

Falklands beat

SCOTLAND YARD is sending a sergeant and a squad of constables to the Falklands for six months as more workers arrive to help with major building projects.

DAILY MAIL
30.9.83

4 SOLDIERS HURT IN FALKLANDS

By Our Port Stanley
Correspondent

Four soldiers serving in the Falklands were injured during live firing on a range yesterday. The men, three from D Company, 2nd Light Infantry and one from the King's Own Border Regiment, were taken from the Hornby Mountain range to Port Stanley by helicopter.

NEW ARGENTINE DEFENCE CHIEF

President Bignone of the Argentine yesterday named Gen. Juan Carlos Camblor, 56, as Defence Minister to replace Julio Martinez Vivot, who has been appointed a Supreme Court judge.

Neither man is likely to hold his new job for long as elections are due on Oct. 30 to return the country to democracy after eight years of military rule.—Reuter.

FEARLESS AND TANKER COLLIDE

The assault ship Fearless, 11,400 tons, collided with a German tanker in thick fog off the Dorset coast yesterday.

Fearless, which served in the Falklands campaign, was on her way to Casablanca from Rosyth in Scotland. The Hamburg-registered Gerhard, with 400 tons of light diesel on board, was holed on the port bow, but a Defence Ministry spokesman said there was no threat of a major oil slick.

DAILY TELEGRAPH
30.9.83

Falklands war 'hurt US cause'

From Ian Murray
Brussels

Relations between the United States and Latin American countries were strained by the Falklands crisis more severely than was ever imagined Mr Luigi Einaudi, the director for policy planning and coordination in Latin America at the United State Department, said in Brussels yesterday.

The conflict had undermined American relationships, he said, and had hurt the predisposition of Latin American countries to cooperate and to value the inter-American system.

Latin American countries had assumed, that Britain would have shown a much higher degree of restraint.

American support for Britain had produced a varied response. "It reduced contacts in some cases and we have not had the kind of conversations which we might have been expected."

Mr Einaudi was at Nato for a regular meeting of the alliance's Latin American specialists.

Emigrating to Falklands

Mrs Ann Green, of Rhyl, North Wales, whose son, a Welsh guardsman, died in the Bluff Cove action, is to emigrate to the Falklands.

Mrs Green, aged 41, has got a job as a cook at the Upland Goose Hotel, Port Stanley. Her reasons for going are not sentimental, she said. "What attracts me is the simple life and the friendship and community spirit."

THE TIMES
30.9.83

Troops 'must leave Falklands' before talks can start

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

The Radical Party presidential candidate, Dr Raul Alfonsin, yesterday warned that Britain would have to remove most of its military forces from the Falkland Islands before a government led by him would enter formal negotiations over their future.

In the first conference for the foreign press by a candidate for the presidency in Argentina's elections on October 30, Dr Alfonsin reiterated that his government could not agree to a "unilateral" cease fire by Argentina as a "prior condition" of any talks.

He said that any such end of hostilities would have to be by both countries, implying Britain's "demilitarisation" of the Falklands, which would involve removing most of its troops and arms.

Dr Alfonsin indicated that, with him in power, talks could begin even if Britain still had a small token force on the islands. When Argentina's military regime occupied the islands on April 2 last year, Britain had such a force of under 100 soldiers and officers on the Falklands.

The candidate, who is given a slightly less-than-even chance of assuming power within three months of the elections, said his government would seek a permanent definition of the long-running dispute between Britain and Argentina in all international forums, particularly under the United Nations resolutions on the issue.

Asked what might be the "new ingredient" of a Radical government's attempt to regain sovereignty over the islands after 150 years of British rule, Dr Alfonsin commented that what would change was the



Dr Alfonsin: 'No prior condition'

attitude of the world towards Argentina once a democratic government took power.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has accused Argentina of showing no interest in reducing tension between the two countries, and of ignoring British initiatives aimed at restoring a better relationship.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly on Wednesday night, Sir Geoffrey said that the Argentine authorities continued to see negotiations "purely as a means for transferring sovereignty without regard for the wishes of the islanders."

But he declared that Britain would continue to defend the "inalienable right" of the islanders to self-determination, a right to which they were no less entitled than other small island peoples.

Britain would carry forward economic and constitutional development in close consultation with the islanders, while continuing to seek a more normal relationship with Argentina.

Falklands bomb blast

By a Staff Reporter

Four British soldiers were injured in what is thought to have been a bomb explosion during an Army exercise on the Falkland Islands yesterday.

The accident happened during manoeuvres involving infantry and artillery on the Hornby firing range on West Falkland.

Three of the men hurt are members of D Company of the 2nd Battalion of the Light Infantry and the fourth a soldier serving with the 1st Battalion the King's Own Border Regiment.

It is believed that only one of them was seriously hurt, although all are now in hospital.

● Sir John Nott, who was defence secretary during the Falklands crisis, said in a newspaper interview that he regards with absolute horror the notion of a large base in the Falklands.

Sir John, who left politics earlier this year to become an executive director of Lazard's, the City merchant bank, said that if a presence needed to be maintained anywhere in that part of the world, we should set up a small base on South Georgia.

THE GUARDIAN
30.9.83

UN clash dashes hope of early end to Falklands dispute

BY JIMMY BURNS IN NEW YORK

HOPES OF an early settlement of the Falklands dispute receded this week as Britain and Argentina exchanged a volley of angry words during the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In a wide ranging policy speech yesterday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, vigorously defended Britain's recovery of the islands last year and said that the rights of self-defence, self-determination and economic and constitutional development had been upheld in line with the UN charter.

He added that in spite of

Britain's wish to establish "a more normal relationship with Argentina," the response from Buenos Aires "had not been encouraging."

Earlier Sir Geoffrey said at a press conference that Britain was not prepared to discuss the transfer of sovereignty over the islands.

He said he was only interested in the restoration of trade relations with Argentina as a "first step" towards eventually normalising the links between the two countries.

Sir Geoffrey accused the Argentine authorities of "making a very depressing and un-

helpful contribution to the debate (on the future of the islands) ... by making a lot of bellicose statements."

In a major speech on Monday, Sr Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said the "restoration of the Malvinas to effective Argentine sovereignty is a permanent objective and priority of the Argentine people and a common cause of Latin America."

Sr Lanari, who was warmly applauded by delegates from the Third World and Eastern Europe, accused Britain of embarking on a "dangerous adven-

ture" of militarisation in the South Atlantic by developing an air base on the islands and maintaining an exclusion zone which, he said, was "disproportionate" to the Argentine threat.

"We have to infer that the true purpose of the UK, a nuclear power and member of Nato, is none other than to extend its global interests in the South Atlantic," he said.

UN diplomats interpreted the two speeches as the prelude to the debate on the Falklands scheduled to take place at the UN next month.

Argentina has proposed a

motion calling on both sides to resume negotiations on sovereignty under the auspices of the UN general secretary.

Peter Bains in Buenos Aires writes: The two wings of the Argentine General Confederation of Labour (CGT) have agreed to call a 24-hour general strike, after the Government said it could not meet their demands.

Union leaders have been demanding the incorporation of a once-only 800 peso (£20) advance on year-end bonuses into the basic wage rate during the past four months of the year.

'MEGAPHONE DIPLOMACY' WARNING

By IAN WARD in Hongkong

TALKS between Britain and China over the long-term future of Hongkong could be jeopardised by "megaphone diplomacy," Mr Richard Luce, Foreign Office Minister of State, said yesterday.

"You cannot negotiate in public," he told a news conference in Hongkong at the close of a four-day fact-finding visit to the colony.

Mr Luce, who has responsibility for Hongkong, said that in broad terms there was a good framework for Anglo-Chinese relations.

"But equally, I would have to say that it is unhelpful and sad that public comments on the part of the Chinese Government on the British position are not helpful to the common aim of finding a solution."

The Minister is due to return to Britain today and will report back to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

Looking at the type of solution that could result from the Peking negotiations, Mr Luce said: "We are not only trying to preserve all that has been built up so successfully in Hongkong, we are trying to build further on that success so that Hongkong can flourish still further in the longer term."

Of course there would be turbulence and the talks between Britain and China could take some time. "But nobody should be in any doubt over the determination of the British Government," he said.

Decisive action

Mr Luce praised the colony's Government and those in authority for acting with great decisiveness to counter the mood of economic crisis in Hongkong last week.

"I am sure their action, taken in a very calm and rational manner, should do a lot to restore and retain confidence."

Last week the Hongkong dollar devalued itself by a 21 per cent. On Friday and Saturday alone, it lost 9.2 per cent. of its value as the colony reacted to the apparent lack of progress in the fourth set of negotiations in Peking.

Since then the currency has bounced back to around eight to the American dollar. But

on Tuesday night, the government was forced to step in with emergency legislation to take over the locally owned Hang Lung Bank which was on the point of collapse.

Fears that this might trigger a further decline of the currency, or even runs on other banks rumoured to be vulnerable, proved groundless yesterday.

In fact, the currency firmed slightly in moderate trading and bankers praised the government's prompt action.

GENERAL STRIKE CALLED IN ARGENTINA

Argentina's trade union movement called yesterday for a 24-hour general strike for Monday to protest at the military government's failure to meet wage demands.

Within minutes of the announcement by the moderate "Azopardo" wing of the General Confederation of Labour, the hard-line "Brasil" faction said it would call a national stoppage on a date to be agreed by labour leaders.

Trade union sources said the two factions were almost certain to make their national strikes coincide, as on previous occasions over the past year. The strike call followed an unsuccessful meeting on Tuesday between President Bignone and union leaders to discuss wage demands.—Reuter.

Thatcher able to cash in on vast fund of US admiration

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The visit by Mrs Thatcher to Washington, which began last night, takes place at a time when Britain's relations with the United States are as close as at any time since the Second World War.

Although there are a number of differences over issues such as steel, unitary taxation and American attempts to restrict trade with the Soviet block, these pale almost into insignificance compared with the overall warmth which exists between London and Washington.

Part of the reason lies in the esteem which Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan hold for each other. They are ideological allies, both on matters political and economic. But they also enjoy a friendship closer than that normally established between heads of government.

British prestige stands high in American eyes since the Falklands war. The British victory not only added to the strong sense of anglophilia that lurks in the American psyche, but has also helped to dispel the belief, once widely held, that Britain had become an ailing, class-ridden nation of work-shy trade unionists and inefficient managers.

Mrs Thatcher's election landslide has shown Americans that the British are prepared to back a strong leader though they may not always like the policies she prescribes. Many Americans feel there are important lessons in the British experience for the United States as it prepares itself for next year's presidential elections.

The main purpose of Mrs Thatcher's visit is simply to reaffirm the "special relationship" that exists between the two leading English-speaking nations.

This is also the main theme of the many other ministerial visits taking place at this time of year. Between the beginning of this month and the ending of the parliamentary recess, official visits to Washington will have been made by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, Mr James Prior, the Minister for Northern Ireland, and Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade and Industry.

However, there are points of substance which Mrs Thatcher will raise during her talks with Mr Reagan as well as in her meetings

with Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Britain, like other European nations, remains worried by continuing high US interest rates, the over-valued dollar and burgeoning US budget deficits. She will tell her American hosts that, if US interest rates remain at their present high levels, they could abort the mild upswing the British economy has been experiencing in recent months.

She will also want to find out whether America's own buoyant recovery will be sustained. President Reagan and Mr Regan will assure her it will, but there are a number of voices in Washington and on Wall Street warning that it will be short-lived.

Mrs Thatcher is also certain to raise some of the divisive issues which have caused tempers to flare in ministries on both sides of the Atlantic. These include American restrictions of steel imports, differences on farm export subsidies, the Export Administration Act now going through Congress, the practice by American states of taxing the world profits of foreign-owned multinational corporations (unitary taxation), and - more broadly - the growing trend towards protectionism in the US.

On the global scene, there is little that divides the two governments. Britain and the US are as one in their condemnation of the Soviet Union's shooting down of the Korean airliner, on the need for deployment of new medium-range missiles as planned, and in their hope that the Geneva arms talks will succeed in reducing nuclear arsenals.

Paradoxically, it is only over the Falklands (which the US helped Britain recapture last year by providing military support) that there are significant differences. The US favours renewed negotiations with Argentina; Britain does not, at least not at present.

Such a difference is but a small worry in the overall relationship between the two nations which, although no longer the relationship between two equals that it was during the Second World War, still remains at the core of the Western alliance.

Antarctic Treaty nations oppose UN involvement

From a Correspondent
Canberra

The Antarctic Treaty nations have decided to oppose UN involvement in the area. Malaysia with the backing of many Third World countries, already has UN approval to have the matter debated during the current General Assembly session.

The 14 full members of the Antarctic Treaty and the 12 associated members concluded a two-week meeting in Canberra on Tuesday and their decision to oppose UN involvement in the area was announced yesterday by the chairman of the meeting Mr J Rowland, an Australian diplomat. (Britain is one of the 14 full Treaty members).

A brave public face has been put on by the treaty partners, who have been accused by non-members of being an exclusive club attempting to reserve the Antarctic resources for themselves.

Passing worry

At the WAPOR meeting in Barcelona, I was shown a copy of a report of an IPSA survey conducted in the main cities of Argentina on public opinion during the Falklands conflict. But even more interesting were the results of a poll among 1,700 Argentinians in face-to-face random interviews in the spring of 1983, nearly a year after the war.

"Sovereignty over the Falklands" was in sixth place in a list of issues which people found "worrying". Lack of ability to make ends to meet was of greatest concern (58 per cent), followed by unemployment (46 per cent), inflation (30 per cent), political instability (14 per cent), medical service (12 per cent), all came before sovereignty over the Malvinas (9 per cent).

A SPECIAL meeting of the International Wool Secretariat's top research directors is to be held in Melbourne in November to discuss the route they should take over the next five years.

They will have before them a document called the Strategy Plan for Global Research and Development for Wool, which has evolved from discussions over the past two years. The document suggests, and it is likely to be accepted, that if the IWS is to meet the challenges of the next decade, its Technical Centre at Ilkley, the front-line interface with industry, must make a radical shift in policy and strengthen its links with industry.

Interests

The IWS was set up in 1937 to further the interests of the woollen farmers in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (Uruguay joined later). Each has traditionally had its own research centre or centres—Australia, by far the world's largest wool producer, has three—but the founder members also established a central Technical Centre in 1968 at Ilkley, outside Bradford, traditional home of the world's wool users.

Ilkley has always concentrated heavily on process-based developments, that is work with a high scientific content and based on fundamental research and development. One of its first investigations concerned shrink-resistance and subsequent work has been done on scouring and effluent treatment, dyeing, printing and bleaching and on the refinement of Sirospun, a process developed in Australia to improve spinning.

Product and technological developments were not ignored and in fact grew to the point where they accounted for the larger share of Ilkley's resources. But there was a certain amount of overlap between the work at Ilkley and research centres in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were at one time simultaneously working on scouring processes—and a feeling arose that the centres were getting rather too far from industry and its needs.

The November meeting, and the global plan, is all about reversing this trend. Resources are to be switched increasingly into product and technical work, and away from process studies. Such a change of

emphasis will have enormous implications, not least because Ilkley is full of highly-trained scientists.

Some intimation of the way Ilkley ought to go might have been gleaned two years ago when Mr Ian Graham took over as director of research, a title which hides his role as head of the 260-strong organisation.

Previous heads of Ilkley had all been scientists. Mr Graham, a Borders Scot from Hawick, is a textile technologist rather than a scientist.

"The global plan," he says, "looks at what we should be doing over the next five years. Its core is that we should be going to our branches (IWS has branches in over 30 countries), to industry and to the marketing people to see what their requirements are.

Hard push

"We have in the past pushed very hard at the spinning and machinery level and while this undoubtedly helps sell wool in due course we now think we should be much more closely involved with the market's needs for wool as a fibre.

"IWS is now marketing wool as a fibre, showing what it can do, in a campaign called Cool Wool and to link with this we must show how you can sell the fibre, not the machinery."

In a sense, this is taking Ilkley back to its basics. It was set up to be a link with industry but Mr Graham admits that

over the years it has rather meandered into pure developments.

"We feel now that Ilkley has the same chance to provide a service to industry, its original intention, without being too encumbered with new processes. We are going to be much more concerned with what can be done with wool."

Two years ago process development accounted for

"The global plan postulates that the whole research and development undertaking must be co-ordinated"

about 20 per cent of Ilkley's resources, with another 20 per cent going towards product development and 40 per cent towards technology transfer. This year, process development will get about 13 per cent of the resources and if the global plan is accepted it will be down to 7 per cent in 1988.

This major shift will take Ilkley increasingly into areas such as methods of producing fancy yarns, developing apparel fabrics, embellishing knitwear, developing new clothes such as thermal underwear, carpet yarns and home textiles. It will also exploit new technologies

such as flame-resistant cloth (for aircraft seats, for example) and improve machine washability.

In a word, the buyer of the finished item will become much more important than its producer.

Mr Graham admits that this switch could not have been set in train at a more difficult time. In the depth of the recession industry is highly unwilling to commit itself, or to think, five years ahead.

The switch at Ilkley will not affect the work of the other main research bodies, Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand and the South African Wool and Textile Research Institute. They will pick up the process-development work previously undertaken at Ilkley and they will also attempt to specialise rather more in order to eliminate unnecessary overlapping.

Casual

"The global plan postulates that the whole research and development undertaking must be co-ordinated and that Ilkley can get out of some areas in the knowledge that the other three can take over.

"What we shall then do is agree with the branches what is necessary, decide which laboratory should take on the initial study, a very time-

consuming element and then set up a team, which might have members from several laboratories."

Finance has not been a major factor in the thinking behind the global plan, though it is a factor which has had to be taken into account. "Financial stringency is not really the driving force. The sponsors have always been keen on R and D and willing to support our work in the knowledge that it would help sell more of their wool and the money we have is adequate for what we do."

Even so, financial stringency has played a part. The IWS is carefully watching the pennies following the New Zealand decision, the second most important paymaster, to cut its contribution to IWS.

Research activities are allocated a budget of about A\$20m, of which Ilkley receives about A\$7m (around £4.1m), and Geelong the next major share. But that A\$20m is not likely to rise and so in real terms there must be fewer resources available as inflation takes its toll.

The major factor influencing the switch has been a big change in consumer demand over the past decade. The standard wool clothes, men's suits and women's coats, can no longer be taken for granted as everyday purchases.

Co-ordinate

Men are increasingly wearing casual clothes even on relatively formal occasions, and women are into separates and, they are increasingly wearing them made from other fibres. There is pressure on wool as a fibre despite its acceptability and its share of the fibre market is likely to decline.

Ilkley therefore has to undertake work that will prepare it, and wool, for the '90s and the next century.

"We shall continue to keep a finger in the process pie," Mr Graham says, "but we want industry to know we are acutely conscious of their needs.

"We want people to get away from looking at us as a bunch of pure scientists. We want them to see us as a bunch of hard technologists."

Falklands build-up fears 'nonsense'

UNITED NATIONS, Thursday.

BRITAIN has rejected as "lurid nonsense" Argentine charges that a British military build-up in the Falkland Islands threatens Latin American security.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, vowed before the UN General Assembly that Britain "will defend the Falkland Islands and their inhabitants against the possibility of renewed attack."

The statement in the Assembly on Monday by Argentinian Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari "consisted of rhetoric which is as unhelpful as it is tendentious," Sir Geoffrey said.

"To accuse us of threatening the security of the Latin American region is lurid nonsense," Sir Geoffrey said.

"We have done and will do no more than is necessary to protect the islands and their population against a threat which recent history has shown to be all too real."

SIR JOHN NOTT was planting his field with daffodils. He is not just growing the early flowers, which are expected from Cornwall, but has pulled off a coals-to-Newcastle deal that augurs as well for his future in the City as on the farm: selling bulbs to Holland.

Since he left politics at the beginning of the year, the former Defence Minister, whose name will always be linked with the Falklands war, has been busy. He spends weekdays as an executive director of Lazard's, the merchant bankers, living in a new house in London, and weekends helping his wife run their 150-acre farm at the far end of Cornwall.

There, he is seldom out of working clothes and wellingtons, keeping up with the endless cycle of planting and harvesting 12 acres of daffodils and 60 of cereal crops, looking after the beef herd and the sheep which produce lambs in November. In London, he, smartly suited, advises some of the biggest businesses in the country on their forward planning. But he himself is no longer taking the decisions.

"I miss that," he admits. "I had made up my mind that it was going to be a difficult transition but it has been easier than I imagined. It's quite a substantial change: after all, defence is the biggest business in the country—it is a policy-making department but it also involves executive responsibility for a huge industrial organisation and it is an operational headquarters."

"I was unlikely to have such an interesting job again. But I would have given it up anyway. Quite apart from the Falklands, I had had my controversies over forward programming and come up against the naval lobby. An uncontroversial Defence Secretary was needed before a general election."

He may no longer be part of what he calls "the political club" and rarely sees his former fellow-members but he keeps a sharp eye on world news, remembering how he reacted to it and considering what should be done now.

Despite the Falklands war, he remains convinced that Britain can no longer afford a global, peace-keeping role. "You see now a prime example of where our influence has been unsuccessful—the Lebanon. I was totally against sending one British soldier there."

"It was a nonsense because there was no hope of influencing events. Finally, there is no role for a peace-keeping force there. We have been drawn in to support our American allies."

He takes an equally cold-eyed view of the future of the Falklands. "Of course negotiations with Argentina are not practicable at the present time. But the notion of a large base in the Falklands I regard with absolute horror. If we need to maintain a presence anywhere in that part of the world, we should set up a small base on South Georgia."

Danger

Switching targets, he adds: "Why the hell are we in Belize? The Chiefs of Staff sit around their map of the world..."

"Anyway, they can't recruit young men just to sit about in Aldershot or Portsmouth."

"No, we must concentrate our efforts on the over-riding priority of binding together Europe and the United States and that means concentrating on the Atlantic Alliance."

Sir John does not think there is imminent danger of war but that "the situation in Eastern Europe and the structure of Soviet society is immensely dangerous." He fears that the defence cutbacks by President Carter's administration gave the Russians a chance to overtake the West in some areas of defence technology.

"When a power that is immensely stronger than any other is totalitarian, so that there is no real political check on the military-scientific complex, as in the West, that is dangerous—particularly so when that power is facing massive internal problems."

Western complacency worries him. "There is a tendency to neutralism in the richer countries of Europe. It is very worrying that liberal opinion feels that somehow the risks are being exaggerated. If anything we are understating them. I am still pretty well-informed and know that from neutralism to domination by the Soviet Union is a very short step."

The key to future security, he is convinced, is the continuing presence of American armed forces in Europe. "Of course I would have liked to reduce our commitment on the Continent: theoretically, it's nonsense to keep three divisions in Germany."

"A mobile reserve for NATO, kept at home, would be the natural role for us. But if we withdrew from Germany, the Congress would vote to withdraw, too. Without this American commitment, the Alliance—and Europe—would fall apart."

The British position should, he thinks, be to some extent that of "an outsider" to both Europe and the United States but linking the two. "We would be crazy to back away from this unique position to become 'better Europeans,'" he adds. "You see, I'm a Gaullist at heart."

Over the future of a semi-detached Britain, Sir John is optimistic. "We may see ourselves as poor and, in statistics, we are way down the list of rich countries. But foreigners see us as wealthy."

"We possess half the energy resources of Europe, the strongest economic block in the world, we have huge economic investments and, as a result of the abolition of overseas exchange controls, we have been able to invest widely abroad. We are really a rich country."

The problems of the recession and unemployment he believes to be temporary. "These are problems of transition. There will be five or 10 years of severe social problems while we make the change to the new industrial society. But, in 20 to 30 years' time there will be plenty of jobs."

Shooting

"We have to get rid of the baggage of the Industrial Revolution, which has trapped people in declining industries. Perhaps the last Government went a little too fast in making the change but the industries were going to go anyway and the decline was accelerated."

"Unless we can get out of these old industries, we will continue to grow at half the rate of our competitors. Three-quarters of the population is too old to make the change—electronic industries are a new world to me—so we must give every incentive to the educational system."

Meanwhile he is living, by bread and brawn, two lives, either of which would seem full to most men. Here in Cornwall, he is absorbed by his farm, a little time for trout shooting.

During the war, he was away dealing with the coal and oil companies and of such a nature...

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THE TIMES

28.9.83

More Cunard work goes abroad

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Cunard infuriated Britain's work-starved shipyards again yesterday by taking yet another passenger ship contract abroad.

Just a week after agreeing to send the Queen Elizabeth 2 to Germany for a £4.5m winter refit, the line confirmed that the 25,000-ton Vistafjord is to have a £3m overhaul in Malta, and her sister the Sagafjord in San Francisco.

Malta Dry Docks is the yard which caused a furore earlier in the year by winning a £3m contract for a post-Falklands refit of the 17,000-ton Cunard Countess after British yards said they could not do it in time.

And a year ago Cunard proposed to build a replacement for the container-ship Atlantic Conveyor, sunk in the Falklands, in South Korea - an order eventually placed at Swan Hunter's yard on the Tyne after a £15m grant from the Government.

The Vistafjord is one of two cruise ships bought by Cunard from Norwegian America Line for £46m in May, and Cunard said last night that she was being dry-docked in Malta because that was where the Norwegian line had planned to refit her and were delivering her.

The Sagafjord, 24,000 tons, will be dry-docked in San Francisco about the same time for exactly the same reason, Cunard added.

Unlike the first three ships, British yards were not asked to quote for the two latest contracts and were not surprised. "Naturally our salesmen were watching these ships in case the change of ownership brought work our way, but we were not asked to quote and were not expecting to be", a British Shipbuilders spokesman said.

But the shipyard unions reacted with predictable fury. Mr James Murray, leader of the boilermakers' section of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, accused Cunard of "putting greed and profit as a higher motive than their interest in the British shipbuilding industry."

Placing the Vistafjord order in Malta was "the final nail in the

coffin of the British ship repair workers", Mr Murray said. "Cunard were quite satisfied to take all the government aid they can get and then bleed us to death and forget patriotism."

Mrs Thatcher was silent on the latest Cunard move last night, after her extensive comments on the previous deals.

In the case of the Atlantic Conveyor she pulled out all the stops to make Cunard order in Britain. But she said it was "not unreasonable" for Cunard to have



Mr Murray: "Bleeding us to death."

the Countess refitted in Malta if British yards could not meet the line's essential deadlines.

The Vistafjord, built in Britain in 1973, and the Sagafjord, built in France in 1965, bring Cunard's cruise fleet to five - the QE2, Princess, and Countess, Vista and Sagafjord.

The two ships were bought to extend Cunard's interest in cruising without adding new tonnage to a market already in danger of over-capacity. The company said in May that it expected to make record profits from cruising this year.

Its policy of buying and repairing cheaply is in sharp contrast to P & O, for whom Cunard's parent, Trafalgar House, made a recent takeover bid. P & O is spending £100m on a new cruise ship, to be named the Royal Princess by the Princess of Wales, in Finland.

Flag transfer fears, back page

Argentine books ban lifted

THE Government yesterday lifted its ban on the import of books to Britain from Argentina. All books being held by Customs and Excise after reaching Britain will now be released to their customers.

The ban had affected universities, copyright libraries, professional institutions, and business firms.

THE GUARDIAN

28.9.83

TECHNOLOGY

SITE MANAGEMENT

Satellites to link Falklands computers

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

CONSTRUCTION OF the £250m Mount Pleasant airport on the Falkland Islands is to be controlled by a sophisticated computer system linked by satellite to the UK.

This will keep track of all the materials needed to build the runway and cost the job, transmit progress reports, memos, personnel records, shipping schedules and take care of payrolls and accounts.

The computers, supplied by Datapoint, left Avonmouth for East Falkland on Monday and will take four weeks to reach their destination. The equipment was ordered by the Laing/Mowlem/ARC joint venture.

Datapoint's two 1560 microcomputers will be installed aboard a ship at East Cove and linked to the consortium's headquarters at Surbiton in the UK via the Inmarsat satellite. Once construction has begun and the site headquarters has been built, the computers will be

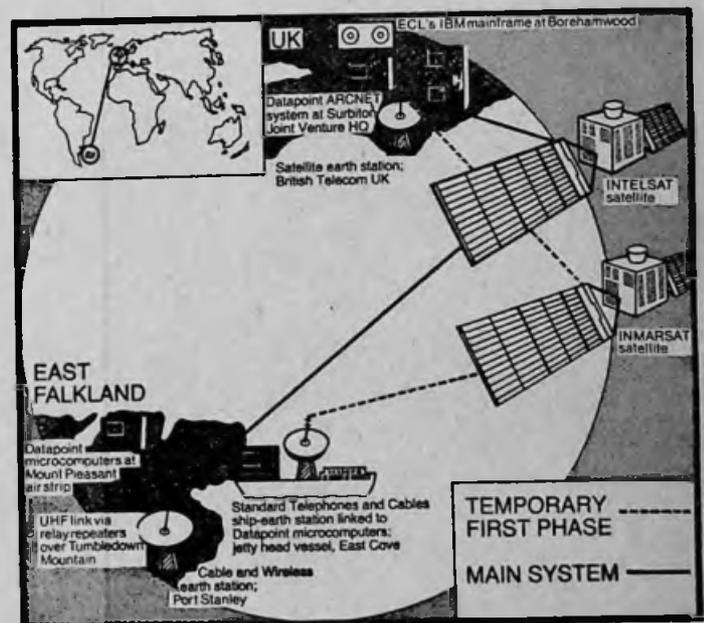
moved from the jetty head vessel at East Cove to the airstrip. Also communications will be routed over a UHF link and then via the Intelsat communications satellite to Surbiton.

A telephone link to the Borehamwood offices of Elstree Computing, a subsidiary of John Laing Construction will then handle the computing services for the project.

On the Falklands, the microcomputers, which have 128k of memory and 10mb of fixed storage, will be employed by the site management initially as a message system to prepare letters and reports, later it will maintain personnel records, shipping schedules and prepare requisitions.

As up to 1,400 workmen will be used during the peak building period, the computer will also be used for critical path analysis to provide manpower estimates.

How the computers communicate



THE FINANCIAL TIMES

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Hongkong finance official hurries home from IMF

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

As Hongkong's Financial Secretary, Sir John Bremridge, hurried back five days early from the IMF-World Bank conference in Washington, the Hongkong dollar welcomed him with a substantial recovery.

In confident mood, Sir John said that his presence in Hongkong "could be more important than sipping cocktails in Washington".

He emphasized that the withholding tax on Hongkong dollar deposits would not be abolished and gave warning that "those people selling Hongkong dollars at this juncture are going to get their fingers badly burnt".

Meanwhile, Hongkong's Consumer Council has urged shoppers to stop panic buying, which would only aggravate profiteering.

The Consumer Council has received complaints of increases of up to 50 per cent in sale prices for many market commodities. Australian rice - the most widely consumed in Hongkong - has been virtually sold out.

The Government has also had to withdraw three lots of Crown land from sale by public auction because not a single buyer was interested in the normal opening rices.

On the political front, Mr John Walden, former Director of Home Affairs, blamed both the British and Chinese Governments for the collapse of the Hongkong dollar.

He said that the British and Chinese were treating Hongkong's five million people as "mute pawns" and did not care what damage they did to local living standards.

"There is increasing certainty that colonial authoritarian

government will be replaced by Communist authoritarian government, without any assurances that civic rights will be protected", he said.

However, there has been widespread satisfaction over the promotion of the retiring British Ambassador in Peking, Sir Peter Cradock, to two high-level posts in the Foreign Office, with continuing responsibility for the negotiations over the future of Hongkong.

"I only wish that on the Chinese side they had someone who is equally knowledgeable and who enjoys the same degree of cooperation among the Chinese



Sir Percy Cradock: New appointment praised.

leaders", said a Hongkong commentator, Mr T. L. Tsin.

An influential local group, the Hongkong Christian Industrial Committee, has appealed directly to Chinese and British authorities to prevent the collapse of the dollar and has warned Hongkong against "committing collective suicide".

Falklands lobby launched by junta

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

Argentina is urging Britain's allies to persuade it to discontinue its "Fortress Falklands" policy, and has initiated its campaign in the UN General Assembly this year to attain coveted European support for negotiations over the sovereignty of the islands.

Señor Juan Aguirre Lanari, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said on Monday that the West should dissociate itself from Britain's "dangerous adventure". He cited the decision by Britain to establish what he called a strategic airbase in the Falklands as an escalation of its military expansionist policy in the South Atlantic.

It was clear, he said, that the base would be designed to allow Britain to extend its global strategic interests, and he gave warning of the dangers of transforming the South Atlantic into a new source of conflict between East and West.

He also accused Britain of thwarting all attempts at peace-making, including its refusal to accept the mandate of the Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to renew negotiations between the two sides. Argentina is expected with its Latin allies to table a motion calling for the resumption of negotiations when the assembly debates the issue later this year.

There is little doubt that Argentina will win a resounding majority in the assembly for its stand, but it was clear from Señor Aguirre's remarks that European support is the most prized. Last year a majority of the European Community abstained in the vote on negotiations while the United States sided with Argentina.

In a right of reply, Mr Nicholas Barrington, Britain's representative, said that the many and varied accusations made by Argentina were without foundation. He said that Argentina had attempted to airbrush out the fact that it had broken off from the negotiating process with the deliberate and unprovoked invasion of the islands last year.

Señor Aguirre discounted Britain's contention that Argentina's failure to declare a formal end of hostilities was the source of continued tension. He said his country's attitude was in full conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

He noted that the fourteen and a half months that had elapsed since the cessation of fighting was confirmation of Argentina's good will and its compliance with international law.

"MR REAGAN is not the leader of the West today," a very influential German politician thundered at a Washington dinner party last week.

"Helmut Kohl is the leader of the West. He's shaping the future of the Alliance. Western Europe is changing and the U.S. has to understand that if Europe pulls away America becomes No 2 in terms of military power and No 3 in economic power."

Of course, the German politician was talking rubbish, and was told as much in a bibulous and good humoured roar of dissent by his table companions.

But Americans are hearing more and more of this bumptious sort of talk, and they don't much like it.

"I have to listen to stuff like that," a U.S. foreign policy planner said. "Europeans saying Margaret Thatcher or Kohl is the strongest leader in the free world, or Kohl is pulling the levers in the Alliance.

"You can imagine how that sort of thing plays in Peoria. "Ordinary Americans are getting a little angry at being told by Europeans that U.S. leadership is second rate. Lower class people are beginning to resent the fact that they are paying for the defence of middle and upper class Europeans and Japanese."

That sentiment is something to bear in mind as Margaret Thatcher arrives in Washington today for a White House meeting not entirely free of tension and competing national interests. Americans are at a loss to understand why Westminster politicians like Roy Hattersley and Enoch Powell are clamouring for more British assertiveness. In their view the Europeans have now gained partial veto power over sanctions against the Soviet Union, effectively bringing to an end U.S. dominance across the board in the Alliance.

Mrs Thatcher is regarded as being just as Gaullist on matters of East-West trade and West-West commercial issues as any one else. It is not forgotten here that Britain refused to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games.

"The area of agreement between Britain and America is really quite narrow," a U.S. source said. "Mrs Thatcher has been as adamant as only she can be in obstructing any sanctions that might really hurt the Soviets.

"She is a loyal cheerleader for the American position on nuclear weapons in Europe. We realise the present fixation on nukes in the Alliance suits her nicely because it takes people's minds off the tremendous drain on Britain's conventional forces in the Falklands. That may explain her fervent support for deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles.

"But such a fixation won't last indefinitely. If a Democrat is elected President in 1984 you will see a push for more emphasis on conventional weapons in NATO."

Informed Americans are highly amused by Enoch Powell's tirade on the Finlandisation of Britain with respect to the U.S., because for some time now they have been talking about the "Swedenisation" of Europe. By this they mean that Europe's

neglect of heavy conventional forces has allowed strategic superiority to shift to the Soviet Union, changing the balance of power in the region.

In the light of all this, Mrs Thatcher's choice of Michael Heseltine as Defence Minister is being applauded in Washington. One official called it "a brilliant stroke." Americans like the way so much brain power at the MoD is thinking out-of-Europe thoughts.

