our skills and resources, reinstatement of the neglected virtues of thrift, self-discipline and self-sacrifice, a more responsible

attitude to work, and a concern for just distribution of the world's resources.

Righteousness must also mean right relations within our society, readiness to look beyond sectional and vested interests, better management and no "wild-cat" strikes, enlightened action in relation to redundancy and unemployment.

The report continues: "Advertising slogans of the 'keep-up-with-the-Jones' and 'go-on-spoil-yourself' types must be replaced with others, ethically more creditable. There is evidence that people are ready to respond now to a lead which offers something better than self-interest, however enlightened."

It is the Christian's business to stand against the tide of human selfishness and pride, to set an example of stewardship and service, of fellowship and reconciliation.

TRANSPLANTS

In a section of the Human Tissues Act, 1961, the committee invite the Assembly to give a lead to the Church and community by approving in principle a change in the law which, subject to adequate safeguards, would allow designated hospital authorities to remove from a dead body any organ required for therapeutic purposes, unless they have reason to believe that the deceased in his lifetime had forbidden this to be done.

The committee seek authority to review any developments, particularly where they might affect human personality.

Other sections of the supplementary report express concern about the future of Britain's link with the Falkland Islands, and refer to the recent Commonwealth Immigrants Act as "in spirit if not in letter a breaking of promises" and "a piece of racist legislation."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Western Daily Press, Bristol

22 MAY 1968

THE QUEEN may not be able to visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour this autumn, said Mr. Thomson. "There are a number of practical difficulties," he told the House.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

21 MAY 1968

3003 Falkland Islands

21. Mr. Fisher asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs whether, when Her Majesty visits South America, he will advise her to visit her subjects in the Falkland Islands also.

24. Mr. Boyd-Carpenter asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he will advise Her Majesty to include a visit to Her Majesty's loyal subjects in the Falkland Islands during her visit to South America this autumn.

Mr. George Thomson: This possibility has naturally not been overlooked, but there are a number of practical difficulties.

Mr. Fisher: In view of the recent anxieties of the people of the Falkland Islands, now happily allayed, and the possibility of a visit to their country which was the cause of those anxieties, would not the right hon. Gentleman agree that it would be both reassuring and extremely popular with the people of the Falkland Islands if Her Majesty visited her Colony?

Mr. Thomson: I have no doubt about the popularity of it. We regard this as an important question, but I must make clear that no decision has yet been taken about a visit to the Argentine.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: Without wishing to add to the enormous burdens Her Majesty carries so tirelessly, does not the right hon. Gentleman appreciate that here there is a unique opportunity to show the fellow feeling and sympathy of all of us in this country with those islanders, so remote, who have suffered much anxiety in the past year or two?

Mr. Thomson: I will bear in mind what the right hon. Gentleman said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Edinburgh Evening News

22 MAY 1968

3003 Queen may go to Falklands

The Queen may visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour this autumn, Commonwealth Secretary Mr. George Thomson has told the Commons. Answering Conservative questions, he said that no decision had been made and such a visit would have practical difficulties.

Mr. Nigel Fisher (Surbiton, C.) said if the Queen went it would be reassuring and extremely popular in the Falklands. Mr. Thomson told the House he regarded it as important.

Extract from
Daily Express, LondonExtract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

22 MAY 1968

22 MAY 1968

3003
**LET THE QUEEN VISIT
FALKLANDS, SAY MPs**Express Parliamentary
Reporter

THE Government was questioned in the Commons yesterday about the chances of the Queen visiting the Falkland Islands during her South American tour in the autumn.

Commonwealth Secretary Mr. George Thomson said: "This is possible and has naturally not been overlooked—although there

are a number of practical difficulties." Mr. Nigel Fisher (Tory, Surbiton) suggested that in view of the recent discussions on the Falklands [the Argentine claims sovereignty over them] such a visit would be "both reassuring and extremely popular."

And Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter (Tory, Kingston-on-Thames) said it would show the islanders that the British people supported them in their fight.

Mr. Thomson: "I have no doubt about the popularity of such a visit. I will certainly bear this in mind."

3003
**Falklander
calls for end
to talks**

A member of the Falkland Island Legislative Council, Mr S. Miller, has called for a British statesman "with the courage of a Pitt or a Churchill" to end the present British talks with Argentina over the future of the bleak South Atlantic Islands, which Argentina claims are hers.

The senior councillor, Mr R. V. Goss, speaking at the first meeting of the newly-elected council on Monday, also urged Britain to consider further the defence of the Falklands.

Another member, Mr R. M. Pitaluga, said he felt the islands' future sovereignty was still very much in doubt and that the islanders could not relax for a moment until they got full, firm and final assurances from Britain that they would not be handed over to Argentina in any circumstances.

Natives

Mr Goss ridiculed the Argentine claim that there was no indigenous population on the islands, and other members noted that all members of the legislative council's present annual session, its 123rd, were native Falklanders.

Monday's meeting was further clouded by the possibility of serious financial difficulties for the islands soon, mainly due to a sharp drop in wool prices, on which the economy of the islands depends.

Mr Goss proposed a motion welcoming the statement by Mr Michael Stewart, the British Foreign Secretary, that the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition in determining the sovereignty of the islands, and reaffirming the desire of Falklanders to remain British.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from
The Times, London
21 MAY 19683002
NO HUMBUGGING BELIZE

Both the Government and Opposition in British Honduras have rejected the American mediator's proposed treaty for ending the dispute between Britain and Guatemala over their country. This left the FOREIGN SECRETARY little to do but concur. He took the opportunity to do so yesterday. The people of British Honduras have made overwhelmingly clear their feelings that a treaty made in advance of their independence which would leave them more or less at the mercy of a neighbour that has claimed to own them for over a hundred years was sheer humbug.

This view is perfectly understandable—but what comes next? The people of British Honduras say that they want to remain British. When so many former colonial people do not, this is always heartwarming—however incomprehensible to the United Nations anti-colonial committee of twenty-four. Unlike the people of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands, however, the people of British Honduras insist on becoming fully independent. When they do, who is to defend them? They do not want the status of an associated state—like the smaller autonomous Caribbean islands—under which Britain provides defence and undertakes external relations. This would hardly be possible in the Latin American context anyway.

For that same reason, a defence

treaty with an independent Belize (as British Honduras will become in 1970 or 1971) is hardly conceivable. It would offend Latin America, with which Belize must live, and it would jar on Washington, which provided, in MR. WEBSTER, the mediator. It would mean awkward involvements for Britain. MR. PRICE, Premier, must realize that when British Guiana, as Guyana, became independent in 1964, it inherited full responsibility for dealing with a long-standing claim by Venezuela for a large part of the territory.

There seems no reason why efforts at mediation should not continue, now that it is clear that the British Hondurans will not accept a treaty that might lead from economic cooperation to an *Anschluss*. The Guatemalans have been left in no doubt that it is their political system, unstable and brutal, which is rejected. In British Honduras, the Falklands, and Gibraltar there are echoes of a hoary warning about not falling into the hands of Spain—some of whose former colonies (Mexico is an exception) seem to uphold all the claims of the former Hispanic Empire. It is Guatemala that has made British Honduras shy even of close economic links with the Central American common market, which Washington backs strongly. But cooperation there must still be, and time is getting short to find an alternative settlement.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

27 MAY 1968

3002
**FALKLAND ISLANDS (ANGLO-
ARGENTINE EXCHANGES)**

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he will publish the correspondence concerning the Falkland Islands which passed between his Department and the Argentine Ambassador during 1967 and this year.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts: No. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 27th March, the Anglo-Argentine exchanges about the Falkland Islands are being conducted on a confidential basis.—[Vol. 761, c. 1466.]

Extract from

LLOYD'S LIST AND SHIPPING GAZETTE

(SEE OVERLEAF)

Date 29 MAY 1968

ARGENTINE CARGO SHIPS MAY STILL BE BUILT IN BRITAIN

Prime Minister Refutes Discrimination Charge

In the House of Commons yesterday the Prime Minister said he was satisfied there was no truth in the story that the Argentine Government had delayed the placing of an order for six cargo ships in the United Kingdom until the future of the Falkland Islands had been decided.

Mr. Wilson was answering questions from Viscount Lambton (Con., Berwick-upon-Tweed) who asked why provisional orders placed by the Argentine Government had not yet been concluded.

The Prime Minister said the Argentine Government were shopping around a number of countries to get the best terms and prices.

"We are of course hopeful we shall get the orders." He was satisfied there was no question of the Falkland Islands causing discrimination to be made by the Argentine Government.

Tanzania Standard, Dar-es-Salaam

29 MAR 1968

ISLANDERS' WISHES COME FIRST -U.K.

London, Thursday.
BRITAIN would not transfer its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the approval of the 2,000 islanders, Parliament was told here.

Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart made this clear in an early-morning debate sparked by secret British-Argentine talks on the future of the South Atlantic Islands colony and Argentine's claim to it.

Britain had no doubts about its sovereignty but it wanted to secure a lasting and satisfactory relationship between the islanders and the Argentine, he said.

PRINCIPLES

But he added: "There are two principles we cannot betray — the principle that the interests of the people must be paramount and secondly that the people have the right freely to express their own wishes as to their future".

The British Government would only agree to a secession of sovereignty if it were part of an agreement fully satisfactory in other respects and "only if it were clear to us that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests".

Such an agreement would have to secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and the Argentine in which there would be no harrasing,

Extract from
Surrey Comet, Kingston-on-Thames

29 MAY 1968

Visit suggested

BOTH Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter (Kingston) and Mr. Nigel Fisher (Surbiton) suggested in the House of Commons last week that the Queen should visit the Falkland Islands when she goes to South America in the autumn. Mr. Boyd-Carpenter urged that such a visit would provide a unique opportunity to show the fellow feeling and sympathy of all in this country with the islanders who had suffered anxiety in the past year or two.

Making a similar point, Mr. Fisher said that the anxiety had now happily been allayed and that a royal visit would be both reassuring and popular.

The Commonwealth Secretary (Mr. George Thomson) replied that the possibility of a visit had not been overlooked but there were a number of practical difficulties. No decision had yet been taken about a visit to the Argentine.

Extract from
Scottsman, Edinburgh

29 MAY 1968

SHIP ORDERS NOT HIT BY FALKLANDS DISPUTE

By Our Parliamentary
Correspondent

The Prime Minister denied an allegation that the Argentine Government had delayed the placing of an order in Scottish shipyards until the future of the Falkland Islands had been decided. He said during questions: "I am satisfied there is no truth at all in the story."

Lord Lambton (C., Berwick-upon-Tweed) asked why provisional Argentine orders for ships with the Scott-Lithgow group and Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde had not been confirmed. Would he not agree that the policy initiated by Mr George Brown, when Foreign Secretary, of trying to buy business by offering concessions which later could not be honoured, had failed?

Mr Wilson said the Argentine Government were shopping round in a number of countries trying to get the best terms and price for naval vessels and we were naturally hopeful that we would get the order.

There was no discrimination, though during our ban on Argentine meat a number of orders had been held up. This had nothing to do with the Falkland Islands.

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 2 MAY 1968

'Falkland talks need a Churchill'

3003
Falkland Islands, Tuesday
A MEMBER of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council, Mr. S. Miller, has called for a British statesman "with the courage of a Pitt or a Churchill" to end the present British talks with Argentina over the future of the bleak South Atlantic islands, which Argentina claims are hers.
The Senior Councillor, Mr. R. V. Goss, speaking at the first meeting of the newly elected council yesterday, also urged Britain to

consider further the defence of the Falklands.

Another member, Mr. R. M. Pitaluga, said he felt the islands' future sovereignty was still very much in doubt and that the islanders could not relax for a moment until they got full, firm and final assurances from Britain that they would not be handed over to Argentina in any circumstances.

Other councillors expressed distrust of the British Government's intentions.

Mr. Goss ridiculed the Argentinian claim that there was no indigenous population on the islands. Other members noted that all members of the council were native Falklanders.

Yesterday's meeting was further clouded by the possibility of serious financial difficulties for the islands soon, mainly due to a sharp drop in wool prices, on which the economy depends.
In his address, Sir Cosmo Haskard, the Governor, mentioned the possibility of diversifying the

economy by developing an industry around kelp, a kind of seaweed used for various industrial purposes, the encouragement of tourism, and the chance of locating oil.

Mr. Goss proposed a motion welcoming the statement by Mr. Michael Stewart, the British Foreign Secretary, that the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition in determining the sovereignty of the Islands, and reaffirming the desire of Falklanders to remain British.—A.P.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

22 MAY 1968

BRITISH THROUGH AND THROUGH

3003
A motion reaffirming the desire of the people of the Falkland Islands to remain British has been proposed in the legislative council.

The Argentine has renewed its claim for sovereignty over these remote islands in the South Atlantic.

The claim is ridiculous.

The islands were discovered by Britain over 350 years ago and we have governed them since 1833.

The sturdy islanders are British through and through by descent and sentiment.

They are naturally perturbed that talks are still going on between Britain and the Argentine over the future of the Falklands.

One member of the legislative council called for a British statesman with the courage of a Pitt or a Churchill to end the talks.

But where are the Pitts and Churchills today?

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

24 MAY 1968

3003 THEIR CHOICE

THE result of Bermuda's first General Election, in which every adult had the right to vote, is an overwhelming victory for a party that wants to keep the territory's close relationship with Britain.

The people of Bermuda have clearly and decisively expressed their choice.

Just as the people of Gibraltar, British Honduras, and the Falkland Islands have.

What would the poor, unfortunate Ibos of Biafra give for the opportunity to decide their own destiny with a vote?

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

22 MAY 1968

Falkland Islands

VISIT BY QUEEN 3003 URGED

Answering questions by Conservative Members on whether he would advise the Queen to include a visit to the Falkland Islands during her South American tour this autumn, Mr. THOMSON, Commonwealth Secretary, said: "This is possible and has naturally not been overlooked, although there are a number of practical difficulties."

Mr. FISHER (C., Surbiton): In view of the recent discussions on the Falkland Islands, would it not be both reassuring and also extremely popular if Her Majesty could now visit her subjects in these islands?

Mr. BOYD-CARPENTER (C., Kingston-upon-Thames) emphasised that a visit by the Queen would show the Falkland islanders that the British people supported them in their fight.

Mr. THOMSON: I have no doubt about the popularity of such a visit. I will certainly bear this in mind.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

27 MAY 1968

3003 Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he will issue a White Paper containing the despatches and other communications between his Department and the Governor of the Falkland Islands during 1967 and 1968.

Mr. Whitlock: No. We see no occasion for such a departure from normal practice.

24 APR 1968

Argentines scent Falklands victory

3003 By Norman Ingrey
Special correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Buenos Aires

Argentine officials and citizens alike are discreetly happy over what they feel are British intentions to eventually transfer the Malvinas (Falkland Islands) to Argentine jurisdiction after certain conditions are fulfilled.

They get this reading from statements made recently by British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart to the House of Commons.