Heseltine himself is vastly appreciated as a man who "keeps his priorities in order," an elegantly coded way of saying he knows what the U.S. wants him to do even if he can't always do it. His speech in Washington the other day, suggesting that Britain may not be perfect but is better than any other ally the U.S. has, had some Americans in the audience murmuring "more, more!"

"The speech was disingenuous as hell," one of them said afterwards. "But we loved it. The guy is really very good. He is able to reach across the spectrum of British politics, and he has the kind of worldly seriousness we look for. He can quell the uneasiness we feel about the diversion of British resources to the Falklands, at least for the time being.

Reading newspaper headlines, the average American would certainly get the impression that the Western Alliance is held together by nothing stronger than artifice and prose, while underneath deep forces are breaking it asunder. U.S. and Euro-



Michael Heseltine: reaching across the spectrum

pean views of the Soviets seem fatally incompatible.

The reality is a good deal more cheerful. U.S. foreign policy remains incurably Eurocentric. The special relationship is still so special that some State Department officials are half ashamed of it.

Secretary of State George Shultz raked over his staff when he took office, admonishing them to think more globally.

But British diplomats here are cosily aware that Lawrence Eagleburger, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and one of the most effective operators in Foggy Bottom, has Anglophilia programmed into his genes.

From time to time weighty articles are published stating that a new breed has taken over at the State Department, entirely lacking in sentimental attachment to Europe. The terse answer to that, in the words of a very senior U.S. military officer is: "There's no such thing as a new breed at the State Department."

A defence planner said: "It's true that a change has taken place in Congress. Nowadays an aide to a senator comes in at age 25 and he has to find out about Europe the

way he has to find out about Indonesia. From 1945 until the seventies Europe was the arena of action, from postwar recovery, to Berlin, the Cold War and then nuclearisation. This is the first generation for whom knowing about Europe is not natural as the air you breathe.

"In the debate over the budget Capitol Hill, Europe is not seen the solution, but as part of the problem. People there are a close look at all the money to defend a part of the world regard as least likely to be in crisis. And there's a resentment Europeans would even cut off and doing things on

Destructive

But in the Oval Office, where it counts, the ship is still very much on course. Able sources here expect a new focus in which talk of weapons and in Europe, come together will come whole new arrangements. "Th"

Pentagon let down by MoD

WORRIED EXPRESSIONS are expected in both the Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon when the latest addition to the ever growing literature on the Falklands War appears next month.

Using their extensive network of contacts, aviation specialists Jeffrey Ethell and Alfred Price talked to servicemen on both sides to build up a complete, and they claim more accurate, picture of the conflict.

Their book, *Air War South Atlantic*, out soon from Sidgwick and Jackson casts serious doubt on the accuracy of British figures for the number of Argentinian aircraft shot down.

While the lethal efficiency of the Sea Harrier may actually have been underrated, Ethell and Price suggest the "kills" attributed to surface-to-air missiles such as the Rapier, Sea Dart and Sea Wolf are exaggerated by 250 per cent.

This certainly won't please the Pentagon who have just spent \$1½ million on a study of the operational effectiveness of various weapons in the conflict—based exclusively on British figures. Whispers within the MoD say that these may now have to be modified.

BRITAIN'S DEFENCE MINISTRY

Heseltine's £16bn challenge

By Bridget Bloom, Defence Correspondent

"If you're not careful as a minister, you can find yourself the titular head of the bureaucratic machine, moving relentlessly in the direction the machine wants... it's a very important requirement that you should be able to identify this phenomenon and decide at what point, if any, you wish to assert your own influence."

THUS Mr Michael Heseltine, who nine months ago was elevated to head what is Whitehall's largest, and certainly its most complex, bureaucratic machine. He was brought in to the Ministry of Defence last January, initially to stem the tide of anti-nuclear protest in the run up to the General Election, a job he did with gusto and much success.

But the task that now faces him—and for which he was also singled out by Mrs Thatcher—offers much less chance of immediate or dramatic results, or such ready political rewards. Heseltine's description of the dilemma facing any Whitehall minister is especially apt for his own task at the MoD. Its bureaucracy certainly has a momentum of its own which, in the view of one senior civil servant, has not been challenged by any minister in recent years.

Ministers of defence, he says, fall into three types—"the ones who run us, those who are good because they fight our corner with the Treasury and Cabinet and those who are bad because they don't." The only one he

The largest single customer of British industry

can remember in the first category was Denis Healey, Labour's defence minister in the late 1960s. "But he was interested in policy, not management," he says.

Heseltine is cast in a very different mould from Healey. But, like the veteran Labour MP, he has all the skills of a consummate politician. Talking about the massive ministry over which he now presides he gives no hostages to fortune and lets slip no comment whatever about his impending battles with the Treasury over this year's spending review.

Above everything else he knows that it will take all the williness he can muster to change the bureaucracy without in the process being swallowed up by it. No one, he told Parliament in July, can approach managing the MoD without an "awesome appreciation of its standards."

By any standards the Ministry is huge, in effect a federation of five separate departments: the "semi-autonomous" army, navy and airforce, the 43,000-strong Procurement Executive which buys the forces' weapons and equipment, and the central administration. Latest figures

put the armed services at 321,000. The MoD's home-based civilian staff after a 16 per cent reduction since 1979 should stand at 200,000 by next April. Then there are an additional 32,500 civilians overseas.

This year's budget is nearly £16bn, making Defence the biggest spender after Social Security (£32bn). Of this £16bn, £7.2bn will go on weapons and equipment—by its own estimate the ministry is the largest single customer of British industry.

It accounts for about half the output of the aerospace industry, and one-third that of electronics and shipbuilding. The MoD supports 242,000 jobs in British industry directly, and another 193,000 indirectly, while "at any one time 10,000 British companies are working on defence contracts."

Heseltine decided long ago that if ministers were to manage—to act as a "counterweight" to the bureaucratic mind"—the first priority was better information about what was going on.

He is convinced previous attempts to reform public sector management failed "because there is no detailed capacity for the people at the top to know what is happening." Hence his key tool is what he terms the Management Information System for Ministers, or Minis which he first introduced in the Department of Environment in 1980. "Minis is the only way I know in which the debates between ministers and the machine can be conducted on an equal basis," Heseltine says.

It seems astonishing that the information being collected through Minis was not available in any other systematically collated form, but apparently it was not. Its end result is a whole series of charts and special documents which are designed to show the anatomy of a ministry: precise staff numbers and their costs, plus the responsibilities, objectives and performance of all managers in every department. Heseltine has the preliminary charts adorning his office wall although most of them—unlike those in the DoE—remain classified.

The information is gained through managers themselves describing what they do. Then, depending on their seniority, they face an inquisition on what they have written from the Secretary of State himself, or from the special Minis unit which runs the whole exercise. "That provides the creative tension," as one official put it.

It's a mammoth exercise which "creates a massive amount of work—it's designed to," Heseltine says. So far, not even round one is completed. Heseltine has decided not to extend Minis to the fighting forces—it's very difficult to second-guess the advice of professional soldiers, sailors and airmen designing a force for wartime," he says.

Those questioned in detail

process is already revealing "quite a lot of latent, high class managers."

Heseltine expected and found resistance from officials at first but says co-operation has since been exemplary. He leaves the impression, however, that he would have gone ahead anyway.

An official tells the tale of a senior colleague who wrote on his Minis form that his objectives for the future were to be left alone. "Everyone wants to be left alone," Heseltine says. But he adds, somewhat icily, that he could not stand up in Parliament and say "I haven't enquired into Mr Jones' activities, because on beginning to do so, he said 'please leave me alone.' Parliament would not understand that. And, to be frank, neither would I."

Invigorating though the effects of Minis may be in the upper reaches of the MoD, what does Heseltine actually hope to achieve by improving the ministry's management?

He is reluctant to go into much detail, partly, it seems, because he feels that the base of his information, through Minis, is not yet secure, but partly also because of innate political caution. ("Cautious" is a favourable word. "I wouldn't run from that description," he says).

Pressed to define what he meant when he told Parliament that "significant change" could result from Minis in the "medium term," Heseltine outlined four main areas which, he ultimately agreed, were intended to produce action that should save hundreds rather than tens of millions of pounds a year.

These areas are:
● A switch in resources from administration to sharper emphasis on the fighting forces—reducing the amount of overhead activity in favour of the chap at the sharp end," as he put it.

● Much greater responsibility of managers at all levels for the money they spend. The "responsibility budgets" introduced on a "very tiny scale" under his predecessor Sir John Nott will be "very greatly extended," as will ministerial scrutiny of "very large parts of the organisation which would not normally or naturally receive it."

● Much greater interplay between the private and public sectors. This would range from the measures already being adopted to tighten relationships between defence contractors and the Procurement Executive, including increasing competition in defence contracts, to much wider exchange of personnel between industry and the MoD which is just beginning.

● Greater exploitation of the MoD's latent assets. In particular, the research side of the department will be going through "very considerable scrutiny." The MoD spends some £2bn a year on Research and Development. Although Mr Heseltine does not agree with Sir John Nott that there was a

1:2 ratio of R & D to production which could "lead to bankruptcy," it is clear that he wishes to rationalise spending on defence research as well as multiply the civilian spin-off from it.

Heseltine told the Prime Minister's recent conference on science, technology and industry that he believed large defence contractors were not sufficiently entrepreneurial in the exploitation of detailed research, and he is unhappy that the rights for R & D projects commissioned by the MoD from the large companies remain with them.

Heseltine's hour-long interview came just before he began detailed conversations with the Treasury on the current spending review and he was particularly anxious not to be drawn on that subject.

In July the Treasury cut £240m from this year's defence budget without his knowledge, only hours after he had publicly introduced the Defence White Paper. In recent weeks, the Treasury has made it clear that the defence budget is again a prime target, not just in the current year but, more importantly, in the years ahead.

The big battles will be over whether Britain's commitment to Nato to increase spending by a real 3 per cent a year is to be renewed after 1985-86—as well as over whether, also after 1985-86, the Falklands, this year costing £624m will be funded by the Treasury in addition to the "normal" budget. Heseltine says of the Treasury: "I don't know what they are

The Treasury has a Gatling gun mentality

going to argue and I don't know who's going to prevail. How can I? So there's no use speculating in public about it."

He only let the visor slip for a moment during his interview. "I think people are pretty aware of the way the Treasury operates," he said. "They have a Gatling gun mentality. They just sweep the arc and see what falls off the trees... I shall never be forgiven for that," he added a little ruefully.

Leaving a lasting impression on such a self-willed organisation as the MoD must be among the more daunting tasks in British politics—so it is hardly surprising Heseltine rarely lowers his guard. He will not be drawn either on questions of broader defence strategy—though he makes it perfectly clear he has no intention of changing any of Britain's major commitments to Nato.

But pressed again to detail precise aims, it is the politician who answers. He does not believe in publishing targets—even in broad terms. "Those would be just broad targets. The broader the target, the easier to hit."



"I cannot stand up in Parliament and say I haven't enquired into Mr Jones' activities because he said 'please leave me alone'."

so far are the 156 under-secretaries or two-star service appointments at headquarters. These are the men who will ultimately each have at least a half-hour session with Heseltine himself. The 750 assistant secretaries and one-star officers working under them have also been assessed. This, the Minis unit reckons, covers the activities of some 34,000 headquarters staff.

Rather less detail has been sought so far on some 200,000 500-odd executive operations do know their costs, but not many have formed budgets in the stringency sense the Secretary of State would like.

At all levels, Heseltine is trying to identify areas of weakness. He discovered, for example, that the DoE had 11 headquarter buildings in London and ordered a reduction to three. Going no further west than Fulham, he has so far counted 25 in the MoD. The figure was "astronomic," not only in London but "all over the world," he said, "and there is no fighting capability in much of that."

He also believes

Peking envoy to head Hong Kong task force

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Prime Minister is bringing home Britain's Ambassador to China, Sir Percy Cradock, and putting him in overall charge of the Hong Kong problem.

He will replace Sir Anthony Parsons as special foreign affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, concentrating on Hong Kong.

It has been an open secret in Whitehall for some time that Sir Anthony, who took the post on a short-term basis after retiring from the Foreign Office last year, is anxious to

leave and did not wish to extend his contract beyond December 31.

The timing of yesterday's announcement comes after a three-day slide in the exchange rate of the Hong Kong dollar on the day the dollar slightly recovered. It also coincided with the announcement in Hong Kong of a three-point rise in prime lending rate by the banks there, bringing it to 16 per cent.

But Mrs Thatcher's decision to set up a Hong Kong task force with Sir Percy in charge, has a much longer-range object. She has created a supreme authority on the

model, who will oversee a particular strategic problem, reporting directly to the Prime Minister's office, and having the full authority and resources of that office.

The last time anyone in Whitehall can recall this technique

Mrs Thatcher's knight swop, page 17; Move to slow Hong Kong fall, page 18

being used was when Harold Macmillan designated Mr R. A. Butler to set up and run the Central African Office when the Rhodesia crisis was building up.

The new plan began to take shape when Mrs Thatcher asked Sir Percy to visit her in London a month ago, just as he was finishing a family holiday in this country. The Prime Minister also asked the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, to arrange his home leave so that he could also take part in the talks.

The two men first conferred with Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office.

Mrs Thatcher, who takes a strong personal interest in the Hong Kong problem, was favourably impressed by Sir Percy when she visited Peking

a year ago this month. He has been leading the five-man British team in the negotiating sessions with the Chinese and will do so again next month. But under the strict rule of the Diplomatic Service he is bound to retire soon after his 60th birthday at the end of October.

To Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe this seemed to be a waste of expertise in what is becoming an increasingly complex problem. Sir Percy, who is fluent in Mandarin, had served in three postings of increasing seniority in Peking before returning there as Ambassador five years ago.

THE GUARDIAN

27.9.83

Mrs Thatcher's knight swop

WHEN Mrs Thatcher broke with tradition—and hurt the pride of the Foreign Office—by appointing Sir Anthony Parsons as her special foreign policy adviser, one official said the success of the move would depend on “whether Parsons becomes a wheel on Boadicea's chariot or merely a spare wheel.”

The announcement yesterday from 10 Downing Street that Sir Anthony is to retire in December—barely a year after taking on the job—has left many in Whitehall concluding that he became the latter, unsure about what his role really was. Mrs Thatcher has appointed Sir Percy Cradock, ambassador to Peking, as her new foreign policy adviser but only on a part-time basis. Sir Percy will spend most of his time in the new Foreign Office unit responsible for negotiations on the future of Hong Kong.

The circumstances surrounding Sir Anthony's

appointment reveal more about Mrs Thatcher and her use of advisers than the announcement that he is retiring. After all, he had made it clear after Lord Carrington resigned as Foreign Secretary that he, too, would like to go as soon as the Falklands crisis permitted. He was already planning to write a book comparing Joseph Conrad and T. S. Eliot.

The Argentine invasion had confirmed Mrs Thatcher's prejudices against the Foreign Office. She had no hesitation in embarrassing Mr Francis Pym, whom she reluctantly appointed as Foreign Secretary after Carrington's resignation. She was attracted to Sir Anthony by his success in getting a mandatory UN security council resolution condemning Argentina's invasion within 48 hours.

But she was also attracted by his refusal, in matters of style, to defer to the non-combative ethos that pervades the Civil Service—what Mrs Thatcher would describe as “wet.” He was reported, during a meeting at Chequers during the Falklands War, to have said: “Prime Minister, will you please not interrupt me until I have finished and, in the meanwhile, will you please stop scowling at me.”

It is not true to say, as some Whitehall mandarins complain, that Mrs Thatcher has a bias against all civil servants. Sir Anthony was a career diplomat, so is Sir Percy. What makes her different is her mixture of personal whim and keen personal interest in senior appointments in the Civil Service.

For example, she appointed Mr Peter Middleton, a particularly articulate official who had caught her eye, to be permanent secretary of the Treasury against the advice of his predecessor, Sir Doug-

lass Wass, and other mandarins who preferred Mr David Hancock.

Mr Hancock was sent to head the Department of Education. That decision also provoked one of the few rows she has had with the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong.

She recently asked Mr Nicholas Owen, an assistant secretary at the Department of Industry, to join her policy unit at No 10 when a brief he had written that was sceptical of conventional departmental wisdom was brought to her attention. Mr Owen is the only civil servant in a unit of seven outsiders headed by Mr Ferdinand Mount.

A more appropriate charge against Mrs Thatcher's use of advisers and the Whitehall machine is that she is erratic—there is no pattern. She brought Mr Roger Jackling, an assistant secretary at the Ministry of Defence who impressed her during the Falklands war, into No 10. He has now returned to his Ministry and has not been replaced.

The Peruvian Government has revealed that they discussed Falklands peace proposals not with the Foreign Office but with Lord Thomas, the historian and chairman of the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies.

Like her predecessors, Mrs Thatcher has her own policy unit under Mr Mount who is himself expected to go back to journalism (he came from the Spectator) when his contract expires in April next year. Apart from Mr Owen, the other members of the unit are Mr Christopher Monckton, Peter Shipley, Robert Young, David Pascall, John Redwood and Oliver Letwyn. Political “chief of staff” is Mr David Wolfson, and the Prime Minister has a part time economics adviser in Sir Alan Walters.

But Mrs Thatcher's style of

government reflects an apparent contradiction that has frustrated her advisers. Unlike her immediate predecessor, Mr James Callaghan, she is impatient with detail, preferring to adopt a broad and confident approach to the problems of policy, for example—to the economy, the Soviet Union, defence and law and order. Her rhetoric reflects that.

But, according to her advisers, she will also suddenly get interested in a particular problem, want to know all about it and will want to master its intricacies. The matter of Britain's EEC contributions is a case in point. And for this, she needs the support, not of outsiders, but of civil servants who have all the detail and information at their fingertips.

She is impatient with Whitehall's cumbersome Cabinet committee structure, preferring, instead, to set up ad hoc committees on a particular issue, preferably with herself in the chair. In short, she is not interested—to the great disappointment of academics looking for tidy solutions—in the machinery of government and constitutional theory.

So it is unlikely that Mrs Thatcher will set up a Prime Minister's Department, an initiative that would, in any case, provoke unnecessary hostility in the Cabinet and the rest of Whitehall. Instead, she will appoint Ministers who, in general, agree with her.

Equally, by using career civil servants, she can defend herself against the charge that she is seeking to “politicise” the Civil Service. She will simply ensure that Whitehall priorities will change, by appointing a different breed of officials, accountants and managers, for instance, rather than Oxbridge intellectuals.

BIGGER EEC LOAN FOR WESTERN ISLES

**By Our Transport
Correspondent**

The Common Market's bank is to lend another £2 million, making a total of 5 million, to help improve roads and other communications in the western islands off Scotland.

Main roads will be upgraded from single to double-lane standard; there will be a 1,000 yard causeway across South Ford; a small vehicle ferry and terminals at North Uist and Berneray; a small industrial zone in Stornoway and an expansion of the water system on the island.

Total cost of the work will be £11 million. The £5 million loan from the European Investment Bank is for 15 years at 10.75 per cent. interest.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

27.9.83

THATCHER SPURS WEST TO WIN BATTLE OF IDEAS

By JAMES WIGHTMAN
Political Correspondent in Ottawa

MRS THATCHER, the first British Prime Minister to address the Canadian Parliament since Mr Macmillan in 1958, denounced Russia over its propaganda against Western ideals in her Ottawa address yesterday.

She declared: "We have been told that the West has no ideology, that Britain, in a famous phrase, has lost an empire and failed to find a role, that the young lack a sense of purpose and the old cannot provide them with one. It is not true."

The Prime Minister also declared that there was a battle of ideas to be won, a battle in which the West was better equipped than its adversaries because its ideas were better.

She added: "The propaganda campaign to sap the morale of the democracies is relentless. We must meet it by puncturing each spurious argument and by destroying every myth that emerges."

"We must constantly proclaim our ideals, to our own people at home, to young countries who have yet to choose, to those who live in the shadow of tyranny. It is time for freedom to take the offensive."

Falklands example

Recalling how Britain had defended the principle at stake over the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher thanked Canada for her "staunch support."

The task of Nato, as was Britain's in the Falklands, was to ensure that "our way of life is never compromised."

She added: "That means we must be strong in capacity. There must never be an imbalance in any range of argument that leads to the conclusion that aggression against us might succeed."

"The other side must never be tempted to believe that it could win a war against the West."

HORSES CARRY SPARE PARTS FOR MISSILES

By Our Port Stanley
Correspondent

So successful has been the experiment of using horses to carry vital supplies in the Falklands that the Army has decided to continue this into next year. Many of the horses are descendants of Welsh ponies imported into the Falklands 50 years ago.

So far the horses have been used mainly in the hills around San Carlos Bay, re-supplying the men who look after the isolated Rapier bases which give 24-hour ground-to-air defence. The horses carry provisions, water and spare parts for the missiles.

Sgt Graham Carter of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, has trained the horses, many of which were quite wild, to carry the supplies into mountains where some of the 4,500 British troops spend their four-month tour of duty in dugouts. A helicopter delivery could cost up to £8,000 an hour.

MATERIALS FOR FALKLANDS

A 14,000-ton transporter vessel left Avonmouth Docks, near Bristol, yesterday with 22 men and 4,000 tons of plant and materials for the new £215 million airport in the Falklands.

The Merchant Providence was the first of a fleet of vessels which will take 1,400 workers and at least 250,000 tons of material and equipment needed for the project.

'Real test'

Referring indirectly to CND and other groups, the Prime Minister said: "In the last year or two we have seen a massive attempt to bend the will of Western governments by working on the minds of our electorates with bogus arguments."

"In country after country that attempt has failed. Yet the propaganda continues. Every few weeks there is a further statement from Moscow designed to give an appearance of flexibility."

"But so far when these public statements are checked at the negotiating table—the real test of truth—flexibility disappears."

Mrs Thatcher gave the Canadian Parliament a cautiously optimistic description of improvements in Britain since the Conservatives returned to office in 1979.

She said: "Five years ago there was a widespread feeling that our problems were insoluble. That was before we tackled them so vigorously."

'Alive and well'

Recalling Churchill's speech to the Canadian Parliament 40 years ago, she said that he "stood here and spoke about a chicken which refused to have its neck wrung."

She added: "I am happy to report that that same chicken is alive and well and is as resolved as ever to preserve inviolate that self-same area of its anatomy."

The Prime Minister said she was proud that her administration was so closely associated with a successful outcome to the process of patriation of the Canadian constitution by the British Parliament last year.

She added: "Together we have successfully stored out last piece of colonial furniture in the Museum of History. A constitutional link, has, quite properly, been severed. The effect of that is not to weaken but to strengthen our common heritage."

DAILY TELEGRAPH

27th September

How to meet Morán at UN

Eight crucial issues on Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg in Madrid
and Jonathan Searle in Gibraltar

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, both in New York for the UN General Assembly, are to meet today to examine once again the Gibraltar problem.

They have to find fresh ways of tackling the following issues:

● **Lisbon agreement:** When it was signed by Britain and Spain in April, 1980, it was intended to provide the framework for negotiations "to resolve in a spirit of friendship the Gibraltar problem". But because of differing interpretations in Madrid and London it has itself become one of the elements in dispute.

Britain and the Gibraltar authorities maintain that there should be full implementation of the agreement with Spain, lifting all the restrictions imposed by the Franco regime when it decided to blockade the British colony in 1969, in pursuit of Spain's long-standing sovereignty claim.

One of the first acts of Spain's Socialist Government last December was a partial suspension of the restrictions, permitting pedestrian traffic between Spain and the Rock for Spanish passport-holders and Gibraltar residents only. No tourist movement is allowed.

● **Reciprocity and rights:** Agreed by both governments as the basis for future cooperation, but Spain now refuses to lift the remaining restrictions unless Britain agrees to make immediate provision, through the Gibraltar administration, to permit Spaniards to own property and work on the Rock, like EEC nationals.

● **Economic problems:** Britain's decision to privatize Gibraltar's Royal Naval dockyard - a one-year extension was granted last July and the sale is to be carried out by December 31, 1984, with the loss of at least 1,000 jobs - aggravates the economic consequences for Gibraltar of Spain's partial frontier opening.

Gibraltar's trading community

estimates that it loses £100,000 a week all round as Gibraltarians cross via La Linea into cheaper Andalucía to shop. They discover a democratic Spain, very different from Franco's day, which in many ways enjoys a more modern life than the Rock.

● **Tourism:** Unless the frontier restrictions are dismantled or circumvented Gibraltar's only potential alternative source of prosperity, tourism, can not be tapped. But even then the initial advantages are more likely to go to Spain.



● **Joint economic development:** This is one of the possible elements for future collaboration which officials may be charged with examining if today's talks go well.

● **Gibraltar airport:** There is potential for development, but the Spanish Prime Minister said last December that Gibraltar's fare structure would mean unfair competition for Málaga, Spain's busiest tourist airport. The return fare from Britain to Málaga is £340, to Gibraltar £250.

● **Nationality:** Señor Morán said for the first time last week that he was not trying to convert Gibraltarians into Spaniards. The Rock has 20,000 inhabitants, living in two and a half square miles of territory.

Spain has begun to understand that it needs to woo the Gibraltarians, even though sovereignty remains Madrid's fundamental goal.

● **Hongkong:** Spain is watching the Anglo-Chinese talks closely, and Señor Morán is to visit China towards the end of next month.

THE TIMES
26.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates Public Affairs

41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone: 01-93016935

The Liberal assembly

Joint defence policy deadline

By John Winder

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, on Saturday set a deadline of early 1987 for an agreed defence policy to be established by the Alliance. He was addressing the closing session of the Liberal Party Assembly in Harrogate.

He said that it was impossible to continue with the long-term folly of "Fortress Falklands" and with Trident and strengthen conventional forces as well. The sums did not add up.

Dr Owen said that the agreed defence policy must be "capable of withstanding the critical scrutiny and buffeting of the hustings."

At the next election the Alliance could not have a substantial number of candidates doing their own thing, distancing themselves from or contradicting the Alliance programme for government.

Dr Owen said that in the June election, although the Alliance had accepted the need for a nuclear component in the Nato deterrent while the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons, far too many disillusioned Labour voters had switched, on the issue of defence, straight to the Conservatives and did not vote for the Alliance.

"There is every reason for believing that once again it could be - in 1987 or 1988 - a crucial swing vote issue. We have an immediate decision which will test our two parties over the parliamentary vote on whether to oppose the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain."

The public would judge how they took into account, as they

had promised in the election, the negotiating stance of the Soviet Union and the United States, the attitude of Nato partners in Europe and whether arrangements for a double safety-catch system had been agreed.

"I hope we can reach an agreed position but if we do not, at least I know we will respect each other's viewpoint", Dr Owen said.

They would disagree as friends, as they did from time to time within their own families. If they honestly differed, the manner in which they differed was crucial to the way the electorate saw the Alliance.

"It is the rancour, the backbiting and the bitterness of the disagreements inside the Labour Party that people find so destructive. We will have none of that."

Their task was not just to look at short-term issues, important

though they were, but to set their sights on the future, starting to forge a security policy which fitted the needs of the 1990s, remembering that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had shown less interest in disarmament issues than any Prime Minister since the Second World War.

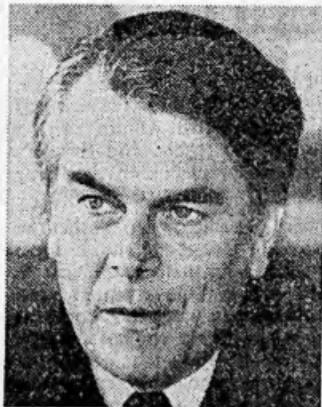
"In this task we face a thicket of political, strategic and economic dilemmas, the key to which lies in our internationalism".

In both parties, a deep seated and long-standing commitment to the EEC and Nato was central to their political objectives.

It was imperative to develop a European identity within Nato, to cover conventional and nuclear defence and disarmament policy. It was no longer credible to argue that such a development would weaken the American commitment or create strains within Nato. The nature, if not the content, of the American commitment had been changing and strains already existed, Dr Owen said.

Dr Owen said that if the Liberals and Social Democrats were to develop a defence and disarmament policy for the 1990s between their parties, they must do it in cooperation with like-minded European Liberal and Social Democratic parties.

One did not have to be anti-American or anti-Reagan to say, sadly, that total European confidence in the American President had long since gone away. Many Liberals and Social Democrats totally convinced of Nato's value now openly expressed their anxiety about US decision-making, he said.



Dr Owen: No room for contradictions.

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26.9.83

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41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone: 01-930 6935

27 SEP 1983

DR R J HARWOOD



Mr and Mrs Richard Cockwell, who are aiming to set up a woollen mill in the Falklands.

Gala college aids Falkland woollen mill project

A married couple from the Falkland Islands who have been learning the skills of knitwear production at the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels have been told the islands' Government are prepared to provide financial support for their plan to set up a mill at Fox Bay on West Falkland.

Mr Richard Cockwell (44) and his wife Grizelda (34) are to pioneer the first industrial development project in the Falklands, using a special yarn production system designed for them at the college. The intention is to have the mill in production, using the wool from the island sheep, by next April.

The Cockwells returned to Galashiels yesterday after a ten-day visit to mills in Shetland and are now preparing a

By WILLIAM CHISHOLM

shopping list of machinery and equipment before returning home. College staff will follow to help with the construction of the mill and the installation of machinery.

Dr Ray Harwood, head of the college's technology department, said: "We are now proposing there should be a complete evaluation of the Falklands wool clip, which amounts to two million kilos each year. If the wool was evaluated systematically and marketed for particular end uses, its value could be considerably higher than at present."

Mrs Cockwell estimates the mill will cost £100,000 to build and equip, and in the early stages will employ ten people. She said: "We hope the workforce will be a mixture of

Falklanders and immigrants from this country. We understand moves are afoot to develop Fox Bay quite quickly and that should help us."

Sweaters produced at the Fox Bay factory will be sold to islanders and British troops for between £18 and £25 each. But with enquiries already coming in from the USA, an export market will be created in the early stages of the venture. Knitwear producers in the UK are so impressed by the quality of the yarn from the Falklands sheep that they have asked the Cockwells for supplies.

The college's close ties with the project could lead to other research programmes for Dr Harwood and his staff. For example, they are keen to investigate the potential of peat as an energy source for industry on the Falklands.

Pinning their hopes to wool

John Ezard talks to the Falklanders who hope their mill will safeguard the future

A COUPLE with a sample box of pure wool sweaters travelled home to the Falklands at the weekend to start the first new farm export project to be mounted there for more than a quarter of a century. If fully developed, it will boost the islands' gross national product by some 50 per cent within six or seven years.

The project — a wool mill and knitwear factory in a dependency where wool has always been shipped to Britain for processing — begins the implementation of Lord Shackleton's official post-conflict report which last year called for urgent development to reverse years of neglect and under-investment. The development could also include an inshore fishery and the creation of the first British-style village community in the Falklands countryside.

The mill will be set up by Richard and Grizelda Cockwell on rural West Falkland, where new owners have just started farming 150,000 acres of sheep-grazing land, which has been bought by the British Government and redistributed to islanders under Lord Shackleton's farm reform plan.

"We feel it's absolutely essential to develop the Falklands in order to secure its future," said Richard Cockwell. "If we just maintain the status quo, the whole sending of the task force becomes an absolute nonsense. The more development there is in the short-term, the better our chances are of persuading the world —

especially South America and the United Nations — of our right to exist."

The farms are at Port Howard, the main settlement in West Falkland, and at Fox Bay and Dunnose Head. They were bought for £500,000 earlier this year. The British Government paid £450,000 of this and the local island government £50,000. The land has now been sold to two former farm managers, a farm handyman, a tractor driver and a shepherd.

The new owners will be helped to buy the farms with low interest loans from the £31 million development fund set up by Britain. But they are being allowed to begin working the land as "homesteaders" this autumn — the Falklands spring — before cash details are finalised.

When the sheep are sheared next April the Cockwells' mill will begin turning the wool into the first entirely home-produced Falklands knitwear. The Cockwells estimate that, converted into knitwear or yarn, this wool will fetch the equivalent of about £25 a kilo. That contrasts with the £2-£3 a kilo at present paid for unprocessed, uncleaned wool by foreign importers who turn it into Falklands knitwear.

"We believe that the characteristics and properties of our wool are such that these products will sell with very little difficulty," said the Cockwells. "We have had a lot of interest already from High Street shops in Britain, and quite a lot from the United States."

They calculate that the



Richard and Grizelda Cockwell: on their way back to the Falklands

maximum realistic world market for wool products direct from the Falklands is about 100,000 kilos a year. This would bring about £2½ million a year. The present total Falklands gross national product from all sources, including the highly lucrative sales of stamps, is £4.3 million.

The Cockwells have wanted to start the wool mill for years but in the economically declining pre-conflict state of the Falklands were unable to raise the money. Now they expect a £130,000 development grant and are putting in £40,000 of their own savings, including the redundancy money Mr Cockwell received as farm manager.

A two-month course in yarn and knitwear production at the Scottish College of Textiles, Galashiels, this summer enabled them to produce their first sample batch of sweaters. They are taking a lecturer and a technician from the college back to the islands with them to help set up the mill.

The islands government, under the Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, wants to use the mill site to build houses for retired farm workers, which would create the first all-age village community in the Falklands countryside. There are also plans to set up a pioneering inshore fishery at Fox Bay.

THE GUARDIAN
26.9.83

BL wins £3m Falklands order

BL's truck plant at Bathgate, Lothian, has won a £3 million contract to supply construction vehicles for the building of the Falkland Islands airstrip.

The factory, which is under threat of closure, will supply 51 heavy construction trucks. A BL spokesman said: "Though it is very welcome business, it will make no difference in the long term."

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The Royal Navy's guided missile destroyer Antrim, 6,200 tons, which has been sold to Chile under an agreement signed in London last weekend. The Antrim took part in the recapture of South Georgia from the Argentines.

DAILY TELEGRAPH
26.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates *Public Affairs*

41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone: 01-930 6935

Falkland builders' armada sets sail

By Kenneth Gosling

In one of the most remarkable transfers of men and machinery ever undertaken for a single construction job, the transporter vessel Merchant Providence leaves Avonmouth today for the three-week, 8,000-mile voyage to the Falkland Islands and the first stage in the £215m development of a new long-range airport.

Only 22 people will be on this first of several sailings; but with them will be a quarter of the eventual total of about 250,000 tonnes of building materials and machinery: earthmovers and excavators, trailers and tractors.

There was no shortage of applications, 11,000, for the 1,400 jobs with the airport consortium, Laing, Mowlem and Amey Roadstone Corporation.

The consortium said: "The first team of people going out will be predominantly those who have worked for our companies, people who have a track record, and with them will be two catering staff.

"Eventually we will be sending out sufficient food supplies for 1,200 man months as well as bars and sports facilities and entertainment centres, water treatment and sewage plants, everything, in fact, to make the construction camp completely self-sufficient and self-supporting."

The first task will be to set up temporary accommodation; permanent quarters will be shipped at the end of the year. A road will be built to cover the five miles from East Cove, where the first ship will remain as a floating jetty, to Mount Pleasant, the airport site.

A Bailey bridge will be built to take ashore plant from subsequent vessels as they dock.

Fifty-four more men will be shipped out in a few days; then recruitment to fill the rest of the 1,400 vacancies will go ahead throughout Britain.

Conditions for the workforce may be arduous but the financial compensations could be considerable: all will get a quarter off their tax bills for working more than 30 consecutive days outside Britain. It has been reported that senior staff on the project will earn salaries of £30,000 to £35,000.

THE TIMES
26.9.83

Who pays? battle on Falkland millions

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE Cabinet is shaping up for an internal fight over the cost of defending the Falklands.

Over the next three years, the Government will spend £2.6 billion on ships, aircraft and soldiers to guard the islands.

This is paid by the Treasury, but the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, wants it to be shared with the Ministry of Defence.

However the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, already faced with big cuts in his budget from 1986, is equally determined that the bill must be paid out of central funds and not from his own budget.

This year the Falklands will cost £624 million, rising to £684 million next year and then dropping to £552 million in 1985/86.