It is the first time that Argentines have expressed even guarded satisfaction over this issue of possession which has been the cause of Anglo-Argentine controversy and misunderstanding for more than a century.

The British finally have admitted the question of sovereignty to discussions and secret bilateral talks now are taking place at the instigation of the United Nations.

Statement prompted

Such discussions would seem to imply ultimate transfer of the islands to Argentina, and that is what Argentines are quietly acknowledging, if not celebrating.

Britons are equally satisfied—especially those of the Conservative opposition who prompted a statement from Mr. Stewart following appeals of the tiny islands (less than 3,000 population) for parliamentary protection.

The Conservatives have been assured that no transfer to Argentine jurisdiction will take place without the consent of the islanders.

But for Argentines and discerning international observers the essence of Mr. Stewart's statement had a clear implication—that the British Home authorities are reasoning with the islanders to consider their position according to the facts of politics and geography.

The islanders are very isolated, but they are also very patriotic. Were there a plebiscite they would vote to remain British to the last inhabitant.

But apparently a plebiscite will not be held—unlike the situation in Gibraltar. That, too, is reassuring to the Argentines.

Plane hijacked

Everyone knows that the islanders are purely British, speak only English, and have no real ties with the South American mainland except through Montevideo, Uruguay, and Punta Arenas (Magellan Straits), Chile. But they are not ignorant of the nationalist sentiment in Argentina and of the extremes to which this can and has been carried.

Eighteen months ago a group of young Argentines hijacked an airliner in Buenos Aires and "invaded" the Malvinas with an eye to "recapturing" the islands. They are still in an Argentine prison.

The jump from reasoning with the islanders to convincing them of the advantages of transfer may prove a long one. Yet, on the whole, considerable patience has been shown by Argentina over the years. "We have been waiting since 1832," commented one newspaper headline.

The British, according to Mr. Stewart, are convinced of their titles to possession of the islands; but he simultaneously concedes, and so informed the House of Commons, that Argentina is equally convinced of its ownership rights. Neither claim is being discussed now, only the possibility of transfer when British conditions are met.

These conditions will be fulfilled when, as Mr. Stewart put it, "there would be no harrassing, no vexations, no inconveniences, and an arrangement in which also . . . there would be the fullest safeguards for the special rights of the islanders, for the fact of their descent, language, and so on."

Extract from
Bucks Advertiser, Aylesbury

30 MAY 1968

Government should go—Sir Spencer

THE electorate's condemnation of the Labour Government was reflected locally by the fact that not one socialist candidate was elected in the recent council elections in Aylesbury and Chesham, claimed Sir Spencer Summers last week.

Sir Spencer, Conservative MP for the Aylesbury Division, was speaking at the Women's Semi-Divisional meeting at Chesham.

Never before had the electorate of this country spoken so emphatically in its condemnation of the Government, he said. The Government had completely lost the faith and goodwill with which it came to power. A change of Government was the only solution.

It was little wonder that people had had enough, said Sir Spencer. Public expenditure continued to rise, there was widespread resentment over further nationalisation,

and outrage at the Transport Bill. Discussion on the Bill and other highly controversial Bills, was being drastically curtailed and socialism was being steamrollered through the House of Commons, he claimed.

The Government was prepared to discuss the most outrageous claims made over the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar, but consistently refused to discuss rationally a solution to the Rhodesian problem.

Turning to the Prices and Incomes Bill, Sir Spencer said the Government was spending too much effort in restricting wages and not enough on increasing productivity. The Prices and Incomes Policy will just not work, he said.

One of the most serious diseases in Britain today was the unofficial strike, he declared. Contracts entered into freely by employers and trades unions should be enforced at law.

On the Enoch Powell speech, Sir Spencer said Mr. Powell had rejected the immigration policy of the Shadow Cabinet, of which he was a member, and of the Conservative Party. He said that Mr. Heath's action was entirely

justified, and that Mr. Powell's dismissal had not been an attempt to curtail free speech.

Sir Spencer shared the view that restrictions on immigration should be tightened up, but said it would be inhuman to permanently separate husband from wife, and both of them from their children. He thought that restrictions should be applied rigidly on dependents.

He described the present Race Relations Bill as unsatisfactory although there was a need for a law against discrimination. The Bill, he said, was liable to do more harm than good.

Sir Spencer was thanked by Mrs. Thorpe.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Evening News, London

31 MAY 1968

Nadia and friends are ready to resist

People from British Honduras living in London are relieved by Britain's decision to abandon the controversial American plan to link the colony with Guatemala. But they are taking no chances.

The B. H. Emergency Committee in London are calling upon "Gibraltarians, Falkland Islanders and friends" to form a united front with British Honduras to "resist a sell-out."

Nadia Cattouse, the well-known folk-singer and daughter of the Deputy Premier of Britain's last colony in Central America, is chairman of the emergency committee here. She has lived here for 18 years.

She returned to the colony to keep people there in touch with events.

'Started well'

The committee's vice-chairman is Rupert Arthurs, a lively 74-year-old retired Tooting tailor, who has spent some 50 years in London. He represents his country on the Ex-Servicemen's Association.

"The response to our appeal for a united front has started quite well with more than a dozen inquiries," he says. "The committee will now have to

discuss the question of widening the campaign.

"Gibraltar, the Falklands and the Honduras are all in a similar position; they don't want to be taken over by Spaniards. We in British Honduras have had British rule for 300 years; we have absorbed your way of life. It is heartening that we have so many really good friends over here who give us advice on the steps we should take."

Mr. Arthurs stresses that they had still to remain "on the alert against power politics."

The sugar-producing colony (population about 110,000) is a neighbour of Guatemala, with a population of more than four millions.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Melbourne Herald, Australia

28 MAY 1968

FALKLAND MUST APPROVE SWAP

LONDON, Wed. — Britain would not transfer its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina without the approval of the 2000 islanders, Parliament was told today.

The Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart, said Britain had no doubt about its sovereignty but wanted to secure a lasting and satisfactory relationship between the island and Argentina. — AAP

CH
1/8/68
R.J.G.
10/8/68

Extract from
Time & Tide, London

5 JUN 1968

'Taking the road back'

Encouraged by the determination to 'stay British' as shown in Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, British Honduras and now Bermuda, some are now looking at the possibilities of what is being called 'the road back' to the Commonwealth that used to be.

Gibraltar has decided to stay British at all costs, despite the harassment of Spain's General Franco and the British Government's lack of firmness.

The Falkland Isles will have nothing to do with the threats or blandishments of the Argentine, who claim them, despite the British Government's dubious attitude about 'talks' concerning them. The overwhelming majority of the inhabitants are of English origin.

British Honduras has made its decision to 'stay British' clear to Guatemala which claims this neighbouring territory, to the British Government, and to the American 'mediation' whose plan has been rejected in downright fashion.

The demand for independence from Britain was overwhelmingly rejected last week by the blacks and whites of Bermuda when an astonishing 91.4% of the people voted.

The mostly white United Bermuda Party headed by banker Sir Henry Tucker, won a surprising victory by capturing 30 of the 40 seats.

In Britain it had been confidently predicted that lawyer Walter Robinson's opposition party would easily win the election. Robinson, leader of the Progressive Labour, who threatened to 'chase the rascals out' was himself defeated. The electorate preferred the 'rascals'.

It is highly probable that many of the Bermudians voted as they did because they had noticed what the departure of the 'rascals' meant in terms of stability and terror in other parts of the world, especially in Africa.

Extract from
Illustrated London News, London

8 JUN 1968

FALKLANDS SELL-OUT?

Sir: I see that the people of the Falkland Islands are in danger of being sold out in the same way as are the people of Gibraltar, Malta, Bermuda, and other places.

Will not the people of Britain, by virtue of being of the same blood as well as by the years of loyalty, stand up for them, and see that they are guaranteed their right to remain a British Colony? Or, if there is danger of this being denied, give them a similar option to that which the United States gave Hawaii and Alaska—to become a part of Britain? To do anything less would be an infamous betrayal.

Britain should stop pulling away from its long-standing friends—not only small islands but countries like Australia and Canada—to play the part of a minor power, a role which does not suit her. Reducing expenditure is all very well, but refusing to play the game is ignoble.

Let us hope the people of the proud Falklands demand that the British Government stand by them and allow them their rightful place—by Britain's side.

FRANK J. SMITH,
Montreal, Canada

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Prebendary G. A. Lewis Lloyd

Sir,—About four months back you printed a letter from me, as having been stationed in the Falkland Islands during the War, protesting against the suggested transfer of this colony to the Argentine Government. Various assurances given in Parliament shortly afterwards allayed our fears; these, however, have now been aroused again. It is announced that her Majesty will not visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour. It would, of course, be quite improper to reproach her Majesty, who, in these days of the constitutional monarchy, will accede to the request of the Government, but why has the Government advised the Queen in this way? Either

(a) the decision has been taken to avoid offending the Argentine Government, or

(b) (a very worrying alternative) they are still contemplating "doing a deal".

If the former reason be the right one, it would seem a very strange procedure for the Sovereign not to visit part of her dominion lest some other Government take offence. If, however, the latter alternative is the true answer, it would be a very serious and hurtful act for her Majesty's Government to contemplate handing over some 2,000 British people to another Government. It would be most unjust and should surely be condemned as fostering the worst type of colonialism.

Most of us feel that the Gibraltarians' desire to remain British is a claim that should be recognized; but how much more force has a similar claim from the Falkland Islanders who are actually and genealogically British.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
your obedient servant,
G. A. LEWIS LLOYD.
Chiswick Vicarage, The Mall, W.4.

HOUSMAN PAPERS

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Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

22 APR 1968

Are the Falklands for sale?

3003
Why have British Ministers taken to being so devious about the Falkland Islands? The Government's policy was laid down quite clearly by Mr Michael Stewart before the negotiations with Argentina began. In January, 1966, he told the Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Ortiz, that the islands' sovereignty was British and was not negotiable. Last year Mr Fred Lee confirmed this on behalf of the Commonwealth Office in a letter to the Falkland Islands Company. Lately the Foreign Office has confirmed it again, to the extent that they agreed that Mr Stewart had made the original remark. Yet in the last four weeks of questioning in Parliament no Minister has ventured to repeat what Mr Stewart said in the beginning. Not even Mr Stewart himself. What is the Government up to?

The Argentines have been much more candid. They have said from the beginning that the Falklands were "an integral part of our national soil" (to quote Dr Ortiz at the UN) and that the Argentine must have them back. The Argentines have never modified this simple claim which is based on two historical facts. The first is that the Falklands, which were Spanish at the time, became Argentine territory in 1816 when the Argentine won its independence. The second historical fact is that in 1833 the British expelled the remains of an Argentine garrison from the islands. These are incidents which loom larger in the history of a comparatively young country than they would in the history of an

older one. The Argentines contend that the Falklands are the only part of their territory that they have lost by force and there is some passion behind their claim to have them back.

The only unambiguous British reply to this was Mr Stewart's. The sovereignty of the Falklands is not negotiable. But if that is the British attitude and if the Argentines insist (as they do) on sovereignty, what have the negotiations been about? This is the question that Ministers and officials persistently refuse to answer. They have only themselves to blame if MPs of all parties not to mention the Falklanders themselves have become suspicious of their soft ambiguous replies.

There are, of course, other things to be discussed with the Argentine which probably weigh heavily on the diplomatic mind. There is an unsettled claim for compensation. There is the Queen's visit this year to Brazil and Chile. Will she also go to the Falklands or the Argentine or (conceivably) to both? These are what diplomats call "considerations."

Considerations, however, are one thing and human rights another. The people who matter are the Falkland Islanders and both Governments have rejected all proposals for a referendum. If they really want a just solution this rejection is incomprehensible. The principle of self-determination should come first and the smooth arranging of a royal visit second. The Argentines, who seem to fear that the vote would go against them, will not countenance self-determination either (notwithstanding the fact that they claimed this same right for themselves when they threw the Spaniards out). Secret diplomacy is sometimes useful but in the Falklands' case it is only doing harm. The two Governments should explain what they are talking about. Otherwise they will be suspected of doing a deal behind the Falklanders' backs.

Special
INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
The Times, London

7 MAY 1968

Falklands talks renewed

3003
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, took up the question of the Falkland Islands once more yesterday with Brigadier Eduardo McLoughlin, the Argentine Ambassador, who called at the Foreign Office. Their meeting, it was later explained, was a continuation of exchanges between the two sides begun—as Mr. Stewart said in a statement to the Commons on March 27—because it is desirable to secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islanders and Argentina.

Mr. Stewart was at that time under heavy attack on the ground that the Government were negotiating with Argentina about sovereignty over the Falkland Islands behind the backs of the two thousand islanders.

In the British view the first task is to work for a lifting of the present restrictions on direct travel from the Falkland Islands to Argentina, and to create an atmosphere in which the dispute no longer prevents a visit by the Queen to Argentina next November, when she goes to Brazil and Chile.

Extract from
West Australian, Perth

29 MAR 1968

Islanders To Decide Their Own Future

LONDON, Thurs: Britain will not transfer its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine without the approval of the 2,000 islanders.

Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart made this clear in an early-morning debate in parliament which followed secret talks between Britain and the Argentine on the South Atlantic island colony.

He said that Britain had no doubt about its sovereignty, but wanted to secure a lasting and satisfactory relationship with both islanders and the Argentine.

He said: "There are two principles we cannot betray—the interests of the people must be paramount and they must have the right to express their own wishes about their future."—A.A.P.—Reuters.

Extract from
Christchurch Star, New Zealand

- 2 APR 1968

Future of Falklands

THE Argentine claim that the Falkland Islands are a part of the Argentine Republic has no legal or political merit. But Argentina is undeniably their nearest neighbour, and it is most desirable that neighbours should be on speaking terms. This was no doubt the intention behind the resolution adopted four years ago by a U.N. committee, urging the British and Argentine governments to talk over the islands' position together. The best thing for everybody would be to let things stay more or less as they are. The immediate and practical question is whether a visit by the Queen, in the course of her forthcoming visit to Chile, would so upset the delicate Anglo-Argentine balance that it would encourage what the islands least want—a stepping up of Argentine pressure for a change, and a cutting off of such social and commercial relations with the nearest neighbour as still exist.—"Guardian," Manchester.

Extract from
Montreal Star, Canada

10 APR 1968

The Falkland Islands

Are they about to be written off?

By David Perman

LONDON—It is reported in a letter to The Times that an albatross has made its home on an island off the coast of Scotland. These magnificent Antarctic birds have been stranded in the Northern Hemisphere before, the letter-writer recalls. Only too often they find the inhospitality of the northern gulls and gannets very disconcerting.

The puzzlement of the albatross is shared by another visitor from the South Atlantic who has just arrived in Britain. He is A. G. Barton, one of the four elected members of the executive council of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Barton is worried about the talks now going on between the British and Argentine governments about the diminutive British colony. He and his 2,000 co-islanders are convinced that Britain is about to hand over the Falklands after 130 years of uninterrupted rule to the government in Buenos Aires.

The Falkland Islands—East Falkland and West Falkland, both of about 2,000 square miles in area—are only 300 miles off the coast of Argentina. The Argentine government has been claiming them as part of its territory on and off since they gained their own independence from Spain in 1816. They have certainly been pressing their claim at the United Nations ever since that body was founded.

Living with it

The Falkland Islanders and the British government have learned to live with this. Ships calling at Stanley, the colony's capital, for example, dock at Montevideo in Uruguay, not Buenos Aires. And periodical "invasions" by groups of young Argentine extremists are dealt with as unemotionally as possible. When the last invaders came in a hijacked aircraft in 1966, the colony's governor kept the Argentines in their plane lest any Falklander cause a diplomatic incident by shooting at them.

This long-standing comic opera situation has now been changed by the decision of the British government to talk to Argentina about the Falkland Islands at the behest of the United Nations committee on colonialism. In the islanders' view, there is nothing to talk about. It is plain to them all—and to many British members of parliament—that the Argentines will accept nothing less than sovereignty over the islands, which they call the Malvinas.

The majority of the Falkland Islanders are of English stock, and all of them are now English-speaking. Some have come to work in the British government's wireless station, but most are descendants of the whalers and seal fishermen who settled there in the 19th century. Today, they mostly farm sheep. Their exports of wool and whale and seal oil more than pay for the islands' import needs.

"Home"

When these people talk about "home," the country they mean is Britain, though most of them have never been there. Their whole outlook and way of life, in fact, is not very different from that of the Shetland Islanders off the coast of Scotland—except that they are 8,000 miles away. Indeed, there are islands very near the Falklands which are known as the South Shetlands and South Orkneys.

But—and this brings us back to the unfortunate albatross — Britain is no longer the "home" that the Falkland Islanders have always considered it. The British government is reducing the size of its empire and other commitments overseas at a rapid rate. And the tradition of friendly relations between Britain and Argentina — which have always kept the Argentine claims on the Falklands within moderate bounds — have now been soured by the dispute over whether imported Argentine meat caused the recent very serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom.

One would like to think that Mr. Barton will get back to the Southern Hemisphere safely and be able to report that the northerners are friendly. It is doubtful if the albatross ever will.

(© 'The Observer,' London, 1968)

Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

- 7 MAR 1968

3003 Colonies in the Americas

Ever since the end of World War II, Britain has been divesting itself of empire. The process has been marked by orderliness and goodwill. (Admittedly there have been exceptions to this, but they remain exceptions.) Thus it is not surprising that the possessions to which Britain has held on the longest have usually been those where the Union Jack could not be hauled down without the risk of precipitating something untoward.

It may come as a surprise to some Americans that there are within the American hemisphere just such territories — territories still run by the Colonial Office in London because no alternative to British rule seems immediately available without precipitating a crisis. Three such territories have been in the news in recent weeks. They are the Falkland Islands, British Honduras, and Bermuda.

With the Falkland Islands and British Honduras, Britain's difficulties are virtually the same. A Latin-American land lays claim to each: Argentina to the Falkland Islands and Guatemala to British Honduras. With Bermuda — where from neither within nor without is there pressure for any immediate change of sovereignty — the difficulty lies in the island's having had hitherto a government which might have difficulty in proving that it enjoyed the support of most Bermudians.

In this latter instance, race is a complicating factor. There are twice as many black as white Bermudians. Yet the gov-

ernment in Hamilton is white — as a result, blacks allege, of blatant electoral gerrymandering. The consequent tensions were in large part responsible for recent violence on the islands. But before the end of this month, there are to be new elections based on a measure of electoral reapportionment. This could result in a system which blacks would find fairer than that prevailing hitherto. (The Bahamas have weathered such a change without trouble.)

For both the Falklands and British Honduras, however, the road ahead may not be so easy. Geographically, a closer relationship between the Falklands and Argentina and between British Honduras and Guatemala would make sense. Both colonial territories are remote outposts which cost the British something to maintain with little compensatory advantage. Yet within neither territory is there evidence of a majority of the population's wanting to become Argentinian or Guatemalan.

A United States mediator has produced proposals for the future relationship between British Honduras and Guatemala which are realistic and not unfair, given the facts of geography. The British Government has been in quiet touch with Argentina to try to resolve difficulties over the Falklands. But Guatemala City and Buenos Aires on the one hand and London on the other doubtlessly recognize the danger of disposing of the future of territories over the heads of their inhabitants.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Melbourne Herald, Australia

29 MAR 1968

DAILY MAIL 3003
LONDON. — There can be no quibbling about the Falkland Islands. They are British and must remain British, as long as the 2000 islanders so wish. Lord Caradon told the U.N. bluntly back in 1965: "The people of this territory are not to be betrayed or bartered." Yet this is exactly what the Government has been trying to do.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

11 MAY 1968

British Honduras says no

The Premier of British Honduras has now officially turned down proposals made by an American mediator to end the colony's dispute with Guatemala by the time of independence in 1970. In this he has the support of the main opposition party as well as of his own People's United Party. At first blush the rejection of a settlement long pondered over by Mr Bethuel Webster may seem a pity and prejudicial to the country's future stability. But in many respects the proposed treaty between Britain and Guatemala falls short of what independent Belize would find desirable. The treaty does not amount to a sell-out of Britain's responsibilities to one of the last of its colonies. In that respect there are no grounds for fears similar to those resulting from the Government's refusal specifically to rule out negotiations with Argentina about the Falkland Islands. But British Hondurans are anxious lest their existing conception of Guatemala as a menacing big brother is given permanence by the provisions of a treaty.

Guatemala has for long laid claim to British Honduras, in effect on practical grounds. It lacks access to

the sea from its northern parts, but its demands have exceeded those of transit rights. Under the proposed treaty Guatemala would get the better of the bargain, although recognising Belize's sovereignty. Guatemala would have transit routes and a free port in Belize, the chief town. But in addition to those reasonable concessions from the smaller country, Guatemala would also take responsibility for Belize's seaward defence and the two countries would consult about Belize's foreign affairs. In this respect, if Guatemala desired to put on the pressure, there would be considerable opportunity.

No one could claim that Guatemala has had the most reassuring of political records in the last 20 years. British Hondurans are therefore cautious about formally committing their country to constitutional ties with a regime of alien institutions. Since the P.U.P. is strongly pro-Commonwealth, there is an argument for British or Commonwealth guarantees to an independent country of only 114,000 people. Such guarantees might be more reassuring than the proposed Guatemalan treaty, which could turn into one between the spider and the fly.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

20 MAY 1968

PROUD TO BE BRITISH

THE good news about British Honduras which the Foreign Secretary is expected to give to Parliament today should end a sorry chapter in British history.

A chapter in which the British Government showed less patriotism than some Colonial peoples.

Now it is clear British Honduras wants to stay British. It wants no part of any deal with Guatemala.

It may be surprising for this Government that some people are really proud of being British. But it is a fact it has to accept in Honduras, as in Fiji, the Falklands, and Gibraltar.

Perhaps, in time, pride in being British may prove to be infectious.

Extract from
Eastern Evening News, Norwich

13 MAY 1968

Falkland appeal, let's stay British

The people of the Falkland Islands, Britain's bleak colony in the South Atlantic, are petitioning Canadians in their efforts to stay British.

They say the British Government may hand them over at any moment to Argentina, which claims them.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

16 MAY 1968

LETTERS

Why all the delay over Gibraltar?

LIKE probably millions of others I cannot understand why it has taken so long for the Government to make a simple declaration that Gibraltar is British and will remain so unless the inhabitants want it otherwise.

The same goes for the Falkland Islands and any other British dependency coveted by foreign Powers.

A. J. BREEZE,
Cunliffe Road, Stoneleigh, Epsom.

IT HAS been suggested that, because of our row with Spain over Gibraltar, people electing to take holidays in Spain should have to pay a special tax ranging up to £50. That seems stupid. Surely it would be better to appeal to British holidaymakers to cancel their holidays in Spain as a proof of their loyalty to their country in its dispute over Gibraltar.

(Mrs.) A. M. SCOTNEY,
St. Peter's Road, Bourne, Lincs.

- 9
MAY 1968

Britain vows Gibraltar aid

By Melita Knowles
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor
London

Britain stands "four square" behind Gibraltar in face of whatever further pressures or provocations may come from its neighbor, Spain.

Spain "slammed the door" on Anglo-Spanish talks over Gibraltar by its virtual closure of the Gibraltar frontier, Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson told the House of Commons May 7.

His pledge of wholehearted support for Gibraltar was cheered by members of all parties of the British Parliament. Mr. Thomson made his speech to dispel hopes Spain might have had that Brit-

ain's Labour government would back some form of union, against the expressed wishes of the Gibraltarians.

Inaction assailed

In recent months many Britons, especially Conservatives, have criticized the Labour government's failure to condemn strongly Spanish restrictions on the Rock. It is said this indicates a readiness to give up Gibraltar and other small colonies and dependencies if no face would be lost.

The Falkland Islands, claimed by Argentina, have been linked with Gibraltar in this line of thought.

Workers passed

The blockade by Spain of the 25,000 people living

on the Rock of Gibraltar became almost complete Monday with closure of the La Linea frontier to all but 5,000 Spanish workers who commute to Gibraltar daily.

While Sir Joshua Hasnan, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, is in London for talks on a new streamlined constitution, his Minister for Economic Development, S. A. Scruya, is here to discuss how Britain can help make up the \$5 million (\$12 million) a year which will be lost through the frontier closing.

Retaliation hit

Retaliatory action, in the form of a trade boycott or tax on British tourists to Spain, is not envisaged. British exports to Spain have grown from a value

of £24 million in 1959 to £102 million in 1967. Imports from Spain last year were £92 million.

However, British tourists spent about £40 million in Spain last year. They are expected to spend more this year.

'Visit Gibraltar'

This means Britain has an adverse balance of trade. But it would have to find new markets for its goods if they cease to go to Spain.

Speakers in the course of the parliamentary debate suggested British tourism be stopped. In answer, Mr. Thomson held up a travel poster calling tourists to sunny Gibraltar instead. He also announced plans for new hotel development there.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from:

Catholic Herald, London

10 MAY 1968

Amazed by

Gibraltar

editorial

I WAS amazed to read your blatantly colonialist editorial on Gibraltar in your issue of April 19. That a paper such as the CATHOLIC HERALD should see fit to endorse and advocate such a policy at such a late day in this twentieth century, and at the same time hope to circulate widely in Ireland, where colonialism is detested, is scarcely understandable.

Irish statesmen have advocated and supported at all times at the United Nations the end of colonialism everywhere in all its acts, works and pomps. And it is surely time for England to disgorge those remaining morsels of Empire to which she is clinging, namely the Rock, the Falkland Islands, and all overseas possessions which have not yet been given independence, besides Scotland Wales and those counties of the North of Ireland which are encouraged in maintaining their rebellion in order to preserve a foothold for the colonial overlord.

Your correspondent of April 26 (Mr. F. J. Mayans, Information Councillor, Spanish Embassy) struck the nail on the head when he wrote: "It is not the decolonisation of a people that is being sought, but that of a piece of territory occupied by a population introduced by the Colonising Power to serve the needs of the military base."

Furthermore, the United Nations not only stated that 'Britain must decolonise,' but they also specified the manner in which it was to be achieved, by referring to the need to maintain the principle of territorial integrity and national unity of Spain, as against that of self-determination for Gibraltarians."

Remembering the Plantation, does the above not equally apply to Ireland?

Your editorial, while dealing with the question of the Rock hurt Irish opinion deeply, for the very reasons which I hope I have made clear, in their application to Ireland in which has so greatly suffered at the hands of the same Colonial Power.

James Clarke
Ballycastle, Co. Antrim.

If Colonialism means defending the weak against the totalitarian strong, we must plead guilty. Incidentally, for Mr. Clarke's information, the leading article was written by an Irishman.—Editor.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Sunday Telegraph, London

12 MAY 1968

Paying their way

WHILE agreeing with Ronald Payne's views about Great Britain's remaining "dependent territories," I would like to make it quite clear that the Falkland Islands, far from being a dependent territory, has actually been a net contributor through taxation to the U.K. exchequer since the war.

In addition, the entire output of wool of the colony, amounting to some 4,700,000lb. per year, is sent to London for sale by auction and about 80 per cent. of the territory's imports are purchased in the U.K.

The Falkland Islanders want to remain British because they are British by birth or by ancestry. Their life is completely British and it is utterly unthinkable that they should become citizens of another country.

F. G. MITCHELL
Secretary, The Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.
London, S.W.1.

NEW VOLUME
REQUIRED

P.A.
B.W. 25/5/68

Extract from
East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich

- 1 JUL 1968

WHY NOT?

News that the Falkland Islands is not to be included in the tour when the Queen visits Chile and Brazil, will have been received with regret by all who have been watching the Islanders' resistance to proposals that the Islands might be handed over to the Argentine.

Of British stock, the people of the Islands, which are 8,000 miles from Britain, still call this country "home". Five out of six were born on the Islands, which have been British for 135 years, and they are most emphatic that they do not want to become part of the Argentine.

As a result of pressure in the House of Commons, the Government has given an assurance that the Islands would not be handed over without "full consultation and consent". Even so, there remains a fear in the Falklands of a tiny community, which is self-supporting and solvent, becoming a pawn in power politics.

It appears that the Prime Minister has now advised the Queen that it would offend the Argentine if she went to the Falkland Islands.

We should be sorry if a visit by our Queen to some of her people were to offend any foreign country, but we hope that that would not lead us to suggesting she should not go.

At a time when the Islanders need assurance that Britain has no intention of abandoning them, we would have thought opportunity might well have been taken to include the Falklands in the tour.

Here is a loyal outpost which deserves consideration. We are not satisfied with the reason given for not including the Islands in the royal tour.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

10 JUL 1968

FALKLANDS

UNDER international law, British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, being for a term of in excess of 100 years, cannot be disputed.

In such circumstances, how can the United Nations instruct us to hold talks with the Argentine on the question of its claim to sovereignty?

The Falkland Islanders have made it patently clear that they wish to remain under British rule.

Argentine refuses to accept the islanders' wishes, as they state that they have never experienced the pleasures of Argentinian rule.

Perhaps we should include the question of Argentinian sovereignty over the British Isles in the talks, for we have never experienced the pleasures of Argentinian rule and it could hardly be much worse than life under our present Government.

Michael Davis.

41 Thackeray Court,
Green Vale,
London, W.5.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

16 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

74. Mr. Clark Hutchinson asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he has now considered a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands of 20th May, 1968, containing the motion proposed by the honourable Mr. R. V. Goss; and what action he has taken.

Mr. George Thomson: I have taken note of this Motion, a copy of which has been sent home by the Governor. The position of Her Majesty's Government on these matters has been made clear in the House on a number of occasions since the speech by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in the debate on 26th March, and most recently by myself in reply to Questions on 2nd July.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

28 JUL 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

47. Mr. Sheldon asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what proposals are under consideration in the present discussions with Argentina, that they should take part in the administration of the Falkland Islands.