Squadron

Mr Lawson argues that the 4,000 troops, the squadron of Phantoms and the ships would have to be used on other duties anyway, and should be paid for by the three Services.

Britain is committed to NATO to increase defence spending by three per cent each year in real terms until 1986. But this would be impossible if the budget was suddenly forced to accommodate the Falklands costs.

After that, swingeing cuts are almost inevitable, although NATO will fight hard to force Britain to continue to increase its defence spending.

DAILY MAIL
26.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates Public Affairs

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Currency dives as uncertainty grows over China's intentions

Hongkong panic and tears

THERE was deep depression — in some cases near panic — here yesterday as the Hongkong dollar continued to fall in value. Many people were stunned when they heard that their currency has reached an all-time low on the world market — 9.5 against the American dollar which is a drop of 20 per cent during the past five days.

The cause is the failure of British and Chinese negotiators to make any progress in their talks on the future of Hongkong when the lease on the new territories expires in 1997.

The bland statement issued in Peking on Friday after two days of negotiations that they would meet again in October was the catalyst for the current crisis. Shell has announced the price of petrol will go up and

shops are putting up notices saying prices of imported goods will be increased next week. As almost everything is imported here those with money are undertaking a bout of frenzied shopping.

Many old people have tears in their eyes as they wonder what they will live on in the future as almost all government and private pensions are paid in Hongkong dollars.

Airline offices are packed with people trying to buy tickets before the price is increased and small crowds of people are gathering outside the offices of High Commissioners for Australia and New Zealand and, above all, the United States Consulate General.

The inhabitants of Hongkong, generally the noisiest in the world, are quiet and subdued with shock.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office who arrived in Hongkong yesterday was expected to try to allay the growing public anxiety at a news conference.

He was meeting Sir Edward Youde, Governor, and Sir Percy Cradock, Ambassador in Peking, to review the problems but neither Britain nor China is expected to lift the blanket of secrecy thrown over their bargaining.

Two days of talks in Peking were adjourned on Friday for another six weeks with indications that little progress had

been made. The present aim is to reach a settlement by next September but the pressure from the colony is now likely to force the deadline forward by months.

I understand that China's leaders are digging in their heels resisting British attempts to retain a key role in the future administration.

Suggestions that there might be a deputy British Governor under the new formula or that Britain should have advisers in the Government and defence forces are being rejected emphatically by Peking.

China's negotiators insist that China's sovereignty must be accepted and the Chinese flag must continue to fly over the colony.

They would agree, however, that Hongkong could be turned into a special economic zone with a local Hongkong Chinese Governor and a local administration.

The present talks were instituted when Mrs. Thatcher visited Peking last autumn but the first round foundered quickly on the issue of sovereignty. It is believed that the second round of discussions were opened only after an undisclosed concession on this question from the Prime Minister.

The British case is that the colony was ceded in perpetuity by China and the adjoining new territories were granted under a lease expiring in 1997. China does not recognise either of these agreements claiming they were made under duress.

Nasty dose of Peking panic
—P.25.

By CLARE HOLLINGWORTH in Hongkong

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
25.9.83

Galtieri's panic at surrender

ARGENTINA

GENERAL Galtieri panicked at the end of the Falklands war because he thought his army was surrendering the whole of Argentina to the British.

He despairingly sought out his Foreign Minister, Costa Mendez, and demanded: 'Does this mean all of Argentina will be in British hands?'

Costa Mendez quickly calmed him.

The bizarre incident is related in Malvinas: The Secret Plot, the first book circulated inside Argentina giving the truth about the defeat.

It also tells how Costa Mendez ordered seven of his top assistants to look silently at a crucifix in his office.

The diplomats thought he was joking until he said: 'After 112 years, Argentina is about to enter a war' — and demanded that they swear an oath of silence.

The book reveals that Admiral Isaac Anaya backed the 1981 coup which brought Galtieri to power only on condition that the Falklands would be invaded.

THE MAIL ON SUNDAY
25.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates *Public Affairs*

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Hongkong's dollar at all-time low

Peking (Reuter) - British and Chinese officials agreed yesterday to resume talks on the future of Hongkong next month but declined to give details of the latest round of negotiations.

They ended the fourth round of talks to be held since July, when negotiations entered a more detailed phase and the Hongkong Governor, Sir Edward Youde, joined the British Team.

Both sides have pledged to keep the talks secret and few details have leaked out since they started last autumn.

The secrecy surrounding the talks, as well as tough Chinese statements in the past few days, have caused a nervous reaction on Hongkong financial markets.

The Hongkong dollar yesterday plunged to a record low of 8.8450 against the US dollar while the stock market Hang Seng index fell 63.58 points to its lowest daily close since January 6.

Chinese and British officials said in a terse statement the talks would resume on October 19 and 20.

China plans to regain sovereignty over Hongkong in 1997, when a lease on most of the territory expires, and although both sides have said they wish to ensure its prosperity and stability they disagree as to how this is to be achieved.

Most Westerners believe that if communists play a direct role in the running of the territory, living standards will fall drastically.

Peking disagrees and has said it plans to play an active rather than a purely symbolic part in administering the territory after 1997.

THE TIMES
24.9.83

Argentine amnesty announced

By Peter Bains in Buenos Aires

THE Argentine Government yesterday announced its long-expected amnesty law, which was immediately condemned by the political parties and human rights organisations.

The final text of the law extends the benefits of the amnesty to the security services, former guerrillas and other political dissidents, between May 25 1973 and June 17 1982.

But the opposition says its main intention is primarily to benefit the security services who have been accused of 15,000 to 30,000 deaths and disappearances.

The dates cover almost 10 years of political violence in the country during which a Peronist and later a military administration were in office. The cut-off date is set after General Leopoldo Galtieri was deposed from the presidency.

Former guerrillas living abroad or in hiding within Argentina are specifically excluded from the amnesty. So too are those guilty of "economic subversion," an ambiguous category introduced by the military regime.

Put on the state books only 37 days before the general elections, the law is likely to have only a brief life. Both major political parties, the Radicals and the Peronists, have promised to repeal it.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES
24.9.83

Thatcher to lobby over Falklands

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, are expected to carry out some intensive lobbying in North America next week in advance of a "highly prejudicial" draft resolution on the Falklands issue reaching the UN General Assembly.

Winning support for the British position while Argentina has still not officially declared an end to hostilities, has been described as a prominent part of Sir Geoffrey's brief during bilateral meetings with at least 27 foreign ministers in New York.

The Foreign Secretary will point out that the Government is not willing to talk, but that conversation is difficult with a country which would still seem to be technically a belligerent. Britain made an offer on commercial relations with Argentina nine months ago, but is still awaiting a response.

Officials are confident that Britain will not be in a minority of one during any debate on the Falklands, and are equally happy that Sir Geoffrey's legal mind will be able to expose the defects in any Argentine arguments.

The swiftly changing pattern of events in Lebanon cannot fail to arise during discussions which Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey will have in Washington next Thursday, or during the four-day visit by Mrs Thatcher to Canada which begins tomorrow.

But sources point out that East-West relations after the shooting down of the South Korean airliner by Soviet fighters, the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces and the economic situation look like being the biggest items on the agenda in both Canada and the United States.

Mrs Thatcher will make clear to President Reagan over lunch on Thursday, as she will to Mr Donald Reagan, US Treasury Secretary, Britain's anxiety to see interest rates come down. She will also seek confirmation of American opposition to protectionism.

The problems raised by American financial legislation, the situation in central America and in Northern Ireland could in theory be difficult areas, and subjects on which she will be well briefed before her departure.

But Whitehall says the outcome of next week's visit by both the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary is likely to be a "strong identity of views" on most if not all major issues.

Mrs Thatcher will also have a meeting in New York next Friday with Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Secretary-General, before flying home.

She will make several major speeches during her trip, including one next Thursday evening when she is to receive the Churchill Award.

The award was to have been presented at a ceremony preceding the Williamsburg summit in the summer, but had to be postponed because of the general election in Britain.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada will accompany Mrs Thatcher during most of her Canadian tour, which will include visits to Toronto, Edmonton and Ottawa.

THE TIMES
24.9.83

LA Way Rpt 23/9/83

is group, the Alianza Revolucionaria Democrática (ARDE), claimed responsibility for the air attacks on Managua and earlier this month. The raids had 'purely political value', Alfonso Robelo of ARDE told the *New York Times* in San José. They were intended, he said, to let Nicaraguans and the world know that 'we are fighting.'

The spectacular nature of the attacks immediately raised questions about who supplied the planes and bombs, particularly because they also served to quieten those in Congress and the administration who had started to grumble that the guerrilla war against the Sandinistas was not making enough progress. It must be remembered, though, that plane attacks were more than a feature of the long struggle by the 'right' opposition against the Somoza dynasty.

The administration is reported to be seeking congressional approval for US\$50m covert funds for the guerrilla war. □

PANAMA

Noriega emerges as new strongman after Paredes goes

As might be predictably (RM-83-07) the new commander of Panama's National Guard, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has emerged as the new strongman. Within a matter of days, amid rumours that a coup is brewing against both President Ricardo La Escriella and General Noriega, the favourite candidate in the race for the presidency, Noriega's predecessor Rubén Paredes, announced his withdrawal. The move was apparently intended to evoke widespread expressions of support, both within the National Guard and from the wider political community, which would lead Paredes 'reluctantly' to accept re-nomination. Instead, General Noriega sent Paredes a telegramme approving his decision.

Hours later, President de la Escriella announced a major cabinet reshuffle, replacing all ministers known to be close to Paredes' overtly pro-US line. Political rumour mills instantly began to spread the story that de la Escriella might be the replacement candidate for the ruling PRD and the host of smaller parties who had pledged to back Paredes as a 'national unity' figure.

While Paredes fumed, charging that he had been 'betrayed', Noriega made a series

of statements that did little to clarify the situation.

Speaking at Albrook Field, at the inauguration of the National Guard's second 'civic action' seminar, he said, 'It is necessary to be aware that wherever votes [for a certain candidate] are imposed, bullets tend to reproduce. We the armed forces of this country, are not going to impose votes because we wish to live in peace.'

The 'civic action' programme of the National Guard is carried out in conjunction with elements of the US Southern Command's 193rd brigade and of the US Navy.

Paredes' withdrawal from the presidential race has, in the meantime, thrown Panamanian politics into utter confusion. □

CARIBBEAN BASIN

CBI beneficiaries to be named by US starting in November

The first beneficiaries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative will be announced by the Reagan administration in November, according to two top US trade officials who returned from the area last week. More beneficiaries will be designated in stages, with all designations expected to be in by January 1984 when the CBI programme is scheduled to begin, the officials said.

Qualifying for the programme, however, may mean accepting some conditions that carry unsavoury political and commercial implications. As a scheme designed to promote free trade and the free flow of investment, its beneficiaries will be required to open their arms to foreign investors, revise nationalistic laws on expropriation, clamp down on the drug trade and illicit commercial traffic (such as the transshipment of counterfeit textiles and electronic goods from the Far East), and strike a deal with the US Treasury on disclosure of banking information where US tax evasion is suspected.

Notably, Jamaica will not be allowed the benefits of the plan until it settles its dispute with the US Motion Picture Association over the illegal broadcasting of US films by a Jamaican state company. Negotiations between the MPA and the Seaga government are said to be well under way. Some observers are sniggering that it may mean Seaga will have to remove the satellite dish installed in his backyard.

US embassies and consular staff are now also assisting potential beneficiaries in

ARGENTINA: The total number of people out of work or without a steady job has reached 1,067,514, a figure which represents 11.4% of the population - which is economically active, and an increase of 0.6% in the level of unemployment, reaching a rate of 5.2%. The rate of underemployment rose to 6.2%. Unemployment rose significantly in the country's interior, such as in the industrial region of Gran Córdoba, in Resistencia, Comodoro Rivadavia, Paraná, Posadas and Santiago del Estero

ARGENTINA: From January to July of this year, 230,000 tonnes of fish were caught, a figure representing a fall of 10.5% compared to the same period last year. This was due to the fall in the numbers of hake caught and the shortage of squid in their regular fishing grounds. Exports between January and August reached 116,000 tonnes, a fall of 11.4% compared to the same period last year. Nigeria bought the most fish (30,636 tonnes), which is 29% of the total volume exported. The EEC bought 15%, Spain 10%, Japan 10%, the US 8% and Brazil 5%. At the moment there are more than 20,000 tonnes of fish stored in refrigerators, processed for export but with the likelihood of being put on sale on the domestic market

ARGENTINA: During July, oil production increased by 1.56% although extraction carried out by contractors fell by 9.3% in comparison to the same period last year. In July, total oil production reached 2,379,541 cu m, with the YPF producing 1,661,990 cu m and contractors 717,551 cu m. Total oil production over the first seven months of this year reached 16,372,200 cu m, a fall of 0.7% against the same period last year.

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CATTLE being loaded onto a Danish ship at Poole, Dorset (above) yesterday, for the voyage to the Falkland Islands, where they will replace livestock killed during the war last year.

The 224 animals, including horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats were driven in trucks and horse buses for the trip up the gangway of the Dina Khalaf for their 30-day voyage

The trip was delayed twice by bad weather, but yesterday's loading took place in bright sunshine.

The National Union of Seamen has complained that a British ship is not

being used, and some animal lovers say that the long voyage will be cruel. Major-General Alan Mills, director of the Falklands Appeal, said the ship met standards set by the Ministry of Agriculture and the RSPCA.

Two vets are travelling with the ship, and one of them, Mr Graham Joss, who often accompanies animals abroad, said he was agreeably surprised by conditions.

The total cost of the exercise is £200,000, just over half being the cost of the ship. Many of the animals have been given by British farmers and breed societies.

'Scrap racist Act'

RESTORING the right of children born in Britain to automatic British citizenship would be the most significant step in repairing the damage done by the British Nationality Act, the Liberal Assembly declared yesterday.

In a debate in which speakers unanimously condemned the 1981 Act as racist and called for its repeal, Mr Keith Jenkins (Brent North) described the legislation as an insult to those people wishing to come to Britain and the black community already resident here.

Moving the motion calling for its repeal and replacements by legislation granting British citizenship to all children born in Britain of parents normally resident here, Mr Jenkins said the Tories were trying to pretend that it was no longer an issue because they were frightened of their own "raucous rightwing, which wanted repatriation."

By contrast, he went on, the Liberals have a past record of standing out against such trends. "We must now turn our attention to insuring that the families which have been divided by British governments, both Conservative and Labour, are able to be reunited as soon as possible."

"For 20 years the pressure has been for more discrimination. Now is the time for Liberals to press for policies that are rational, just and unprejudiced," he urged.

Gus Williams, a member of the party's community relations panel and the prospective Liberal parliamentary candidate for Perry-Barr, Birmingham, said that if a single piece of legislation had confused and driven fear into the hearts of the black community it was the 1981 Act.

"The confusion of the Nationality Act has led to the most embarrassing situation where our black citizens visiting France recently were treated as stateless people. This is disgusting and we should not tolerate it. Unless the British Government take immediate action to remedy this situation, black schoolchildren or adults visiting any of our European partners will be rejected because they are black, where white British children or adults are allowed to go freely without restriction," he said.

Mr Paul Nicholls, secretary of the party's community relations panel said the Act exposed the total hypocrisy of the Conservative Government. "Mrs Thatcher was very proud of her commitment to the Falkland islanders. But do you seriously believe that if the Falkland islanders had been black she would ever have sent the Task Force over there? Do you believe that the arrangements that have been made to give the Falkland Islanders full British nationality would have been made? Of course you don't."

Mr Alex Carlisle, MP for Montgomery, said the Tories' Nationality Act had introduced a real terror among the black community in Britain about this country's attitude towards immigration. It was something which Liberals could not tolerate.

23.9.83

Latin America talks welcomed

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

THE EEC has given a cautious welcome to the decision by the 26 nation Latin American Economic System (Sela) to seek a resumption of the talks between Latin America and the European Community.

At the end of a three-day ministerial meeting of Sela in Caracas on Wednesday the Latin American grouping expressed "the political will" to resume the dialogue broken off last year after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands.

In April this year Sela laid down stiff conditions for the resumption of talks.

Latin American central banks chiefs meeting in Venezuela yesterday chose Sr Jesus Silva Herzog, the Mexican Finance Minister, as the spokesman for Latin America at the forthcoming meeting of the IMF

23.9.83

ILLEGAL ARMS IN FALKLANDS

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley

STRINGENT rules are in force in the Falklands to prevent unauthorised taking-away of ex-Argentine war souvenirs.

But Major Ken Greenland, who heads the Royal Military Police in the islands, has no doubt that somewhere in Stanley there are still illegal stockpiles of munitions, including Argentine pistols.

British authorities are alerted if his unit becomes aware of something having slipped through the net.

Recent reports in Stanley suggested nearly one-and-a-half tons of munitions were recovered from one contingent of British servicemen leaving by ship.

Bayonets, shell cases

Major Greenland said this was an exaggeration although he acknowledged that "several sackfuls of war remnants" were recovered on one occasion — "mostly bayonets and shell cases."

He insisted that now, some 15 months after the Falklands conflict, incidents were decreasing, and the civil police officer, Bill Richards, said that for anyone found trying to get away with an Argentine weapon the consequences would be "drastic."

The most coveted possessions are shell cases, and it is permitted to take out two, provided a certificate has been obtained from the military administration and the shell is not less than 40 mm.

Air force attacks Argentine airline debt agreement

BY PETER BAINS IN BUENOS AIRES

THE Argentine air force has publicly expressed its "dissatisfaction" with the terms and conditions of the re-financing agreement covering the \$280m (£187m) foreign debt of Aerolineas Argentinas, the state airline.

The agreement, with a group of foreign banks led by Morgan Guaranty Trust, provides for re-scheduling over seven years, with three years grace, at spreads of two points over U.S. prime rate or 2½ points over Libor.

The contract will be used as a "model" for the remaining public sector companies, which together need to re-schedule approximately \$7.5bn this year.

An unsigned air force statement said a meeting of brigadiers had "unanimously" expressed their dissatisfaction with the way the debt was re-negotiated. The navy also indicated it had not taken any part in the decisions.

The wave of protests has been directed at Sr Jorge Wehbe, the Economy Minister and Sr Julio Gonzalez del Solar, the central bank president.

Sr Gonzalez del Solar left for the U.S. on Wednesday, followed by Sr Wehbe yesterday.

Both will be attending the annual IMF World Bank meeting.

Critics, of the agreement, including political parties and trade unions, say the annual interest payments, including agent commissions, will total about 14 per cent, and object to the choice of New York state courts to resolve any disputes over payment.

Critics also say the various public sector company re-schedulings are interrelated, so that a default by one would permit creditors to take legal action against others.

Before departing Sr Wehbe defended the Aerolineas contract, saying: "It has been written in convenient terms and in accordance with many precedents that go back 20 years."

He insisted that the clauses now objected to were already in the original loan contracts before rescheduling "and all we have done is included them again in the renegotiated agreement."

Although the political parties are furious at the conditions in an agreement reached only 40 days before the general elections, none of the main presidential candidates have suggested they should be repudiated.

£460 FOR LETTER TO EXPLORER

By ALISON BECKETT
Art Sales Correspondent

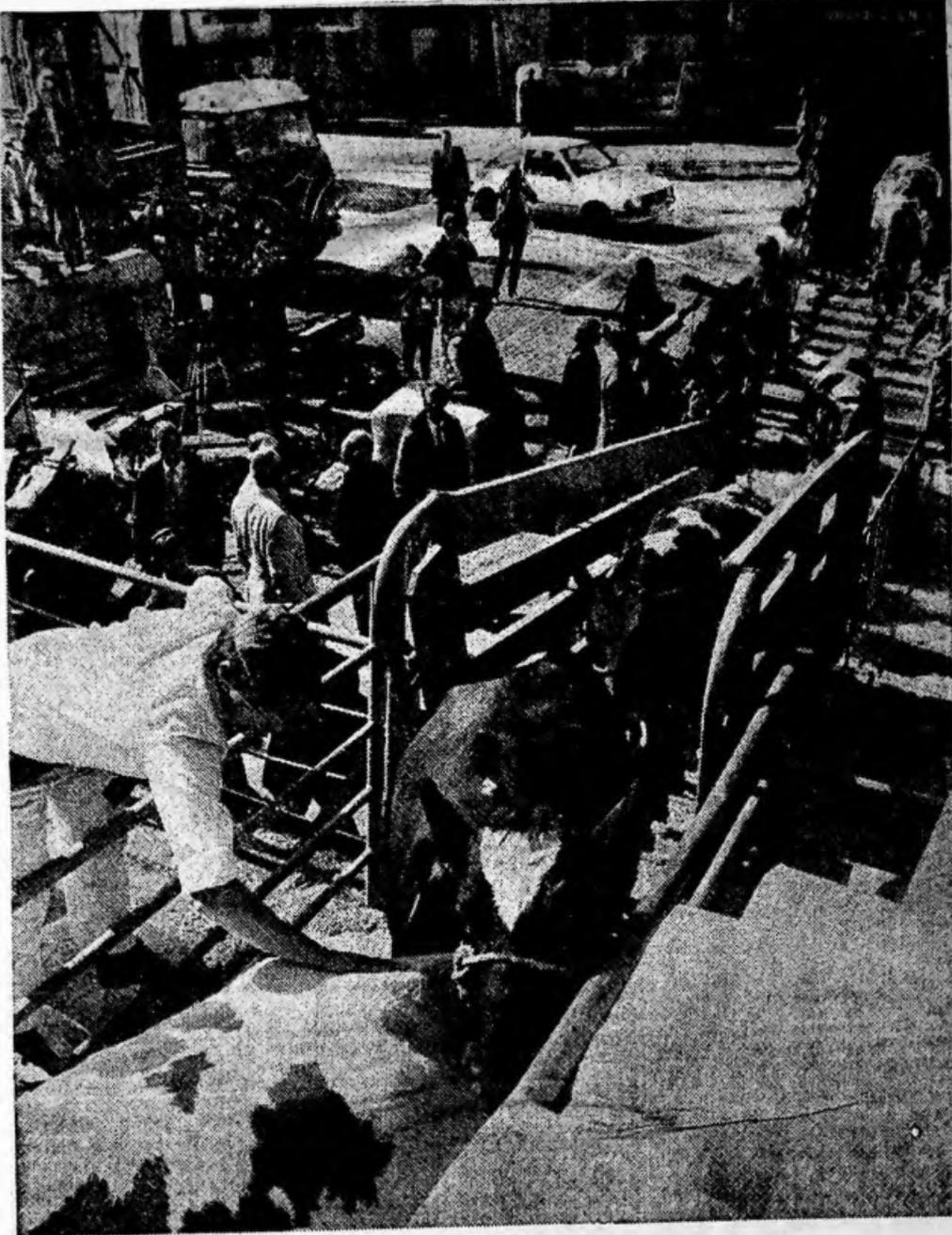
AN envelope addressed to Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, which was postmarked "South Georgia Dec. 16, 1911" and arrived in England 36 days later was sold at Sotheby's in London yesterday for £460.

It was sent to Sir Ernest's exploration offices in London by Dr Wilhelm Filchner, who was leader of the German Antarctic Expedition of 1911-13 which was shortly to become trapped in the ice for nine months.

23.9.83

FALKLAND 'CHIPPIE'

David and Pauline Hawksworth, from Barnsley, flew to the Falklands last night with their children Jeanette, nine, and Christopher, seven, to set up a fish and chip shop.



Falklands-bound—Cattle being loaded aboard the "Noah's Ark" at Poole Harbour yesterday.

Falkland Ark animals go on, moo by moo

IT was all a bit haphazard as 224 animals trotted aboard the Falklands Ark in Poole harbour yesterday, sometimes singly, sometimes in mini-herds. No two-by-two stuff here.

When they arrived in a swarm of trucks and horse boxes, some latter-day Noah on board the Danish-owned live-stock carrier Dima Khalaf tried to maintain a sense of historical perspective.

"Two by two" came an order. But it was quickly counter-

manded: "No, keep them all coming."

The result was a traffic jam of Ayrshires at the top of the gangway, mooing in confusion.

The animals, including horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, are being sent by the Falklands Appeal to the islands to replace livestock killed in the war.

Change of bedding

The sailing has twice been delayed by the sort of bad weather which Noah's original mobile home was designed to survive. But yesterday's loading took place in bright sunshine.

The 357-ton vessel is loaded on top with bales of hay and wood shavings so the animals can get a change of bedding on their 30-day voyage.

Two vets are travelling on board. One, Mr Graham Joss, who often accompanies animals abroad, said he was agreeably surprised with conditions.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

23.9.83

23.9.83

Argentine boost for Turner show

By Our Arts Correspondent

The largest exhibition of the work of the English artist JMW Turner ever to be held abroad opens in Paris on October 15 with an oil painting loaned from Argentina as one of the main attractions.

The exhibition is organized jointly by the British Council and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, and although the Argentine painting was suggested as an exhibit by the British selectors, its presence at the exhibition has been organized entirely from the French end.

It is a work rarely seen in Europe, *Juliet and her nurse*, which was sold to an anonymous Argentine lady at auction at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York in May 1980 for \$6.4m (2.7m), then a world record at auction for a single painting.

The painting had been in the United States since before the turn of the century and was sold by Mrs Flora Whitney Miller, chairman of the Whitney Mu-

seum of American Art in New York. The Argentinian buyer, a newcomer to the art market, was known as "the mysterious woman in white" as she made her record purchase.

Mr Julian Andrews, director of the British Council's fine arts department, said yesterday that the painting had been included on a list of desirable exhibits by the selectors, more than two years ago, before the Falklands conflict, and that it was the responsibility of the French organizers to arrange the loan of all overseas works for the exhibition.

The British Council has contributed £95,000 towards the cost of the exhibition, while the rest of the £300,000 cost has been borne by the French. "We certainly could not have afforded it all ourselves", Mr Andrews said.

There are 257 works in the exhibition, including 79 oils (40 from the Tate Gallery) and 155 watercolours, and on show will be the works - one oil and one

watercolour - which are the sum of Turner's representation at the Louvre.

It is likely to be the last big Turner exhibition to be shown abroad in the foreseeable future, because the new Turner gallery at the Tate is due to open in 1985. Mr Andrews said it illustrated a growing interest in British art. He said: "It will be the second of a series of major exhibitions at the Grand Palais honouring British in 1981. The French asked for Turner several years ago and they have been actively involved in the organization ever since."

The exhibition, which will be opened by Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, on October 14, will run until January 16, 1984, and is expected to beat the attendance of 281,279 at the Gainsborough exhibition. Discussions are already under way about future exhibitions of British painters, with Reynolds, Stubbs and Wright of Derby as possible subjects.

THE GUARDIAN

23.9.83

Mothers' vigil unnerves Junta

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

A 24-hour human rights demonstration, in which more than 1,000 relatives of missing people maintained an overnight vigil outside the presidential palace, continued here yesterday as hundreds of police looked on.

The "march of resistance" was called by the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, an organisation grouping relatives of people who disappeared - the *desaparecidos* - during the armed forces' ruthless campaign against guerrillas in the late 1970s.

Demonstrators carrying poster size photographs of people who disappeared marched slowly round the square to a steady stream of chants and slogans. Some had been on their feet for more than 17 hours. Others were sleeping on lawns in the square.

Young students plastered poster silhouettes representing individual *desaparecidos* on the walls of buildings round the square. Those on the cathedral walls were to remind the Catholic Church of its "equivocal position" towards the government's amnesty plan, a girl protester said.

The Mothers, who have demonstrated in the square every Thursday for more than six years, drew support from several prominent politicians, including the Radical Party's presidential candidate, Dr Raul Alfonsín, who is committed to blocking any amnesty introduced by the armed forces.

The demonstration was called to reiterate demands for the release alive, of up to 30,000 people who have disappeared since the military seized power in 1976, and the release of 365 political prisoners. The marchers also protested against the military Government's plan under which all human rights offenders in the security forces would get an amnesty before elections on October 30.

Although the protest was peaceful, the authorities ordered in several hundred police backed up by 10 riot trucks, a water cannon and several squadrons of the Infantry Guard, a feared paramilitary force used to quell demonstrations.

The heavy-handed response evidently reflected official discomfort at the sensitive issue of the "dirty war," and fears that it could dominate campaigning for the elections.

The armed forces still hope that the civilian government scheduled to take power within three months of the polls will accept the amnesty as a *fait accompli*, but are divided over how this might best be achieved.

The army wants to push the measure through as quickly as possible, political sources say. But the navy is reluctant, and the air force, until recently very much the junior partner in the military Government, would rather wait until the election result is known.

MEACHER FOCUS ON JOBLESS

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

MR MEACHER, a challenger for Labour's deputy leadership, declared last night that the party was failing to explain its "alternative economic strategy" to combat unemployment.

"There is no more insidious a weapon in Thatcher's hands than the belief that high unemployment is inevitable; that it is beyond our or anyone else's capacity to control; and that there is no alternative to current policy.

"That is the politics of demoralisation and we must break it," he told a meeting in Hampstead.

Mr Meacher, who is in a close contest with Mr Hattersley for the deputy post, said that perhaps the most important single task for Labour over the next five years was "to break through the credibility gap that exists over tackling mass unemployment."

But he warned that the "sheer size of the unemployment mountain" was no guarantee that more people would vote Labour at the next General Election.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

23.9.83

Danger in Belize

Another challenger, Mr Denzil Davies, attacked Mrs Thatcher and the Government last night over their foreign policy record, which he described as "as inept and incompetent as their record on domestic policy."

"The Government has amazingly undertaken by treaty to commit British troops to the defence of Belize should it be invaded by Guatemala, so in addition to the "Fortress Falklands" policy we could be dragged into a local war in Central America."

Mr Davies added: "In the Lebanon less than 100 British soldiers are left without any real protection while a civil war rages in that country, and while there is considerable danger that the war could become a confrontation between the United States and Syria, a close ally of the Soviet Union."

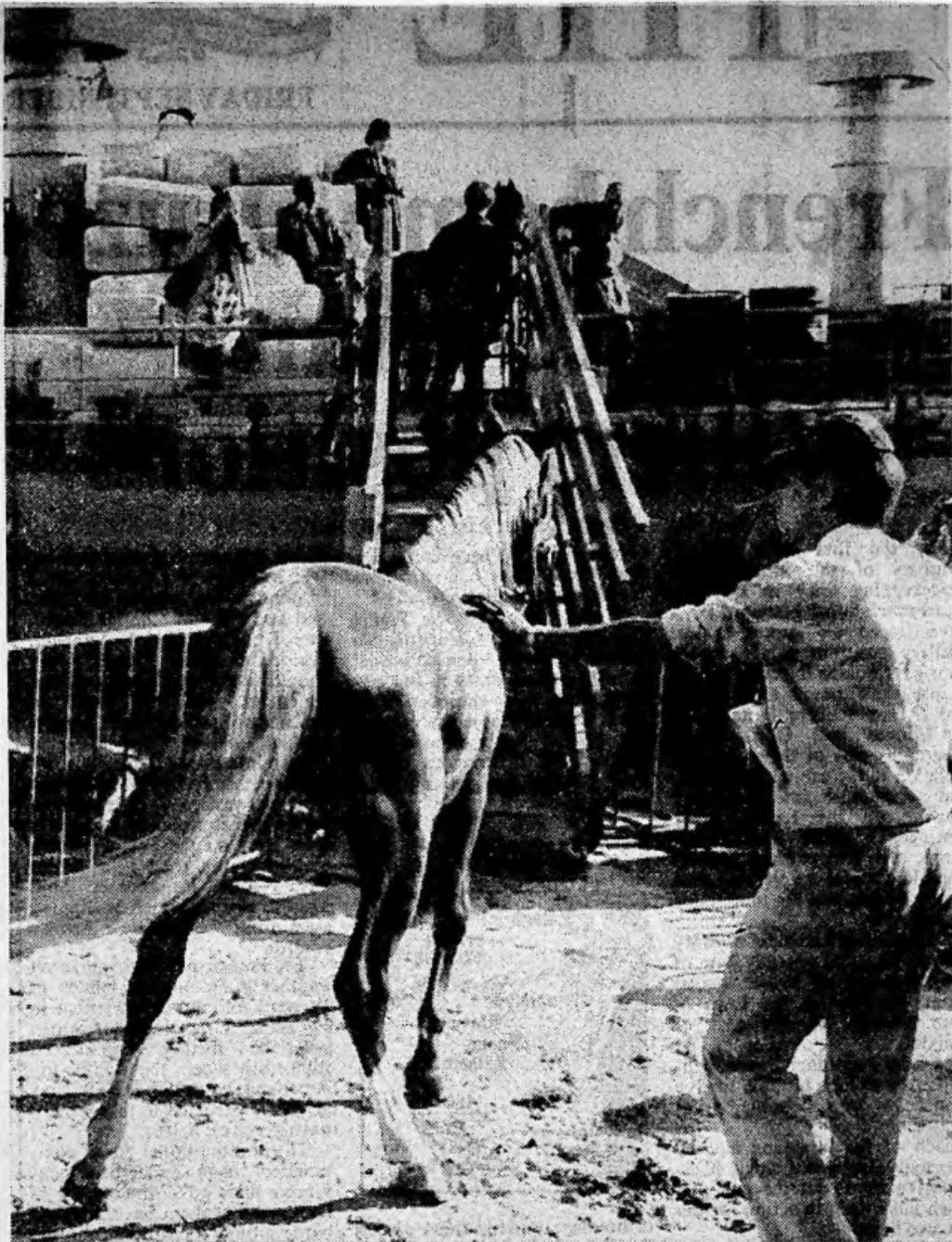
All Labour MPs have received a letter from Mr Shore, who is challenging for the leadership but who looks like coming a poor fourth behind Mr Kinnock, the expected winner, Mr Hattersley, and Mr Heffer.

Asking for their support in the election at the Labour Conference on Oct. 2, he said: "This is a crucial election."

"If we continue on the downward path of 1979-83, we will not win the next General Election, and we could easily be overtaken by the Alliance as the main Opposition party."

McMillan-Scott Associates Public Affairs

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Falklands bound: An Arab colt ready to embark at Poole harbour yesterday.

Falklands animals go in one by one

To the disappointment of everyone, they did not go in two by two. It was singly, sometimes rather disorderly, that the animals filed into "Noah's Ark" yesterday.

Driven in trucks to the dockside at Poole, Dorset, they trotted up the gangway of the Danish cattle carrier Dina Khalaf to begin their 30-day voyage to the Falkland Islands.

The 224 animals, including

horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, are being sent by the Falklands Appeal to replace livestock killed during last year's conflict.

The sailing has twice been delayed by bad weather but yesterday in bright sunshine, the first animals arrived and up the gangway walked a two-year-old Arab colt called Mirific and a Welsh cob called Rhftyd Ifanho.

Major-General Alan Mills,

director of the Falklands Appeal, said the ship met standards set by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr Marshall Watson, of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, said that the conditions were the best possible, and preferable to the animals being tossed about in a larger ship. Two veterinary surgeons are travelling with the animals.

Junta likely to delay war report action

From Andrew Thompson
Buenos Aires

The military commission set up to investigate the conduct of decision-makers in the Falklands conflict was expected to hand in its report and recommendations today to the ruling military junta in a private ceremony.

The report, said to consist of no less than 17 volumes, remains officially secret but has been widely leaked. According to the leaks, which have not been denied, it recommends court martials for General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya and Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, the three members of the junta which ordered the invasion of the islands.

It also suggests that the civil courts could bring charges against Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the former Foreign Minister and Señor Roberto Alemann, the former Economy Minister.

However, a military source claimed earlier this week that Señor Alemann was not condemned.

● **Human rights march:** A 24-hour "resistance march" by human rights groups was due to culminate yesterday in central Buenos Aires.

Organized by the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo", demonstrators chanted slogans against the military Government and demanded information on the fate of "the disappeared", the estimated 15,000 to 30,000 people who were killed or kidnapped during political violence in the past decade.

THE TIMES

23.9.83

FALKLAND JOB UNREST GROWS

ON THE eve of departure of the vanguard of 24 construction workers for the Falklands, union leaders are seeking a meeting with the Laing/Mowlem/ARC consortium which won the £215 million airport contract there.