50 and 51. Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, (1) if the conversations and negotiations between the British and Argentine Governments about the Falkland Islands are completed; and if he will make a statement;

(2) if he has now agreed to the appointment of an Argentine Consul or Consul-General to the Falkland Islands; and what the duties of such an official will be.

Mr. Stewart: The Anglo-Argentine talks on the Falkland Islands are continuing, and although their content remains confidential I can say that they have not included any proposal for Argentine participation in the administration of the Islands, nor has any request been received for the accreditation of an Argentine consular representative in the Islands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

26 JUN 1968

Peers Ask About Falklands Sovereignty

Earl Jellicoe asked in the Lords this afternoon if the issue of sovereignty would be excluded from any discussions with the Argentine Government about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said, "The Government has thought it right that this issue should not be excluded from the talks."

Earl Jellicoe asked, "What useful purpose is served in continuing talks on this issue of sovereignty with the Argentine Government, in view of the fact that the islanders are British and unalterably opposed to the transfer of sovereignty?"

Lord Chalfont said, "We have no doubt that sovereignty legally belongs to HM Government, but we have been required by United Nations to engage in talks with the Argentine."

Lord Chalfont told the Earl of Dundee that he could not undertake to say there would be a plebiscite.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

10 JUL 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No changes are contemplated in the structure and organisation of the Government of the Falkland Islands, Mr. WHITLOCK, Parliamentary Secretary, Commonwealth Affairs, stated in a written answer.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Northern Echo, Darlington

- 6 JUL 1968

The Queen cuts Argentina from her State tour

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen has cut Argentina from her State tour of South America because of the dispute over Britain's tiny Falkland Isles dependency.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Financial Times, London

10 JUL 1968

NEWS SUMMARY

Queen's Argentina trip is off

Plans for the Queen's South America tour will not now include Argentina and the Falkland Islands.

After talks with the Argentine Government, said the Foreign Office last night, she has been advised that the present time is not appropriate: it is hoped she may make a visit there later.

With Prince Philip the Queen is to visit Brazil November 5-11 and Chile November 11-18. She is to fly to Recife where Philip will join her on leaving the Olympic Games in Mexico.

Falklands dispute and the ban on Argentine meat imports in the foot-and-mouth outbreak are factors in the decision, said diplomats.

Extract from
Nottingham Guardian Journal

- 6 JUL 1968

Queen will not visit Argentina

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Brazil from November 5 to 11 and Chile from November 11 to 18, it was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The Queen will fly to America on a RAF VC10 aircraft of Air Support Command, arriving at Recife, on November 1.

With the Duke of Edinburgh she will sail from Recife to Rio de Janeiro in the Royal yacht Britannia, arriving in Rio on November 5.

The Duke, who will attend the Olympic Games in Mexico at the end of October, is to join the Queen in Recife on November 1.

The Foreign Office in London said yesterday: "After full consultation with the Argentine Government, HM Government have advised Her Majesty that the present is not the most appropriate time for a visit, but that it is hoped that a visit may be made to Argentina on a later occasion."

Strained

A diplomatic correspondent writes there was no indication what the time scale was for a later occasion.

The Government's advice to the Queen not to go to Argentina during her present tour is clearly bound up with the recent strain on relations imposed by British restrictions on meat imports from the Argentine during the foot-and-mouth epidemic and the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

The decision not to include Argentina in the Queen's tour this time also means that she will not visit the Falkland Islands.

While the inhabitants will obviously be upset at not having the opportunity to greet the Queen, it is felt that a visit there would only exacerbate the situation.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

25 JUN 1968

TORY MOTION ON ARGENTINE TALKS

More than 30 Conservative M.P.s have signed a Commons motion, tabled by a group of M.P.s led by Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (S. Edinburgh), which reads: "That this House, mindful of the expressed wish of the people of the Falkland Islands to remain British, requests H.M. Government to exclude all questions of sovereignty over the islands from any talks they are having with the Argentine Government."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

25 JUN 1968

Secret talks over Falkland Isles

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

SECRET talks between Britain and the Argentine over the Falkland Islands dispute are expected to be resumed shortly, despite the Commons protests against continued negotiations.

The Argentine Ambassador, Brigadier Eduardo McLoughlin, is due back in London soon after a visit home to obtain new instructions from his Government, and a meeting is being arranged with Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart.

Meanwhile nearly 50 backbench Tories are calling on the Government for new assurances that the Falklands will remain British.

M.P.s ACT

Last night they signed a motion, put down by Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh S.), demanding the exclusion of all questions of the Falklands sovereignty from any talks with the Argentine.

During a Commons row last March, Mr. Stewart declared that the Government had no intention of handing over sovereignty.

But he said that this was no reason why the differences of opinion between Britain and the Argentine over sovereignty should not be discussed.

And he said that if a "satisfactory relationship" were to be achieved between the islands and the Argentine—and, for example, communications restored—it was right that the confidential talks should continue.

Extract from
Portsmouth Evening News, Hants.

25 JUN 1968

M.P.s backing Falkland Islanders

Mr. R. Bonner Pink (M.P. for Portsmouth South) and Mr. W. H. Loveys (M.P. for Chichester) are supporting a Tory Back Bench move to emphasize the Government's responsibility to the people of the Falkland Islands in the long-running dispute with the Argentine writes the Evening News Lobby Correspondent.

In a formal Parliamentary motion the M.P.s asked the Government to exclude all question of Sovereignty over the Island from any talks it is having with the Argentine Government.

The Tories are concerned that the distance between Whitehall and the Falklands should not mean that any less attention is paid to the Islanders' feelings than those of the people of Gibraltar in the Anglo-Spanish argument.

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date 25 JUN 1968
(See information overleaf)

M.P.s' move on Falklands

By Our Political Correspondent

Renewed suspicions that Britain is about to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina have prompted Conservative M.P.s to table a House of Commons motion.

The motion recalls the expressed wishes of the Falkland Islanders to remain British and requests the Government to exclude all questions of sovereignty of the islands from any talks they are having with the Argentine Government.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, M.P. for South Edinburgh and leading sponsor of the motion, said last night that there was great apprehension in the Falklands about the Anglo-Argentine talks.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

26 JUN 1968

Britain stands firm on Falklands

By GEOFFREY WAKEFORD

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing to take the same tough line over the Falkland Islands as it was forced to take over Gibraltar.

In a television interview last night Lord Chalfont, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of relations with South America, wrote off Argentina's claim to the colony as 'a claim of a sort.'

Legally, this can only mean that Britain now stands firm against handing sovereignty to Argentina despite United Nations pressure.

But Lord Chalfont said that severance of communications with Argentina was causing 'great difficulty' to the 2,000 islanders. It was therefore in their interests that Britain should 'conduct civilised conversations' with Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Manchester Daily Mail

26 JUN 1968

Britain stands firm on Falkland Isles

By GEOFFREY WAKEFORD

THE Government is preparing to take the same tough line over the Falkland Islands as it was forced to take over Gibraltar.

In a television interview last night Lord Chalfont, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of relations with South America, wrote off Argentina's claim to the colony as 'a claim of a sort.'

He repeated assurances that 'unless a solution is found to be acceptable to the islanders, we shall not continue with it.'

Legally, this can only mean that Britain now stands firm against handing sovereignty to Argentina despite United Nations pressure.

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

12 JUN 1968

The Queen may miss out Argentina visit

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE QUEEN is not expected to visit Argentina in the autumn after all.

Prospects are also remote that she will go to the Falkland Islands.

The Queen is paying State visits to Chile and Brazil and talks were held in London and Buenos Aires about arranging a visit to Argentina.

The idea was that it could set the seal on a new cordial relationship following the estrangement over the Argentine meat ban and the dispute over the Falklands.

But the Queen's advisers consider the time is not 'ripe'. Even if the situation changed suddenly it is almost too late now to arrange such a visit.

Loyalty

No snub was intended to Argentina but the likely cancellation of the projected visit could well be taken that way.

Practical difficulties seem to stand in the way of the Queen going to the Falkland Islands this time, despite a desire to pay tribute to the loyalty of the 2,000 islanders in face of Argentina's claim to sovereignty.

There is no airport on the Falklands, so the Queen would have to add almost a fortnight to her tour to include a short visit, and that would mean most of the time at sea.

The main purpose of the tour is to return the visit paid by President Frei of Chile to England in 1965.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

12 JUN 1968

THE FALKLANDS

Sir—May I congratulate you on your article in *The Daily Telegraph Magazine* on the Falkland Islands, by Joseph Lucas, on May 24?

I wish, however, to correct the statement that I am one of those who "are even talking of a 'Rhodesia-style U D I.'" This is quite untrue.

I know of no Islander who would contemplate such a course. Our wish is simply to remain British. Yours faithfully,

L. G. (TIMOTHY) BLAKE
Hill Cove, Falkland Islands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
The Times, London

25 JUN 1968

Call to end talks on Falklands

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

With the backing of Conservative leaders, Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (South Edinburgh) and 30 other Conservative backbenchers yesterday tabled a Commons motion asking the Government to exclude from any talks with the Argentine Government questions about the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

This amounts to a demand that the Government should withdraw from talks which have dragged on since 1965 without the islanders being informed of the progress; moreover, according to Mr. Clark Hutchison and others, their suspicion about the negotiations has not been allayed by British Ministers' ambiguous statements.

Mr. Clark Hutchison said last night that the islanders were worried about the future and did not seem to know what was happening.

Extract from
Japan Times, Tokyo

- 5 MAY 1968

Falkland Islands Issue Dates Back to 1833

3003 By GAMIINI SENEVIRATNE

Gemini News Service

Nobody knows who first "discovered" the 200 Falkland Islands. But as events were to have it, the first important date in its history is 1494 when a Papal Bull divided the New World between the two great maritime nations of the time, Spain and Portugal.

The provisions of the Bull meant nothing to the islands for several hundred years. In 1690 Britain's Capt. Strong made the first known landing on the islands.

He named them after the then Treasurer of the Navy, Viscount Falkland, whose ancestor led Charles I's army against Oliver Cromwell.

Seventy-five years later a French nobleman, Louis de Bougainville, who had recently suffered defeat by the British in the Canadian wars, took an expedition to South America with his own plans for restoring his country's lost glory in the north.

He established a settlement in East Falkland and, so well prepared was his expedition, it could well have flourished.

But Spain lodged an immediate protest and France, anxious to maintain the cordial relations which existed between the two countries at the time, handed the settlement to Spain on payment of something around £24,000.

No sooner had De Bougainville and the French been sent home than Spain found another interloper on its land.

Unknown to each other, the French and British had established settlements on the islands about the same time. The British settlement, set up by Capt. McBride, was in Sanders Island off West Falkland and, unlike the "friendly" French, they certainly intended to stay.

Events surrounding this settlement, at Port Egmont, are important to the argument and negotiations of today.

When the British refused to leave, the Spaniards, in 1770, sacked the settlement and sent the settlers back to Britain. The two countries were now on the verge of war.

But the following year the Spanish repudiated their "violent enterprise" and returned Port Egmont to Britain. A new settlement was established which, in 1774, was withdrawn by the British Government, leaving behind only a leaden plaque claiming British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Why the Spaniards went back on their military exercise and why the British withdrew the settlement after just three years, have become central to the current issue.

Meanwhile, the old French settlement in East Falkland, named Soledad by Spain, continued—administered from the Argentine capital—till 1811, when it was abandoned. The old Spanish empire was crumbling. Spain itself was ruled by the French. But the Viceroy in Buenos Aires continued to owe allegiance to Spain till the colonies assumed independence and formed the United Provinces in 1816.

While severing connections with Spain the new United Provinces claimed the mother country's rights and territories. In 1820, the

Falkland Islands were formally claimed by Argentina.

In 1826 a settlement was reestablished in Soledad under an expirate called Louis Vernet, and two years later Vernet was named governor of the islands by the Argentine Government. Britain protested, but did nothing else.

Three more events remain to be recorded. First, Gov. Vernet committed the indiscretion of holding three United States ships for sealing in the islands' waters.

The American reprisal was to send in a warship, the USS Lexington, which shelled and destroyed the Soledad settlement.

It was an opportunity for Britain to move in. It did, expelling what remained of the Argentine garrison and, in 1833, appointing Capt. Onslow, who led the occupying force, to control the islands.

Britain had full American support and the joint power of the two was too much for Argentina to do anything about. Britain has been in occupation since.

This long, unchallenged control is the main point of the British claim to the Falkland Islands. Clearly, Buenos Aires never had effective control since the Soledad settlement was abandoned in 1811.

The Argentinian claim stems from inheritance of the rights and properties of the Spanish empire. It offers an intriguing answer as to why Spain went back on its "violent enterprise" in 1771 and why Britain withdrew its settlement three years later.

The answer, as given by Count Moreno to Lord Palmerston in 1833, has been maintained since. It is that Spain and Britain made a secret agreement—the one, to deny its violent intent and give back the settlement, the other, to withdraw after a spell.

Lord Palmerston denied any such agreement. He said the British withdrew for purely economic reasons. Some scholars, however, believe there is sufficient evidence to suggest that a secret agreement is at least a possibility.

The point is strengthened by the fact that Britain had nothing to do with the islands from the time of withdrawal till 1832. Spain had full sovereignty during this period.

There is also the Nootka Sound Convention of 1790 between the two powers when Britain undertook not to intrude on Spanish-occupied territory in South America.

Each year since 1833 Argentina has formally protested to the British, challenging their right to control the islands (land area 4,618 square miles).

The islanders, just over 2,100 at the last count, are nearly all of British descent, and are anxious to remain British citizens. They fear, and are now almost convinced, that Britain is preparing to sell them down the river.

What now? Argentina says the recent talks with Britain have been satisfactory; that British Government, they have been friendly. Meanwhile, the islanders are becoming increasingly anxious.

Extract from
Sunday Express, London

30 JUN 1968

A plain duty

IT is quite fantastic that the Queen will not visit the Falkland Islands during her trip to South America next November.

The advice of Mr. Harold Wilson apparently is that if she went to the Falklands it would offend the Argentinians.

So what? Why should we pay the least regard to the feelings of the Argentine?

What matters is that the Queen's South American trip provides a wonderful opportunity for bringing comfort to a loyal, lonely little British outpost.

Nothing could do more to bolster the morale of the Falkland Islanders than to have their Queen among them, however fleetingly. Nothing could provide them with more stirring proof that we remember and feel for them in their faraway isolation. And that we have no intention of abandoning them to the Argentine or any other country.

The royal duty is clear. The decision must be reversed. The Queen must go to the Falklands.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

26 JUN 1968

FALKLANDS FEAR SECRET DECISION

By EDMUND TOWNSHEND
Diplomatic Staff

IN their remote South Atlantic home, islanders of the "more British than Britain" Falkland colony are fearful of the outcome of secret talks on their future which are to be resumed in London between Britain and Argentina.