Disquiet over the site agreement was expressed at a trade union side meeting of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board.

It is understood that more than 9,000 construction workers have applied to work on the 2½ year contract which will employ — at any one time — 1,000.

Under the agreement construction workers will receive a salary based on UK civil engineering rates — but tax free. It is believed it will be in the region of

£10,000. They will also receive 15 per cent of their annual salary as a termination bonus — also tax free. And the company will provide free accommodation, food and 36 days' annual holiday.

But for this they will be required to work a six-day week of 60 hours and "on occasion", to work seven days a week. The men will receive no payment for hours in excess of the "standard working week of 60 hours".

The consortium has also included a retention fund clause in the agreement. "During the first seven months of the 'tour of duty' the company will deduct the sum of £115 each month from your salary and will retain this as a retention fund." This sum plus the termination bonus becomes payable within two months of the date of termination.

Under the agreement the company "may terminate your

employment at any time by giving you one month's notice or by paying you one month's salary in lieu."

There are a host of factors which can lead to instant dismissal.

The grievance and disciplinary procedure says the employee may consult his manager or seek advice from his personnel manager.

The men also have to agree not to divulge information about the affairs, operations or business of the company.

John Laing would only make one comment on the agreement: "It is for the deduction of union subscriptions, if the men should so wish."

At Tuesday's meeting George Henderson, operatives' secretary of the CECCB, reported to the trade union side that he had managed to have discussions with the consortium on the agreement. He had managed to obtain assurances that the men would be given free food and accommodation and would be transported on a British registered ship.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

22.9.83

Lombard

Old assumptions and new facts

By Malcolm Rutherford

MR ENOCH POWELL made the point the other day that it is bad form, especially in the Conservative Party, to talk about foreign policy. "The worst fate for a nation's foreign policy," he said, "is to lie undebated and unexamined in a rut."

As a matter of fact, in the context of which he was speaking — Lebanon — quite a lot of people have been talking recently, including those Tory MPs who called for a withdrawal of the British force almost before the first shot was fired. They were properly ridiculed by Dr David Owen at the SDP conference last week.

Pace Mr Powell the reason why it is not a matter of "the utmost indifference for the UK" who is in Beirut is that it is in the Middle East where perhaps the best that can be done is to try to maintain a balance of powers. To his assertion that the Russians would not walk into a power vacuum for reasons of "common sense," the answer is that they would have no need, for the Syrians might very well do it for them. And what might the Israelis do next?

Yet if Mr Powell was characteristically wrong on the particular instance, there is still a general point to be made. Not only Britain is maintaining foreign policy assumptions which now clearly belong to the past. Here are some examples.

● Cyprus. It used to be thought of as a potential flash-point. Even now solutions are still being sought through the United Nations and intercommunal talks. Yet when did you last hear of intercommunal violence? A solution of a kind has been found through *de facto* partition. Hardly anyone has recognised that it may have some merits.

● The West Bank. Conventional wisdom has it that there will be no Arab-Israeli settlement until the Israelis withdraw, and perhaps in the pure sense that is true. Meanwhile, we have to live with the situation as it exists. The Israelis have used the distraction of the Lebanon crisis further to entrench their position. Any proposed Middle East settlement based on Israeli with-

drawal is pie in the sky.

● The Falklands, Gibraltar and Hong Kong. When is a British Government going to recognise that it might be better to cede the principle of sovereignty in advance, and then talk about workable arrangements for the future? The Falklands war ought to have underlined the point that all the Foreign Office's earlier attempts at negotiation with Argentina were right; yet it seems to have had the opposite effect.

● The European Community. Perhaps Britain should stop endlessly demanding financial rebates and settle for subsidising foreign policy. The sums involved are quite small compared to the subsidies which go into domestic policy. The reward might be to get the Community to work, or at least live in the present. The demand for rebates has become a reflex reaction.

● Ireland. It is a pipedream to believe that there is going to be a unitary Irish state in any foreseeable future. Why can't all sides accept that reality and settle for some second or third best as preferable to the *status quo*?

Oddly enough, it may be from Ireland that the best hope comes. There are signs that some leading Irish politicians are beginning to acknowledge that Irish unity in the old sense is out of the question. They are starting to live in the world as it is.

Would it were so more generally! There are basically two ways to run a world system. One is through the United Nations as it was originally envisaged. The other is through a balance of powers—possibly the two go together. But note the wording: not "the balance of power" but "a balance of powers." The pivot and the powers change over time and it is necessary to keep up with the changes. There are a lot of powers in Lebanon, internal and external. Either you go for an international solution or (perhaps combined) for the old concept of balance. Opting out is potentially just as anarchic as failing to realise that foreign policy needs continually to be debated and examined in the context of the time.

Libs shock Steel on Ulster

By **ROBIN OAKLEY**
and **JOHN HARRISON**

THE Liberal Assembly yesterday doubly embarrassed David Steel and the party leadership.

Delegates passed maverick motions on Ulster and the Falklands.

They voted for the reunification of Ireland and for Common Market countries to be asked to provide a peace-keeping force to replace British troops in the north.

And there was near-unanimous backing for a motion saying the Government's Fortress Falklands policy was 'unsuitable' and calling for talks to begin over future sovereignty.

In each case the delegates went against the urgings of the MP who is the appropriate party spokesman—Stephen Ross on Ulster and Russell Johnston on Foreign Affairs.

The Irish motion came from the Young Liberals, whose delegates were hugging and kissing each other at the result.

Duped

Mr Ross said afterwards that he would not resign but would fight the decision. He blamed the Assembly committee for refusing amendments the leadership had wanted — we've been duped by people in the background.'

Janice Turner, the National League of Young Liberals chairman who moved the motion, said afterwards: 'It is Stephen Ross's duty to interpret Liberal policy in Parliament. If he doesn't, you will hear a lot more from us.'

In the debate, she had declared: 'The time has come for the Government to announce plans to bring our boys home.'

The motion, criticised by many speakers as emotional and simplistic, is particularly annoying for Mr Steel because he is in the process of setting SDP leader David Owen to look at the Ulster problem.

Mr Johnston asked for the Falklands motion to be dropped but delegates refused, preferring to listen to the mover, George Ferguson from Bristol, who said: 'Nationalism is the refuge of the insecure.'

'It is the refuge of the Argentine junta. Now it's the refuge of a Prime Minister who has failed her people and covers her embarrassment with the Union Jack.'

Financial Times 22 9 83

Setback for leadership on Falklands policy

BY KEVIN BROWN

THE ASSEMBLY gave almost unanimous backing yesterday to an attack on the Government's "Fortress Falklands" policy and an appeal for negotiations on sovereignty.

The vote was another setback for the party leadership in a week in which grassroots Liberals have been heavily critical of the parliamentary party.

Delegates heavily rejected an attempt by Mr Russell Johnston, parliamentary spokesman on foreign affairs and defence, to have the issue referred back to the assembly steering committee on the grounds that it was incoherent and impractical.

The resolution said the Government's policy of main-

taining a permanent garrison on the Falklands was unsustainable, and called for negotiations with the Organisation of American States, of which Argentina is a member.

It went on to urge the Government to investigate ways of handing over responsibility for the security of Britain's remaining island dependencies to the United Nations or the Commonwealth.

Mr George Ferguson, proposing the motion, said Britain had won the war but was in danger of losing the peace. "We will not win the peace with ridiculous Churchillian rhetoric about the rediscovery of Britain in the Falkland Islands," he said.

Peacekeeper afflicted with paralysis

For the second year in a row Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has issued a report bemoaning the international community's tendency to ignore and defy the UN in pursuit of short-term national interests. In the first of two articles on issues before the General Assembly, **ZORIANA PYSARIWSKY**, United Nations Correspondent, reports on the UN's search for its lost role as peacemaker.

The United Nations often likes to do things for the sake of appearances. It adopts declarations and resolutions not so much in the expectation that they will be observed, but to appease its collective conscience that it ought to be seen to be doing something, at least in the form of words, about conflicts as they spring up or smoulder beneath the surface.

vately several times to discuss ways of improving its effectiveness.

This year the Secretary-General has issued a report perhaps even more negative than the first. The world, he notes, has adopted an almost medieval role, where rivalries rule diplomacy and vendettas overshadow cooperation.

For Señor Pérez de Cuéllar the single most important factor, leading to what he calls "the partial paralysis of the United Nations as the guardian of international peace and security", is the weakening of the commitment of all nations, especially the five permanent members of the Security Council - Britain, the United States, France, China and the Soviet Union - to cooperate within the UN framework.

The permanent members, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, compete for influence and each sees the other's diplomatic successes as a loss of face for itself. The Secretary-General claims that his staff is constantly offering blueprints of plans for solving particular problems, be they Lebanon, Central America or Chad; but they are useless as long as cooperation between the super-powers is untenable.

Seizing on the theme that the council must regain its impartiality, the Secretary-General offers two suggestions on how the council could make itself more useful if it were to reach the point of being a collegial body unmoved by special interests. These include the development of a capacity for fact-finding in areas of potential conflict and a common approach to control of conflicts

Although his report is seen as a



Señor Pérez de Cuéllar: Arch-realist.

visionary document, it has been pointed out by many diplomats that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is promoting a utopia while he remains the arch-realist. Feeling it useless, he has not, for example, pressed the Falklands issue this year simply because Mrs Thatcher does not want to negotiate.

Meanwhile the Security Council has issued its own report on its attempts to adapt some of the Secretary General's ideas. The report will be considered at this 38th General Assembly. It is an

innocuous document, which, some non-aligned diplomats say, reflects the desire by the five permanent members to keep the council as a politically useful but practically ineffective instrument that will not interfere with or supersede their own national interests. Some members of the five will claim that the reverse is true, and so there are suspicions that the council's efforts to change might be continued for the sake of keeping up appearances.

Tomorrow: The agenda



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY Part 1

So when the Secretary-General last year more or less proclaimed the emperor to be without clothes, the United Nations embarked on an introspective inquiry into the original reasons for its existence. The Security Council met pri-

Nuclear cloud of suspicion over Argentina

THE ARGENTINE Atomic Commission is pushing ahead with research and development of Latin America's first nuclear-powered submarine. It has announced that a computer mock-up is due to be tested within "eight months to a year".

The strategic advantages of possessing one or more nuclear-powered submarines patrolling Argentina's disputed territorial waters has been discussed by the Argentine Navy for several years. But the approval for researching and developing the project is a direct consequence of the Falklands War. The virtual paralysis of the Argentine Navy following the sinking of the General Belgrano by the British nuclear submarine *Conqueror* in May 1982 left high-ranking officers poignantly aware of their vulnerability and utterly committed to restoring the balance.

Argentina is currently building two conventionally-powered submarines based on West German designs.

The Argentine Atomic Commission was set up in the early 1950s during the first Peron Government and is now regarded as a fiefdom of the Navy. Since 1976 it has been headed by Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, whose conscript son was one of the Belgrano survivors. By going ahead with plans to develop a nuclear-powered submarine, Argentina has moved one step further towards linking the country's ambitious nuclear programme to military uses.

Argentina has consistently refused to sign or ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Treaty of Tlatelolco governing the spread

of nuclear weapons in the region. The Argentines regard these agreements as designed to maintain the nuclear status quo and prevent the Third World from benefiting from the transfer of technology. As a result the Argentine entente has made no effort to conceal their desire to develop a complete nuclear fuel cycle, including production of plutonium. However, Admiral Castro Madero and his colleagues have insisted that the nuclear fuel cycle would be developed for civilian not military purposes.

The Atomic Commission and the nuclear research programme enjoy a similar status. It is the sole state agency to have survived the last 30 years of financial and political crisis without suffering senior management shake-ups or policy U-turns. Admiral Castro Madero is only the second head.

By law the commission consults only with the President and the ruling military junta. Its critics refer to it as "the circus" on account of its blatant autonomy and big spending. Independent observers have suggested that outlays on foreign equipment, on R and D and on the wages of the approximately 6,000 people employed in the country's nuclear programmes may have

topped \$5bn in the last seven years. The commission employs between 1,000 and 1,200 scientists in three research centres—although a number of "disident" scientists have been either killed or forced into exile. According to the commission's public statements, Argentina will probably be able to complete its own fuel cycle within the next three years. Some Western diplomats and scientists suspect Argentina already has the capacity and that the military are divided among themselves over whether or not to go ahead with any plans to produce a nuclear device for military purposes.

A report produced by the U.S. Library of Congress last December concluded that "on the whole, Argentina is getting close to an ability to make nuclear weapons." The report said that "Argentina could probably test a nuclear explosive in the mid-1980s if it is willing to run the risks of getting caught at diverting safeguard materials or of abrogating its safeguard agreements."

But although well on the way to having independent sources of materials and industrial facilities needed to produce materials for nuclear weapons it has two notable gaps. "One is a source of weapons-grade plutonium independent of

it is inevitable that at some point nuclear weapons will be used in circumstances which might now seem implausible," said Mr Morris Udall, chairman of the House Interior Committee.

The Congressmen want legislation to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation Act of 1978, which bars the U.S. from exporting nuclear material to countries which refuse to agree to open power plants to international inspection.

nuclear plants. The other is an industrial-scale reprocessing plant. The former will probably remain open for many years. The latter will be closed in 1984 if construction and start-up of the pilot reprocessing plant is on schedule," the report says.

The Argentines mine and mill their own uranium deposits and have 30,000 tonnes of proven reserves of "yellow cake" (uranium concentrate)—sufficient to fuel eight 600 mw reactors for 30 years. Argentina plans to have six nuclear reactors operating by 1987. Two are already operational, along with a small pilot reprocessing plant near Buenos Aires, plus a 230-ton capacity heavy water plant—all covered by safeguard arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The same applies to a third reactor now being built by West Germany's Kraftwerk Union with a high degree of local components. IAEA rules have been meticulously observed, industry officials say, but they admit the safeguards are insufficient to prevent diversion of spent nuclear fuels. In addition, Argentina has rejected full scope safeguards. All Argentine-made elements in the country's nuclear programme are not

available to IAEA inspection. Another indication of intentions is Argentina's processing of zirconium, a special metal used as a protective cladding in fuel rods (and of potential use in construction of a nuclear powered submarine). In 1981 U.S. Customs officials seized a shipment of zirconium bound for Pakistan on the grounds that this was "sensitive."

Against this background the recent decision by Britain, West Germany and the U.S. to sell 143 tonnes of heavy water to Argentina appears to have been motivated by a mix of commercial expedience and diplomatic pragmatism—rather than any firm conviction that Argentina's nuclear programme is adequately safeguarded under existing bi-lateral agreements.

The Library of Congress report suggests that Argentina could obtain sufficient weapons grade plutonium by the late 1980s for a nuclear explosive only if it decides to build a plutonium production reactor unconstrained by safeguards. However, to produce a nuclear arsenal from weapons-grade plutonium would require a substantial expansion of reprocessing capacity and delay the acquisition of a nuclear arsenal until the 1990s. On the other hand, Argentina could opt for the shorter route of using reactor grade plutonium from the spent fuel of its civil nuclear reactors. However, it could only do this by using "safeguard materials with impunity." This was stressed yesterday by the IAEA in Vienna. In their desire to acquire nuclear self-sufficiency the Argentines have yet to reveal how far they are prepared to flout the IAEA.

Flood strands Ark

From Craig Seton, Poole

Fern and Bracken, leading members of the Howard Herd of Happy Hogs, and 222 other animals were still ashore in Dorset yesterday, instead of being on their way to the Falkland Islands in a modern day Noah's Ark. The "flood" had been too great to set sail.

Driving rain meant that hay being loaded for the animals on their 30-day voyage to Port Stanley could not be kept dry and the exercise, organized by the Falklands Appeal to replenish animal stocks on the islands, will go ahead at Poole Harbour today.

Fern and Bracken are pigs, Oxford Sandy and Black gilts in fact. Their owner Mrs Nancy Howard has depleted her stock of apparently idyllically happy hogs at her farm near Axminster, where she raises rare breeds, to donate them to Falklands farmers.

Mrs Howard said: "I donated

them to the Falklands Appeal because I thought it would be a patriotic gesture. Fern and Bracken are very rare and I hope it will promote the breed."

She dismissed fears raised by animal rights and welfare groups who had said the voyage would be cruel to the animals and said: "If I thought that was the case I would not send them".

The 224 animals which will board the 521 ton Danish carrier, Dina Khalaf, are valued at about £42,000; 120 of them were donated by British farmers and breed societies after last year's fighting, in which horses, sheep, cattle and poultry were killed by artillery fire and landmines.

The Falklands Appeal is paying for the animals which are replacing those killed on the island and the voyage is likely to cost about £200,000, more than half of it to hire the Dina Khalaf for the journey.

Cable & Wireless in £26m US deal

By Andrew Cornelius

Cable & Wireless, the British telecommunications group, yesterday announced details of a £26m deal to set up a new telecommunications company in a joint venture with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company.

The new corporation has been set up as part of Cable & Wireless's ambitious plans to take a stake in US long-distance telecommunications market which is worth about \$35bn a year.

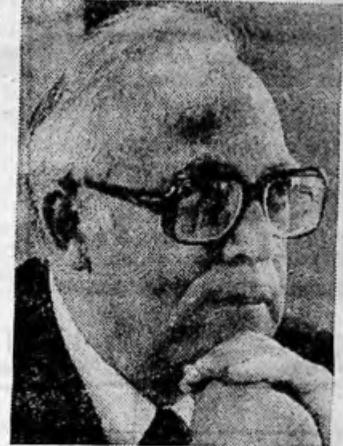
Mr Eric Sharp, chairman of Cable & Wireless, said that he had been working for some time to obtain this breakthrough into the US market.

He said that the group has earmarked substantial cash resources for broadening its business in the US.

The deal with the rail company is likely to be the first of a number of similar deals which could give Cable & Wireless an inroad into seven areas of high density telecommunications traffic in the US.

Under the terms of the agreement, Cable & Wireless will take a 20 to 30 per cent equity stake in the new corporation which will be formed to lay 560 miles of fibre optic cable along the railroad company's railway tracks.

The agreement provides Cable



Sharp: working for US breakthrough.

& Wireless with the rights-of-way between cities which the railroad company owns. The proposed communications system will also be used by the railroad company to supplement its existing communications facilities, with surplus capacity made available to other users who need a high quality, low-cost digital system.

The proposed system will link Dallas and Houston with connections to San Antonio and Austin in Texas. The market for long distance telecommunications in the US is expected to grow strongly

The Times 22 9 83

Argentine A-bomb fears grow

From Philip M. Boffey
New York Times, Washington

Intelligence specialists and nuclear experts are increasingly concerned that Argentina is developing the ability to build nuclear weapons and may be planning to build a nuclear bomb.

An intelligence report now circulating among Reagan Administration officials contends that Argentine nuclear officials have a "secret plan" to divert a ton of uranium from under the noses of international inspectors and use the material to make nuclear fuel elements.

Such fuel elements could presumably be irradiated through further clandestine steps to produce plutonium for an atomic weapon, or they could be stockpiled and saved to build a bigger arsenal in the future.

Many nuclear experts consider the intelligence estimate implausible and doubt that Argentina is really planning such a secret and illegal diversion.

But they express concern over what they see as a greater danger: Argentina's progress in building, openly and legally, a range of nuclear installations that are not subject to international inspections and safeguards. These installations could be used eventually to produce bomb materials without violating a single international law or treaty.

Argentina has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which nations agree not to build nuclear arms. While it has reluctantly agreed to allow some of its nuclear installations to be inspected and monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency, it has steadfastly refused to allow all of them to be monitored.

The intelligence estimate now circulating, prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency and first distributed within the Government in May, contends that there is a secret plan to divert processed uranium from a West German-built plant that converts yellowcake, partly treated uranium ore, to uranium dioxide, a step in the fabrication of nuclear fuel.

Fortress Falklands policy under fire

THE Government's 'Fortress Falklands' policy was unsustainable and should be replaced by an initiative aimed at securing an internationally recognised diplomatic solution to the problem, Liberals agreed at their Assembly yesterday.

Moving the motion, which was carried virtually unanimously Mr George Ferguson (Bristol West) said that its purpose was not to look back on the rights or wrongs of the armed conflict but to look forward to the real prospects for the Falklands and their 1,800 inhabitants.

"We won the war, but are we winning the peace? We will not win the peace by resorting to ridiculous pseudo-Churchillian rhetoric about the rediscovery of Britain in the South Atlantic," he said.

It was clear, Mr Ferguson went on, that any lasting solution had to give the islanders firm guarantees against any further Argentine interference in their way of life. But that meant that the British would have to come to some *modus vivendi* with the Argentines.

"This will have to be soon. If we are not to be trapped into even greater commitments, a cat and mouse game designed to lead us into submission," he argued.

Moving an unsuccessful amendment to have the ques-

tion placed under the Antarctic Treaty, Councillor Robin Ashby (Middlesbrough) said elections in Hampshire for that the islands would make an excellent staging post for the signatories to the treaty governing exploration in the Antarctic. In that way British troops could be withdrawn and the islanders could retrieve their former way of life.

Mr Paul Tyler, the former MP for Bodmin, spoke against the motion, saying that the only way to achieve a lasting settlement was one which was agreed internationally. He was frightened that the motion proposed a "superpower carve-up." Instead, Liberals should recognise the proper role in this question of the United Nations.

Mr Russell Johnston, MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber and the Liberal spokesman on foreign affairs and defence, pleaded without success for the referral back of the motion on the grounds that it was incoherent. He argued that the expectation that Argentinians would enter into talks in which it was made clear that they could have no say over the islanders' future was unrealistic.

But replying to the debate in support of the motion, Mr Michael Steed (Burnley), a former president of the party, said that if Britain was not prepared to start talking it would put itself at odds with the rest of world.

The Argentinians did not have any special or exclusive role, but they had to be involved in the talks.

MP banned for drink-driving

Mr George Foulkes, aged 41, MP for the West of Scotland constituency of Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, has been fined £80 and disqualified from driving for a year. He admitted driving his car with a blood alcohol count which was 32 milligrams above the permitted maximum of 80 after attending the Scottish Labour Party conference in Perth.



Mr Tyler: 'carve-up' fear

tion of the Falklands' future included in current international negotiations taking

Animals mark time two by two

By Andrew Stevenson

SWOLLEN with biblical overtones, the heavens opened over Poole harbour in Dorset yesterday and prevented the ship loaded with animals for the Falklands, the so-called Noah's Ark, from sailing.

As rain lashed the 521-ton Danish ship, *Dna Khalef*, only an act of God seemed to be preventing actual flooding.

With the 224 animals, from Arab ponies to Romney rams, aboard for the 30-day voyage, the master, Captain Klaus Kalkmann, decided to postpone sailing.

However, the Falklands spirit was kept alive when local units of the Royal Marines exercised their freedom of the borough and paraded through the town with bayonets and swords drawn. Stormbound animals were probably not uppermost in the minds of the bedraggled men, marching three by three past the saluting base.

Major-General Julian Thompson, leader of Marine Commandos at the San Carlos Water landing, had managed belatedly to escape the Cornish fog to help to take the salute.

Rain also apparently affected the expected animal liberationists, who failed to appear at the quayside. Their objections have largely been to the conditions in which the animals will travel, although the organisers have pointed out that two vets will travel with them.

The animals—many of them donated by British farmers and breed societies to compensate for the horses, sheep, cattle and poultry killed by artillery fire and landmines—seemed content to spend another non-nautical night around Poole, with police protection provided.

Each day of inclement weather is costing the Falklands Appeal £375 in lairage fees. That is in addition to the £150,000 spent on buying animals and shipping them.

Major-General Alan Mills, the appeal's director, was said to be upset at the postponement. "He likes things to go like clockwork and this time they didn't," a colleague said.

As a genetic exercise, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust has organised introduction to the Falklands of breeds like Belted Galloway cattle.

Several Shetland cows are in calf and will be producing milk early next year for the islands, where the product is scarce. Three female goats are intended to produce milk for those islanders allergic to cows' milk.

Galtieri on war report's trial list

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

At least 14 officers from Argentina's armed forces will be recommended for trial by the special military commission investigating last year's Falklands war, according to reports here. The list includes General Leopoldo Galtieri, who was President at the time of the war.

After several unexplained delays, the commission, headed by octogenarian retired General Benjamin Rattenbach, is expected to deliver its report to the ruling military Junta tomorrow.

Even then, there is little hope the report will be released to the public. Only 11 copies are believed to exist and the Junta has set up another tribunal to study the commission's findings.

Independent observers believe that the reason for the further delay is official fear that the contents of the report might damage Argentina's case at the United Nations General Assembly.

Although the commission is not thought to have criticised the original decision to occupy the islands, the list is apparently headed by the Junta then in power, and concentrates on top officers directly involved in the war, including General Mario Menendez, Argentina's Falklands commander and military governor. The list reportedly names only one civilian Dr Nicanor Costa Mendez, then Foreign Minister.

Among the lesser names are Brigadier Wilson Pedroza, reportedly held responsible for the surrender at Port Darwin in the early stages of the fighting, and Captain Adolfo Astiz, who is accused of major crimes during the armed forces' "dirty war" against left-wing opponents during the 1970s.

Call for Falklands sovereignty talks

THE TIMES

22.9.83

The conference passed by an overwhelming vote a resolution urging the Government to initiate negotiations on the future of the Falkland Islands. They would be held with the Organization of American States (OAS) under the United Nations charter.

The resolution, by Bristol West, stated that the negotiations should include the sovereignty issue and should aim to reach a peaceful settlement with Argentina guaranteeing individual freedom and the long-term security of Falkland islanders.

It also said that such small island communities should have their security and autonomy guaranteed internationally. It called on the Government to raise this proposal within the Commonwealth and the UN.

The motion recognized that the Government's policy of maintaining a permanent garrison on the Falklands could not be sustained in terms of military commitment and cost, and was not in the interests of the Falkland islanders of the UK.

Delegates defeated an amendment by the Langbaugh Association suggesting that negotiations should take place with the co-signatories of the Antarctic Treaty. This would have the objective of including the Falklands within the area covered by the Treaty at the time of its 1991 review. This, said the amendment, would ensure the long-term security of the islands, free of military activity.

Mr George Ferguson, parliamentary candidate for Bristol West, at the general election, moved the motion. He said the question that Liberals must ask themselves now was: "We have won the war, but are we winning the peace?" They would not win the peace by resorting to ridiculous pseudo-Churchillian rhetoric about the rediscovery of Britain in the South Atlantic.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher had also claimed that there was a new mood of realism in Britain. But the Government could do with a modicum of that realism in considering this issue, otherwise it would be in danger of sacrificing the future of the islanders on the altar of Thatcherism.

He was no apologist for the Argentine junta which had violated human rights in its own country. He was hardly surprised at the deep distrust the islanders felt about the Argentines and clearly any solution must give firm international guarantees against any Argentine control of the islanders of their way of life.

But there was a general realization by everyone concerned, except the Prime Minister, that we had to come to some sort of *modus vivendi* with Argentina if we were to secure the best long-term interests of the Falklanders, he said. This would have to be soon if we were not to be trapped into an even greater commitment by a cat-and-mouse game designed to drive us into economic submission.

Nato had a serious shortfall in the North Atlantic. Fortress Falklands was distorting Britain's defences badly. The cost, about £250,000 a year for each islander was out of proportion, he said to applause.

It was a delusion to believe that Britain was the same nation that built an empire. No amount of strident ranting could make it so.

Nationalism was the refuge of the insecure. It was the refuge of the junta, and now it was the refuge of a Prime Minister who had failed her country and her people and covered

her embarrassment with the Union Flag.

Delegates cheered again when Mr Ferguson declared: "The time has come when the Government ignores clear messages from the Liberal assembly at their peril."

"I did not rejoice at our success in the Falklands. I was sickened by the slaughter on both sides. I am determined that that victory and sacrifice is used to secure peace and not to increase tension."

Mr Robin Ashby, moving the Langbaugh amendment, said the Antarctic treaty was the most successful international treaty of modern times. The Organization of American States and the UN were not suitable avenues for reaching a settlement. Already the battle lines had been drawn.

There must be a mechanism whereby Britain and Argentina could sustain their territorial interest, and the Antarctic Treaty was just such a mechanism. It was due for review in 1991, a timescale conducive to an unemotional approach.

Mr John Matthews, European candidate for Hampshire at the last Euro-election, said that the issue ought to be made international. There should be talks with Argentina, with the OAS, with the UN and with the Commonwealth.

The Falkland Islands could also be made a part of the Antarctic for purposes of the Antarctic Treaty, as an area for research and discovery.

Aggression should not be allowed to replace the rule of law, Mr Paul Tyler (North Cornwall) said. Any permanent solution must be an agreed one.

He feared that the cost of Fortress Falklands was going to raise inflation so high on the islands that the indigenous islanders would not be able to afford to live there in a few years.

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£3m Turner lent to show by Argentine

By KEITH NURSE
Arts Correspondent

A TURNER masterpiece, bought by an Argentine for a world record auction price of almost £3 million in 1980, is among works in a British Council - sponsored exhibition devoted to the artist in Paris next month.

The picture, an illustration from *Romeo and Juliet*, "Juliet and her Nurse," was acquired by Amelia de Fortabat, widow of an Argentine cement millionaire, and is one of the most beautiful Turner works in private hands.

Mr Evelyn Joll, one of the selectors, said in London yesterday: "In view of last year's events we left it to the French to do the negotiating to borrow it for the exhibition."

But a British Council official said: "We did not keep out of it on political grounds, because the joint organisers of the show, the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, have been responsible for requesting the loans from foreign countries."

"We have heard of no problems at all involved in securing the picture for the exhibition."

The picture, described as the most splendid of all Turner's paintings of the 1930s, was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1836, though its style was the subject of some criticism at the time.

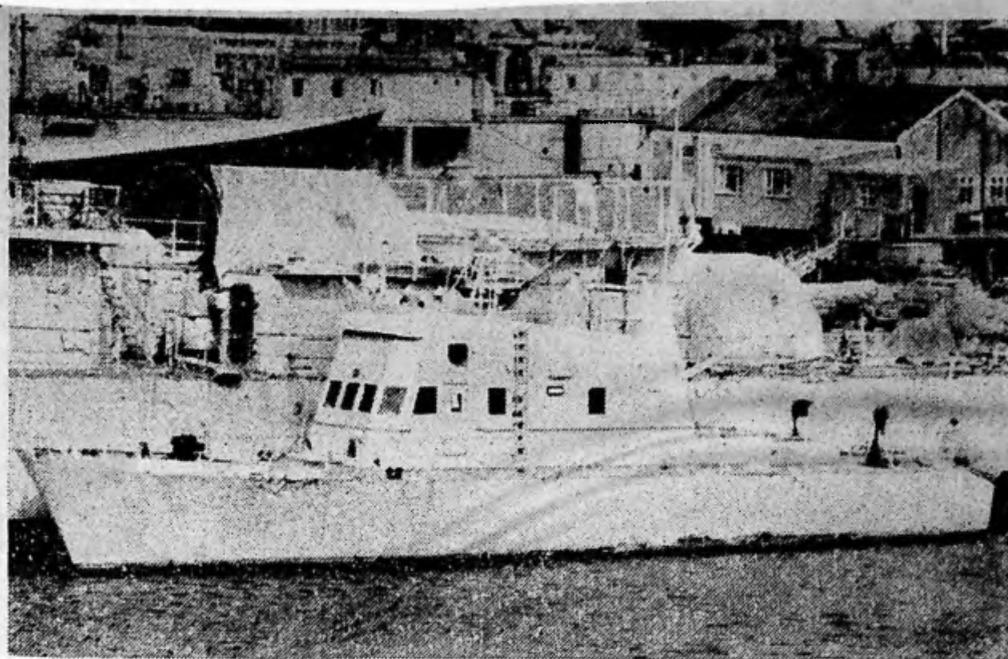
It has rarely been seen in Europe and went to America shortly before 1900. It was previously in the hands of a New York private collector.

The Queen and President Mitterrand are patrons of the exhibition, the largest ever Turner show held abroad. It will run at the refurbished and redecorated Grand Palais, Paris, until January next year.

RAIN DELAYS NOAH'S ARK

Heavy rain and strong winds on the south coast delayed the loading of animals bound for the Falklands on to the 357-ton ship, *Dina Khalaf* at Poole yesterday.

Port officials said they could not load hay and animal fodder in the rain because it would rot. So the loading was postponed until the weather clears.



The German-built former Argentine naval patrol boat *Isles Malvinas*, 80 tons, which was captured in the Falklands War, waiting yesterday for a refit in Portsmouth where she was brought back on a heavy-lift cargo ship. The *Isles Malvinas* was slightly damaged in the war but went back into service with the Royal Navy with the new name of *Tiger Bay* after she had been repaired by men of the destroyer *Cardiff*.

'Falkland's garrison 'is not in isle's interest'

By ANTHONY LOOCH

THE "staggering cost" of Fortress Falklands now exceeded the total cost of the entire United Kingdom air defences, and was having a wholly distorting effect on our defences, the conference was told yesterday.

The claim was made by Mr George Ferguson, Parliamentary candidate for Bristol West.

He moved a resolution recognising that the Government's present policy of maintaining a permanent garrison on the Falklands was "unsustainable in terms of military commitment and cost" and not in the long-term interests of the islanders or the United Kingdom.

The resolution urged the Government to initiate negotiations, which would include the issue of sovereignty, with the Organisation of American States, under the United Nations Charter.

The aim must be to reach a peaceful settlement with Argentina, which guaranteed both individual freedom and

the long-term security of the islanders.

The resolution also expressed the belief that such small island communities, which were too small to achieve meaningful independence or to defend themselves against aggression, should have their autonomy and security guaranteed internationally rather than by a European state.

Mr Ferguson said there was a general realisation by virtually everyone except Mrs Thatcher that a *modus vivendi* would have to be reached with Argentina.

He was applauded when he said: "Nationalism is the refuge of the insecure. It was the refuge of the Argentine junta, and now of a Prime Minister who has failed her country and her people and who covers her embarrassment with the Union Jack."

Mr Robert Ashby (Langbaugh) moved an amendment deleting the reference to the Organisation of American States and the United Nations Charter.

It substituted a call for the negotiations to take place instead with the co-signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, with the object of including the Falklands within the area covered by the Treaty at the time of its 1991 review. "thereby securing the long-term security of the islands, free of military activity."

The amendment was defeated and the original resolution carried by an overwhelming majority.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

22.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates *Public Affairs*

41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone 01-930 6935

Ministers lead drive for increased business

More trade urged ^{G. 21.9.83} with Latin America

By Peter Rodgers,
Financial Correspondent.

The Government is sowing seed corn for what it hopes will be a future Latin American recovery with a trade drive that includes ministerial pressure to step up business with Brazil, the biggest debtor.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister for Industry, told the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in London: "There is a risk that we will allow our pre-occupation with Brazil's current economic weaknesses to detract from our view of her enormous potential as a trading partner in the longer term."

Despite Latin American difficulties in repaying debts, the Minister for Trade, Mr Paul Channon, will be visiting Venezuela, where he will meet the finance minister, Mr Arturo Sosa, and open a conference of commercial officers from British embassies in Latin America which will look at export prospects.

He will also visit Colombia, to back British company bids for the Medellin mass transit

railway project. Colombia is one of only two countries in Latin America which have not rescheduled their debts and it will soon get a \$225 million syndicated loan from commercial banks, the first large credit of this kind for Latin America since the debt crisis began. Other large bank loans have been made under pressure from industrial country central banks and governments.

Mr Channon is also visiting Trinidad and Tobago to explore the prospect for joint ventures with local manufacturers. In Colombia and Trinidad he will be accompanied by two teams of British businessmen.

He said: "Latin America is an enormous market in which the British in recent years have had too small a share." Exports to Latin America have slumped in the first seven months of this year to £384 million from £609 million a year earlier, while imports have risen to £823 million from £609 million. Brazil has a four-to-one trade balance in

her favour at the moment, with exports last year only £162 million or 1.3 per cent of the market.

Mr Lamont said: "Too often we British turn up in a market when things are going well." No one liked fair weather friends and now was the time to make longer-term contacts.