This was made plain last night by the Anglia Television documentary film of life in the islands,

Mr. Arthur Barton, Falkland Islands Executive Councillor, declared that if Argentina were to get control of the Falklands, which have a population of just over 2,000, the islanders would all emigrate.

Argentina has long claimed sovereignty over the islands, though Britain named them in 1690 and has been in continuous occupation since 1832.

Claim never recognised

Britain has never recognised the Argentine claim, but Government assurances, since the United Nations' 1965 call for Anglo-Argentine talks, have never been firm enough to satisfy the islanders.

Only last March Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, caused alarm by saying there was to be no transfer of sovereignty "immediately."

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for relations with South America, was interviewed by Brian Connell

He said: "We shall not enter into any agreement with the Argentine Government unless the terms of it are satisfactory to us and satisfactory to the people of the Falkland Islands."

But he did not dispel secret fears of the islanders when he was asked if he foresaw a solution which might include a period when Argentina would have a Consul-General, and take a greater part in the administration of the islands.

His answer was: "These are points that are so close to the heart of the discussions with the Argentine Government that it would obviously be wrong for me to comment on them in public."

Extract from
Daily Mail, London

26 JUN 1968



IT'S curious how many women like watching violent sports considering they're known as the gentler sex. But go to any wrestling or boxing match and you'll find that the most vociferous screams of 'Kill him!' 'Tear his arm off!' and 'Knock his head off!' invariably come from bawling females.

It could be because women get vicarious kicks out of seeing men getting the sort of bashing that some of them get from their husbands on Saturday nights; though it's beyond me how anyone could fancy those fat, sweating bodies clawing at each other's spare tyres in wrestling bouts. Perhaps they do have some sort of sexual attraction.

Boxing has always been my favourite, but now that Clay has quit the scene there's no one to root for any more, and one had to admit that even in the cold grey and white of television the Joe Frazier-Manuel Ramos fight on *Sportsview* (BBC 1) was a mucky event.

Harry Carpenter described Ramos as a human punchbag and even though violence is what boxing is all about there comes a point where it can go too far. Clay turned a lot of women on to boxing; the scene without him is a rather sad and crummy affair.

THE FALKLANDS AFFAIR (Anglia) was an exceptionally good documentary introduced by Brian Connell about the Argentinian claim to the Falkland Islands. In their own words, the 2,100 people on these islands are 'so British you'd never believe it' (though from the shots of their gymkhanas, folk dancing, Soccer games and Boy Scout parades it was all too easy to believe. Their only currently un-British characteristic seemed to be their patriotism).

It included a splendid film of the mock-invasion of the islands by some young Argentinians to provoke their Government into action. It was a clear and simple look at a problem that, in spite of its minority interest, involves a principle that could affect all our remaining little colonies—that of whether an isolated collection of people can be forced to accept different sovereignty against their will.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

26 JUN 1968

UNION STAND BY THE FALKLANDS

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, admits in a television interview the possibility of an Argentine Consul - General sharing the administration of Britain's Falkland Isles.

This idea he says is "close to the heart" of the discussions between the British and Argentine Governments.

His statement creates the deepest alarm among the British people and the Falkland Islanders.

So serious a development in British Government policy should not have become known casually in a television interview.

The Prime Minister should repudiate Lord Chalfont's words.

The Falklands are British.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

13 JUN 1968

COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Falkland Islands (Wool Industry)

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what action he is taking to assist the wool industry in the Falkland Islands, in view of the serious fall in wool prices; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: The report of an economic survey of the Falkland Islands carried out last year made a number of recommendations to assist the wool industry in the event of a fall in wool prices. These recommendations are being considered by the Falkland Islands Government, and I am awaiting a report on the matter from the Governor

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Daily Express, London

26 JUN 1968

Chalfont sets off new Falkland Isles qualms

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

FEARS were renewed last night that the Government is planning to give the Argentine some role in the administration of the Falkland Islands.

Tory M.P.s plan to question Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart on the issue following last night's Anglia TV programme "The Falklands Affair."

Lord Chalfont, Foreign Office Minister responsible for relations with South American countries, was asked whether in secret talks shortly to be resumed he envisaged that the Argentine might have a Consul-General in the Falklands or "be taking some greater part in the administration of the Islands."

He said: "Now these really

are points of detail and points that are so close to the heart of the discussions with the Argentine Government that it would be obviously quite wrong for me to comment on them in public."

His statement was seen by Tory M.P.s last night as an admission that such a plan will be under discussion when Argentine Ambassador Brigadier Eduardo McCloughlin returns to London this week.

The M.P.s were not reassured by Lord Chalfont's renewed pledge that the Government will not agree to any solution of the Falkland Islands dispute which is not acceptable to the people.

Mr. Stewart is expected to claim that the Tories have wrongly interpreted Lord Chalfont's remarks.

Opinion: Page 8

Extract from the

Evening Express

ABERDEEN

26 JUN 1968

Falklands: Sovereignty WILL be discussed

EARL JELlicoe asked in the House of Lords today if the issue of sovereignty would be excluded from any discussions with the Argentine Government about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said: "The Government has thought it right that this issue should not be excluded from the talks."

Earl Jellicoe asked: "What useful purpose is served in continuing talks on this issue of sovereignty with the Argentine Government in view of the fact that the islanders are British and unalterably opposed to the transfer of sovereignty?"

Lord Chalfont said: "We have no doubt that sovereignty legally belongs to HM Government but we have been required by the United Nations to engage in talks with the Argentine."

Lord Chalfont told the Earl of Dundee that he could not undertake to say there would be a plebiscite.

Viscount Massereene and Ferrard asked: "Can we be assured that transfer of the Falkland Isles is not part of a package trade deal with the Argentine Government?"

Lord Chalfont: "I can tell him unequivocally that of course it is not part of any package deal."

29 JUN 1968

Will Falklanders see their Queen?

3003
by Quaestor

WILL THE QUEEN extend her South American visit later this year to Argentina, which is the second largest republic in the sub continent?

When first news of the impending visit to South America was leaked, the suggestion was made that she would go to Buenos Aires, which is a federal district, as well as the Argentine capital. But Argentina is not among the official list of places to be visited.

Now I learn that secret talks are being held in London between Britain and Argentina on the Falkland Islands, a British colony in the South Atlantic which has been the subject of Argentinian claims. The island group, which has a total area of 4,618 square miles, is populated by 2,102 mainly British people who are more loyal to the Queen than many in this country.

When I met a group of them from the capital, New Stanley, on a visit to the mainland, they complained that they were short of Union Jacks for some celebration. Like many remote British people, they were aggressively British, royalist, imperialist and excessively proud of the Royal Navy.

They let it be known that the colony, which had been continuously occupied by the United Kingdom since 1832, would never become Argentine property in spite of the ceaseless campaign for its transference. Some people assert that Britain's connection goes far beyond 134 years and declare that the British Navy gave the islands their name as long ago as 1690.

TALKS

In 1965, the United Nations, which has a bias against Britain possessing countries or islands afar off (although other countries manage to keep similar possessions), called on Britain

and the Argentine to hold talks about the future of the dependencies.

Talks were held, made little progress, and were postponed for further consultation. Britain has not recognised the Argentinian claim and there is little support for it. Now it is said that the Falkland Islanders have reason to fear the outcome of the talks. If Britain abandons them, it is said that the islanders would never stay to be ruled by the Argentine but would leave the austere islands in a massive demonstration of protest for Australia or for New Zealand.

New reason for the alarm is a statement by Mr. Stewart, Foreign Secretary, who has been the cause of earlier colonialists' fears. Only three months ago he said in his mealy-mouthed way that "there was to be no transfer of sovereignty immediately."

Surely, as in the case of Gibraltar, Britain cannot act against the wishes of the population? The Falklanders stand next to the Gibraltar

tarians in their desire to continue to be ruled by Britain.

Surely it is one of the fundamental human rights for the majority of a population to say by whom they wish to be ruled? Is not this self determination, too?

PUZZLE

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is responsible for relations with South America, was asked on television why the Government had not recommended that the Queen should visit the Falkland Islands. He said that no firm decision had been taken on her exact itinerary. "Factors include our relations with Argentina."

This statement puzzles me. An official statement of the Queen's visit has been issued and it does not include any reference to Argentina or to the Falklands. But the Queen is visiting Chile, the government of which has made a claim to be the real owner of the Falklands.

27 JUN 1968

CHEEK!

Britain and the Argentine are to resume talks about the Falkland Islands, the British colony in the South Atlantic.

In the Lords yesterday Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, admitted that the issue of sovereignty will not be excluded from the talks.

He explained that there was no doubt sovereignty legally belonged to Britain, but "we have been required by the United Nations to engage in talks with the Argentine."

This takes the biscuit! Why should we meekly accept orders from the U.N. to do any such thing?

The Argentine claim to the Falklands is worthless. The islands have been British for over 150 years.

Their sturdy inhabitants are British and want to remain so.

But the anti-colonialists at the U.N. are obsessed with the idea of liquidating the remaining outposts of the one-time British Empire.

They should be told to mind their own business.

As for the Argentine, no time should be wasted.

We should tell them that the Falklands are British and they are going to stay British.

27 JUN 1968

NO FALKLANDS 'PACKAGE DEAL', SAYS CHALFONT

By Our Parliamentary Staff
WESTMINSTER, Wednesday.

A mention of the United Nations brought a loud groan from Conservative backbenchers in the House of Lords today. Their outburst came after Lord CHALFONT, who had been asked why Britain was discussing the sovereignty of the Falkland Isles with the Argentine, said: "We have been required by the United Nations to engage in these talks."

"I am sorry to hear that Pavilion reaction," he declared. The Government believed that by discussion they might be able to relieve some of the distress and inconvenience the Falkland Islanders were suffering.

Earl JELlicoe, Deputy Opposition Leader, said that as the islanders were unalterably opposed to a transfer of sovereignty, the Government was embarking on a course calculated to create the maximum amount of disquiet among them, and would mislead the Argentinians about what might be our ultimate intentions.

British sovereignty

Lord CHALFONT replied that the Government had no doubt that sovereignty belonged to Britain. Any agreement made with the Argentine Government in respect of fully satisfactory arrangements and then only the Falkland Islanders themselves regarded the agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

Viscount MASSENE and Lord FERRARD (C.) asked for an assurance that transfer of a package islands was not part of a package deal with the Argentine.

Lord CHALFONT: If it were not for my great respect for you, I would not answer that question. I can say unequivocally that of course it is not part of any package deal.

BALOGH INTRODUCED

Lord Balogh, economist and Reader in Economics at Oxford University, was introduced in the House of Lords today. He was sponsored by Lord Faringdon (Lab.&) and Lord Campbell of Eskan (Lab.).

27 JUN 1968

Falkland Islands talks to go on

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, told the Lords yesterday that the Government thought it right the issue of sovereignty should not be excluded from talks with the Argentine Government about the future of the Falkland Islands.

Earl Jellicoe, deputy Opposition leader, asked what useful purpose was served in continuing talks on sovereignty with the Argentinians in view of the fact that the islanders were British.

"Is not the Government's course calculated to cause the maximum disquiet among the islanders and mislead everyone, including the Argentinians, about what may be our ultimate intentions?"

Lord Chalfont replied: "We have no doubt that sovereignty legally belongs to Her Majesty's Government. But we have been required by United Nations to engage in talks with the Argentinians."

"There were also conditions causing distress to the people of the islands—and we believe that by a civilised discussion with another power we may be able to relieve that distress."

The Earl of Dundee urged that nothing should be done before there was a plebiscite of the islanders, but Lord Chalfont said he could not undertake that

Extract from 1958
30 Jun
Sunday Express, London

30 JUN 1968

The Queen's visit to Falklands dropped

by KEITH RENSCHAW

THE QUEEN will not visit the Argentine or the neighbouring British Falkland Islands as part of her tour of South America in November.

An announcement giving details of her visits to Chile and Brazil is expected in a day or so. An extended itinerary taking in the Falklands and the Argentine will not be included.

This is Whitehall's diplomatic way of saying that this part of the tour, under consideration since April, is finally off. The Government had hoped to send the Queen to the Argentine to improve relations, which were soured by the Argentine's claim to the Falklands and by the foot and mouth ban on meat imports.

There will be widespread disappointment that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, has not advised the Queen to visit the fervently loyal Falkland Islanders.

That would have helped in particular to dispel continuing doubts among Tory leaders about the secret talks over the future of the Falklands still going on between Britain and the Argentine.

Tory fears

Mr. Stewart has told the Commons that the Falklands will not be handed over to the Argentine without the islanders' consent.

But on television last week Lord Chalfont, Foreign Office Minister of State, aroused Tory fears again by refusing to deny flatly that the possibility of the Argentine having some form of say on the islands was not being discussed.

The Tories now want another statement from Mr. Stewart to clear up the matter.

Mr. Stewart is expected to discuss the claim to the Falklands with the Argentine Ambassador at the Foreign Office this week.

The Ambassador is returning from Buenos Aires and is expected to bring new instructions from his Government.

It was insisted last night that there is no question of a sell-out.

Britain would consider the posting of an Argentine Consul-General to the Falklands because that would imply Argentine acceptance of British sovereignty.

But it is hinted that if it is further suggested that the Argentine official should be given a role in administering the islands it will be rejected.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

27 JUN 1968

Chalfont quizzed on Falklands 'disquiet'

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

GOVERNMENT policy in talking to the Argentine Government over the Falkland Islands' future was condemned in the Lords yesterday by Earl Jellicoe, deputy Tory leader.

He said the Government's course was likely to cause "maximum disquiet" among the islanders and mislead everyone.

He asked what useful purpose there was in continuing talks about sovereignty when it was clear to everyone the islanders were unalterably opposed to any transfer of sovereignty.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, said the Government had no doubt about British sovereignty over the islands. But UNO had urged that there should be talks and, he added:—

"Arising from the Argentinian claim, whatever its

rights or wrongs, there are conditions which are causing distress to the people of the islands, and we believe that by civilised discussion with another Power we may be able to relieve that stress."

He said the Government thought it right that the issue of sovereignty should not be excluded from the talks.

Lord Rowley (Lab.) asked Lord Chalfont if he had seen an article in yesterday's Daily Express and asked: "Would you comment on the suggestion that an Argentine Consul-General is to be appointed to the Falkland Islands?"

Lord Chalfont: "It will come as no surprise if I say I am not responsible for the editorial policy of the Daily Express, but anybody who studies last night's television programme will be able to arrive at a true assessment."

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

JUN 1968

Tayside Link With Falklands

THOSE intensely loyal Britons, the 2100 Falkland Islanders, are worried about the sovereignty of their homeland.

Argentina has laid claim to the islands, and Britain has been required by the United Nations to hold discussions about their future.

Like the inhabitants of Gibraltar, the islanders have no aspirations to independence or to be anything else but British—and do not hesitate to say so.

The economy of the Falklands is based almost entirely on wool. The main sheep farmers are the Falkland Islands Company which has been in business for nearly 120 years.

Through the ship-owning side of their activities they have an interesting link with Dundee.