Britain is the fifth largest investor in Brazil and in November the British Chamber of Commerce in Brazil is to visit Britain to campaign for investment in Brazil.

Mr Channon's visit to Venezuela is described as informal, but it comes at a time of brinkmanship between the country and its bankers over unpaid debts.

Yesterday, Mr Sosa, the finance minister, confirmed that Venezuela had asked creditor banks for a third 90-day postponement on payments of principal on public sector foreign debt, to follow a previous postponement which expires at the end of the month.



Norman Lamont (top) and Paul Channon: long-term view

Argentines still in dark about Isabel Peron

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

THE will she, won't she, saga of Isabel Peron's long-awaited return to Argentina is showing no sign of reaching a climax as the former Argentine

President remains comfortably in exile in Spain.

With elections due on Oct. 30, Argentina's Peronist masses are still in the dark about the intentions of the woman who succeeded the legendary Eva as wife to the founder of their party, the late dictator, Gen. Juan Peron.

There is no longer any official barrier to Senora Peron's return. The military junta has cleared the path by pardoning her for offences committed during her short-lived Presidency which ended with the military coup of 1976.

But from Spain come only conflicting rumours, either that Senora Peron has one foot on the plane, or that she has no intention of ever returning to Argentina again.

It is generally accepted in Buenos Aires that if Senora Peron, 53, was to end her exile, she would be greeted in Argentina by crowds of a million or more Peronists.

But influential sections of the party leadership are known to be concerned that her arrival might do their cause more harm than good.

"If Isabel came back, she would quickly become one of the biggest issues in the campaign," a political analyst commented. "Many people would recall the chaos of her Presidency — and vote for the other side."

DAILY TELEGRAPH

21.9.83

Stormy congress

The Peronist party has in recent months been severely divided over its efforts to select a Presidential candidate and organise an election campaign.

At a stormy party congress they finally papered over the cracks by selecting as candidate Senor Italo Luder, a constitutional lawyer and former Peronist acting President.

Senor Luder is a moderate who was practically the only senior figure in the party that the diverse factions of Peronism could agree upon. His nomination as Presidential candidate stopped some of the bickering that had spoiled preparations for the congress, but supporters of Isabel Peron still complain bitterly that the former President was pushed aside.

"They are just using her as a bunch of flowers to decorate the party," said Dr Juan Labake, a former ambassador under Senora Peron's Government.

"The Congress failed to recognise that Isabel is the head of our movement."

With the election next month widely expected to be an unusually close battle between the Peronists and their traditional rivals, the centre-left Radical party, Senora Peron's whereabouts could be critical. But since she was allowed by the junta to go into exile in 1981, the former President has not been inclined to discuss her plans in public.



Among a wealth of stamps to be auctioned by Sotheby's in London tomorrow and on Friday are a pair of 1d Rhodesian stamps with no joining perforations which are expected to fetch up to £10,000, and a 1933 Falkland Islands centenary stamp.

Argentine police step up protest

Buenos Aires - Police officers in the Argentine province of Córdoba, who had been gradually returning to normal duties since Saturday, have stepped up their strike action again (Andrew Thompson writes).

The sudden hardening in attitudes came after an increasing number of policemen, who had agreed to end the strike and await the findings of a special commission on wages, changed their minds. The strike leaders, many of whom are occupying a car park in the provincial capital, now say they will not stop the protest until the commission announces a decision.

Peking onslaught on eve of Hongkong talks

From David Bonavia, Peking

China has accused Britain of wanting to impose another "unequal treaty" to replace those of the nineteenth century which ceded sovereignty over Hongkong.

In a long commentary, the *People's Daily* rejected Britain's proposal for a period of administrative responsibility in the colony after the New Territories lease expires in 1997, coupled with British recognition of China's sovereignty over Hongkong, in law.

Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong, arrived here yesterday for another round of Anglo-Chinese talks on the colony's future.

The article in the party organ, signed with a literary pseudonym only, attacked Mrs Margaret Thatcher's assertion a year ago that the treaties of Nanking, Tianjin and Peking regarding Hongkong were "valid in international law."

It said the international laws devised by the European powers themselves since the seventeenth century laid it down that treaties signed under threat of military force were invalid. It adduced historical evidence to show that the treaties of 1842, 1860 and 1898 were signed under duress, which can hardly be denied.

The Chinese leaders are believed to be rattled by the latest slide of the Hongkong dollar, which threatens their big foreign currency earnings from the territory.

Chinese official media have called on the Hongkong authorities to "protect the livelihood of

the people of Hongkong" by preventing the inflation which will be fuelled by the dollar's decline. They blame the territory's economic problems on the British administration.

The *People's Daily* said that if China accepted a prolonged British administration it would be "equivalent to accepting a new unequal treaty". Sovereignty and the exercise of administrative power were indivisible.

The British viewpoint is that while China has unofficially published some proposals for the future of a "Hongkong special autonomous region", Peking is not helping to set up the mechanisms and institutions by which such a region could be run after 1997, and is instead expecting Britain to make all arrangements on its behalf.

Britain considers that unless China collaborates more actively in this changeover, instead of simply coining anti-British slogans, a British presence after 1997 will be inevitable to ensure a smooth transition.

● **HONGKONG:** Mr Jimmy McGregor, director of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, has blamed Peking authorities for the continuing drastic fall in the value of the Hongkong dollar (Richard Hughes writes).

"The Chinese are fuelling Hongkong fears by issuing statement after statement about arrangements for the future of Hongkong after 1997", Mr McGregor said, "while there is a lack of balancing statements from the British side."

Trumping China cards page 12
Dollar slide halted, page 17



FALKLAND Islander Glenn Ross

Islander Glenn meets up with British reserve

FALKLANDS new boy Glenn Ross is finding the British a very reserved lot.

The 19-year-old, from Port Stanley, has been living in Durham City for three weeks and still hasn't made a friend.

Glenn will have plenty of company when he starts a 10-month City and Guilds electrical installation course at New College, Durham, next week, but until then he could do with some companionship.

Yesterday found him playing squash on his own at Durham Squash Club near his home in Lindale, Cheveley Park, Belmont, and he broke off to talk about his first momentous, if lonely days in Britain.

He has met his Scottish father and a sister and brother he had not seen since his parent's marriage broke up when he was aged two.

Engineer

"My father is an engineer and now lives in Inverness with my older brother. I have an older sister who is married and living in Cramlington, Northumberland," said Glenn.

"We have had a reunion, but of course I couldn't remember any of them. Still it is good having a sister nearby. I think the people here are more reserved than we are.

"If you were in the Falklands the local people would be all over you, but here no one says anything unless I speak to them."

That comes hard for a lad used to knowing every single family in his home town.

But Glenn, a keen squash and football player, is looking forward to plenty of companionship when he starts at New College next week.

His course is being paid for by the British Council.

Now that Falklands Islanders have been granted British Citizenship there are likely to be many more attending colleges in the mother country in future.

Joint administration seems to be ruled out by Peking

China gets tough on Hong Kong

By Patrick Keatley
Diplomatic Correspondent

There was deepening gloom in London and Hong Kong last night about the diminishing prospects of any compromise deal with China emerging from the next round of talks in Peking, which get under way on Thursday.

The hard line coming from the Chinese was pointed up by the decision of Xinhua, the national news agency, to carry a main item stressing China's determination "to recover sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997."

In London, where the Minister of State for Asian Affairs, Mr Richard Luce, was setting out on a two-week mission that takes him to Brunei, Singapore, and Hong Kong, there were no longer any real hopes that the itinerary might be extended to include Peking. Mr Luce's timetable has been arranged so that he arrives in Hong Kong on Saturday this week, the day after the end of the Peking talks.

If the talks went well, it had been thought, this would permit the Chinese to extend an impromptu invitation to the British minister to rearrange his schedule and fly home via Peking.

But last night as the mission went off from London, this scenario seemed increasingly unlikely, particularly when Mr Luce's advisers had studied the text of the Xinhua item.

Such bulletins do not appear by chance, which suggests that Xinhua was being used to underline this tough negotiat-

ing position three days ahead of the talks, when the British Ambassador, Sir Percy Cradock, sits down with the Chinese side.

The news item was based on an interview with one Huang Dingchen, described as leader of "a democratic party composed of overseas Chinese." He obligingly ticked off the whole catalogue of China's policy points.

In the colony itself, the director of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr James McGregor, spoke frankly about "increasing gloom at the prospects for the future" at the end of a day that saw the Hong Kong dollar slide to its lowest point in history on the foreign exchanges.

Share prices shed 8 per cent of their value. The local currency has now lost 30 per cent of its value compared with a year ago.

Mr McGregor, interviewed by the BBC's World at One, said: "Hong Kong's entire future is now at stake. People here are realising that a way of life that they have been used to for 140 years is now specifically under negotiation. A very large number of people here are becoming more and more worried, and therefore despondent about the possibility of retaining the present system."

This was reinforced by the editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Mr Derek Davies, who said: "The knowledge that its fate is being decided by others has brought an air of gloom to Hong Kong which is new to me."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Navy to sell ship to Chile

BRITAIN is preparing to sell Chile's military dictatorship the 5,400-ton destroyer, Antrim, which took part in last year's Falklands war, writes Jonathan Steele. The head of the Chilean navy and member of the ruling Junta, Rear-Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, announced the impending sale yesterday. The ship will be delivered early next year, and is estimated to be costing Chile £5 million.

Under a new name, O'Higgins, the ship will join the slightly less modern Norfolk, which Britain sold last year. Chile was sympathetic to Britain during the Falklands conflict, and the latest sale is certain to anger Argentina.

The Antrim will considerably increase the Chilean navy's firepower. It is armed with Exocet anti-ship missiles, Seacat close-range, anti-aircraft missiles, and a Lynx antisubmarine helicopter. Last night, a Royal Navy spokesman said the Chileans had "expressed an interest in acquiring Antrim, but no sale has been concluded".

Invincible 'in near miss with Channel dredger'

A SEALINK dredger was involved in a near miss with the aircraft carrier Invincible, 16,000 tons, Ohelmsford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr WILLIAM WHITEHOUSE-VAUX, prosecuting, said that the 677ft-long carrier had to change course to avoid a collision with the dredger Llangard, 670 tons, in June 1981.

Capt. SIDNEY DAVIES, 52, of Ashley Road, Dovercourt, Essex, pleads not guilty to failing to keep a proper look-out and failing to keep clear of Invincible.

Mr Whitehouse-Vaux said the incident happened in the English Channel off Portland Bill as the Invincible was returning from sea trials.

Whistle blasts

The warship was heading south and the dredger was travelling westwards. Under the collision regulations it was the duty of the dredger to give way.

On two occasions the Invincible sounded six short blasts on her whistle to try to attract the attention of the

dredger and also flashed an international warning signal by morse code.

But the Llangard did nothing until it was far too late and the Invincible had to alter its course.

Lt-Cdr PETER CUNNINGHAM, Invincible's officer of the watch, said the dredger came within 300 yards of his ship and if the two vessels had maintained their respective courses they would have come into contact.

'Emergency action'

He had to take emergency action to avoid a collision. "It was a horrendous situation," he said.

Cross-examined, Lt-Cdr Cunningham disagreed with a suggestion by Mr ROBERT NEILL, defending, that if the two vessels had maintained their courses the Llangard would have passed ahead of Invincible "with a mile to spare and there was no risk of a collision."

Lt-Cdr Cunningham said that if firm, positive action had not been taken by the Invincible and events had run their course, there would have been a collision.

The trial was adjourned until today.

TWO-EDGED HONGKONG

A FURTHER ROUND of negotiations on Hongkong's future are being held in Peking this week at a time when confidence in the colony has been badly shaken by China's tough attitude. In a stream of statements, China has underlined her determination to regain sovereignty once the lease on the New Territories runs out in 1997. Peking's tactics are designed to give the impression that if sovereignty is granted, Hongkong need have no fear about the future. The capitalist system would be preserved, there would be a free port, existing privileges would be kept and there would be a local administration under Chinese control. By contrast there has been silence on the British side—the Foreign Office maintaining a stiff upper lip in face of Chinese statements on the grounds it was agreed the talks should be confidential.

So far however the business community both British and Chinese have not been impressed. How, it is being asked, can a capitalist Hongkong be grafted on to a Communist State system? What worries people in the colony is we do not know who will be ruling China in 1997. Will the present pragmatic Communist leadership hand-picked by Mr TENG HIAOPING be in control, or could there be a return to Maoism? TENG wants to be the man who in Chinese history books brought about the termination of the 19-century unequal treaties. That is one reason why China wants an early solution, and would like negotiations finished by the end of 1984, although the Foreign Office believes this could be over-optimistic.

But Britain has some important cards to play in the negotiations. Confidence is just as important to London as it is to Peking. What China must realise is that unless the local community can be convinced about China's honourable intentions, many British and Chinese will pack their bags and go off elsewhere. China after all earns a third of her foreign exchange through Hongkong both through investment and by using the port for trade with the outside world. China, furthermore, wants Western investment to develop her industry, and at the moment Western oil companies, including British Petroleum, are playing a leading role in the discovery of China's off-shore oilfields. So it is very much in Peking's interest not to drive too hard a bargain. Confidence is a fragile plant that to be maintained requires constant reassurance.

ARGENTINE 'A-BOMB' DOUBTED

By DAVID ADAMSON
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE inspectorate of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna expressed scepticism yesterday over a report that Argentina had a "secret plan" to divert a ton of processed uranium for bomb-making.

"I don't think we could be fooled—we would detect it," said a spokesman.

"And even if they did succeed, they would still have to irradiate it in a reactor, and all Argentine reactors are covered by safeguards agreements."

The uranium which a Washington CIA report says the Argentines have their eyes on is held under safeguards at a West German-built plant near Buenos Aires.

It converts semi-processed "yellowcake" uranium into uranium dioxide.

Power reactors

But before it could be used to produce plutonium for a nuclear weapon, the uranium fuel would have to be irradiated in one of the three power reactors and six research reactors which are either in action or being built.

IAEA inspectors believe that their monitoring methods would stop any book-keeping fiddle that the Argentines might try to use to subtract a ton from the 150 tons processed annually at the plant.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

20.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates *Public Affairs*

41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone 01-930 6935

The women who also serve . . .



Two women who are making Service history - Wendy Hinton (above) becomes the first Wren full member of a warship's crew, and Corporal Charmaine Taylor (right) is the first Wrac to serve on the Falkland Islands.

Wren Wendy, aged 21, a radar specialist from Wolverhampton, is on a three-week posting for sea trials with the frigate HMS Arrow. She admitted yesterday that she would not like a fulltime warship posting.

"It is not for me", she said. "I have a quite feminine attitude. I like to have doors opened for me . . . when it comes to seamanship I have not got the muscles for it, and frankly I do not want to develop them."

She works on the bridge as a navigator's yeoman, maintaining the ship's log and updating the charts.

She gained her unusual job because of a manpower shortage requiring a temporary posting. The Type 21 frigate is undergoing sea trials on a daily basis from Plymouth after a £12m refit. She was damaged during the Falklands campaign.

Wrens have been attached to naval vessels before in specialist capacities, but none has been

officially drafted as part of the ship's complement on a warship.

Despite her unusual posting alongside 170 officers and men on the 2,800-ton warship, Wendy, from Olcemoat Drive, Wednesfield, must return to her shore quarters every night. Captain Christopher Pile said: "We do not have the facilities for women crew members."

Captain Pile said he would not like to see women serving full time on warships at sea. "It is an all-male society", he said.

At a press conference yesterday on board the Arrow anchored off Plymouth, Wendy said she had enjoyed the posting, but added: "There is no privacy at all for women on board."

She is to marry next April. Her fiancé, Michael Niven, aged 24, from Saltfleet, near Louth, Lincolnshire, is on a petty officer's radar course at HMS Dryad, the school of maritime operations near Portsmouth.

Corporal Charmaine Taylor, aged 24, from Telford, Shropshire, has served on the Falklands since May. She is a member of the Wrac Provost of the Royal Military Police, patrolling the streets and helping to maintain law and order.



Argentine guns sold as Falklands war souvenirs

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday expressed concern that Argentine guns were being sold by soldiers as souvenirs from the Falklands war and could fall into criminal hands.

After sentencing Roger Keith Ranson to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years, for robbery, falsely imprisoning three men, and having firearms without certificates, the Common Serjeant of London, Judge Tudor Price said: "I am concerned about this, from the public point of view. Weapons with bullets in unauthorized hands can easily fall into the hands of criminals to be used in armed robberies to maim or kill."

Ranson, aged 42, a building site foreman, of Hamilton Gordon Court, Guildford, Surrey, had obtained guns from soldiers who had brought them back from the Falklands.

Mr Dermott Wright, for the prosecution, said that something snapped when Ranson heard a burglar alarm at a social club. He took the gun and demanded drink from the manager. When the police arrived he escaped through a back entrance.

Ranson, a former soldier and mercenary in Angola, was obsessed with the Army. He had pointed a gun at two workmen on a roof and forced them to drive him along the A3 in their van.

Police officers found him 500 yards from a police station, where he said he was going to give himself up. At first, Ranson told them he had four pistols and a bullet, Mr Wright said.

Mr Anthony Brigden, for the defence, said that his client had bought the guns from soldiers and after keeping one for himself had given the others to friends who wanted souvenirs.

"It is common knowledge that soldiers in army camps around Guildford are selling guns belonging to Argentine soldiers brought back from the Falklands," Mr Brigden said.

The judge said that it was only in the most exceptional circumstances that he would not grant immediate imprisonment for such offences. He added that "by reason of your distress", the unexpected death of two good friends had made Ranson behave in a way which was completely out of character.

Thatcher says arms talks must go on

The Hague (AP) — Mrs Margaret Thatcher said yesterday that there should be no interruption in the Geneva arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, despite the destruction of the South Korean airliner, which she called "an atrocity against humanity".

On a visit to The Netherlands, Mrs Thatcher asserted that the West was "concerned about the nuclear arms race and genuinely sincere" about disarmament moves.

Even if Nato began a scheduled deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in December, the Geneva negotiations must go on. Deployment could be halted later if there were progress in the talks, she told a news conference.

Earlier she met for 3½ hours Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Prime Minister and Mr Hans van den Broek, Foreign Minister. The Dutch have yet to decide whether the new missiles will be accepted.

Mr Thatcher vigorously nodded agreement when Mr Lubbers said ultimate responsibility for deployment rested with each Nato country. He announced last Friday that The Netherlands will wait until the second quarter of next year before making its decision on stationing the weapons.

● **Health doubts dispelled:** Mrs Thatcher last night shrugged off reports suggesting that she is not fully recovered from her eye operation last month (Philip Webster writes). Interviewed by BBC Television in The Hague, at the start of a busy fortnight of travel, she said: "It may be too much for a normal person who has had an operation but, after all, it is me. I shall just dash around as I always do."

● **Summit possibility:** Mrs Thatcher may attend unofficial summit meetings at the UN next week aimed at easing tension over Lebanon and the airliner disaster (the Press Association reports).

India is organizing the talks, expected to involve President Mitterrand of France, President Mubarak of Egypt, President Nyerere of Tanzania and possibly President Castro of Cuba.

A Downing Street spokesman said details of the Prime Minister's visit to North America have yet to be completed, leaving open the possibility she may attend at least one of the two summits planned.

● **Army cuts:** The strength of the 55,000-strong British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) should be halved, according to a report published today (Henry Stanhope writes).

An all-British rapid-deployment force should be formed instead to help to meet the worldwide threat posed by the Soviet Union, it says.

The *Omega Defence Policy* is the work of the Adam Smith Institute, an independent think-tank which argues that Britain's slender defence resources are too heavily concentrated on the central front in Europe.

"Limited budgets and rising costs mean that with present methods we can no longer afford to support Nato, to defend our overseas dependencies and to protect our home base".

Unless sweeping changes are introduced, the strength of the armed forces will have declined to fewer than 300,000 by 1986.

The report, said to be the product of 12 months' work by 20 panels of experts, urges a change in emphasis from small, expensive regular forces to larger reserves of part-time volunteers.

The authors' proposal to cut the size of BAOR by 50 per cent comes on the day the Prime Minister is paying her first visit to front-line units in West Germany. It will also revive speculation over the long-term strength of Rhine Army.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

20.9.83

Suffering animals

SIR—The Falklands Fund (report, Sept. 15) maintains "no cruelty" will be involved to animals in the journey to the Falkland Islands. But for the 220 farm animals and horses on this 28-day voyage in a 357-ton boat nobody can deny that adverse weather is likely which will involve great suffering and probably some deaths.

From first-hand knowledge of shorter crossings in similar boats I know that the stability factor causes unbearable conditions for the animals penned below even when a moderate sea is running.

EILEEN BEZET
Vice-chairman,
Dartmoor Livestock Protection Soc.,
Horsham, Sussex.

Britain sends three carriers to Med

By **DESMOND WETTERN** *Naval Correspondent*

WITHIN the next 10 days a more powerful Royal Navy task force than that formed at the start of the Falklands conflict will be assembled in the eastern Mediterranean.

It will include all three of the Navy's operational carriers—the Invincible, Illustrious and Hermes—with five escorting frigates, a diesel-electric powered submarine, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers and stores ships.

Ostensibly, the Illustrious and Hermes, which has on board 20 helicopters and 1,000 men of 40 Commando, Royal Marines, together with supporting units, are to take part in the Nato amphibious exercise, Display Determination in the Aegean. But obviously they could readily be called upon in the event of a marked deterioration in the situation in the Lebanon.

The Invincible, with three frigates and auxiliaries, sailed from Britain at the beginning of the month at the start of a seven-month deployment to the Far East and Australasia. This force is already in the eastern Mediterranean.

Falklands veterans

Ten Sea Harrier fighters many piloted by officers with many hours flying in last year's Falklands conflict, are embarked in the Invincible and Illustrious, and both ships also have nine anti-submarine helicopters which could be used as additional troop carriers if needed.

The ground force for the Nato exercise is commanded by Brig. Martin Garrod, who is in the Hermes with Headquarters 3 Commando Brigade, while the senior naval officer in any joint force would be Rear Adm. Jeremy Black, who commands the Invincible's group of eight ships.

The Hermes sails from Plymouth today and will rendezvous with the Illustrious, the frigates Leander and Ariadne

and the submarine Opossum in the next few days, while the frigates Rothesay, Aurora and Achilles are already in company with the Invincible.

American Sixth Fleet ships already in the eastern Mediterranean include the carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower, with 90 aircraft embarked;

A Russian Krivak class frigate is off Beirut with a Mayak class spy trawler to monitor Western and Lebanese forces' communications.

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPON- Mr Luce, Foreign Office Minister, said yesterday on his return from Lebanon that the small British Force in Beirut would hit back if attacked. "No British government would deploy troops to any part of the world without giving them the right to self-defence," he said.

FALKLANDS CLOCK

Families of British Servicemen killed in the Falklands war have raised £1,225 for an ornamental clock for Port Stanley Town Hall.

Daily Telegraph
17 9 83

FIRE ON SUB THAT SANK THE BELGRANO

Sailors aboard the Conqueror—the nuclear submarine that sank the General Belgrano in the Falklands war—fought a fire on the vessel yesterday.

The fire, which was started accidentally at Devonport dockyard where the 4,900-ton Conqueror is being refitted, did little damage and no-one was hurt.

Plymouth fire brigade arrived shortly after the vessel's skeleton crew had brought the fire under control.

ARGENTINA 'PLANNING A-BOMB'

By **FRANK TAYLOR**
in Washington

THE Reagan Administration is studying closely intelligence reports suggesting that Argentina is moving steadily towards the production of a nuclear bomb.

The reports, which have led to heated controversy within the administration, speak of a plan by Argentina's nuclear energy experts to "divert" up to a ton of uranium from one of their nuclear fuel processing plants that is supposedly subject to international inspection.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency, the plant converts yellowcake, partly treated uranium ore, to uranium dioxide, one of the stages in producing nuclear fuel.

About 150 tons is turned out every year by the plant, which was supplied by West Germany.

'Book-keeping error'

The Argentines are said to have devised a plan for diverting up to a ton, making it appear to be a "book-keeping error" so that inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency would not be alerted.

Argentina has steadfastly refused to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and the technology to build them.

State Department officials dispute the latest intelligence reports, contending that the Argentines would not risk such a scheme being revealed.

However, American nuclear experts concede that Argentina now has one of the most advanced nuclear energy programmes among those countries that have not yet exploded a nuclear device.

HOLIDAYS IN THE SUN AT DOWN TO EARTH PRICES.

Date	Resort	Hotel	Airport	TR	Board	FFM	100P
23 Sep	Tenerife	Sunaway	Gar	4	H-B	£174	-
23 Sep	Tenerife	Les Dunes	Gar	4	H-B	£105	-
24 Sep	Costa Blanca	Sunaway	Gar	11A	H-B	£145	£189
24 Sep	Costa Blanca	Amel Park	Gar	11A	F-B	£159	£219
24 Sep	Ibiza	Sunaway	Gar	11A	H-B	-	£119
25 Sep	Málaga	Benimar	Gar	11A	H-B	-	£239
25 Sep	Málaga	Sunaway	Gar	3	H-B	£149	£189
25 Sep	Málaga	Real Marina	Gar	3	H-B	-	£279
26 Sep & 1 Oct	Corfu	Don Manolo Sol	Gar	3	H-B	£155	£239
27 Sep	Crete	Apos Gerdas	Gar	3	H-B	-	£299
27 Sep	Crete	Sunaway	Gar	3	H-B	£194	£299
27 Sep	Crete	Adriatica Beach	Gar	34	H-B	£269	£399
30 Sep & 7 Oct	Algerie	Cosy Paludes Cote	Gar	3	S/C	-	£219
30 Sep & 7 Oct	Costa del Sol	Templaria	Gar	11A	H-B	£145	£179
30 Sep & 7 Oct	Costa del Sol	Stella Palace TM	Gar	11A	F-B	£169	£219
30 Sep & 7 Oct	Tenerife	Castellana	Gar	3	H-B	£199	£219
30 Sep & 7 Oct	Malta	Monika Holiday Village	Gar	4	S/C	£199	£219
1 Oct	Ibiza	Grand Sol	Gar	11A	H-B	£149	-
1 Oct	Ibiza	Panorama	Gar	11A	H-B	£179	-
4 Oct	Málaga	Barbados Sol	Gar	4	H-B	£205	-

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Analysis:



UNDERSEA HERO: Michael Harrison

THEY were 30 minutes out of Port Stanley heading north. Petty Officer Michael Harrison leaned on the rails of the Stena Seaspread and looked ahead into the distance.

His stolid Welsh face was impassive and unrevealing as the steel-grey skies and cold, hard sea which stretched all round him. But his thoughts were racing as fast as the clouds which ploughed past the little ship and over the horizon.

Harrison knew that 19 years as a Royal Navy diver had been leading up to this — a dive for which there was no blueprint in the Naval textbooks. It was deeper and more dangerous than anything he had done.

What the 33-year-old sailor did not know was that it would later be described as 'possibly the most dangerous task ever undertaken by a Royal Navy diving team'.

That is what the citation said when the Queen presented him with a medal for gallantry. But that was months away.

Petty Officer Harrison turned his collar against a wind which chilled the marrow of his bones. Behind him he could see Pebble Island disappearing into the waves as the Stena Seaspread held her course. The stocky little sailor brought his thoughts to more immediate matters. It was to be a saturation dive.

He would be under pressure for three or four weeks to ensure the most efficient use of his body once it was saturated with the gases he would have to breathe under deep sea compression. He was going too deep for the usual oxygen-nitrogen mixture. He would have to breath oxygen-helium.

Race to beat the Russians

He began, mentally, to go through the contents of his washing and shaving kit. He knew from experience that such small comforts were magnified to critical dimensions after a few days under pressure.

Then, taking a last lungful of the heavy salt air, he climbed down into the bowels of the ship and the hyperbaric compression complex. Harrison was one of a team of 26 divers brought together in the closing days of the Falklands war for a job which was vital to the security of Britain and the whole of Nato.

They were to recover or destroy the top secret codebooks and cryptographic equipment which lay deep in the South Atlantic ocean in the 'ops' rooms of British warships sunk during the conflict. And they had to get down there before the Russians did. It was 22.25 hours on Wednesday, November 10, 1982, when Harrison entered the compression complex with five other divers — his No. 2 man Ray Suckling, bellman 'Tug' Wilson, leading seamen Chris Davies and Steve Clegg and the dive leader, Lieutenant Charles Edwards. The tar-

By **PAUL VALLELY**

get was the destroyer Coventry, lost with 20 hands when Argentine bombers hit her amidst the height of the British Task Force's liberation of the Falkland Islands.

For the first eight days everything went like clockwork. It was hard work but nothing they hadn't expected.

They dived in three teams of two men for eight-hour shifts round the clock. Day and night blended into a continuous succession of diving, resting, and controlling the diving from the compression complex's instrument board.

But on Friday, November 19, things started to go wrong. Harrison was resting in the complex when he received a wireless call. 'There's been a blow-back. Clegg's had his helmet blown off. Stand by with medical aid.'

Harrison sprang to his feet. A blow-back. That meant that some of the methane gas had lingered in pockets somewhere in the lagging of the ship's wall, had mixed with oxygen from the cutting gear, ignited, causing an underwater explosion.

With most divers it would have been fatal. But the special unit's training had been thorough and Clegg was swiftly hauled to safety by the umbilical cord connecting him to the bell. He suffered nothing but temporary paralysis.

But later as Harrison strapped on his warm-water suit for the next dive, he could not help feeling that Clegg's accident was an uncomfortable warning.

He stepped out of the bell 300 feet below the wild Atlantic waves. Visibility was not good. Millions of krill, tiny shrimp-like creatures, made the water like a hazy TV screen. They might be a delicacy in Japan, but they're a bloody nuisance down here,' he thought.

At that depth there was no colour, only murky shades of grey, broken by the white streams of his own bubbles and the deep black of the hole which Clegg had cut in the side of the destroyer. Harrison's No. 2, Ray Suckling, was behind him. They swam sloopingly down to the hole. Their snapper lights seemed to have little power at that depth. They

DRAMA OF THE MOST DANGEROUS DIVE IN THE NAVY'S HISTORY

Save Our Secrets

EXCLUSIVE: One of the great untold stories of the Falklands war

stood at the edge of Clegg's 8ft. square opening and peered into the black nothingness.

Suckling took up his position on the outside. Harrison, with trepidation, entered and picked his way cautiously through the hanging debris of pipes and battle damage.

His experience taught him that softly-softly was the technique. He needed to memorise every move so that, if necessary, he could feel his way back blind.

He half swam, half climbed, down to the interior wall of the ship, which to him formed a floor. Somewhere he knew there ought to be a sliding door. Inside the wreck visibility was not as bad as outside. There was the door.

The silt in the 'ops room' was undisturbed and he could see quite well. He sat perfectly still and memorised the scene before — in slow motion, he lowered himself and his light inside.

A cloud of fine sediment obscured everything as he moved. He had three jobs to do. He must recover two lots of top secret documents, and retrieve — or destroy — a piece of highly-classified equipment.

His heart beat like thunder

It was an eerie sensation to move around in a room which lay on its side. The floor was an unpredictable surface made up of the sides of different pieces of furniture and equipment, some of which had moved around when the ship went down.

His heart beat like thunder as he stood and waited for the silt to settle. He thought of the time he had had to defuse two World War II bombs sucked into the belly of a North Sea dredger, and he knew that what he was doing now was that much more dangerous.

He secured his light to the wall above his head. In front of him lay an 18in. wide passageway. It lay a bit tricky enough to squeeze through it in diving gear when the ship was upright and dry. Now it loomed before him like a

deep, dark well. He inched his way down. It was more than an hour before he found the first bundle of documents, in a drawer.

But there was no room to turn around. He edged upwards towards the sliding door, walking backwards with the hefty bundle of papers clasped in both arms. He handed them to Ray Suckling and then plunged inside once more.

The other set of papers were farther off. Harrison moved like a spider back down the narrow tunnel and past the now-empty drawer. Battle-damage debris blocked his path. But Harrison estimated there was a gap in it

Only the waist now — and then it happened.

His umbilical line got stuck. A cold sweat tingled all over his body as he realised he could move neither up nor down. He radioed for help.

Back in the diving complex the helium in his voice made Harrison's message sound like an imitation of Donald Duck, but there was nothing comic about its content.

A diver's umbilical is his lifeline. It carries his gas supply, communications and the hot water which keeps his suit warm. Without the water, hypothermia would set in within minutes.

The gas and radio link enter the diver's helmet, but the part of the umbilical which carries the water loops down to his waist. It was this loop which was fast on the hanging debris.

Harrison could not try to exert too much force on the life-giving umbilical in case he damaged it. His wriggling in an attempt to free himself did not ease the problem, and, as the minutes built up into an hour, Petty Officer Harrison's anxiety turned to naked fear.

There was nothing scientific about the way he was eventually released. Diver Suckling came very slowly to his aid, feeling his way and memorising the route as Harrison had done.

He moved carefully, but the peaty water was so murky that he did not see his comrade until he was upon him. Suckling's foot struck Harrison's head with some force.

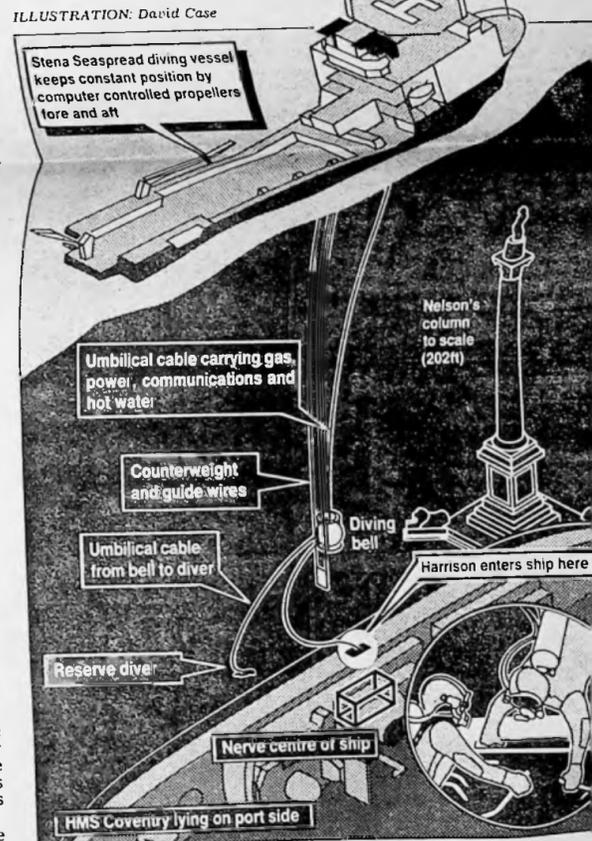
For a split second the Petty Officer feared the worst. Then he realised that the blow had loosened his umbilical.

Back in the hyperbaric complex, Harrison worked on the written and sketched debriefing document which his commanding officer required before anyone else could re-enter the Coventry for the third vital job.

His brief ended with these words: 'The situation in there is very tricky, and knowing your way around it vital. As I am the only one who has been in, I am



TARGET for Harrison's mission: The Coventry, which sank with highly sensitive code books. Below: How he achieved the impossible



the safest man to return. Therefore I should like to volunteer to return for the final job.'

Harrison's C.O., Lt.-Cmdr. Mike Kooner, looked carefully at the document. Harrison had nearly died, yet what he was now suggesting was perfect operational common sense. To Commander Kooner it was one of the bravest gestures he had ever seen. He told Harrison to sleep on it.

The next day Petty Officer Michael Harrison went down again. In an eight-hour dive he found the vital piece of electronic equipment and managed to release it from its setting.

On the way back, with the box

as big as a TV set in his arm, Harrison's umbilical became entangled. Again he managed to free himself and return safely to the surface with his mission accomplished.

Last month he was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal. The citation read: 'Throughout the operation he showed the finest example of skill and courage. He was a brave and gallant man, whose actions were a source of inspiration to all who served with him. He was a true hero and a credit to the Royal Navy.'

'His outstanding professionalism, bravery and total commitment for his own safety were the highest traditions of the

Daily Telegraph 19 9 83

Coming-of-age for St Kitts and Nevis

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

BRITAIN's first colony in the Caribbean became fully independent at midnight last night when Princess Margaret handed St Kitts and Nevis its new constitution.

The ceremony in Basseterre, capital of the two islands, will mark the coming-of-age of the last of the six associated States which Britain established in the West Indies in 1967.

All were given internal self-government while Britain retained responsibility for foreign affairs and external defence.

The only British possession left in the region after today will be the former problem-island of Anguilla, once part of St Kitts-Nevis, now a British Dependent Territory.

45,000 population

St Kitts, the largest of the two islands, was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and colonised by the British 30 years later. The occupation was challenged by the French, but the British established their rule and have remained there since.

Together, the two islands cover just over 100 square miles and have a population of about 45,000. Sugar has always been the main industry.

Not everyone is happy with

independence. The Opposition leader, Mr Lee Moore, has called on the islanders to boycott the independence celebrations.

The new constitution is a "sell-out to British interests" which will lead to internal strife, he claims.

Coalition control

His Labour party won the highest number of votes in the 1980 elections, but a coalition of the People's Action party and the Nevis Reformation party gained control of the assembly. So the hand that will steer the islands into full independence will be that of the present Prime Minister, Dr Kennedy Simmonds.

Dr Simmonds was largely responsible for drafting the new constitution agreed in London in December 1982. Under it, Nevis gets its own legislative assembly and a larger share of seats in the federal parliament than it would if Mr Moore had had his way.

The 1980 election ended 25 years of Labour domination and Mr Moore fears things may stay that way.

With sugar prices poor, the island is likely to face continued economic problems. But Britain is supplying £10 million in aid and there are hopes that the Americans will provide help.

China puts heat on Hong Kong

by Michael Jones,
London, and David
Bonavia, Peking

CONCERN over China's intentions yesterday hit the Hong Kong dollar, an internationally-traded currency, following growing fears about the course of secret Sino-British negotiations on the colony's future, which resume in Peking this week.

The Hong Kong dollar, traditionally one of the strongest freely convertible currencies in the world, slid below the psychologically critical level of eight HK dollars to one US dollar.

The fall, blamed entirely on political fears, leaves the HK dollar nearly 33 per cent down from its level a year ago, when Mrs Thatcher went to Peking to start the negotiations on Hong Kong.

Richard Luce, foreign office minister of state, will visit Hong Kong next Saturday for a first hand report on the negotiations with the Chinese, who made it known publicly last week, that they expect to take complete control when the British lease on nine-tenths of the colony's land area, the New Territories, expires in 1997.

Business interests in Hong Kong are urging the British side, led by our ambassador in Peking, Sir Percy Cradock, to "put some blood on the carpet", as an informed Peking source put it yesterday.

This, it is argued, would leave the Chinese in no doubt about the economic dangers they face if business confidence collapses in Hong Kong, where Communist China earns one third of its annual overseas earnings in trading financed by the local dollar.

An unexpected blow to Hong Kong confidence was delivered by the former prime minister Edward Heath, who paid a stopover visit last week after meeting the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping in Peking.

Heath stormed out of a private dinner with members of the colony's executive and legislative councils, leaving his food untouched. Council members said Heath lacked any understanding of the feeling of Hong Kong people about their future.

"He appeared to pay no heed to what we were saying and sounded so pompous that

an unfriendly atmosphere was created", said one. One of Luce's tasks will be to restore confidence in Britain's position after the Heath row.

The Chinese response to calls to preserve Hong Kong's capitalists life-style has been to float the idea of some form of local autonomy with continued free port status and a free-enterprise economy.

An assistant Chinese foreign minister Zhou Nan, gave the Financial Times Peking correspondent a forthright interview last week, stating that the British side should take "a realistic and co-operative" attitude and that China was "determined to recover complete sovereignty and administration of Hong Kong".

China's position, he said, was "unshakeable and firm". Ruling out any British share in the colony's future administration, he warned against approaching China "from the colonial perceptions of the 19th century".

British officials in Peking are braced for a hostile Chinese response this week to British proposals for a continued official presence in the colony, where more than two million people have the right to British-Hong Kong, passports classifying them, as citizens of a British dependent territory.

Confidence inside Hong Kong was yesterday reported to be at a low ebb. British and Hong Kong government officials have consistently refused to answer Chinese reports about the Peking negotiations.

"People here want re-assurance", Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield North, said in Hong Kong yesterday.

Despite Peking's increasingly forceful line, Mrs Thatcher has not conceded British sovereignty over Hong Kong island and the Kowloon peninsula, which were granted to Britain in perpetuity under a treaty the Chinese have long ceased to accept.

Hong Kong passports have recently been stamped with a new warning that the colony's residents have no automatic right to settle in Britain. A loophole exists in the new British Nationality Act giving the home secretary power to issue United Kingdom passports to public servants - estimated at about 250,000 people with dependents.

GIRLS FALL IN FOR FALKLANDS FUN

WHEN the boat comes in... the Falklands' prettiest recruits know that party-time is over.

The recruits are 19 girls from the Women's Royal Army Corps on duty in the South Atlantic.

They are stationed on board a ship moored in Stanley harbour.

Nearly every night they are invited by the troops ashore for a get-together. Just like Cinderella the fun comes to an end at midnight — and woe betide anyone who misses the boat which takes them back to their floating base.

The girls — all in their twenties — were chosen from over 100 volunteers. They are working as clerks, cooks, couriers, and mail sorters on a four-month tour of duty.

Naturally enough, their arrival has delighted the 4,500 lads stationed on the Islands.

The WRAC's commanding officer, Captain Di Foster, 29, said: "I have started

**From JUDITH STARES
in Port Stanley**

to pin all the invitations on a notice-board so that they can each choose which to accept."

Lance Corporal Dawn Parker, 22, warned: "We are used to being outnumbered by men... and we are used to looking after each other.

"So far there have been no serious romances." As Di put it: "Four months is hardly long enough to form a steady relationship."

Their arrival has been a mammoth morale booster for the lads.

Falklands governor, Sir Rex Hunt, said: "Send more girls over as soon as possible—it's lovely to see them around."



Fun time—the girls set off on a night out

Tell us truth on Belgrano attack

■ **LABOUR MP Tam Dalyell** hits out following John Knight's interview with Admiral Lord Lewin about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano, above right.

□ Lord Lewin was totally misleading when he said that on the morning of Sunday May 2 the British submarine Conqueror had just reported: "I have got the Belgrano in sight."

The truth is that the Belgrano had been identified by sonar two days earlier and by Saturday morning the Conqueror had closed to 4,000 yards of the

cruiser and its escorts, which were in the middle of refuelling. They would have made a superb target.

After refuelling, the ships set off in a westerly direction towards their home port. The Conqueror spent the rest of Saturday trailing the force discreetly at 10,000 yards. All this was reported to London at the time.

For Lord Lewin to say that on the Sunday morning the Conqueror "had just" reported sighting the Belgrano suggests he is trying to conceal the truth about the Prime Minister's

efforts to wreck the Peruvian peace talks. All this underlines the need for a public inquiry headed by an eminent judge. —*Tam Dalyell, MP, House of Commons.*

■ **THIS reader could not disagree more.**

□ Would it have been better if our carriers, Invincible and Hermes had been sunk instead? The Belgrano was a threat. It was a courageous decision to sink her. —*B. Peirse, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex.*



SM 19/9

Six guilty men blamed for Falklands invasion

ARGENTINA'S top investigating general says political misjudgments, strategic blunders and operational incompetence cost his country the war for the Falklands, *The Observer* has learnt.

General Benjamin Rattenbach, president of a six-member military commission which examined the origins and conduct of the war with Britain, names four military men and two Ministers as the culprits mainly responsible for the invasion of 2 April 1982 and the military defeat.

He does so in a signed report, yet to be endorsed by other members of his commission who represent each arm of the three services, and he recommends military and civilian trials for those on whom he fastens blame.

The men Rattenbach finds guilty include former President Leopoldo Galtieri, who was also Army Commander-in-Chief; Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya; Brigadier-General Basilio Lami Dozo; General Mario Menendez, briefly 'Governor' of the Malvinas; former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez; and Minister for Economic Affairs Roberto Alemann.

The commission's report is due to go to each branch of the armed services for possible action by courts martial.

The catalogue of complaints against the Argentine leadership set forth by Rattenbach begins with the period preceding the invasion. He breaks down his criticisms into five main fields: political, strategic, operational, economic and psychological.

In the political field, he says Costa Mendez failed to alert the junta to the probable international consequences of the use of force to capture the Falklands. According to Rattenbach, Costa Mendez was ill-informed about the likely nature of British and

ARTHUR GAVSHON examines the evidence of Argentine blunders that led to a costly military defeat

US reactions and he had underestimated the effect on British pride of such a humiliation. He had also overestimated the importance Washington attached to Argentine friendship, as compared to that of Britain.

Costa Mendez's starting-point had been that Argentine landings would compel Britain to begin negotiating seriously over sovereignty, but he was wrong. He failed to warn the junta, after the final decision to invade on or about 23 March, that London was not interested in negotiating and the situation was bound to worsen, and he continued to disregard the flexibility of modern concepts of sovereignty.

The criticisms against Costa Mendez were applicable equally to the junta itself, which bore the final responsibility for foreign policy. The advice of the Foreign Minister need not have been accepted.

As to strategy, a cardinal blunder was the junta's failure to realise it could not carry on running the country's day-to-day affairs and the war simultaneously. It should have turned over its functions as commander-in-chief to a special War Cabinet under its own overall command; in that way much of the disorder and lack of co-ordination could have been avoided.

Initially the assault on the Falklands had the limited aim of forcing the British to negotiate seriously; when it failed to achieve that objective, the three-man junta found itself without any coherent defensive strategy. While the offensive phase of the campaign had been relatively well planned, the more difficult defensive phase

found the junta unprepared, planless and disorganised.

In a broader context, Rattenbach says, the junta faced its Falklands venture with forces equipped, trained and armed to fight only an extremely limited local conflict, not to take on the forces of a leading power.

Another miscalculation was to believe that the islands could be defended primarily with the land forces committed to them. With the fleet confined to home waters and mainland-based combat planes at the limit of their range, it became inevitable the initiative would belong to the British.

Complicating this strategic error were the lack of co-ordination, the tactical differences and political rivalries of the three Argentine services.

Operationally, Admiral Anaya and the Navy High Command are criticised for assuming that the bombardment of Argentine positions on the islands by the British Task Force was a prelude to a full-scale counter-invasion. That was the only time the Argentine fleet was deployed to attack.

When it became clear the Task Force operation was only a ploy or test, the Argentine fleet withdrew to home waters for the rest of the war, transforming profoundly the Argentine capacity to counter-attack.

This withdrawal affected Argentine Air Force operations because, coming on top of inter-force rivalries, it meant the airmen went on fighting the war as if it was their own. Defence of the islands was thus seriously compromised.

General Menendez is criticised by Rattenbach for his defence of the islands. His concentration on the defence of

Port Stanley, the focal target of any landing force, was said to be understandable. Beyond Port Stanley, however, Menendez was wrong in spreading his defences thinly and widely; he should have kept strong, mobile reserves ready to challenge immediately any landing force wherever it might appear.

Menendez is also attacked for a failure to keep in close touch with his forces, a failure to impress on Galtieri and the junta that he needed greater air and sea support, and of failure to ensure better logistical back-up.

In the economic sector, Alemann was condemned for clamping down too slowly on the release of funds from Argentina and on trying too late to secure the release of Argentine funds in London. Alemann had no warning of the invasion until it happened and needed time to arrange for proper control of the country's economic well-being.

Turning to psychological warfare, the report criticises Argentina for having virtually no effective apparatus. There had been no preparation of public opinion to accept the UN Security Council decision for a withdrawal from the islands or to prevent the media from publishing exaggerated versions of Argentine military successes or failures.

The military men identified by Rattenbach as 'guilty' of failing Argentina are recommended for trial by courts martial or other ways. In the cases of Costa Mendez, Alemann and other civilians, civil trials are recommended.

Whether or not the Rattenbach recommendations will be accepted by a junta about to yield power to the first elected Argentine government since the 1976 coup has yet to be decided. Early trials could influence the electoral outcome and later ones could embarrass an in-coming government.

HIGH WAGES FOR AIRPORT 'TASK' FORCE

By GERALD BARTLETT

THE first construction gangs recruited to build the Government's £215 million long-range strategic airport in the Falklands, sail from Avonmouth a week on Monday on board the transporter ship Merchant Providence, 14,000 tons.

Together with plant, materials, equipment and prefabricated cabins, they are expected to reach East Falkland in mid-October.

More construction teams are expected to sail several days later, aboard the Cunard passenger ferry England, 8,000 tons.

A spokesman for the construction consortium, Laing, Mowlem and Amey Roadstone Corporation, said last night that most of the men will be on 14-month contracts.

Bubble wages

The consortium regarded the men's wages "as strictly confidential" but union officials expect them to be earning "bubble wages" which could be anything up to three or four times the usual rate for craftsmen and labourers.

Quantity surveyors and senior civil engineers are likely to command salaries of about £30,000 to £35,000. Their "package deal" will include accommodation and meals, and freedom from tax if they spend a year abroad.

Craftsmen, like bricklayers and carpenters, whose guaranteed minimum wage at home is £97.50 will earn nearer £300 a week, with food and accommodation found.

They will all get a 25 per cent tax reduction for working outside Britain for more than 30 consecutive days. The first 100 workers have been drawn exclusively from within the ranks of the three-company consortium.

An average of 1,000 men are expected to be on site in the Falklands at any one time, with a maximum of 1,400 workers in June next year.

GALE DELAYS 'ARK'

By Our Shipping Correspondent

A force 12 gale in the Bay of Biscay has delayed the Dina Khalef so her sailing date as "the Falklands ark," carrying livestock from Poole to Port Stanley next week, will have to be postponed.

FALKLANDS 'GAVE THATCHER EXTRA VIGOUR TO EXCEL'

By COLIN RANDALL

(7/9)

DEMANDS of the Falklands crisis gave Mrs Thatcher extra reserves of strength which let her excel herself, the Prime Minister tells Viscount Tonypanfy, the former Speaker, in a television interview to be screened on Monday.

"It was the most concentrated period of my life," she says in the Harlech TV programme to be screened in Wales. "I can only say you are given strength

sufficient for the hour... you do better than your best."

Mrs Thatcher says that she never expected to encounter such an experience.

She adds: "I could not think the Argentines would invade the Falklands, such an absurd and totally wrong thing to do.

"But then it happened and every single cell in one's body, every single fibre of one's being, became concentrated on the problems that arose and getting decisions right and in the right order."

She recalls the time of the San Carlos landing when, in the interests of preserving secrecy, she conducted a full day of constituency and other engagements rather than arouse suspicion by cancelling at the last minute.

Serious note

Mrs Thatcher's recollections strike the most serious notes of an otherwise light and relaxed interview, the first of a series entitled "George Thomas in Conversation."

SURRENDER PACT STILL MISSING

A search by the Ministry of Defence has still failed to find the Falklands war surrender document signed in Port Stanley on June 14 last year.

The Ministry has declined to say where the flimsy typed document is normally kept or when it was last seen. A spokesman said yesterday that the "appropriate department" was still trying to find it.

OPERATION CLEAN UP Carpet slippers

PATRICK WATTS in Port Stanley writes: Another attempt will be made this weekend to bring the civilian and military populations of Stanley together to clean up the town. Previous planned missions have not proved as successful as the organisers would have liked.

The remains of the war, still evident in some areas, and huge quantities of mud, will be the priorities during the clean up. With the frost and snow giving way to drier weather, it is hoped that once again Stanley's streets will be clean enough to walk "in carpet slippers," as was the boast in pre-conflict

PENSIONS PLEA FOR SERVICE WIDOWS

By Our Health Services
Correspondent

Better pensions for the widows of Servicemen killed on active service have been urged by the Royal British Legion at a meeting with Lord Glenarthur, Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security.

The legion is seeking particularly more help for 1939-45 War widows who receive only the D H S S pension of £42.70 a week. Mr Michael Day, pensions secretary, said: "There are some 2,000 war widows claiming supplementary benefit."

"They are the wives of men who gave their lives in the service of their country and we have told the Minister that it was not good enough that their incomes are so low that they have to depend on supplementary benefit."

Dalyell poses new Belgrano question

BY CHRIS McLAUGHLIN

A FURTHER contradiction in official statements over the sinking of the Argentine cruiser the General Belgrano has been uncovered by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow.

Dalyell cites "reliable", first hand British sources who have told him that the submarine HMS Conqueror watched the cruiser refuelling at sea at a distance of only 4,000 yards 24 hours before it was sunk.

Both the government's initial statement and its white paper on the Falklands conflict stated that the cruiser was first sighted on May 2 — statements contradicted by the Conqueror's commander, who is on record as admitting he had shadowed the cruiser for 30 hours before receiving orders to sink it.

In a speech in Sunderland this week Dalyell asked why the government had waited a day, until May 2, to sink the Belgrano after it had been steaming for some time in the direction of its home port.

Dalyell repeated his persistent claim that the sinking was ordered by premier Margaret Thatcher to scupper the Peruvian peace initiative which would, if agreed, have required the recall of the task force.

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Junta 'making nuclear bomb'

From GEORGE GORDON

In New York

A CIA report contends that Argentina is about to divert a ton of processed uranium to build a nuclear bomb.

Even more alarming, says the report, is that Argentina is openly and legally building a range of nuclear installations that are not subject to international safeguards and inspections.

Earlier this year there were reports that Argentina would be ready to explode a nuclear device in October. Argentina denied it had any military nuclear programme.

Tighten

The latest report says there is a plan to divert treated uranium from a West German-built plant that carries out one of the processes for making nuclear fuel.

The diversion, say the spy agencies, could be buried as a book-keeping error.

Now there are calls for the United States to tighten conditions under which Argentina is supplied with heavy water.

Argentina is one of the most advanced nuclear energy producers which does not have the bomb. It mines uranium from its own reserves.

Falklands anger

A MEETING with Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine is being sought by the 28,000-strong Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association to discuss policies for contracts to the Falklands — there is anger over charters going to foreign ships.

Guardian 17 9 83

Argentinian is refused citizenship

By Stephen Cook

17/9 4

An Argentinian who has lived in Britain for 13 years and has a British wife and daughter, a steady job and no criminal convictions, has been refused naturalisation by the Home Office and denied an explanation.

Dr Ronaldo Munck, a lecturer at Ulster Polytechnic, now believes that the reason may be because he is Argentinian or because he was suspended from Essex University for a month in 1975 for helping to organise a student rent strike.

Several hundred people are refused citizenship each year without explanation or right of appeal and the Home Secretary does not have to give reasons.

A Home Office spokesman said that no one would be refused naturalisation because they were Argentinian and that six Argentinians had been granted citizenship last year. A refusal "would not be for frivolous or insubstantial reasons."

Successive governments have argued against an objective public test for naturalisation. The green paper which pre-

ceded the 1981 British Nationality Act said no test could be devised to find out "whether a man's general behaviour makes him unacceptable to his fellow citizens even though he may have kept clear of the courts."

In 1981, 218 people were denied citizenship on the grounds that they were not of good character, and 56 on other grounds, according to Home Office figures.

A further 621 were rejected for failing residence or English language tests, or because the Home Office thought they might not continue living here.

Argentina will clear the way to secure loan

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

Argentina stepped back from confrontation with international bankers by conceding minute changes in controversial bankruptcy laws that have blocked further funds from creditors. The changes announced by the Commission for Assessment of Legislation came as Argentina wobbled on the brink of default on a crucial step in rescheduling foreign debts now estimated at almost \$40 billion.

But even then, the commission, an appointed body that fine-tunes legislation in the absence of an elected Congress under military rule, did not issue details of its decision.

Although it was thought a decree from President Reynaldo Bignone putting the new regulations into force would be a formality, local bankers said they were not sure the modifications met all their demands.

A group of over 300 overseas banks had held up payment of the first \$500 million instalment of the five-year syndicated \$1.5 billion loan agreed last month until the bankruptcy code was modified.

The new credit was needed for a \$300 million repayment due yesterday on the \$1.1 billion "bridge loan" secured by the Argentines from more or less the same banks late last year.

The Argentine government

earlier this week asked for a delay of "at least 30 days" on the repayment deadline, but apparently met with a cool response from bankers openly talking about declaring Argentina in default.

The consequences of that would have been big penalty payments and accumulating interest on the foreign debt total and perhaps later, moves to freeze Argentina's overseas assets in lieu of payment.

An unexpected delay by the International Monetary Fund in disbursing a \$324.5 million "standby" tranche due after the second quarter of this year prompted speculation that the world agency was also bringing pressure on the regime for changes in the law.

The government had resisted months of pressure from overseas creditors, who said that Article Four of the Bankruptcy Code effectively discriminated against them in favour of domestic creditors.

With official reserves dwindling rapidly as grain export revenues go into seasonal decline, the government faced a deteriorating external economy that could only add to a mounting crisis at home.

Although the government claims that wages rose in real terms during the past year, a crippling inflation rate officially estimated at 335 per cent has provided a mounting wave of strikes.

Falklands TV disclaimer

By John Ezard

Thames Television has bowed to pressure and agreed to insert a disclaimer in a controversial play for school-children which features a claim that Falklands civilians committed an atrocity by killing captured Argentine conscripts during last year's conflict.

The disclaimer will stress to children that all events referred to in the play, *A Game Of Soldiers*, are fictitious. This promise has been made in a letter from Mr Bryan Cowgill, Thames managing director,

The company's defence was that the atrocity was not presented as genuine.

But the Falkland office was worried that the programme's expected audience of 250,000 children would be given the impression it was true when the play is shown.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, is still due to consider a complaint from Ministry of Defence officials about teachers' notes for the programme which refer to the Army's presence in Northern Ireland as "a war."

Post for Salt

Captain Sam Salt, aged 43, who commanded the destroyer HMS Sheffield, which was sunk in the Falklands last year, has been appointed an assistant chief of staff to the Commander in Chief Fleet at Northwood, Middlesex.

Future of Gibraltar

From Mr Robert J. Peliza, MHA

Sir, It is gratifying to read in your editorial, "Friendship with Spain" (September 8): that "Britain cannot and should not transfer sovereignty in Gibraltar against the will of its people".

France initiated and the subsequent governments of Spain have continued an economic war on the 20,000 Gibraltarians on the Rock with the application of damaging restrictions at the land frontier, airspace and bay, which no British government has deterred by taking similar retaliatory actions.

The last and most damaging has been the partial opening of the border. These economic sanctions are intended to force the Gibraltarians to renounce British sovereignty.

But the biggest blow so far to Gibraltar is the closure of the naval dockyard by the end of 1984, as finally decided last July by Mrs Thatcher herself, against the unanimous view of the Gibraltar House of Assembly, expressed in a motion passed in February this year.

It is the income derived from employment provided by the naval

dockyard that has principally enabled Gibraltar to survive the economic blockade, because it is a large part of the economic base with which the Spanish Government cannot interfere.

The naval dockyard is to be replaced by a commercial ship repair yard. Ominously, no suitable operators have been found who are prepared to invest one penny in the venture. This is not surprising in the depressed state of the ship-repair industry and the obvious likelihood of fierce Spanish competition, fair or unfair, from severely under-employed yards near by to ensure failure.

It is on this apparently commercially unsound and certainly politically insecure venture that the defence of the will of the British people of Gibraltar now much depends. It would be ironical if Mrs Thatcher, the proud defender of the Falkland Islands, should, no doubt unintentionally, pave the way for the British surrender of the Rock of Gibraltar.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT J. PELIZA,
 House of Assembly,
 Gibraltar.
 September 9.

Argentine junta attempts to end debt deadlock

BY JAMES BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA'S military legislative commission has approved the draft of a new bankruptcy law which modifies existing discriminations against foreign creditors.

The move, made under intense pressure from the Economy Ministry, and against the wishes of military hard-liners, is aimed at ending the current deadlock over the re-scheduling of \$39m (£26m) foreign debt.

However, by late yesterday afternoon Argentina remained technically in breach of its loan obligation. Some foreign banks were still waiting for a definition of the law and its final signature before agreeing to a 30-day extension of a waiver on the repayment of \$300m.

The deadline for the repayment expired yesterday morning after Argentina told foreign banks it was unable to repay the first tranche of a \$1.1bn bridging loan because re-scheduling arrangements had been delayed by the test case of the bankrupt private sector paper manufacturer Celulosa Argentina.

Under the old bankruptcy law Celulosa's foreign creditors could wait up to 15 years before retrieving the \$100m in debts owed to them.

The new law is understood to accept in broad terms that discrimination should end, although the commission has refused to give any details.

Foreign bankers' reactions to the move were mixed. Some described it as "positive," but the majority were cautious as they waited for clarification and the law's signature by Argentine President Renaldo Bignone. In theory, President Bignone must consult with the ruling military junta and has up to 10 days before taking the final decision.

"We've seen draft laws approved by the commission before and in the end nothing happened," commented an official of the Royal Bank of Canada, one of Celulosa's main creditors.

He said the last amendment of the bankruptcy law in June had been approved by the commission but had eventually never been signed.



THE TIMES DIARY

Mag-nificat

Any thought that the Conservatives intend eschewing Falklands victories at their centenary gathering in Blackpool, incidentally, are firmly dispelled by the choice of hymn for the religious service at its inception. The hymn is *Rejoice, The Lord is King*. This is the one that has the lines: "Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice", at the end of every verse.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

16.9.83

NAVY APPOINTMENT

Capt Sam Salt, 43, who commanded the destroyer *Sheffield*, sunk by an Argentine Exocet missile in the Falklands war, has been appointed an assistant chief of staff to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet at Northwood, Middx.

the elections in October and then go on to new elections with *la señora* Perón as our candidate.' Menem, one of the few who would make every move dependent on Isabel Perón's decisions, clearly represented a minority.

The selection of the Luder-Bittel ticket gives the Peronists the most acceptable candidates it could have wished for. Moderate non-Peronist sectors heaved a sigh of relief at the nomination, underlining the candidates' non-sectarian approach and the measured tone of their statements in the lead-up to the congress.

Yet beyond the personalities of the candidates a more important question has begun to emerge. Who wields real power within the Peronist party? Luder's strategy has been one on avoiding confrontations by not aligning himself with any of the internal factions. Bittel was equally careful in his handling of the party's internal affairs. But the true architect of the party's pre-election campaign was Lorenzo Miguel, shielded behind his oft-made statement that 'the 62 Organizaciones do not support any candidate; it is up to the party congress to decide.'

Miguel frequently underlined his loyalty to Isabel Perón and made a public show of leaving it up to her to decide whether and when she would return to Argentina. This approach disarmed the *verticalistas*, who appeared as trying to manipulate Isabel Perón for their own purposes. With

Bittel as acting party leader playing a similar game. Miguel was able to engineer the outcome of the party congress in such a way as to leave little doubt in anyone's mind that the Peronist party is run by the union leaders.

The balance sheet with little more than a month to go before polling day reads as follows:

- The Luder-Bittel ticket holds together the Peronist vote and might even gain non-Peronist support.
- The ticket is the best Peronism could offer the military, the industrialists and even the bankers: Luder has a good 'presidential' image and Bittel has proved his ability to reconcile the many divergent interests of a mass party, while maintaining excellent relations with the *multipartidaria*. Unlike Luder, he does not have a union background, so he 'balances out' the ticket in his dual capacity as a representative of 'political' Peronism and a man from the interior (he hails from the northeastern province of Chaco).
- The advantages of these developments have one drawback: growing unease about the rise of union power, both among so-called 'independents' and among the parties and groups of the left. This disquiet was heightened by the way the unions rode roughshod over Antonio Cafiero's previously agreed nomination as gubernatorial candidate in Buenos Aires province, to put their own man, Herminio Iglesias, on the ticket.

Guide to the October elections

Elections in Argentina will be held on 30 October. There are 17.9m registered voters, 48% of whom are concentrated in the capital and the Greater Buenos Aires area. The largest single electoral district is the province of Buenos Aires, with 6.4m voters, followed by the capital with 2.3m, Santa Fe province with 1.7m, and Córdoba province with 1.6m. Some 5.6m voters (31% of the total) are registered members of political parties: over 3m are Peronists and 1.5m are Radicals (in the province of Corrientes, 286,103 people, 64% of the electorate, are registered party members). One unknown quantity is the behaviour of the 2m Argentines who left the country in the past few years, many of whom might return to vote.

President and Vice-President will be elected indirectly, through an electoral college, which is bound to be dominated by Peronists and Radicals, but in which the proportional representation system will ensure the participation of 'third' parties (the likeliest being the MID, Partido Intransigente and Alianza Federal). Apart from the two top jobs, the electorate will also select people to cover some 3,000 executive and legislative jobs.

An updated line-up for the elections (indicating party strength and ticket) follows:

- Peronists: Over 3m registered party members. Italo Argentino Luder-Deolindo Bittel.
- Radicals: 1.5m members. Raúl Alfonsín-Victor Martínez.

Alianza Federal: Membership uncertain as alliances are still being sorted out. Francisco Manrique-Guillermo Belgrano Rawson.

Movimiento de Integración y Desarrollo: 145,000 members. Rogelio Frigerio-Antonio Salonia.

Partido Intransigente: 81,000 members. Oscar Alende-Lisandro Viale.

Frente de Izquierda Democrática: (Alliance of the Partido Socialista Democrático, with 39,000 members, and the Partido Demócrata Progresista, with 53,000). Rafael Martínez Raymonda-René Balestra.

Partido Demócrata Cristiano: 68,000 members. Francisco Cerro-Gabriel Ponzatti.

Partido Obrero: 61,000 members. Gregorio Flores-Catalina R. de Guagnini.

Movimiento al Socialismo: 55,000 members. Luis Zamora-Silvia Días.

Partido Comunista: 76,000 members. Rubens Iscaro-Irene Rodríguez.

Partido Socialista Popular: 60,500 members. Guillermo Estevez Boero-Edgardo Rossi.

Party membership is correct for the 30 April deadline established by the electoral law for party registration. Many have continued their membership drives since then. The Communists, for example, now claim a membership of 200,000. Totals for the two largest parties have not varied much, as they conducted massive affiliation drives very early.

Daily Express
15.9.83

LIFE in the Falklands is hardly a bed of roses for our stout-hearted Civil Commissioner, SIE REX HUNT. First, someone stole the heraldic crown off the London taxi which is his official transport. Now I learn poor old Rex has gone down with gout. He is taking pills. "At least I'm not as bad as GENERAL MENEDEZ," says Rex. "He left behind hundreds of pills. The man was obviously a hypochondriac."

Daily Mail
16.9.83

Hermes heads for Middle East

By Defence Correspondent
NEARLY 1,000 Royal Marines were on their way to the Mediterranean last night aboard the aircraft carrier Hermes, flagship of the Falklands Task Force.

The Marines will take part in a major NATO exercise called Display Determination, involving 250,000 troops and dozens of ships.

But they will spend some days

on firing ranges in Cyprus only a short flight from trouble-torn Lebanon.

And although there is no intention of using the Marines or Hermes to increase Britain's involvement in the area, their presence on the island will clearly be a factor in pushing the warring factions towards a settlement.

Last night a Navy spokesman in Plymouth said the carrier's visit to Cyprus was purely a coincidence.

He added: 'Royal Marines are

always ready for any eventuality. There are no plans to send them to the Lebanon at the moment.

'But their presence in Cyprus will leave another option open to the politicians.'

Hermes will have a full complement of helicopters and ammunition but no Harriers.

She will anchor off Cyprus in about ten days after taking part in the NATO operation.

It will be the last cruise for the Navy's largest ship. The 23,900-ton carrier will put into Devonport for a refit when she returns

and will then be used as a training ship before being sold for scrap or to a foreign navy.

In Beirut, Lebanese Air Force fighters flew low over the city in a display of strength aimed at driving rebel militiamen from their mountain stronghold.

Five Hawker Hunters swept in just before dawn.

The planes screamed off towards the nearby Chouf mountains, from where Leftist Moslem Druze guerillas have been shelling Beirut for two weeks.

Rest for CO—Page FOUR

Daily Mail
16.9.83

Army to march on new boots

THE Army has ordered new waterproof boots for its long-suffering foot soldiers.

The footwear is being rushed into service following complaints during the Falklands campaign about the old leather boots.

And Army chiefs have called for special aerated inner soles to help prevent trench and athlete's foot.

Meanwhile the first issue of new socks—described as 'warm and comfortable'—will be made to the Queen's Own Highlanders next week.

Daily Mail
16.9.83

Captain's move

CAPTAIN Sam Salt, 43, who commanded the destroyer Sheffield which was sunk in the Falklands conflict, last year, has been appointed an Assistant Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief Fleet at Northwood, Middlesex.

Advance guard of Falkland airport builders all set

By John Ezard

The first 100 construction workers out of an eventual invasion force of 1,400 leave Britain later this month to start the pioneer phase of building the Government's £215 million long-range airport on the Falkland Islands.

The project, disclosed in detail for the first time yesterday, emerges as one of the biggest, most arduous and costly ever undertaken abroad. It involves not only shipping a minimum of 250,000 tonnes of building material and machinery 8,000 miles from Britain but quarrying 600,000 tonnes of rock and sand in difficult conditions on the Falklands.

The first task of the pioneer

workers when they reach the Falklands next month will be to moor a jetty ship and build a Bailey bridge to get equipment ashore without proper harbours. Then they will have to lay an eight-kilometre road to reach the airport site, where they will set up a prefabricated town in the wilds, designed for a population only slightly smaller than that of the Falklands.

The township will include a hospital, a 3,000 square metre recreation unit, a chapel, a library, restaurants and bars, and insulated, double-glazed walkways to repel what the construction consortium of Laing, Mowlem and ARC call "the notorious Falklands weather" from the site southwest of Port Stanley.

There, the construction workers—numbering 1,000 on average and 1,400 at peak—many of them Scots, Geordie and Irish—will live in relative isolation for up to two and a half years until they have created an airport with an 8,500-ft main runway. This will be capable of rapidly reinforcing the Falklands garrison by wide-bodied jets in emergencies and of providing a regular airborne troops shuttle direct from Britain.

In the latest Falkland Islands Association newsletter, the project has aroused hopes of air links with Australia and New Zealand, of tourism, and of an improved economic future stretching well into the next century.

From British left-wingers it

has brought charges that Mrs Thatcher's Government is merely creating a white elephant which will eventually have to be given away to Argentina. The Labour Party has protested bitterly about the contractors' plan to use Cape Town as a staging point for men and materials.

Salt was rubbed into this grievance earlier this week when the South African ambassador to Argentina, Mr David Tothill, told journalists that two airport contracts had gone to South African firms. But this was categorically denied yesterday by the Property Services Agency, which is managing the project for the Ministry of Defence. The agency said that contractors had carried out to the letter an order not to handle con-

tracts with South Africa.

Most of the workforce will be flown to Cape Town, then shipped to the Falklands on the Cunard passenger ferry, England. The urgency with which the Government is insisting that the project remains on schedule is demonstrated by the fact that the England was chartered only this week but has been told to sail before October 1.

Simultaneously, the 14,000-ton transporter ship, Merchant Providence, will leave Avonmouth, carrying the first of the materials and equipment, as well as prefabricated cabins for the pioneer camp. At her destination, Mare Harbour on East Falkland, she will be used as a floating, roll-on roll-off terminal with a 130-tonne derrick for transferring all the pro-

ject's cargo from ships to land.

The scale of the operation is shown by the equipment bought from one company alone, British Leyland—52 trucks, a "Landtrain" truck capable of carrying 65 tonnes, and an even heavier truck with a 100-ton capacity.

Britain's depressed construction industry has so far generated more than 9,000 applications for the project workforce, who are called "operatives" in consortium documents. Most are on 14-month contracts, with paid leave in Britain halfway through. Few will be allowed to bring wives.

A social pecking order among the workforce has emerged in blueprints for their township. They will be 40 accommodation blocks each housing

18 "operatives"; eight blocks each housing 16 "junior executives"; seven blocks each housing eight "senior executives"; 10 "family villas"; and two "management villas."