Their policy has always

been to have a handy-sized passenger cargo ship for service between Port Stanley, the capital, and the South American mainland.

Speed Record

During the last war their Lafonia, which had originally been Coast Lines Liverpool-London trader Southern Coast, was sunk by collision off the Tyne, presumably while on Government service.

An urgent replacement was needed after the war. A high-powered deputation of the Falkland Islands Board

came to Dundee to inspect the DP&L steamer Perth.

It included the fastest man on earth, John Cobb, holder of the world's land speed record, who was later killed trying to beat the water speed record on Loch Ness.

I have heard that Mr Cobb wasn't particularly impressed by the rather dowdy-looking Perth which had just completed a four-year stint as a North Atlantic convoy rescue ship and had been responsible for saving 455 lives.

In her dull Admiralty grey she was a pale ghost of the handsome black and red-funnelled miniature liner which had been the pride of the Dundee-London service for nearly 20 years.

For Four Years

Other members of the Board realised the Perth's potentialities. The deal went through and in the autumn of 1946 she sailed down the

**By Our
Shipping
Correspondent**

Polish Trawler

AN unheralded visitor to Dundee on Thursday and Friday was the 671-ton Polish trawler Luzycy which called at Queen Elizabeth Wharf for water. Uniformed sailors were seen in city streets.

Last year for the first time since it made its initial appearance in 1953 the Polish North Sea fishing fleet was conspicuous by its absence from the Tay. Nor did a mother ship make use of an anchorage in St Andrews Bay for transferring catches.

This remains permissible, although the fishing limit is now 12 miles out instead of three. The 8000-ton ex-liners Kaszuby and Pulaski have been on this job for many years.

Should the Poles decide to make use of Dundee again this summer the harbour should have little difficulty in coping. The jute trade is likely to be very quiet for the next three or four months.

During one particularly stormy summer more than 100 fishing vessels from Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin called at Dundee. Many of them were small wooden herring fishing boats seeking shelter.

Tay for the last time as the new Lafonia.

John Cobb was among the passengers on her maiden Falkland Islands voyage from London to Port Stanley.

She remained under the company's flag for four years.

Her usual run was Stanley-Montevideo, but each year she made a trip home to London with wool. She wasn't particularly suitable for this job as she had comparatively little cargo space and wool is a bulky commodity.

After her fourth run home she was laid up in the Thames for some months before being sold to Italian owners.

As the Valfiorita she instituted a short-lived service to Madagascar and Mauritius. But she spent most of her declining years in the Mediterranean and was eventually broken up at an Adriatic port in 1961 at the ripe old age of 46.

Limited

A newer, but smaller, Leith-built ship, the Fitzroy, took over her duties in South American waters and chartered vessels brought the wool to London.

Ten years ago the Fitzroy was replaced by the Goole-built *Demian* of 1950, built

1289 Oral Answers 2 J

February of this year for the second U.N.C.T.A.D. I naturally hope that, agreeable to the Governments concerned, further visits can be arranged in 12 months to come.

Mr. Jackson: Would my right hon. Friend admit that, while relations between Wales and India are necessarily close, it would probably be more practicable for the Commonwealth Secretary to visit India and Pakistan at the earliest opportunity, bearing in mind the serious problems of South-East Asia, China, Vietnam and the future of Asia?

Mr. Thomson: Yes, Sir. The Secretary of State for Wales visited India as one of my deputies. My hon. Friend will be aware that we are approaching a merger of the Commonwealth Office and the Foreign Office, and I am sure that the first Secretary of State for the joint office will not overlook what my hon. Friend has said this afternoon.

India (Mr. W. Nash)

23. **Mr. David Watkins** asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the efforts which he is making to have expedited the proceedings against Mr. W. Nash of Burnopfield, County Durham, who has been held in custody in New Delhi for many months on charges of alleged smuggling.

Mr. Whitlock: Our High Commissioner in New Delhi has made appropriate representations to the Indian authorities about the time Mr. Nash has already been in custody, and I hope that the proceedings against him will now be expedited.

Mr. Watkins: I thank my right hon. Friend for the efforts which he and the High Commissioner have made on behalf of my constituent. However, is it not disgraceful that anyone should be held in custody for so long without any charges being proved against him?

Mr. Whitlock: Mr. Nash was arrested on 15th December and could not produce bail. The Indian Customs authorities completed their inquiries on 12th March when a complaint was alleged against him in court. I understand that there are 24 witnesses in this case, of whom only eight have so far appeared in court. Progress is slow, but the conduct of the case is a matter for the Indian courts on which I cannot comment. My

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

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dian Customs authorities to complete their inquiries. They were not completed until 12th March. Since then, there have been a number of hearings of the court and a variety of witnesses have been examined.

Falkland Islands

26. **Mr. Chichester-Clark** asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs whether he will now arrange to visit the Falkland Islands.

Mr. George Thomson: I know that a visit to the Falkland Islands would be welcome and we are examining the possibility of a visit by a Minister later in the year.

Mr. Chichester-Clark: Has not someone, either there or here, to make it quite clear that British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands is not negotiable?

Mr. Thomson: The position with regard to the Falkland Islands has been made absolutely clear, and it is that the interests of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are paramount, and it is their wishes that will be taken into account in any future decision.

27. **Mr. Chichester-Clark** asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what recent talks he has had with political leaders in the Falkland Islands.

28. **Mr. Braine** asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what consultations he now proposes with the Government of the Falkland Islands on the subject of their future constitutional status.

Mr. George Thomson: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 26th March, there have been consultations with the Governor, who has been authorised to keep his Executive Council

informed in confidence. This will continue.

I had talks with the Governor of the Falkland Islands in London in February, and my right hon. Friend the Minister of State had talks with a leading member of the Falkland Islands Executive Council in London in March.

Mr. Chichester-Clark : I hope that that means that sovereignty is not negotiable. Have political leaders been told why the Government are appearing to waste time and are causing what appears to be unnecessary offence to other nations in this case, and in the cases of British Honduras and Gibraltar?

Mr. Thomson : The other points are matters for other Questions but in the case of the Falkland Islands, as the hon. Member knows, there is first of all the United Nations resolution on the subject, with which we have been seeking to comply. It is in the general interests of the Falkland Islands, as well as of our own foreign relations, that the Falkland Islands should seek neighbourly relations with the Argentine on the neighbouring Latin-American continent. There is no question of the wishes of the Falkland Islanders with regard to the future being over-ridden.

Mr. Braine : Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is no doubt about the desirability of having good relations with the Argentine, but since, contrary to the wishes both of the Islanders and a large number of people in the House and this country, secret negotiations with the Argentine over sovereignty are still continuing, we want to know at what stage the Government propose to tell the people of the Falkland Islands, as opposed to the Executive Council, which is bound to secrecy on this matter, concerning their future?

Mr. Thomson : Negotiations are going on. These kinds of negotiations are better conducted in confidence. It is the normal practice. Equally, the Governor and his Executive Council are being kept informed of the negotiations, in confidence. When these negotiations develop to a point at which there is something to report, that would be the time to bring in a much wider circle of people, but that stage has not yet been reached.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home : The right hon. Gentleman has used two sets of words. He said first of all, in relation to sovereignty, that the wishes of the people in the Falkland Islands will be taken into account, and the second time he said that they would not be over-ridden. Will he confirm that it is the second interpretation which is the right one?

Mr. Thomson : It is the second one.

COAL

Colliery Closures, North-West

30. **Mr. Rose** asked the Minister of Power what communications he has received from the National Coal Board in respect of colliery closures in the North-West during the latter half of 1968.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Power (Mr. Reginald Freeson) : I understand from the National Coal Board that it has informed the unions that Bradford and Thorney Bank pits are to close in 1968, and that the results of Ravenshead, Parsonage, Sutton Manor and Old Meadows pits are such that their future is in jeopardy.

Mr. Rose : Would my hon. Friend consult with the various authorities interested in the future of Bradford Colliery to see whether a change in the working arrangements can extend the life of the colliery? Would he take steps with his colleagues to see that, if the colliery is closed, priority to those made redundant is given in other forms of public enterprise?

Mr. Freeson : My hon. Friend will appreciate that negotiations as to the possible extension of the life of pits is a matter for the N.U.M. and the N.C.B. and their local representatives. As to alternative employment, while there is consultation and contact with regional authorities, the D.E.A. and other Departments, this is primarily a responsibility of those departments, not the Ministry of Power.

Mr. Emery : Can the Minister give an assurance that it is not the intention of his Ministry to interfere in any way with the programme of pit closures agreed by the N.C.B.?

Extract from
Oldham Evening Chronicle, Lancs.

- 5 JUL 1968

● VIEWPOINT ●

^{11:03}
WHAT is to become of the Falkland Islands, that tiny British colony 300 miles off the coast of Latin America in the South Atlantic? For two years now, the 2,100 islanders have been anxiously standing by while the wrangle over the colony's sovereignty goes on between Britain and Argentina.

The talks, prompted by a United Nations resolution in 1965, are a jealously guarded secret, and the islanders fear that something is afoot. After last night's ITV probe into the Falklands affair, I can't blame them.

The programme was another excellent documentary from Anglia Television, who are making quite a name for themselves in this field. In 45 minutes, we got a thorough idea of the islands' population, their way of life, their economy — and the uncertainty of their future.

The Falklands certainly seem a paradise — no roads, mostly horse traffic, a fairly temperate climate, despite their reputation, and no worries . . . until now, that is. They're more British than the British, said one contributor to the programme, and indeed, the place itself could easily have been Yorkshire.

What do the islanders think about Argentina's claim on their sovereignty? "It makes our blood boil" . . . "Unthinkable that these islanders should be under any other flag than Britain's". . . "Absolutely monstrous" . . . "Deplorable." These were some of the descriptions of two of the people who were interviewed.

Later, reporter Brian Connell spoke to MP Bernard Braine, Tory spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, and Lord Chalfont, the Minister who deals with the islands.

I admired the way that Mr. Braine got worked up over the affair. He thinks the talks ought

to be called off right now — the people want to stay British and Argentina has no legal claim, he reckoned, a view backed by a Bristol University professor.

Lord Chalfont, on the other hand was an extremely cold fish. It all seemed so academic, and despite his pledge that the wishes of the people would be respected, that still does not explain why the talks are continuing.

P.W.H.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

- 3 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

INTERESTS OF

^{3:00}INHABITANTS

Mr. THOMSON, Commonwealth Secretary, told Mr. Chichester-Clark (C. Londonderry) that he was examining the possibility of a Minister visiting the Falkland Islands later this year.

Mr. CHICHESTER-CLARK then asked if Mr. Thomson would make it clear that British sovereignty over the islands was "not negotiable."

Mr. THOMSON: I thought the position had been made absolutely clear. It is the interests of the inhabitants which are paramount, and their wishes will be taken into account in all future decisions.

Replying to Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Opposition spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, the Minister stressed that Britain would "not just take the wishes of the islanders into account. It would see that they were not overridden."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Guardian, Manchester & London

- 3 JUL 1968

Hint of visit to Falklands

^{3:00}
Mr Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, said he was examining the possibility of a ministerial visit to the Falkland Islands later this year.

Mr Bernard Braine (C. Essex SE): "When does the Government propose to tell the people — as opposed to the Falkland Islands Executive Council — what is happening about their future?"

Mr Thomson: "Negotiations are going on. This kind of negotiation is better conducted in confidence. The Governor and the Executive Council are being kept informed, and when things develop to the point where there is something to report, a wider circle of people will be brought in."

Parliament continued, page 3

Extract from
Daily Express, London

- 2 JUL 1968

OPINION

DO NOT BETRAY THEM

^{3:00}
BY advising the Queen not to visit the Falklands, the Government acts disgracefully. It is setting more store by the reaction of the Argentine — with whom it is having talks about the future of the Falklands — than the loyalty of a tiny isolated band of Britons.

There should be no thought of the Queen visiting that part of the world without stopping to receive the homage of 2,000 Falkland Islanders.

It matters not at all if the Argentinos object.

For the last 50 years our trade deficit with them has been running at an average of £47 million a year.

Their objections mean nothing. If Britain severed all trade with the Argentine our economy would be strengthened.

Britain and the Falklands have nothing to fear from the Argentine.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

- 3 JUL 1968

The Commonwealth Secretary, Mr George Thomson, may visit the Falkland Islands later this year. \o/\

Extract from
Sunday Telegraph, London

30 JUN 1968

Queen not to visit Falklands

By Our Commonwealth Affairs Correspondent

The Queen will not visit Argentina or the Falkland Islands during her tour of South America in the autumn. This will be made clear in a Foreign Office announcement expected shortly on the itinerary for Chile and Brazil.

Tentative plans were made for the Queen to go to Argentina, but the two Governments have decided that a visit would be inopportune in view of disagreement over the future of the Falklands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 2 JUL 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

50. Mr. Will Owen asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a further statement on Her Majesty's Government's policy concerning the future of the Falkland Islands, in the light of the negotiations with the Argentine Government.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts: I have at present nothing to add to the statement which my right hon. Friend made to the House on 27th March about Her Majesty's Government's policy in the Anglo-Argentine talks about the Falkland Islands. As he told the House on that occasion, these talks are being held on a confidential basis.—[Vol. 761, c. 1458-67.]

Mr. Chichester-Clark asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a statement about the progress of the talks on the Falkland Islands with the Government of the Argentine.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts: I would refer the hon. Gentleman to my reply earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Morpeth (Mr. Will Owen).

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Dundee Evening Telegraph

- 2 JUL 1968

THOMSON ON FALKLANDS

Mr George Thomson Secretary for Commonwealth Affairs) said there was a question of the wishes of the Falkland Islanders about their future being over-riden.

Extract from
Daily Express, London

1 JUL 1968

Sorrow of the islands

From JACK COMBEN
Buenos Aires, Sunday

THE Sunday morning march past the Union Jack took place as usual at Port Stanley today.

But for all of the people taking part—local troops, Scouts, Guides, ambulance men and nurses—today's parade was a sad affair.

Black Sunday they're calling it.

The people of the Falkland Islands are perhaps among the most loyal subjects in the whole of the Commonwealth.

And the news that the British Government has advised the Queen not to visit their islands this year has stunned the whole community.

It was to have been the event of the century for them. They planned to light up the whole of Port Stanley. And each week the Sunday church parade had become a rehearsal for the show they would put on for the royal visit.

They were excited at the possibility of a royal visit. "It means more to us than anything materialistic," said one man. "It means that Britain cares. . . ."

VOTE

I have just left the Falklands after a two-week tour of the island—during which I asked them about their attitude to sovereignty.

"In the event of an official referendum being called would you vote to remain under British sovereignty or that of the Argentine Republic?" was the question I put to 857 adult residents of this isolated and scattered British Colony in the South Atlantic and which is claimed by the Argentine.

The result was overwhelming—849 votes to

remain under British sovereignty.

Eight hundred and fifty-seven may not seem very many people but the population, including minors, is only 2,117.

Half that number are resident in the capital and only town, Port Stanley, with the remainder scattered around on almost 200 tiny islands.

To give those isolated settlements a chance to express their views I made a radio appeal. And the Rev. Paul J. Charman, of the Tabernacle (Scots Free Church), put the same question to a number of farmers on remote islands.

His report to me reads, in part: "I did not meet, or hear, of one man or woman who wishes the present state of British sovereignty to change. It is my considered opinion that the smaller islands are 100 per cent desirous of remaining British."

BLOW

The Government's decision is a terrible blow for the islanders. For although many have never seen it, Britain is home.

The Government can expect to run into strong criticism over the decision to advise the Queen not to visit the Falkland Islands this autumn, writes Maurice Trowbridge.

A visit from the Queen would have been regarded by the inhabitants as a clear indication that Britain had no intention of giving way to the Argentine's claim.

With talks still going on between Britain and the Argentine, the islanders' natural disappointment at not seeing their Queen will be sharpened by fear that the Government is considering some sort of deal.

Extract from
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

- 6 JUL 1968

Royal visit to bypass Argentine

Morning Telegraph Reporter

The Queen will miss the Argentine part of her visit to South America next winter. Anti-British feeling has been running high in the republic over Britain's refusal to hand them the loyalist Falkland Islands.

Restrictions on meat imports during the foot-and-mouth outbreaks strained relations further and the students' riots in Buenos Aires have been taken into account by the Queen's advisers.

The decision means there is now no question of her visiting the Falklands.

The Foreign Office in London said yesterday: "After full consultation with the Argentine Government, Her Majesty's Government have advised Her Majesty that the present is not the most appropriate time for a visit, but that it is hoped that a visit may be made to the Argentine on a later occasion."

Ambassador

The Argentine Ambassador, Brig. Eduardo McLoughlin, called at the Foreign Office on Thursday evening.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to Brazil from November 5-11 and Chile from November 11-18.

The Queen will fly to Recife in an RAF VC10. With the Duke of Edinburgh she will sail to Rio de Janeiro in the royal yacht Britannia.

The Duke, who will attend the Olympic Games in Mexico at the end of October, is to join her in Recife on November 1.

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald GLASGOW

Date - 6 JUL 1968

No royal visit to Argentina

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting Brazil and Chile in November, but they will not be going to Argentina, it was learned yesterday in London.

An official statement from Buckingham Palace said the Queen will visit Brazil from November 5 to 11, and will be in Chile from November 11 to 18.

She will fly in a VC-10 of R.A.F. Air Support Command, arriving at Recife, Brazil, on November 1. The Duke—who will have been attending the Olympic Games in Mexico—will join her there. They will then sail from Recife in the royal yacht Britannia, arriving at Rio de Janeiro on November 5.

Falklands dispute

The question of the Queen visiting Argentina was discussed between the two Governments. A Foreign Office statement issued last night said that after the fullest consultation with Argentina the Government advised the Queen that the present was not the most appropriate time for a visit, but hope that a visit to Argentina may be made later. Because of the continuing dispute between the two countries over the future of the Falkland Islands this decision was to be expected. The Queen could not very well go to Argentina without visiting the Falklands.

Brigadier Senor Don Ecuado McLoughlin, the Argentine Ambassador, called at the Foreign Office yesterday, at his own request, to see Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary. They talked about problems of common interest, notably the Falkland Islands.

International Press-Cutting Bureau

184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from

The Derbyshire Times

STATION ROAD, CHESTERFIELD

Date - 5 JUL 1968

SOME secret dirty work concerning the future of the Falkland Islands is taking place between the Foreign Office and the Argentine whose preposterous claims to these British possessions would never have been considered by any but an anti-British or Communist inspired Cabinet. Although Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary told the Commons that the Falklands would not be handed over without the consent of the islanders he is not to be trusted for he now refuses to deny the possibility of the Argentine having some sort of say on the islands — the thin end of the wedge to complete control. If proof were needed of the Government's intention to 'rat' on our kinsfolk in the Falklands, the cancellation of the Queen's visit to them in November may well be the first indication of treachery.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Sun, London

- 6 JUL 1968

No royal visit to Argentina

The Queen is missing Argentina from her Latin-American tour later this year because of rows over the Falkland Islands and restrictions against Argentine meat after allegations that Argentina was a source of Britain's foot-and-mouth epidemic.

The Government decision to advise against the visit was made because the Queen might have been subject to political and public embarrassment.

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

- 5 JUL 1968

Date

Our other disputed rock

By Norman Hillson

The Falkland Islands are geographically remote from Britain, but the Government is showing no readiness to accede to Argentinian wishes by giving up this long-owned possession.

For many years Argentina has claimed them by right, and has gone so far as to submit the whole question to the United Nations Organisation.

The problem is somewhat akin to that of Gibraltar. No one can dispute that the "Rock," geographically speaking, is an integral part of metropolitan Spain.

To a lesser degree it may be said that the Falkland Islands are part of the South American Continent and that Argentina, which stretches along the Atlantic seaboard from the estuary of the Plata River to Cape Horn off Tierra del Fuego, has a territorial right to them as they are only 300 miles from her coastline.

Plebiscite

Argentines wonder how Britain would feel if the Outer Hebrides were in the possession of a foreign power.

The Gibraltarians, though not of British descent, made it quite clear that they wished to remain British. The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, though few in number, are mostly British nationals, being the descendants of British subjects who made the first really permanent settlement there 135 years ago.

Today's Falklanders are almost unanimous in their desire to maintain the

present connection with the home country.

The Falkland Islands, which stand isolated in the South Atlantic immediately opposite the Straits of Magellan, number about 100.

Only two are of any considerable size—East and West Falkland, 2,580 and 2,038 square miles respectively. Many of them are bare, uninhabited rocks jutting out from the sea. There is only one town of any size, Stanley, in East Falkland, with a population of just over 1,000. In fact the total population of the whole group of islands is little more than 2,000, of whom 95 per cent. are English-speaking and have no connection with neighbouring Argentina.

They have a resident Governor appointed by the Crown and assisted by a Legislative Council of 11, some of whom are elected by popular vote.

Lot of rain

The climate is very similar to that of the Orkney Islands, north of Scotland, and there is a good deal of rain. Trees are scarce, but the land has proved eminently suitable for sheep farming, especially on the uplands.

The islands were uninhabited when sighted by the Elizabethan sea captain John Davis in 1592 and they were visited by the redoubtable John Hawkins two years later.

Extract from the

Shields Gazette

and Shipping Telegraph

Incorporating The Shields Evening News

Date - 5 JUL 1968

Islands sell-out fear grows

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent.

FEARS of a British sell-out over the Falkland Islands were growing in London today with news of fresh talks between Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, and the Argentine Ambassador, Brigadier Don Eduardo F. McLoughlin.

The Argentine claims on the sovereignty of the tiny British dependency are understood to have caused the Queen to cancel a proposed state visit to Buenos Aires.

The Foreign Office appears anxious to prevent speculation about a possible surrender of British rule over the Islands. It is clear that some agreement over communication links between the Falklands and the Argentine mainland will be negotiated.

There are rumours, too, among politicians that the Government may be prepared to allow Argentina some form of major representation on Falkland territory.

In past disputes with the Argentine, particularly over the recent foot and mouth epidemic, Britain has tended to take a soft line—mainly because the country is a profitable market for British exports.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
The Times, London

- 5 JUL 1968

FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Prebendary G. A. Lewis Lloyd

Sir,—About four months back you printed a letter from me, as having been stationed in the Falkland Islands during the War, protesting against the suggested transfer of this colony to the Argentine Government. Various assurances given in Parliament shortly afterwards allayed our fears; these, however, have now been aroused again. It is announced that her Majesty will not visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour. It would, of course, be quite improper to reproach her Majesty, who, in these days of the constitutional monarchy, will accede to the request of the Government, but why has the Government advised the Queen in this way? Either

(a) the decision has been taken to avoid offending the Argentine Government, or

(b) (a very worrying alternative) they are still contemplating "doing a deal".

If the former reason be the right one, it would seem a very strange procedure for the Sovereign not to visit part of her dominion lest some other Government take offence. If, however, the latter alternative is the true answer, it would be a very serious and hurtful act for her Majesty's Government to contemplate handing over some 2,000 British people to another Government. It would be most unjust and should surely be condemned as fostering the worst type of colonialism.

Most of us feel that the Gibraltarians' desire to remain British is a claim that should be recognized; but how much more force has a similar claim from the Falkland Islanders who are actually and genealogically British.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
your obedient servant,

G. A. LEWIS LLOYD.
Chiswick Vicarage, The Mall, W.4.

Extract from
Western Daily Press, Bristol

- 5 JUL 1968

Queen will go to Rio

Western Daily Press Reporter

The Queen and Prince Philip will visit Brazil and Chile in November.

They will spend a week in each country.

The Queen will fly to South America, arriving at Recife on November 1.

She will be joined there by Prince Philip following his visit to the Mexico Olympic Games.

They will sail from Recife to Rio de Janeiro in the royal yacht Britannia, arriving in Rio on November 5.

ADVICE

But they will not visit Argentina or the Falkland Islands on their tour.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the Government had advised the Queen that "the present is not the most appropriate time for a visit, but that it is hoped that a visit may be made to Argentina on a later occasion."

This is clearly bound up with the strain of relations imposed by British restrictions on meat imports from the Argentine during the foot-and-mouth epidemic, and the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

Extract from
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

- 6 JUL 1968

Queen to visit Brazil

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Brazil from November 5 to 11 and Chile from November 11 to 18, it was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The Queen will fly to South America in an R.A.F. VC.10 aircraft of air support command, arriving at Recife on November 1.

With the Duke of Edinburgh she will sail from Recife to Rio de Janeiro in the Royal yacht, arriving in Rio on November 5.

The Duke, who will attend the Olympic Games in Mexico at the end of October, is to join the Queen in Recife on November 1.

Inappropriate time

The Foreign Office in London said today: After full consultation with the Argentine Government, H.M. Government have advised Her Majesty that the present is not the most appropriate time for a visit, but it is hoped that a visit may be made to Argentina on a later occasion."

The Government's advice to the Queen not to go to Argentina during her present tour is clearly bound up with the recent strain on relations imposed by British restrictions on meat imports from the Argentine during the foot-and-mouth epidemic and the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

The decision not to include Argentina in the Queen's tour this time also means she will not visit the Falkland Islands.

Extract from
The Times, London

- 9 JUL 1968

Administration of Falklands

MR. SHELDON (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what proposals were under consideration in the present discussions with Argentina, that they should take part in the administration of the Falkland Islands.

MR. STEWART, in a written reply, states.— The Anglo-Argentine talks on the Falkland Islands are continuing, and although their content remains confidential I can say that they have not included any proposal for Argentine participation in the administration of the Islands, nor has any request been received for the accreditation of an Argentine consular representative in the Islands.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

- 6 JUL 1968

Queen will miss Argentine on tour

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Brazil from November 5 to 11 and Chile from November 11 to 18, it was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The Queen will fly to South America in an R.A.F. VC.10 aircraft of Air Support Command, arriving at Recife on November 1. With the Duke of Edinburgh she will sail from Recife to Rio de Janeiro in the Royal Yacht Britannia, arriving in Rio on November 5.

The Duke, who will attend the Olympic Games in Mexico at the end of October, is to join the Queen in Recife on November 1.

NOT APPROPRIATE

The Foreign Office in London said yesterday: "After full consultation with the Argentine Government, H.M. Government have advised Her Majesty that the present is not the most appropriate time for a visit, but that it is hoped that a visit may be made to Argentina on a later occasion."

The Press Association diplomatic correspondent writes: There was no indication what the time scale was for a later occasion.

The Government's advice to the Queen not to go to Argentina during her present tour is clearly bound up with the recent strain on relations imposed by British restrictions on meat imports from the Argentine during the foot-and-mouth epidemic and the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

The decision not to include Argentina in the Queen's tour this time also means that she will not visit the Falkland Islands. While the inhabitants will obviously be upset at not having the opportunity to greet the Queen, it is felt that a visit there would only exacerbate the situation.

EXCHANGES

At the time of the original announcement in April that the Queen was to go to Chile and Brazil in November, it was said by the Foreign Office that talks had also begun on the possibility of a visit to Argentina. A decision had not been reached as exchanges were continuing between the two Governments.

Mr George Thomson, the Commonwealth Secretary, was asked in Parliament last month whether he would advise the Queen to include a visit to the Falkland Islands during her coming South American tour.

He replied: "This is possible, and has naturally not been overlooked, although there are a number of practical difficulties."

Mr Thomson added that he had no doubts about the popularity of such a visit and would certainly bear this in mind. In the Commons last Tuesday, he said that he was examining the possibility of a Ministerial visit to the Falkland Islands later this year.

Extract from
Daily Express, London
- 6 JUL 1968

THE QUEEN
WILL MISS
FALKLANDS
3003 -**IT'S**
OFFICIAL

By MAURICE TROWBRIDGE

THE Queen will not visit the Falkland Islands during her South American tour in November, it was confirmed yesterday.

The news came from Buckingham Palace in the itinerary for the trip.

Although no one in Whitehall is prepared to admit it officially, the reason for the Government's decision is simply that they do not want to upset the Argentine, which claims sovereignty over the islands.

Much is being made in Government circles of the long and probably rough sea trip from Brazil to the islands in the royal yacht Britannia, which would add about a week to the Queen's stay in South America. But despite recent Government assurances that the wishes of the 2,000 islanders will be "paramount," the decision is bound to sharpen fears that a deal with the Argentine is under discussion.

INAPPROPRIATE

Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart reopened talks on the dispute in London yesterday with the Argentine Ambassador, Don Eduardo McLoughlin.

The idea that the Queen might visit the Argentine has also been dropped. It is not "an appropriate time," the Foreign Office said last night.

The Queen will arrive by air in Brazil on November 1. Prince Philip will join her after visiting the Mexico Olympics. They will go on to visit Chile from November 11-18.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

- 9 JUL 1968

FALKLAND Is. TALKS

3003 By Our Political Staff

Talks with Argentina on the future of the Falkland Islands have not included any proposal for Argentine participation in their administration, Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, said in a Commons written answer last night.

International Press-cutting Bureau
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post
LEEDS

- 6 JUL 1968

Date

**Argentine still out
of Royal tour**

By CHRISTOPHER FORBES ADAM,
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh are to visit Brazil from November 5-11 and then on to Chile until November 18, it was announced yesterday.

Both will be State visits. The intention to visit these two countries was announced in March.

At the same time, the Foreign Office announced that the British Government, after full consultations with the Argentine Government, have advised the Queen that this is not the most appropriate time for a visit to the Argentine.

Relations with the Argentine became strained because of the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

Discussions with the Argentine have been going on for some time, and yesterday Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, had a meeting with the Argentine ambassador, who has recently returned from leave. Their last meeting was in May.

The Falkland Islands question was again discussed with particular reference to the problem of communications between the Islands and the Argentine.