The airport terminal will, initially at least, be "basic and unsophisticated" with some housing for permanent staff. The workforce's last job will be to build a 45-kilometre road from the airport site at Mount Pleasant into Port Stanley.

Until this is finished the workforce will face a discouragingly long yomp if they wish to relax and carouse among the 900 residents of Port Stanley. It is in these circumstances of isolation in a remote place for months at a time that the pecking order for accommodation is likely to become important.

Hongkong: a scrap of paper in the making?

Peking China's latest and most detailed proposals for the future of Hongkong should help the colony's present economy recovery - but there are grounds for worry that Peking's liberal approach may not last long once it has regained sovereignty. The 10-point proposals, leaked to pro-Peking newspapers in Hongkong despite Mrs Thatcher's insistence on "confidentiality", envisage Hongkong carrying on as usual after the transfer date - probably 1997 - while formal matters concerning the constitutional framework, defence and foreign affairs would be controlled by Peking.

Astonishingly enough, it is reliably understood that this proposal has not even been raised yet at the Anglo-Chinese talks here, which have focused on starting positions and procedure. However, its official nature from the Chinese point of view is beyond doubt.

It seems a generous offer, considering the difficulties China could still make for Britain and Hongkong if it chose. Closer analysis shows that none of the present freedoms enjoyed by Hongkong people would be exempt from abolition by the Chinese government once the handover took place. Agreements with Britain over Hongkong can effectively cover only the transfer, because no British government would be able to raise a finger if understandings about Hongkong's future status were disregarded by China at any time after reversion of sovereignty.

China's handling of its own "autonomous regions" gives no cause

Peking's proposals look reasonable enough today, writes David Bonavia, but there can be no guarantee it will stick to them after sovereignty is transferred

for complacency. Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang have never experienced the autonomy promised them in the constitution, and important matters concerning their administration are still decided primarily in Peking.

In Hongkong, of course, the situation is different, in the sense that a large degree of liberal government, if no longer actually *laissez-faire*, is needed to keep generating the foreign currency for whose sake China has tolerated a British colony on its doorstep for so long.

To look on the bright side, China is offering Hongkong almost complete internal autonomy, continuation of its capitalist system and way of life, freedom of expression and the issue of travel documents.

Nevertheless, the mechanisms for Peking to make changes in Hongkong would still be there. For instance, Hongkong would be allowed to keep "all its present laws except those parts which are in contradiction with Chinese sovereignty over the region." This is a big loophole, for sophistry can usually prove any capitalist country's laws to be in contradiction with those of a socialist country, if that should seem desirable.

Freedoms of press, speech and

assembly are guaranteed already by the Chinese constitution, but in practice do not exist in China. Nor does the right to strike.

The future mayor or administrative head of Hongkong, should be a local person and "a patriot who is for China's reunification and the recovery of China's sovereignty over Hongkong, and enjoys high prestige among the people, but not necessarily one on the left or who advocates socialism".

Persistent reports have told of China wanting to appoint a mainland official as deputy mayor of Hongkong, although this also has apparently not been put before the British delegation at the talks in Peking.

Those who choose to stay in Hongkong after 1997, or who have no other place to go, would have to take China's good intentions on trust, although nobody today can have the faintest idea what the membership and policies of the Chinese government will be 14 years from now.

Trends in China point towards a continuation of right-leaning economic reform, bringing industrial management and agricultural production closer to those of non-socialist countries.

Cultural and political liberalization, however, are advancing more slowly.

It is also possible that Peking would want the future Hongkong to have a more rigorous censorship, if only to clamp down on the influence of the West and Taiwan, especially on young people in China.

Particularly questionable is the issue of nationality. Many Hongkong residents are in effect stateless, travelling abroad on government-issued certificates of identity. Others have "British dependent territory" citizenship, but this does not entail the right to work or reside in the UK. Only a small number, perhaps 10,000, have full UK citizenship. The others will presumably become citizens of the People's Republic automatically in 1997, because there would no longer be a dependent territory of Hongkong.

Social reform, the Chinese proposal states, would be left to Hongkong people to implement, and Chinese officials would not be sent in to exercise authority.

However, it does seem likely that units of the People's Liberation Army will be stationed in Hongkong after reversion of sovereignty and the departure of the British garrison. The highly modern police force may be re-recruited - at any rate those of the force not by then granted permission to live in Britain. A few British officials and experts may be retained on individual contracts. But the renewal of the New Territories lease, with an invitation to Britain to continue ruling Hongkong on a caretaker basis, or a joint administration, has been firmly ruled out by Peking.

The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, September 15, 1983

'NO CRUELTY' IN ARK FOR FALKLANDS

By JOHN PETTY
Shipping Correspondent

ORGANISERS of the Falklands Fund are having problems convincing animal lovers that no cruelty will be involved in using the Qatari ship *Dina Khalef* on a 28-day voyage from Poole to Port Stanley with sheep, cattle, horses, goats and pigs.

Protestors say the ship is much too small for such a long ocean journey. The 26-year-old West German-built cattle carrier is 357 gross tons or 521 deadweight tons.

In shipping terms, a gross ton is 100 cubic feet of permanently enclosed space and deadweight indicates the carrying capacity.

Although under an Arab flag, the ship is actually Danish-owned and designed for worldwide trading. She was selected by the Crown Agents for the voyage and approved by experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as suitable for the journey.

Yapping fear

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is also satisfied that the *Dina Khalef* (formerly the *Iris Clausen*) is suitable.

Opposition to use of the ship has been led by the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society. Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland and Welsh ponies are to be included in the cargo.

The ark is also expected to carry Welsh cobs, Arab horses, Jacob and Romney sheep, two kinds of goat, and saddleback and Oxford sandy-and-black pigs. The cattle will be Shetland, belted Galloway, Jersey, South Devon and Ayrshire.

Plans to take working dogs on the ship have been dropped. Instead, Welsh and Scottish collie puppies will go out on

separate snips next month. It was feared that their yapping might upset the other animals.

FIVE CATS ARRIVE Budgerigars, too

OUR PORT STANLEY CORRESPONDENT writes: Five cats and 21 budgerigars are the first arrivals in the Falklands from several hundred animals and birds from Britain to replace those lost during last year's conflict.

The cats and budgerigars arrived in Stanley in the *Andalucia Star* (7,618 tons) having been cared for on the 8,000-mile journey from Britain by members of the crew.

Defending the Falklands: 3**Counter-offensive by the Treasury**

The cost to the British taxpayer of reasserting and defending national honour in the Falkland Islands will have been about £3,000m even if a diplomatic solution to the rival claims of Britain and Argentina were to emerge with unexpected speed. This is equivalent to more than £1.5m for every member of the population of the Falklands.

The total is made up of more than £800m incurred in 1982/83 in recapturing the islands and the initial garrison costs; about £1,000m in garrison costs in the three financial years up to April, 1986; and more than £1,000m in replacing ships, aircraft and other equipment lost or expended during the conflict.

The surprising thing is that the Government has gained large political advantages at negligible cost for incurring this burden.

It bathed for months in post-Falklands euphoria before romping home at the polls; Britain's standing was enhanced in important parts of the world; and, although the Latin American nations indulge in ritual abuse at the United Nations, like football fans, they generally prove to be more agreeable as individual nations than they are in groups.

However, it may be that the political price is now beginning to emerge in terms of the pressure which the Treasury is exerting to contain defence spending.

Sir John Nott, as Secretary of State for Defence during the Falklands conflict, was not generally thought to have had a good war, and, within about six months of the recapture of the

Sir John Nott (left), as Secretary of State for Defence, gained several victories over the Treasury in making it foot the bill for defending the Falkland Islands. But, Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, says, Mr Michael Heseltine (right), Sir John's successor, may be facing a tougher fight. The Treasury's campaign on costs could be the political prize for the Forces' successes last year.



islands, had abandoned his political career, though these events may not have been connected.

But in his last six months, Sir John, with Mrs Thatcher's backing, gained major victories over the Treasury. It was agreed that the costs of garrisoning the Falklands and of replacing lost equipment should be met from resources additional to the defence budget. When replacement ships were needed, it was the most expensive Type 22 frigates at £130m each which were ordered.

There was not much of this that the Treasury was happy about, and it may be that it is now seeking to recover lost ground.

The problem for the Government is that the cost of the Falklands, averaged out over the four financial years from April, 1982, to April, 1986, is equivalent to an addition of about 4 per cent a year to the defence budget.

But defence spending was already scheduled to grow in real terms at 3 per cent a year until 1986 under a commitment to Nato. This Nato target alone was

ambitious enough in a period of minimal economic growth, but put the 3 per cent and the Falklands costs together and the increasing demands of defence on public spending become very severe.

The extent of the problem is shown in the Government's public expenditure White Paper published in February, though those plans have been marginally modified by the Chancellor's emergency move in July to reduce public spending by £500m.

Under last February's plans, defence spending, which had for several years been hovering at about 12 per cent of total planned public expenditure, would rise from 12.7 per cent in 1982-83 to 13.3 per cent, 13.6 per cent and finally 13.8 per cent in the following three years, including the military costs of the Falklands.

Given the intense competition for spending resources, these figures represent a substantial shift in Government allocations.

The tension between the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence now arises because of the

Treasury's desire to do what it can to contain the growth of defence spending up to 1986, given the twin Nato and Falklands commitments. But it would also hope to get a much tighter grip from 1986 when it hopes that the Nato growth target will have lapsed, and when Falklands costs are likely to be progressively subsumed within the ordinary defence budget.

In all this there may also be an element of personal political motivation. Mr Michael Heseltine became Secretary of State for Defence in January after nearly all the main post-Falklands policy decisions had been taken.

He is widely seen as having been one of the major successes on the Conservative side in the general election campaign, and Tory backbenchers are already speculating that the very public nature of the Treasury's campaign against defence spending may be part of an effort to cut him down to size as ambitious men begin to manoeuvre for the eventual succession to Mrs Thatcher as leader of the Conservative Party.

In July, defence had to bear almost half of the burden of the £500m public spending cuts which the Treasury demanded. But that may have been only a beginning.

As things stand, it begins to look as though Mr Heseltine and the Ministry of Defence may now be starting to pay the political price for the remarkable successes which Sir John Nott and the department enjoyed last year.

Concluded

MEANWHILE DOWN IN THE FALKLANDS

Sir Rex sends a party night SOS

SIR REX HUNT, Civil Commissioner of the Falklands, is asking a favour of the tourists who will be joining him for a gala party—will they help with the clearing up.

The request was telexed to the London office of the Swedish cruise company, Salen Lindblad, whose ship, the 2500 ton Lindblad Explorer will be taking 92 passengers and crew to the islands in time for Christmas.

Sir Rex, speaking from

Government House at Port Stanley, said more than 300 people were being invited to the New Year's Eve party including people from the Lindblad who are due to arrive on December 13.

"The difficulty is that Government House staff have the day off the following morning. Which means my wife and I and other willing hands have to muck in and clean up.

"Last year the Lindblad sailed early in the morning leaving us with an awful amount of clearing up to do."

There are still 30 places left for the 18-day "Summer in the Antarctic" cruise which costs from £4000 excluding the £700 airfare to the Chilean embark port of Punta Arenas.

The company who have offices in New York has been running the cruise for 16 years with mainly American tourists, scientists and ornithologists, who want to explore some of the world's finest wildlife.

London representative Mr Nigel Lingard, based at Shepherd Street, Mayfair,

said the Falklands war had created more interest in Britain for the islands. "It's a lot of money to pay for a cruise," he said, "But we've got about half a dozen British bookings so far."

He added that the annual New Year's Eve gala party at Government House was a sumptuous event not to be missed. "I'm sure people from the Lindblad, after a great night, won't mind helping with the washing-up."

Sir Rex is also requesting some brandy and fruit which are scarce on the islands.

Australians defend Antarctic Treaty

Canberra: Australia yesterday defended the 24-year-old Antarctic Treaty against an initiative led by Malaysia to secure a more international body to govern the vast ice-bound land mass.

Any attempt to negotiate a new international agreement on Antarctica or renegotiate parts of the treaty would be likely to introduce uncertainty and instability in the region, the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Bill Hayden, said.

Mr Hayden, speaking at the opening of a two-week meeting

of the treaty's 16 consultative countries, said that the pact had been "a uniquely successful cooperative international instrument."

Most important of all, it has guaranteed peace in the region.

Its prohibitions on nuclear explosions and the dumping of nuclear waste and its forbidding of military measures in Antarctica, all verifiable through a mutual system of inspection, have made Antarctica arguably the world's most effective zone of peace.

The treaty, whose signatories

include the United States, the Soviet Union and South Africa, froze all claims and counter-claims in the name of international cooperation and scientific research.

Malaysia, which wants the Antarctic made accessible to all countries as a common heritage, is expected to raise the matter at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, having obtained the support of the Nonaligned Movement at its summit in March.

Mr Hayden by inference hit out at Malaysia's desire to

have the treaty renegotiated. He said: "My Government has made no secret of its concern about the current proposal to raise Antarctica in the UN General Assembly.

"We believe any attempt to negotiate a new international agreement or to renegotiate parts of the treaty would be likely to introduce uncertainty and instability into a region hitherto unparalleled international cooperation."

Meanwhile, Brazil and India yesterday became full consultative members of the Antarctic Treaty. — Reuter.

DAILY
TELEGRAPH

14.9.83

HERMES 'MAKES LAST VOYAGE'

The aircraft carrier Hermes left Portsmouth yesterday for what could be the last time on active service. Hermes, now 30 years old, headed for the Mediterranean on exercises to face an uncertain future when she returns.

Britain's newest aircraft carrier, the Ark Royal, will be ready to join the force in 1985 and the Ministry of Defence have only guaranteed Hermes' future until next year.

14.9.83

Argentina asks for \$300m debt delay

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has asked its foreign bank creditors for a 30-day extension of a waiver on \$300m due to be repaid this Thursday, amid a continuing hold-up in the rescheduling of its \$39bn debt.

The sum is the first tranche of a \$1.1bn short-term bridging loan agreed last December to help Argentina bring interest payments up to date. Repayment of the first tranche has been held up because of delays in the disbursement of the \$1.5bn medium-term loan and the refinancing of \$6bn of state and state-guaranteed debt intended to complete the package.

Reserves have dropped in recent weeks because of the under-invoicing of exports — a speculative reaction to the widening gap between the official and the "black" rate of the dollar on the local foreign exchange market. An estimated \$800m in trade flows has been either lost or delayed.

Citibank, which is head of the committee of banks renegotiating Argentina's debt, said in Buenos Aires yesterday that it had passed on the Central Bank's request for an extension in a telex to foreign creditors last week. The general response was described as positive, but there are still some unnamed banks that are linking the extension to an acceptable solution to the problems of Celulosa Argentina.

A local court decision has excluded foreign creditors from a refinancing plan expected to be put to a creditors' meeting this Friday. Celulosa has total debts of about \$300m, of which \$100m is owed abroad. Foreign bank creditors have been looking for ways to put pressure on the Argentine Government to ensure they are fairly treated.

In a related development yesterday, Sr Julio Gonzalez de Solar, Central Bank Governor, urged politicians to participate in preliminary talks on the rescheduling of some \$10bn in debt falling due next year. The Central Bank is worried by the opposition's continuing refusal to tackle the debt problem as long as the current military government remains in power.

Argentina will have elections on October 30, although the armed forces are not due to hand over government until January 30 next year. Some payments will be maturing, as from January 1.

Hayden cautions against changing Antarctic pact

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Any attempt to establish a new agreement or changes to the existing treaty governing the Antarctic would introduce uncertainty and instability to a region which had seen unprecedented international cooperation, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, told the opening session of the Antarctic Treaty consultative meeting which opened in Canberra yesterday.

Mr Hayden's comments were seen as part of an overall attempt by Australia and other treaty partners to head off any moves, possibly in the United Nations, to have the treaty renegotiated.

Malaysia has already proposed that the UN discusses the Antarctic and this has been interpreted by observers as the first step towards placing the region under international control at the expense of the treaty.

Australia, which claims sovereignty over 40 per cent of the

continent, the largest single territorial claim, has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Although the treaty does not recognize claims to the Antarctic, it provides some protection by recognizing that there are "claimants" to sections of the territory.

Any attempt to revise the treaty could draw attention to Australia's large territorial claim on the region. It could also lead to charges, already voiced in some quarters inside the country, that Australia does not spend enough on Antarctic research and is not committing enough resources to scientific research in the region to justify such a large claim.

The meeting, which will last for two weeks, will also discuss communications and meteorological information in the area, man's impact on the Antarctic environment, the effects of tourism, scientific cooperation, and the continued operation of the Antarctic Treaty.

THE TIMES

14.9.83

Books as a 'danger' to public order

From Mr Graham C. Greene

Sir, A number of reports has appeared in the press during the past few days of books sent to this country from Argentina — destined, in the main, for libraries, universities and research institutes — being impounded by HM Customs and Excise since such imports are, it appears, an infringement of a general ban on imports from and exports to that country.

My own company, moreover, has recently had impounded *one of our own books* which was being returned by an Argentine publisher, who had been considering it for publication. Incidentally, it had no difficulty in getting into Argentina earlier this year.

We should recall that when Rhodesia declared UDI and a similar ban was imposed on trade with that country, books were nevertheless exempted from its provisions, the Government of the day recognizing that nothing can be gained and much can be lost by denying the citizens of one country access to the culture, learning and views of those of another, however inimical those views may be on certain subjects to the majority of one's own compatriots.

The Florence Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials, which aims to further the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and to which Great Britain is a party, lays down that a signatory country may prohibit the importation of materials covered by the agreement if those materials are likely to endanger "national security, public order or public morals".

While Argentina is not a party to the Florence Agreement and Britain is therefore presumably under no obligation to grant ready access to its intellectual products, nevertheless one may assume that Her Majesty's Government will be guided generally by the spirit of the agreement in its attitude to exchanges of the printed word.

If the criteria quoted above are applied to the books currently impounded, there is no evidence that they would produce a state of moral deterioration in their potential British readers, or endanger the safety of the state; nor can it be supposed that even any which made inflated claims for the universal superiority of Argentina's footballers would cause riots on the terraces which would not otherwise occur.

The situation is rendered even more Gilbertian by the fact that the ban does not cover newspapers and magazines. Are books, composed in the calm atmosphere of the author's study or garret, to be regarded as so much more dangerous than reports in the press, compiled in the heat of the moment?

If HM Government recognises the iniquity of what would amount to censorship were British readers not to be allowed access to the Argentine press, surely it must also recognise that the repulsion from our borders of books emanating from Argentina constitutes no less serious an intellectual deprivation.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM C. GREENE,
Managing Director,
Jonathan Cape Limited,
30 Bedford Square, WC1.
September 9.

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Defending the Falklands: 2

Airport adds to cost of fortress

Despite improvements in facilities in the Falkland Islands, Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, says that it remains a hard posting for the troops, and an expensive commitment for Britain.

The maintenance of "Fortress Falklands" constitutes not only a diversion of Britain's armed forces from their Nato role, but also a major logistics effort and drain on financial resources - at least £424m in the present financial year.

It is expected that within the next two to three months all members of the garrison will have been provided with accommodation in the three coastal floating accommodation vessels or in properly built prefabricated camps. The Royal Engineers have done much work in constructing the camps, laying roads and water pipe-lines and other services.

A football pitch, gymnasium and squash courts have been provided, but entertainment still depends heavily on video films. The Falklands remains a hard posting, with troops normally only serving about four months there at a time, with a three to four-week journey at either end.

This frequent rotation of forces across a distance of 8,000 miles adds greatly to the cost and

complexity of maintaining the garrison.

In roughly the past 12 months about 16,000 passengers, the great majority of them servicemen, have been carried to the Falklands by sea and air.

Ascension Island continues to be an essential staging post on the way south, and although the great majority of passengers now make the journey between Ascension and the Falklands by sea, the air-bridge between the islands continues to function at a rate of about five or six round trips every week.

The operation of the air-bridge has been streamlined with the introduction of the Hercules as fuel tanker for in-flight refuelling. This has cut the number of in-flight refuellings on every journey south to two, from the four that were necessary with the smaller capacity of the Victor tankers.

Since the end of the conflict there have probably been about 400 air-bridge flights involving more than 1,100 air-to-air refuellings.

The Ministry of Defence has estimated the cost of maintaining the Falklands' garrison at £424m in the present financial year, £334m in 1984/85 and £232m in 1985/86. These figures include allocations of £220m to meet the

NET COSTS OF FALKLANDS GARRISON			
	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86
	£m	£m	£m
Capital costs			
New airport	80	83	57
Equipment	123	41	-
Works	36	20	-
Total	239	144	57
Running costs	185	190	175
Total	424	334	232

Source: Ministry of Defence

cost of building the new strategic airfield which should become operational in 1985 and be completed in 1986.

These figures, however, understate the real cost of maintaining the Falklands garrison. They exclude, for example, an annual cost put at about £40m for the back-up in terms of ships and men in transit needed to support a large garrison in the Falklands. There are also many who would challenge the assumption that the new airport can be built for about £220m.

These estimates, not unreasonably, relate only to the net additional cost of maintaining the garrison in the Falklands, not the basic costs in men and equipment which would be incurred wherever they are stationed. To arrive

at a true gross cost it is estimated that roughly £230m would have to be added in the current financial year.

As capital construction works, including most notably the new airport, are completed, the net costs of maintaining the garrison will fall significantly, to leave annual net running costs put at about £175m.

There may be some reduction from that figure, because the new airport is expected to achieve annual savings of about £25m in the cost of transporting men and equipment to and from the islands.

With the new airport making it possible to reinforce the garrison very quickly in a crisis, there ought theoretically to be scope for reducing its size from 1986 onwards. However, present indications are that large reductions may not be easy. The elaborate installations being created suggest a sizable garrison.

A handful of Royal Marines cannot be left to defend the new airport, radar installations and storage depots. Short of a negotiated solution to the Falklands problem, a big garrison is likely to be needed for the foreseeable future.

Tomorrow: The political price.

Four days that have torn Chile apart

From Florencia Varas, Santiago

The latest wave of anti-government protests, which claimed 10 dead and 30 wounded, has left Chile a deeply divided country.

During the four days of protests, marking the tenth anniversary of the coup that brought the Pinochet regime to power, the shanty town dwellers around the capital built barricades, burnt tyres and declared their areas "liberated territories from the dictatorship." There were many clashes with the riot police.

There were similar protests throughout the country. In Vina del Mar, a coastal resort an hour from the capital, the highway was blocked on Sunday night with barricades, protesters threw stones at vehicles trying to enter or leave the city, injuring several motorists.

Throughout the weekend, supporters of the military regime energetically manifested their support of President Pinochet, driving through the capital in convoys of cars with Chilean flags flying and sounding their horns, "Pinochet, Pinochet".

The pro-government celebrations began last Friday, with a

three-hour mixed civilian band military demonstration along the main avenue of Santiago.

On Sunday, a few miles from where General Pinochet was delivering his anniversary speech, a group of unemployed fought with stones against the police. The clash claimed the life of a 23-year-old worker. Since the anti-government protests started last May, he was the fifty-fifth civilian to die in the demonstrations.

In his speech, the President reiterated his decision to stay in power until 1989 in accordance with the 1980 constitution. But at the same time, he asked the country for "understanding and sacrifice" to fight the recession.

The former senator and president of the World Christian Democratic Party, Señor Andres Zaldívar, called General Pinochet's address "a speech without any consequences in terms of what the country needs".

"There is nothing new from the political or economic point of view," he said. "The economic announcements are basically superficial and give no solution to the serious economic situation."

End urged to 'crippling' Fortress Falklands

It is not in Britain's interests to spend hundreds of millions of pounds for ever to defend the Falkland Islands, Dr David Owen told the assembly.

Answering at question time on the parliamentary report, the party leader said that he was not arguing that sovereignty should be ceded to the Argentines but that other options, such as a United Nations trusteeship, should be examined.

Britain had locked itself into a damaging "Fortress Falklands" policy which was crippling the defence budget. It was in the best interests of the Falkland islanders to find a solution and Britain's broader interests should also be borne in mind.

He said that the greatest weakness of Mrs Thatcher had been that, at the point of victory, she was not able to show that degree of magnanimity which would have allowed her to open a dialogue with Latin America to chart a way forward for the long-term future of the islands.

There were very serious consequences for Britain's commitments to Nato as a result of the high cost of maintaining so many aircraft, ships and men on the islands. The SDP would do its utmost to get Britain out of "Fortress Falklands".

Earlier, introducing the parliamentary report, Mr John Cartwright, the SDP Chief Whip and

MP for Woolwich, said the parliamentary party had deepened and strengthened its relations with the Liberals.

It was clear that the two old parties were going to connive to keep the Alliance squeezed out of the parliamentary scene. The House of Commons was not recognizing the political reality in the country, which was that there were now two oppositions almost equally poised in terms of the popular vote.

But Mr Cartwright promised: "We may be small in numbers, but we are going to have a very considerable impact on what happens in the House of Commons."

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, MP for Stockton South, said in answer to questions on the SDP's attitude towards the police and Criminal Evidence Bill that there was a powerful case for rationalizing police powers in Britain, but that the Government had been unwilling to do was to give proper priority to citizens' rights.

"We should be looking at the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to see whether the Government has learnt the lessons of the standing committee and the debate in the House and country and introduces a bill that rationalizes police powers and clarifies and strengthens the rights of the citizen", he said.

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13.9.83

Fortress Falklands 'foolish'

THE "impossible and foolish" stance adopted by Mrs Thatcher over the Falklands was attacked by the party leader, Dr David Owen, when the SDP staged a parliamentary question time at its Salford conference yesterday.

Replying to a question by Mr David Moore (Dorset), Dr Owen said the Prime Minister's mistake had been to place such emphasis on the issue of sovereignty when the real issue had been that of Argentinian aggression. It was illogical of her to concede the idea of lease-back to Hong Kong, for instance, but to refuse even to have it on the table for the Falklands.

If the SDP were to form a government it would have to chart a way forward for the Falklands, possibly by looking at the prospects for United Nations trusteeship of the islands.

The Government had locked itself into a Fortress Falklands policy which had grave implications for Britain's defence policy generally. The country simply could not afford to commit itself to spending countless millions of pounds in perpetuity on the Falklands, as well as replacing Polaris with Trident and increasing its spending in Nato.

FINANCIAL TIMES

13.9.83

Plea for end to 'crippling cost' of Falklands policy

BRITAIN needs to escape from the crippling cost of the Prime Minister's "fortress Falklands" policy, Dr David Owen told the conference yesterday.

Speaking during a question and answer session he said it had been Mrs Thatcher's "greatest weakness" that at the point of victory over the Argentine invaders she had lacked the magnanimity to allow the opening of a dialogue on the future of the islands, not just with the regime in Buenos Aires, but with all the interested Latin American states.

Dr Owen maintained that it was not worth spending hund-

reds of millions of pounds in perpetuity to finance the Fortress Falklands policy and again suggested that the placing of the islands under a United Nations trusteeship was one of the alternatives which should be considered.

He referred to "hints of resignation" from Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, who was becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of financing the fortress Falklands policy on the rest of the defence budget.

Dr Owen commented: "He has looked at the arithmetic and knows it does not add up."

Details of Belgrano sinking questioned

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP whose persistent questioning of the Falklands war has led to contradictory official statements about the sinking of the General Belgrano, said last night that the submarine HMS Conqueror was watching the Argentine cruiser refuel at sea 4,000 yards away during the morning of May 1 last year, 24 hours before it was sunk.

He said his sources were first-hand and British.

Despite the Government's initial statement that the Belgrano was first sighted on May 2,

Commander Christopher Wreford-Brown, the senior officer of the Conqueror, stated later that he had been following the cruiser for 30 hours before he received orders to sink her.

Asked why the Government's white paper on the Falklands conflict repeated that the Belgrano was detected on May 2 and not the previous day, Lady Young, in the most recent government statement on the incident, told the House of Lords on July 13 that the document "was not intended to indicate when the cruiser was first located."

Mr Dalyell, who was speaking



Tam Dalyell: 'Cruiser being watched before sinking'

at a Labour Party meeting in Sunderland, said that doubts remained about what exactly Mr Michael Foot said in private about the incident to the broadcaster, Sir Robin Day. During a debate at the Edinburgh Television Festival two weeks ago, Sir Robin said that Mr Foot had told him privately during the election campaign that Mrs Thatcher had no option but to sink the cruiser.

It is now understood that Mr Foot did not use these words.

13.9.83

THE TIMES DIARY

War casualty

Ian McDonald, the Ministry of Defence spokesman who became a television celebrity as a latter-day Valentine Dyall last year, was tipped to become chief press officer of Nato. This would have meant that he could have done for the West in World War III what he did for Britain during the Falklands. We have all had a lucky escape. He was pipped at the post by the German nominee.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

13.9.83

FORTRESS FALKLANDS 'MISTAKEN'

By WALTER ABURN

A PROMISE that Social Democrat MPs would do their utmost to escape the dilemma of the "Fortress Falklands" situation, was made by Dr David Owen in an interlude of conference questions.

He said that Mrs Thatcher's great mistake was her decision to make the Falklands issue one of sovereignty rather than of military aggression by the Argentine Junta.

Over Hongkong he said she had had to concede sovereignty was a subject for negotiation. In the case of the Falklands he believed some sort of trusteeship should be considered.

At the point of victory, Mrs Thatcher's weakness was her inability to show a degree of magnanimity necessary to open a dialogue with Latin America about the best way forward.

Defence spending

Britain could not continue with Trident, with fortress Falklands and with increased defence spending. It was not in our interest to spend hundreds of millions of pounds to defend the Falklands in perpetuity.

All that Argentina had to do was to arrange for periodic flyovers of the maritime zone to force Britain to keep Phantoms and a garrison on the islands.

The current policy was impossible and foolish. It locked Britain deeper and deeper into the mire. Having seen that situation, Mr Heseltine knew that it did not add up.

Falkland lesson 'no
delay to new frigates'

DAILY TELEGRAPH
13.9.83

Daily Mail
13.9.83

SDP

CONFERENCE

'Heseltine is opposed to Fortress Falklands'

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Heseltine is opposed to the 'Fortress Falklands' policy, Dr Owen claimed. Mr Heseltine 'knows the arithmetic does not add up,' he said, and he pledged that a Social Democrat Government, would prepare for early talks to end the commitment. Argentina had Britain over a barrel, he warned. They had to spend very little—while Mrs Thatcher was crippling the defence budget and endangering NATO strategy by pouring vast sums into the defence of the islands.

Navy may opt for smaller ships

Falkland lesson 'no delay to new frigate'

By DESMOND WETTERN Naval Correspondent

TENDERS are to be sought from shipbuilders for the first of 12 planned Type 23 frigates for the Navy a programme worth a total of around £1,300 million. by the end of this year.

Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Controller of the Navy, giving details of the Type 23, denied yesterday that the designing had been seriously delayed and that lessons learned in the Falklands had added to the time taken to order them.

The claim in last year's report by the Commons Defence Committee that progress on the ships' design would be still further put back by the Falklands conflict was wrong, he said.

Although the Navy's ship designers have been working on a variety of lighter and cheaper frigate designs throughout the 1970s, Admiral Bryson indicated that the Type 23 owed little to previous studies, but lessons gained in last year's conflict would be fully incorporated.

Missile tubes

A feature of the Type 23 will be 32 vertical launch tubes for SeaWolf missile to provide defence against low-flying aircraft and sea-skimming anti-ship missiles.

Launching the missiles vertically from tubes rather than from manually loaded ramps, as in existing ships, will give a much higher rate of fire in the event of an attack by several aircraft or missiles from different directions.

But as a model on the British Shipbuilders' stand showed at the Royal Naval equipment exhibition at Portsmouth, where he was speaking—the earlier Type 24 lightweight frigate, a concept abandoned in favour of the Type 23 in 1978, was to have carried 48 SeaWolf missiles in vertical launch tubes.

Admiral Bryson said he still hoped the first Type 23 will be completed by 1988, the 1981 target date.

He favoured the ships being ordered in batches of perhaps up to three a year, since there would be obvious advantages for the taxpayer in reducing production costs—something that Yarrow Shipbuilders, who have a £16 million contract to develop the design, have been stressing.

Complementary design

But the Navy was conscious of the need to cut costs and the possibility of building a new light warship that might be termed a corvette was being considered. It was hoped to build three for the price of one Type 23 frigate.

Admiral Bryson stressed that the new ship, upon which design work has not yet started, would be complementary to existing destroyers and frigates and would in no way replace them.

The Portsmouth exhibition, at which some 213 British companies have taken stands, is to be formally opened today by Mr Pattie, Minister for Defence Procurement.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

12.9.83

R N R TO RESCUE OF WOODWARD

Rear-Adml Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, the Falklands Task Force commander, was taken in tow by a Royal Naval Reserve fast patrol vessel after his yacht was dismasted in high winds yesterday south-east of the Isle of Wight.

Adml Woodward, a member of Hayling Island Sailing Club, and two companions were towed into Chichester harbour.

FINANCIAL TIMES

12.9.83

Navy may opt for smaller ships

BY BRIDGET BLOOM, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ROYAL NAVY is considering building smaller and simpler warships in a move which could signal a break with post-war tradition. The aim would be to prevent any further decline in the number of warships and to contain costs.

New warships, somewhere between a modern 3,700-ton frigate and a much smaller coastal patrol ship, should cost about £30m-£35m at present prices or about one third of the estimated cost of the Navy's newest frigate design, the Type 23.

Announcing the move yesterday, Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryceson, Controller of the Navy, in charge of naval procurement in the Ministry of Defence, said that the new ship could not be as powerful as the Navy's present frigates. But it would have a very useful peacetime

role as a deterrent and as an intelligence gatherer in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation area and in such areas as the south Atlantic or the Gulf. It would also have a "very worthwhile weapon capability" and there should be export potential.

Admiral Bryceson, speaking at the Royal Naval Equipment Exhibition in Portsmouth, said it was early days in the formulation of designs for the ship but his announcement was seen by many observers as the first real sign that the Royal Navy was prepared to be more flexible in the face of new ideas in ship design and ever-rising costs.

In the last two years private ship designers have sought to interest the Government in a warship which would be short and fat compared with the long,

slim lines of traditional vessels. Admiral Bryceson said that this design, dubbed S90 and produced by Thornycroft Giles associates, could be considered.

The MoD is evaluating the results of trials of S90 models. The proposed vessel has raised controversy in naval circles with particular criticism of its sea-keeping qualities.

Admiral Bryceson made it clear yesterday that the new ships were not to be seen as an alternative to the Type 23 frigates. The first order for this should go to British Shipbuilders next year and would be the first of at least eight vessels to be ordered, he said.

But he noted that, given financial constraints, there would have to be a "trade off" between the numbers of Type 23s and smaller ships.

BAe defends bid, Page 6

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Buccaneers bolster striking power

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The next few months will see the placing in position of some key bricks in the defensive arrangements that Britain has been patiently building in the Falkland Islands for the past 15 months.

New radar installations are in the final stages of construction and they are said to be beginning to provide excellent cover.

Later this year three patrol boats will arrive there, as will a container ship which has been converted to serve as an auxiliary aircraft carrier, providing a forward base for helicopter operations.

The vessels will be particularly useful for patrolling the remote coastal waters of West Falkland against any risk of the Argentines being tempted into making a sally into that area. They will also make it possible to reduce by one the number of escort ships that the Royal Navy maintains there.

The size of the Falklands garrison is concealed by the Government for security reasons, the official line being to say no more than that it exceeds 3,000 people.

The basic garrison is made up of:

- Army: There is a strong battalion group, which is formed of an Infantry battalion with artillery and air defence forces, augmented by signals and logistics units, and by a variable number of Royal Engineers.

The engineers tend to be there in strength during the construction season of the South Atlantic summer. It is thought that at a peak they alone may number more than 1,000. It is commanded by the equivalent of a brigade headquarters designed to be able to assimilate reinforcements should they be needed.

- Royal Air Force: The basic strength is thought to be roughly a squadron of Phantom supersonic fighters, and possibly a slightly smaller number of Harrier jump-jets and a considerable number of helicopters. There are also units of the RAF Regiment to provide defence of the radar and airfield installations.