'Absolute'

Mr. Stewart has made it clear that the wishes of the Falkland Islanders are "absolute" so far as the transfer of sovereignty to Argentina is concerned.

No further meetings have so far been arranged.

The decision not to include Argentina in the Queen's tour also means that she will not visit the Falkland Islands.

In the House of Commons last Tuesday, Mr. George Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, said that he was examining the possibility of a ministerial visit to the Falkland Islands later this year.

A Commonwealth Office spokesman said last night that the ques-

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from
Evening Standard, London

- 8 JUL 1968

Falklands

3003 UNDER International Law British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, being for a term of in excess of 100 years cannot be disputed. In such circumstances how can the United Nations instruct us to hold talks with the Argentine on the question of its claims to sovereignty?

The Falkland Islanders have made it patently clear that they wish to remain under British rule. Argentine refuses to accept the Islanders' wishes as they state that they have never experienced the pleasures of Argentinian rule.

Perhaps we should include the question of Argentinian sovereignty over the British Isles in the talks for we have never experienced the pleasures of Argentinian rule and it could hardly be much worse than life under our present Government. Michael Davis, 41 Thackeray Court, Green Vale, W.5.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

- 9 JUL 1968

3003 **Falkland Islands**

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what changes are now contemplated in the structure and organisation of the Government of the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: None.

Extract from
Luton Evening Post

8 JUL 1968

This is a sell-out

SIR — I have a deep conviction that time is running short for our country and that positive action is needed now, before the dreaded signal for Britain's final humiliation is given.

Not so long ago it was Gibraltar, now it is the Falkland Islands which have become the object of cynical bargaining by the brokers men of Whitehall.

The sea which surrounds this area is red with the blood of our gallant sailors and their illustrious captains who fought and died so that the Falklands should remain British. This was during the First World War.

If we are to be a great nation then we cannot tolerate the sell-out of British people against their will. The government of the Argentine lays dubious claim to the Falkland Islands presenting their ramshackle case to the United Nations, who in turn direct the British Government to negotiate with the Argentine.

The Falklands and their peoples are British, and will forever remain so; any British Government who denies this must be torn down and routed out.

The United Nations is a 20th Century Tower of Babel, defunct of all respect, and unworthy of the membership of a great nation.

We must withdraw from the United Nations; we must arm ourselves rebuilding our sea power.

To all those who share my sentiments I direct this appeal. Contact me so that together we may assess the possibilities of creating a new political party whose cornerstone is Britain's first, and Britain always.

We have been sold short by political confidence tricksters. therefore let us rally

together while there is still time.

Robert H. Knowles
16 Bernharat Crescent,
Stevenage

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

15 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs what discussion he has had with the Government of the Falkland Islands concerning tourist facilities in the Islands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: We have not been approached by the Falkland Islands Government on this matter but we are asking the Governor for a report.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

15 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the stationing and training, in rotation, of British infantry and artillery regiments in the Falkland Islands; and what conclusion he has reached.

Mr. Healey: We have no intention of stationing or training Army units in the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the holding of fleet exercises based on the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Healey: No.

EXTRACT FROM THE
Yorkshire Evening Post
LEEDS

Date 15 JUL 1968

Yorkshire cousins may meet in the Antarctic

Mr. Allen Clayton (31), of Glen View, Cragg Vale, near Halifax, is to sail to Antarctica this autumn to join the British Antarctic Survey—and he may meet his cousin.

Mr. Clayton will join the group as a field surveyor and will remain for two years.

Mr. Clayton previously worked in a remote part of Nigeria. In 1963 he went on an archaeological expedition in the North West mountains of Tehran.

"I suppose the isolation involved in working in the Antarctic is part of the traditional British Colonial tradition," he said.

ORIGINAL WORK

"The great attraction is that the Antarctic remains about the only place left in the world which is not completely charted so it is possible to do original survey work as opposed to revision."

Surprisingly, he may meet his cousin, Mr. Michael Fielding (23), of Scout Road, Mytholmroyd, near Halifax, who has been there with the British Survey team since October last year.

"Unfortunately I do not know whether I shall be stationed at the same base as Michael or whether I shall be sent to another. But I expect we shall meet eventually," said Mr. Clayton.

Extract from
Scotsman, Edinburgh

16 JUL 1968

NO TROOPS FOR

FALKLANDS

Britain has no intention of stationing or training Army units in the Falkland Islands, Mr Denis Healey, the Defence Secretary, told Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C., S. Edinburgh) in a written reply. He added that he would not consider the holding of Fleet exercises based on the Falkland Islands.

MADRID

Fecha 12 JUL 1968

Durante su periplo sudamericano

ISABEL DE INGLATERRA NO VISITARA ARGENTINA

LONDRES.— El próximo primero de noviembre la reina Isabel II llegará a la ciudad de Recife en su primera etapa del viaje que girará a Brasil y Chile. Desde hace algunos meses se venía especulando, en los círculos diplomáticos londinenses, sobre la posibilidad de una visita de Su Graciosa Majestad a la Argentina en este su periplo sudamericano. Sin embargo, según ha hecho saber el Foreign Office, dicha escala no se efectuará. El Gobierno británico ha considerado que no es el momento más oportuno para aceptar una posible invitación del Gobierno argentino. Una visita a Buenos Aires, comenta el "Daily Telegraph", haciéndose eco del sentir del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, podría provocar demostraciones y serios incidentes. Hay que tener en cuenta, informa, que posiblemente durante dicha gira se plantee en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el caso de las Islas Falklands o Malvinas.

Los argentinos llevan reclamando este territorio desde hace 135 años. En la actualidad y tras la resolución de la ONU de diciembre de 1965, en que se invitó a ambas partes a buscar una solución pacífica al conflicto, se están llevando a cabo conversaciones secretas entre los gobiernos británico y argentino, cuyo comienzo data de enero de 1966, a raíz de la visita de Mr. Stewart, Foreign secretary, a la capital porteña.

La historia de las Malvinas comienza en 1520, cuando el piloto Esteban Gómez, de la expedición de Magallanes, descubre el archipiélago. En 1749, Gran Bretaña pone los ojos en estas islas e intenta enviar una expedición a "descubrirlas". España rechaza categóricamente tal intromisión y las Malvinas siguen en manos de sus auténticos soberanos. Años después, en 1764, un marino francés funda Puerto Luis, en la Malvina Oriental, en nombre del rey de Francia. Pero Madrid entabla negociaciones

Por José Ramón MENENDEZ
Corresponsal de Diario SP

con París y obtiene el reconocimiento de sus derechos. Entretanto, clandestinamente, los ingleses fundan la localidad de Puerto Egmont, dos años más tarde de la llegada francesa, en un islote de la Malvina Occidental.

España echaba a los intrusos. Sin embargo, los ingleses, resentidos por el acto, llevaban a cabo una serie de reclamaciones ante la Corte de Madrid. Las negociaciones diplomáticas no terminaron hasta 1771. Y, como consecuencia de las mismas, le es devuelta a Su Majestad Británica "el puerto y Fuerte llamado Egmont", que no afecta, "en modo alguno, a la cuestión de derecho anterior de soberanía de las Islas Malvinas" por parte de España.

SOLO UNA PLACA DE PLOMO

Con este acto, los ingleses se consideraron compensados y desagraviados. Pero tres años después, en 1774, los británicos abandonan voluntariamente el islote de Saunders que ocupaban y al que habían dado en bautizar Isla de Falkland. Tras ellos, tras su marcha, solamente queda una placa de plomo con una inscripción. Cincuenta y nueve años más tarde vuelven a Puerto Egmont, al citado islote, argumentando que dicho territorio era de su posesión. Este pasaje histórico era comentado por el embajador argentino Dr. José María Ruda, ante el Subcomité III, dependiente del Comité de Descolonización de la ONU y en septiembre de 1964, con estas palabras: "el único título de posesión que podían exhibir en 1833 (los ingleses) se basa en una supuesta placa de plomo que fue removida por los españoles y llevada a Buenos Aires". Y añadía que la pretensión era tan

insólita como contraria "al derecho internacional de la época que requería, como condición de dominio, la posesión efectiva".

Durante esos 59 años, las Malvinas estuvieron en poder y bajo el Gobierno y Administración de los españoles. Tras la revolución de mayo de 1810, que marca el comienzo de la independencia argentina, el control de dichas islas pasa a manos del Gobierno de Buenos Aires. Y, durante todo este espacio de tiempo, Gran Bretaña no tuvo nada que objetar y la Corona Británica tuvo perfecto conocimiento de tales hechos.

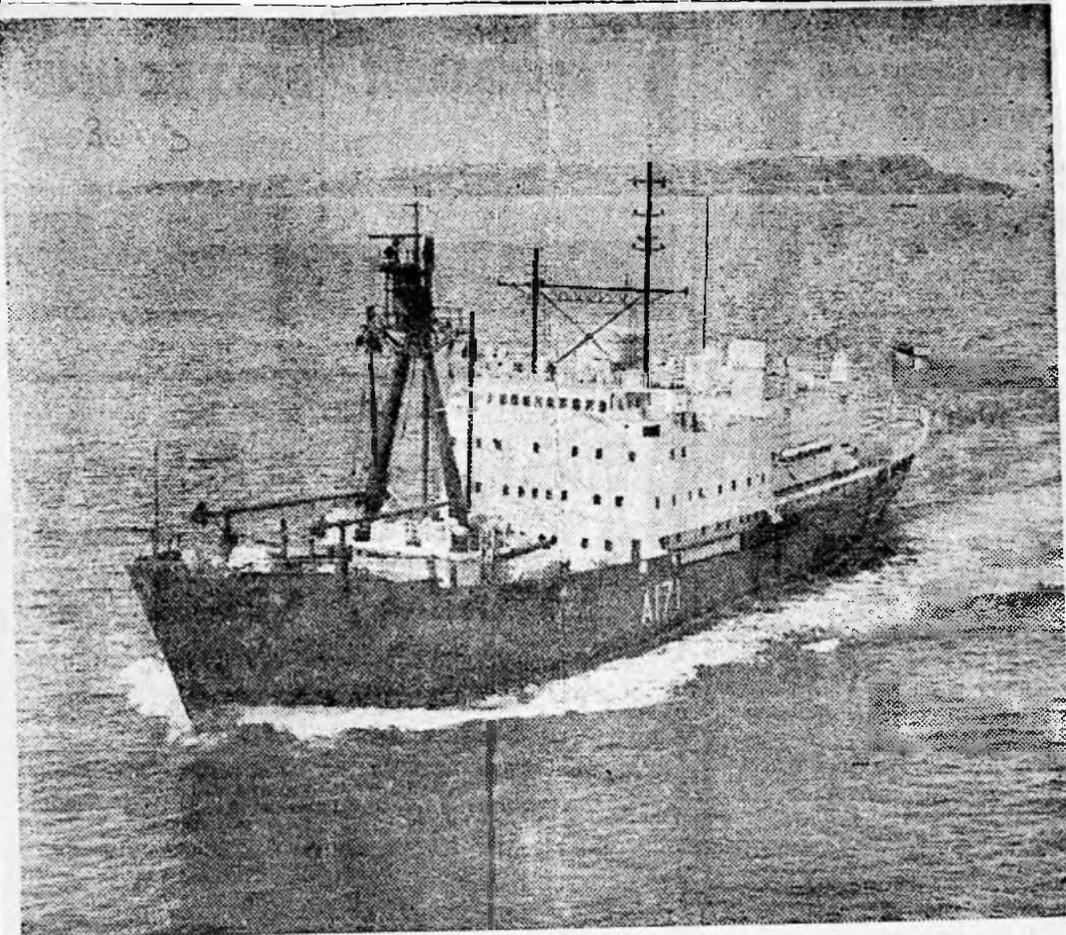
LOS ARGENTINOS, EXPULSADOS

Tras esta usurpación eran expulsados los habitantes argentinos y las islas eran habitadas por una población de origen británico. Población que, en 1912, era de 2.295 habitantes, en 1962 de 2.172 personas y en la actualidad de unos dos mil. Población a la que se intenta pedir determine si desea seguir disfrutando de la protección británica o desea la argentina. Una maniobra, ésta del referéndum (que no acepta el Gobierno argentino; así lo hizo constar en marzo último), que los ingleses intentan llevar a cabo en las Malvinas —como lo hicieron en Gibraltar— con el fin de escamotear la descolonización y abandonar una situación que, como dijo el citado Dr. Ruda en la ocasión arriba mencionada, "sólo en base a un acto de fuerza arbitrario y unilateral Inglaterra se encuentra hoy en las Islas Malvinas".

Los hechos y la historia de las Islas Falklands o Malvinas son suficientemente explícitos. Las palabras y adjetivos, para describir este acto de usurpación, sobran en este caso. Y las maniobras inglesas, tanto en lo concerniente a esta reclamación como a la española, llevan el sello del cinismo y la hipocresía.

Extract from
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

9 JUL 1968



New ship for Antarctic

PICTURED off Portland, where she is now undergoing trials, is the Navy's new ice patrol ship, H.M.S. Endurance.

She was bought by the Navy Department from J. Lauritzen Lines, Copenhagen, and was converted at Belfast for patrol work in the Antarctic.

She is expected to sail there later this year.

—Navy picture
Full report—Page 15.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from
Daily Telegraph, London

18 JUL 1968

MPs SUPPORT FALKLAND IS.

By Our Political Correspondent
MPs eager to do all they can to ensure that the Falkland Islands "stay British" decided yesterday to form a United Kingdom-Falkland Islands all-party group in Parliament.

They elected the following officers: Chairman, Mr. John Biggs-Davison (C., Chigwell); vice-chairmen, Mr. Clifford Kenyon (Lab., Chorley) and Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (C., Edinburgh S.); secretary, Mr. Tudor Watkins (Lab., Brecon), and treasurer, Lord Merrivale (C.).

Extract from
Daily Express, London

29 JUL 1968

EARLY YESTERDAY morning, Princess Anne was still dancing in a mock nightclub at her first coming-out party of the season with veteran debs' escort Gavin MacEacharan, 23, who had partnered her most of the evening. The dance was for 18-year-old twins Clemancy and Philadelphia Balfour at their home near Sevenoaks, Kent, where she stayed the night. Clemancy was a contemporary of Anne's at Benenden, and also left the school last week.

THE OMISSION of the Argentine and the Falkland Islands from the Queen's programme for her state visit to South America in November is cheering for the organisers at least. Even with only Brazil and Chile on the schedule three Buckingham Palace officials — assistant private secretary Sir Martin Charteris, Press secretary William Heselbine, and Chief Superintendent Albert Perkins — are on a two-week reconnaissance trip. And an aircraft of the Queen's Flight is also making a stopwatch check on the itinerary.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,
London

22 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether it was with his approval that the Government of the Falkland Islands held discussions with the Canadian Government about the future of the Islands;

(2) what reply he has given to the request by the Government of the Falkland Islands to place their proposals about the future of the Islands before the Canadian Government; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitlock: No such request has been made nor have any such discussions taken place.

R.S.1