- Royal Navy: It is thought that there are usually four or five frigates and destroyers in the area, and probably a nuclear-powered submarine.

In the statement in July on the defence estimates, there was

a little-noticed remark that "our capacity to deploy rapid reinforcements from the United Kingdom has been tested." In a sense that ability was tested when a squadron of Phantoms first flew to Port Stanley last autumn, but there is thought also to have been an exercise last autumn in which attack aircraft, probably Buccaneers,

were flown out using air-to-air refuelling. The ability to deploy Buccaneers rapidly would add a new dimension to the defence of the Falklands for they would provide both a valuable maritime patrol capability and, if the need arose, the ability to attack air bases in the Argentine, a practical threat which the

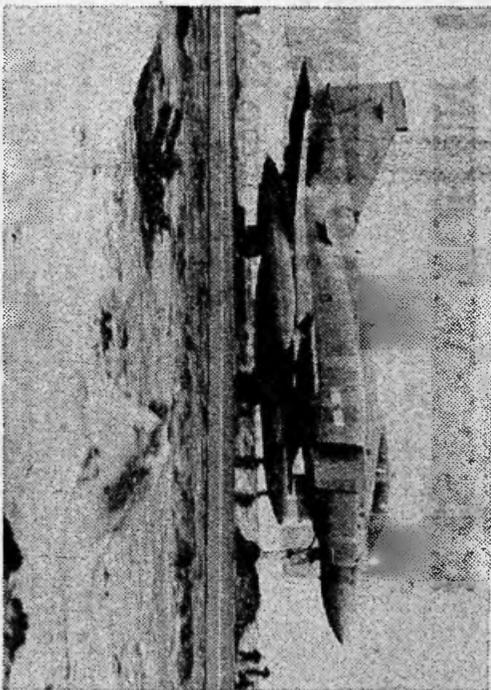
Argentines did not have to face during last year's conflict.

The ability to make rapid reinforcements hinges on the RAF's air-to-air refuelling capability, and that is being steadily improved through the conversion of VC10s and Hercules transport aircraft to the tanker role. It will be increased further, beginning next year, as six Tristar wide-bodied jet aircraft begin to enter service after conversion to act as tankers.

However, the biggest enhancement of the ability to send out rapid reinforcements will not in fact arise until the new strategic airport comes into service. Work on it is beginning and the runway capable of taking wide-bodied jets is expected to be usable by April, 1985.

The Army's position has been made easier than it otherwise would have been by the fact that over the past five or six years there has been a steady reduction in the number of troops required in Northern Ireland, the number having fallen from about 15,000 in 1977 to probably about 10,000 now.

Tomorrow: The cost of Fortress Falklands



The first Phantom, backbone of the RAF, landing at Stanley.

In from the cold

It is ironic that the South - as defined by the Brandt Commission, most of the world's underdeveloped countries - should have had so little to do with the Southern Ocean and Antarctica over the years. All that will change tomorrow when the 14 Antarctic Treaty consultative parties meet in Canberra. On the agenda is an application for consultative status membership by India which has confused some of her non-aligned partners. They have tended to follow Malaysia's lead in insisting that Antarctica, like the sea bed, should be a "global commons" open to all and exploited by none. India has already sent an expedition there and some say is already behaving like a would-be exploiter. Oil, platinum, copper and, of course, fish could be at stake. China is also coming on strong. The issue of how and whether to "govern" the Antarctic is to be debated at the UN General Assembly a week after the Canberra meeting, and fireworks are possible. It would not be the first time that the ideals of the underprivileged had given way to greed as soon as relief was in sight.

Falklands to get hospital

A small hospital is to be built in a remote part of the Falklands Islands in preparation for the 2,000 people who will build the island's £200m airport.

The £100,000 unit, which will employ a surgeon and four nurses, is due to be open at the beginning of next year and will be sited about thirty-five miles from Port Stanley, near the proposed airport site.

Mr John Silver, managing director of Medco international, said yesterday that the hospital would be initially for the use of the airport workers, but later would be available to the islanders when the project had been completed.

Defending the Falklands, page 4

Gurkha horrors 'lie'

from JIMMY BURNS in Buenos Aires

A SENIOR Argentine officer has refuted allegations that British troops committed atrocities during the Falklands War. This would appear to be the closing chapter on a horror tale once avidly promoted by a combination of British propaganda and Latin imagination.

According to Captain Hugo Robacio, who commanded troops of 5 Marine Battalion in the final battle for Port Stanley, the British 'acted with courage' and 'not under the influence of drugs' and 'did not behave cruelly by killing the wounded.'

'On the contrary, many of our heroic wounded had their lives saved thanks to the help of the enemy,' Captain Robacio said.

The unprecedented tribute to British valour obtained by *The Observer* last week is contained in an internal document of the Argentine Navy. It forms part of the evidence still being screened by the Argentine military in their belated and controversial post-mortem examination of the war.

'I have no evidence, in spite of the fact that I fought against them personally and that some of my men were captured by them, that the Gurkhas cut the throats of anyone. This was just good psychological warfare on the part of the enemy aimed at undermining our morale,' Captain Robacio said.

Throughout the Falklands War, the Argentines were subjected to carefully-leaked information from the British Ministry of Defence referring to the Gurkhas' battle traditions. Senior British officers have admitted that many stories, such as the Gurkhas' alleged penchant for taking their enemies' ears as trophies, were allowed to circulate to demoralise the enemy.

It is significant that the latest report has been written not by an Anglophile but by a captain who earned a reputation as a hardliner for his refusal at one point to obey General Menéndez's orders to surrender.

Meanwhile, the military's official post-mortem examination of the war is understood to have been completed. Argentina's equivalent of the Franks Report, contained in 15 thick, type-written volumes will be presented for consideration by the ruling military junta on 19 September.

ARTHUR GAVSHON reports: Britain has chosen a skilled diplomat for a special double-mission — to serve as Ambassador in Uruguay and to begin mending fences with neighbouring Argentina.

Charles William Wallace sets

out on his delicate mission about mid-October. From his embassy in Montevideo he will be well placed to observe the transition to civilian rule across the River Plate.

He had been serving as Ambassador to Peru, a country of more than 17 million people since 1979. On the face of things his transfer to Uruguay, with a population with around three million, could have been construed by some as a step-down.

In fact, according to colleagues, his new appointment was a promotion. Wallace is one of the most experienced Latin American specialists in the diplomatic service. He has served not only in Argentina but also in Guatemala, Panama, Mexico, Paraguay and proudly holds the Order of the Aztec Eagle.

LETTERS

Gibraltar's future

SIR—Your article "Foundering on the Rock" (August 20th) distorts the real issues. In April, 1980, the British and Spanish governments signed an agreement at Lisbon under which all restrictions would be lifted and negotiations would commence to resolve all the differences between the two countries over Gibraltar. Since then there has been a long history of non-implementation by the Spanish government. To give Spain anything in anticipation of implementation of the Lisbon deal would merely condone the Spanish breach of the agreement.

I am surprised that you should suggest that Britain should give the Spaniards some of the same rights that Gibraltarians enjoy in Gibraltar. You give as an example the right to work, which you state they will be given anyway if Spain joins the EEC. Everybody knows that if Spain joins the EEC there will in fact be a long period of transition. If EEC countries find it necessary to protect themselves from the free inflow of Spanish labour, is it surprising that Gibraltar (with an unemployment problem and an area of 2½ square miles) should seek to protect itself from being overrun by Spanish labour from its immediate neighbouring area where the rate of unemployment is 35%?

The Spanish government has opened the frontier for pedestrians but only to Spanish nationals and British passport holders resident in Gibraltar. Apart from the discriminatory manner of the opening of the frontier, making unfair distinctions between a British passport holder in Gibraltar and a British passport holder for example in the Costa del Sol, the Spanish government has set up a customs regime which does not allow any goods to pass through the frontier into Spain. This causes the Gibraltar economy serious problems because of a large outflow of money with no corresponding inflow.

Gibraltar Leader of the opposition
PETER J. ISOLA

As usual you have come up with some sensible suggestions (August 20th). To some extent, letting Spaniards use Gibraltar airport and a joint scheme to promote tourism in the area go together. At present there is no Spanish airport between Jerez and Seville to the west and Malaga to the east. Using Gibraltar airport to serve the region in between could only help efforts to promote tourism.

I would go even further, however, and this is where the Spanish authorities could use some imagination. When the naval dockyard eventually closes Gibraltar is going to have an unemployment problem. Why not therefore have a joint scheme, together with their unemployed counterparts in Spain, to make things these bilingual dockyard men are good at, such as large metal structures which need lots of welding—oil rigs, sections of bridges, etc?

Above all I think it is necessary to get the problem in the right perspective. In 1704, when it was captured, the fortress of Gibraltar controlling the entrance to the Mediterranean made sense. In 1783 it continued to make

sense and 1983 also, although perhaps a bit less. But in 1983 it does not and is an obstacle to friendly relations with Spain and to the unity of the west.

Cadiz, Spain J. R. MILLBANK

THE ECONOMIST

10-16 September 1983

Gotcha—Argie books

It is hard to imagine a policy more philistine and self-defeating than that under which the British government is withholding at least 1,000 books from their rightful owners. The filched property includes a review copy, sent gratis to the joint editor of a distinguished British review, of the history (written partly by British scholars) of a city with which Britain has had for a century or so an intimate connection. Here is the reason: the city is Buenos Aires.

In its post-Falklands indignation the British government has banned commerce with the Argentine ex-enemy. That may be fair enough when the enemy refuses to accept its defeat and re-establish commercial and other relations. The official spokesmen say that such a ban must include books, since books are bought and sold, and it would be impossible to discriminate between categories of goods.

But the import of newspapers and periodicals is permitted. Are they not bought and sold? Yes, but it is important to know what Argentina is thinking. Do not books, even poems, tell what nations are thinking? Well, er, yes, but there must be no discrimination between categories of imports. But

On arrival at a British port from an Argentine address parcels are inspected by customs: if the contents are seized the addressee is notified of his right to appeal. All likely recipients of Argentine goods have already been told that appealing is useless. After 28 days the books are forfeit to the Crown. The commissioners of customs, the Crown's custodians, may then do with them as they will: they hint that books might be re-exported for sale in other countries. Presumably then the original addressee may buy them in, say, France, and import them in plain envelopes.

Most intended British recipients of books from Argentina are wholly or partly funded by the public: they include the British Library, the Bodleian, research institutes smiled upon by the foreign office. They are being treated abominably, and asked to join in a subterfuge unworthy of the most corrupt third-world dictatorship.

Book-burning has acquired a bad name this century: the British authorities are unlikely to go that far. So the librarians, scholars and readers frustrated by this foolishness had better sit tight. Sooner or later those books must be let out of their prisons.

Few Falklands troops cracked under strain

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Psychiatric disorders among troops from both sides in the Falklands campaign were remarkably low, British and Argentine doctors have told the World Congress of Psychiatry.

Only 21 of the British wounded, 3.6 per cent, suffered from mental illness, and only 1.5 per cent from a combat reaction. Another eight were treated for depression, and three for alcoholism, stress-induced dizziness and extreme pain reaction.

The Argentines reported similar figures; only 3 per cent of their casualties suffered from psychiatric disorders. Both the British and Argentine doctors had expected more cases because of previous experience of war casualties. Dr Carlos Collazo, psychiatric adviser to the Argentine army, told the congress that he had found it difficult to believe the rate was so low until he learnt that the British experience had been similar.

Doctors on both sides experi-

enced difficulties in working during the conflict, according to a report of the congress in *BMA News Review*. Surgeon Commander Morgan O'Connell, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Naval Hospital, Gosport, who sailed with the task force, said the news of "a shrink" on board ship was greeted with the same enthusiasm as an accompanying albatross would have been.

Dr O'Connell had to adopt a pseudonym when transferring patients on board other ships

● Families of servicemen killed in the Falklands campaign plan a return trip to the islands after their pilgrimage to the graves last April.

The Falklands Families Association, which was formed during the voyage on the Cunard Countess and includes 178 families, hopes to return in 1986 as the first charter flight to arrive at the new Port Stanley airfield.



THE TIMES DIARY

Disinviting

The blame Sir Robin Day attached to Tam Dalyell for his embarrassment at the Edinburgh television festival continues to reverberate within the BBC. This week Dalyell published his book *A Science Policy for Britain*, the result of work begun at Michael Foot's request in December 1980, when Dalyell was Labour's front-bench spokesman on science. It had been arranged that he was to appear on BBC television in Scotland and on the BBC's Radio 4 *Start the Week*. Both arrangements fell through at the last moment. In Scotland Dalyell was told, half an hour before he was due, that he was not needed and was advised that the subject would be "stale kale" thereafter. *Start the Week* said they abandoned his appearance because his publishers had failed to telephone. Dalyell suspects some connexion in all this, but was not sunk as definitively as the Belgrano. The independent LBC have him an hour-long phone-in.

side

EEC AID FOR FISHING BOATS

By Our Shipping
Correspondent

Nearly 50 British fishing ports are to benefit from £3,548,000 Common Market aid to help build boats at places as far apart as Falmouth, Lerwick, Abersytwyth, Selsey, Scarborough and Oban.

HOPE FOR ARMY CUT IN ULSTER

By HUGH DAVIES

WITH "informers" now providing significant information on key figures in the Provisional IRA and UVF leaderships in Belfast, hope, albeit slender, is emerging of a reduction in Army strength.

Officially, 10,000 soldiers are still on duty with 7,200 UDR men in the province, costing the taxpayer £96 million a year. Before the troubles, 3,000 men were garrisoned in Ulster. In 1972, the figures was more than 21,000.

Six infantry battalions are on "resident" tours for two years accompanied, and the suggestion is that the Army, which now acts in a support role to the police, would like to reduce the level to 8,00 or even lower.

Vast amounts have been budgeted for maintaining the garrison in the Falklands, where about 4,000 troops are in position.

Fingers crossed

The figure for the current year is £624 million, with a further £684 million for 1984/85 and £552 million for 1985/86.

In Northern Ireland, fingers are quietly being crossed that the "supergrass" strategy is becoming effective, despite the second thoughts of some informers who, under intimidation, are withdrawing their statements to police.



Oops, what a howler! The Falklands Island stamp complete with wrong helicopter.

Helicopter stamp flies into trouble

HERE'S a stamp that's causing a few blushes.

It was produced here for sale in the Falklands—and someone's allowed a real schoolboy howler to slip through.

If you know anything about helicopters, you'll spot the mistake straight away. The caption (at the top of the stamp) says that the helicopter is a Wessex.

But—yes, you guessed it—it ISN'T! It's a completely different chopper called a Whirlwind.

The stamp is part of a Falkland Islands Dependencies set due for release in October, and is pictured in colour on the cover of next month's Philatelic Magazine.

The Crown Agents, who produce stamps for the Falklands, said: "Sometimes a

mistake can creep through despite all the careful checking."

Is the stamp worth adding to your collection?

It would be—but you won't be able to. The issue is being scrapped and a new one printed with the right words. Shame!

Falkland resident going home



THE oldest resident of the Falkland Islands, who has been living in Britain since the conflict started in April last year, is returning, because he is homesick.

Mr Archie Short, aged 85, a retired shepherd, who has lived with his daughter in Gedling, Nottinghamshire, since he fled from Port Stanley, said yesterday: "I was born and bred there and I want to go back. I miss Falklands cooking."

THE TIMES
9.9.83

Falklands play angers the Army

By David Hewson

Thames Television faces its second complaint from the Army in two months over its portrayal of British soldiers.

Senior army public relations staff are to press Mr John Stanley, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, to make a formal complaint about a Thames schools play about the Falklands, *A Game of Soldiers*, which is due to begin transmission on September 28.

The play depicts the dilemma facing a group of Falkland children who find a wounded Argentine soldier during the retaking of the islands last year. During the arguments among the children, one of them says that he has heard that Falkland Islanders have been massacring Argentine transcripts.

Mr Peter Tabern, the play's producer and director, said yesterday that the reference was not meant to be taken literally and was refuted by other characters in the play. The production, which is to appear in three 15-minute parts, was seen by representatives of the Falkland Islands Government in London yesterday who also objected to its content, but Mr Tabern said that he did not intend to make any alterations to the programme.

Two months ago the Army complained about the transmission of a play in the same series which it claimed depicted young soldiers terrorizing civilians in Wales. That complaint was made after the play was transmitted, but in the latest instance, Mr Stanley, who is now in the United States, will be asked to register a protest with the Independent Broadcasting Authority in advance of the showing.

The Army objects to the allegation of civilian atrocities, which it says are unfounded, something which Thames does not contest.

THE GUARDIAN
9.9.83

Daily Mail 9.9.83

Homesick Archie

THE Falklands' oldest resident, Mr Archie Short, 85, who came to stay with his daughter in Gedling, Nottinghamshire, last year when the conflict started, is returning next month because 'I'm homesick and miss the cooking.'

FINANCIAL TIMES
9.9.83

Peron 'will return when civilian rule restored'

MADRID — Ex-Argentine President Maria Estela Peron has broken months of silence on her intentions and declared that she does not want to return home until civilian rule is restored, officials close to her said here yesterday.

Sra Peron would only break her resolve to return to Buenos Aires before the end of the military dictatorship if her pre-

sence was deemed absolutely necessary for the Peronists to win the October elections.

Sra Peron, who was ousted by the military in 1976 and came to live in Spain in 1981, said she did not want to make any political declarations until the Argentine armed forces had returned to the barracks. Reuter

DAILY TELEGRAPH
9.9.83

MoD 'over-reacting' says Thames TV

By HUGH DAVIES

THAMES TELEVISION accused the Ministry of Defence of "a gross over-reaction" yesterday in complaining about teachers' notes issued with a schools television series based on the Falklands conflict.

The three-part series, "A Game of Soldiers," is to be transmitted from Sept. 28.

The notes suggest that children be given the opportunity to "carry out some research work on war."

They say: "What do the children already know about World Wars 1 and 2, for example? Why do wars happen? Where is there a war going on now? (A discussion on Ireland could be very relevant here)."

This has upset the military, which points out that the Army's role in Ulster has always been in support of the civilian authorities.

Discussion 'dangerous'

A Ministry of Defence spokesman stressed yesterday that no declaration of war had been made in the province.

Defence Ministers are now to be asked to complain to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the notes.

Brig David Ramsbotham, the Army's Director of Public Relations, said that the Ulster question was so complicated that

a discussion of it in relation to the programme about modern warfare could be dangerous. The instructions were not clear, he said.

He said: "The Army's role in Ireland is to support the police, and teachers may not be in a position of sufficient knowledge to draw that distinction."

Thames said that it was bemused by the Ministry's reaction and was going ahead with the screenings.

Officials said the notes were aimed at stimulating discussion about what was happening in places like Belfast. For example, if bombs were going off and bullets flying on the streets, did children consider that to be a war?

THE TIMES
9.9.83

Dispute over Belize

From the Prime Minister of Belize

Sir, There are three facts to remember when referring to the article on Belize by Mr George Walden (August 12) and a letter in *The Times* of August 23.

Belize was never a part of Guatemala. It was a geographic entity within its existing borders at the time Guatemala declared its independence from Spain.

Belize desires a settlement of the unfounded claim without prejudice to its sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

Belize understands, appreciates and thanks the people and Government of the United Kingdom for the British military presence as a factor of security and stability in a turbulent region.

Sincerely,
GEORGE PRICE,
Belmopan,
Cayo District,
Belize,
Central America.
September 1.

McMillan-Scott Associates Public Affairs

41 Whitehall London SW1A 2BZ Telephone: 01-930 6935

The Royal Air Force

The middle and late years of this decade will constitute one of the great pivotal periods in the history of the Royal Air Force. Last year it ceased to operate heavy strategic bombers, though a few of the V-bomber force, which entered service in the 1950s to carry Britain's independent deterrent, still linger on in other roles. And now a series of developments are in train which will update the RAF - a service still largely based on 1950s and 1960s technology - so as to meet the threats of the 1980s and 1990s.

These developments include:

● The arrival in service in both Britain and West Germany of the Tornado GR-1 strike/interdictor aircraft. The first squadrons of these aircraft are already operating.

● From about 1985/86 the arrival of the F2 air defence version of the Tornado.

● The ground-based systems for the defence of British airspace - radar, command and control and communications systems - are being substantially renewed and these should be operational during 1986.

● The introduction of the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning

aircraft, which will operate in conjunction with Nato's AWACS and with the ground radars. The combination of these three will mean that the radar coverage of the air space around the United Kingdom, to a distance of more than 1,000 miles, will be very greatly improved.

● Partly as a result of the lessons learnt in the Falklands conflict, the RAF's capacity for in-flight refuelling is being very greatly extended. This facility was already being enlarged before the Falklands crisis by the conversion of VC-10s to tankers, but under the pressure of events Vulcan bombers and Hercules transports were also rapidly converted, and since then the RAF has bought six TriStars, also to serve as tankers.

● The Tornado strike/interdictor aircraft are recognized as being at present inadequately armed. But from about 1986 they will be equipped with two new and very advanced weapons: the JP-33 system for destroying enemy runways, and the British Aerospace/Marconi Alarm anti-radar missiles.

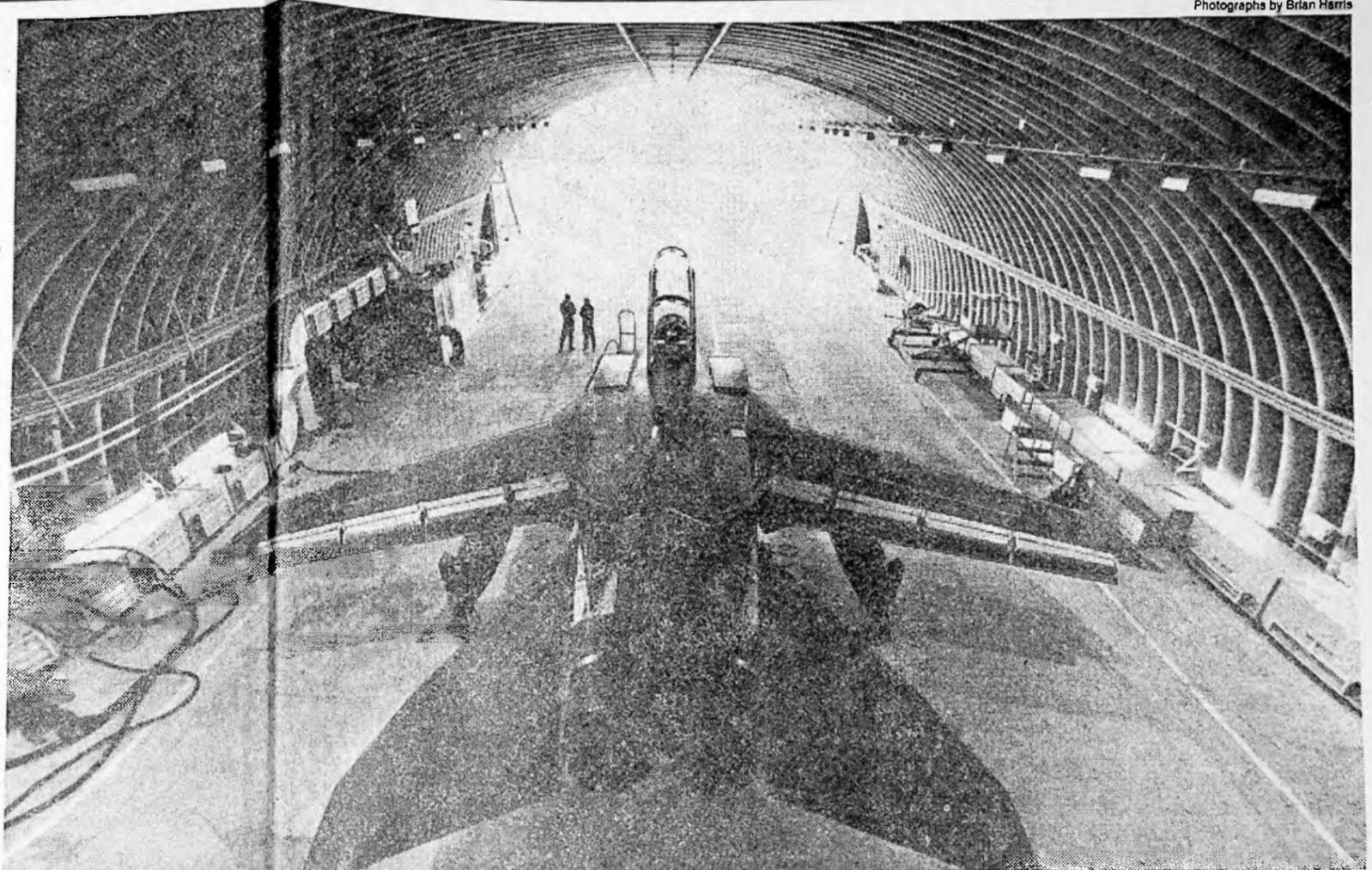
In the 1960s and 1970s the RAF was in the doldrums, constrained by inadequate resources and by changing assess-

ments of what its role should be. Throughout this period it was rationalizing its structure, a process which continues today with a merger imminent of No 1 Group, based at Bawtry, with No 38 Group, based at Upavon.

This process has seen the disappearance of the most famous commands in the history of the service. Fighter Command, Bomber Command, Coastal Command and many others have all disappeared. Today there are just three commands: Strike Command, Support Command and RAF Germany.

By the end of this year Strike, the dominant command, will have been reorganized into only three UK-based groups: No 1 covering strike and air transport and offensive support operations, No 11 handling air defence, and No 18 covering maritime operations plus a headquarters operation in Cyprus.

Developments of this sort are reflected in the RAF's claim to be one of the most efficient air forces in the world, with one of the lowest manpower-to-aircraft ratios anywhere, and with a smaller proportion of the very highest ranks than either the Army or the Royal Navy.



A Tornado of 27 Squadron in a bomb-proof hangar at RAF Marham, Norfolk

Rodney Cowton, The Times Defence Correspondent, talks to Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff

Sir Keith, how do you see the state of the Royal Air Force today, and its capability to meet the demands made of it?

Sir Keith Williamson: I count myself very fortunate to take over as Chief of the Air Staff at the particular time I did because it is the very time that there is coming to fruition the largest reequipment programme that the RAF has been involved in during my time in the air force, bar perhaps the rapid post-Korean War expansion in the early 1950s when the Hunters and Swifts came in.

The present programme, with the Tornado at its centre, is providing us with a giant leap forward in our capability, not, I might say, before time because the aircraft that the Tornado is replacing are old and certainly obsolescent and we needed something to take us into the 1980s and 1990s but that is now being done.

Tornado, the Airborne Early Warning Nimrod and the improved UK Air Defence Ground Environment all mean that our operational capability is as high as

I have known it, and this has coincided with an improvement in the morale of the people in the Service.

We have come up now a long way from what I regarded as a slough of depression that we were in in the mid-70s when there is no gainsaying that morale in all three Services was pretty low as a result of the 1974 defence review, and the poor pay and conditions in the Services existing at that time.

We had people queuing up to leave the Service, and we were actually having to stop them from going, and so we had a lot of reluctant officers and senior NCOs. We have come a long way since those days.

It would be surprising if we had not because there are three million unemployed in this country and we can be fairly choosy at the recruiting counter. And this has also had its effect on the people we have got in the Service, so that we can retain them. So I think both morale and professional competence are much higher than they have been for a long time.

It is an excellent coincidence that new equipment is coming in at a time when the quality of our personnel is very high and the morale of those people is very high. So I think the RAF at the moment is in very good shape indeed.

What general conclusions relating to the RAF would you draw from the Falklands conflict?

Sir Keith: I don't think there are any new lessons that we have extracted from the Falklands operation, but there are an enormous number of old lessons that have been reemphasized and confirmed.

Certainly the experience has made us shift the emphasis on to in-flight refuelling capability, both in terms of having tankers to give fuel and expanding the capability of the majority of our aircraft to receive it. All our front-line fixed-wing aircraft for the future will have a capability to take on fuel.

The Falklands experience, combined I might say, with the experience of the Israeli air force in the Bekaa Valley, has, of course, also underlined what we

knew to be some of the shortcomings with our older aircraft - that we had inadequate electronic warfare and electronic counter-measures capability, and that we had inadequate chaff dispenser and decoy capability.

These are being rectified perhaps more quickly than they would have been if we had not had the Falklands experience, although they always appeared on our priority list. We have known about the deficiency but we have not had the money to fill the gap. We are now making sure it is patched in time.

But of course it is a complex business. It so happens that because we now have the airframes in the Tornado we are able to concentrate on the protective measures.

Until the Tornado came into service most of our energies and nearly all our money was concentrated on getting the Tornado into the air. But the John Nott defence review of 1981 in my view quite rightly laid emphasis on the need for improved weapons fits, and that was confirmed in the Falklands war. Many of the measures we are now taking were well in hand before the Falklands crisis.

For example, the JP-233 airfield denial weapon which has now been ordered in substantial numbers has been in the process of development for quite a long time. The Falklands experience

just underlined the importance of it and perhaps made the formal procuring of it that much easier.

How stretched is the RAF as a result of its deployment in the Falklands?

Sir Keith: Clearly when one moves resources that have been procured for the Nato role to another role it can only be done to the detriment of our ability to meet the Nato commitments. But having said that, we are taking steps to replace the equipment and people that are stationed in the Falklands, and by next year, for instance, we shall have the buy of the Phantom F-4Js from the United States navy replacing those aircraft that are down in the Falklands, and they will be deployed in the defence of the UK.



Sir Keith Williamson: "Operational capability is as high as I

We are doing the same with additional buys of Rapiers and helicopters, so in the long run the Falklands will not be a great burden to carry.

Just how important is the enhanced capability for in-flight refuelling going to be, not only in the context of the Falklands, but more generally in relation to the RAF's Nato commitments?

Sir Keith: The TriStars were bought really on the Falklands bill because of the complexity of organizing the Falklands air bridge, particularly with the relatively small fuel carriers like the Victor and the VC-10. But although they were bought for the Falklands commitment, they clearly have a tremendous capability to be used within the Nato scene and any other areas of activity. So it is a very useful enhancement of our capability.

In the context of a war in North Europe, would not air tankers be so vulnerable to attack as to quite drastically reduce their value?

Sir Keith: If you look at a map of the Warsaw Pact area you can devise in-flight refuelling brackets that would provide, for example, Tornado with a substantial amount of fuel in benign areas, at height, so that they could for instance attack airfields in the Kola Peninsular or penetrate through to Poland and western

And we, I think, demonstrated this capability by sending a Tornado from Honington in Suffolk to simulate an attack on Akrotiri in Cyprus and then return... It is a complex operation and it will require you to be able to operate your tankers with some confidence in areas which we do regard as benign, but there are limits to the range of Soviet fighters.

The air defences of the United Kingdom have been very weak for many years. How do you see the position now?

Sir Keith: What we are doing is raising our air defence capability from the very low level that was established after the 1957 defence review, when it was required only to meet the trip-wire threat. We have known ever since that we have not had enough fighters in this country. We have done a great deal within the very limited resources available to us to improve the number available. We have gone up from 60 Lightnings in the mid-1960s and we will have by the end of 1983 well over 120 air defence aircraft in the United Kingdom and West Germany. That does not include the aircraft we have in the Falklands, and we will also have the missile-carrying Hawks.

A lot of money is being spent on improving the ground facilities associated with the air defence of the UK. How big an advance will

Sir Keith: It is very considerable indeed... The sensors themselves will be very much more capable, much more resistant to electronic-counter measures. The command and control and communications system which will make use of the information the radars provide will be fast and flexible with elements of redundancy which will make sure that it cannot be taken out. So it is going to put us in a whole new ball game in the air defence business...

As a fighter pilot I am excited because I have known the shortcomings of our existing ground environment, although I don't want to sell that short. Our present radars are jolly good in peace-time. They are very well designed, but they are very static and very vulnerable. They are not backed by a fast digital data-link, and so there are many disadvantages to them, and we have been conscious of these for a very long time.

It is therefore very exciting to be reaching a situation where improvements are incorporated that we have been talking about for 20 years. The fact that it is coming in at the same time as the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft and the Tornado air defence variant means that really the air defence of the UK is going to be very much better based than it has been at any time in peace-time.

THE AIRCRAFT

Tornado follows the terrain

The Royal Air Force operates 30 different types of aircraft, both fixed and rotary-wing, but one of them, the Tornado bomber, is taking up a major proportion of the technical time and skill of the Service as it becomes operational in increasing numbers.

A complex aircraft with a variable-geometry wing and advanced electronics which enable it, among other things, to follow the terrain automatically to its target in the worst weather, the Tornado has been ordered in two main versions by the RAF. Some 70 of the GR.1 strike version, and

30 of the two-seat trainer, of 220 on order have entered service, and the first of 165 F2 interceptors will begin to go to the squadrons in 1985.

The Tornado, built jointly by the aerospace industries of Britain, West Germany, and Italy, has already taken over as Britain's main airborne nuclear deterrent, replacing the Vulcan V-bombers, now withdrawn from service, and are in future to be based in West Germany, superseding Buccaneers and Jaguars. F2s have been developed largely for the air defence of Great Britain, and are

to replace two of the four Phantom squadrons, and the two Lightning squadrons which carry out that task today.

The policy of maintaining the Falklands as a fortress is the other factor which is placing intense pressure on the RAF inventory. Not only does the service maintain the long supply bridge between Britain and the islands, by way of Ascension, necessitating an intensive refuelling operation on the way, but it maintains a squadron of Harriers, a squadron of Phantoms, and two helicopter squadrons in the

Falklands, plus anti-aircraft Rapier missile batteries. To make up for the loss of the Phantom squadron from the European scene, the RAF is buying 15 former United States Navy aircraft of this type for £33m.

A continuing part in Nato is played by the RAF with its Harrier force, of which there is a further 60 on order, due to begin arriving with the squadrons in 1986. Jaguars, Buccaneers and Phantoms. The debate on a replacement for all four types continues, with a vociferous lobby in favour of a second-generation Harrier which would combine vertical/short take-off and landing with supersonic flight. A significant step towards a successor for the more conventional types was the announcement at this year's Paris Air Show that the British Government has signed a contract with British Aerospace for the development and construction of a demonstrator fighter for the 1990s. The single proto-type will be based on BAe's plans for an agile combat aircraft incorporating a great deal of new technology, including composite materials, and with electrically-signalled controls replacing the traditional rods and wires.

In-flight refuelling is becoming an increasingly-important role for the RAF, and the service has added considerably to its capability in this sector in recent months.

During the Falklands conflict in the summer of 1982, the tanker fleet of Victor K2s was hastily backed up by the conversion of 24 of 60 Hercules transports, six as tankers, and 16 as receivers. Six Vulcans are also fulfilling the tanker role, and in this year's defence White Paper it was announced that six Lockheed TriStar wide-bodied airliners were to be bought from British Airways for conversion to tankers, and that four of them would be given an additional freighter capability.

In July this year, the first of nine ex-airline VC-10s converted to in-flight refuellers was rolled out at the British Aerospace factory at Filton, Bristol, and a study is continuing of the possible conversion of further aircraft of this type to form a second squadron. The tanker fleet will be used not only to keep aircraft flying over long distances, as in the Falklands operation, but to enhance the duration of fighters on combat air patrol.

Maritime reconnaissance and search and rescue duties are carried out by the RAF with Nimrod SR-2s, and airborne early warning by a fleet of six aging Shackletons. These are to be phased out as the RAF's new fleet of 11 Nimrod AEW-3s come into service. This version of the Nimrod will be packed with the most-advanced radars and electronics enabling its crew to "see" long distances over the horizon



On the ground and in the cockpit: Tornado crews of 27 Squadron



and to give advance warning of any incoming enemy threat.

These are the sharp-end/fixed-wing aircraft of the RAF, although they would be supplemented in time of war by 90 Hawk trainers fitted with Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. The Sidewinder continues to be one of the RAF's main weapons, together with the Sparrow, and its improved Skyflash version, to be carried by the Tornado air-defence version, and Phantoms. Within the past few weeks, the Government has placed a £300m fixed price

contract for the British Aerospace Dynamics Alarm anti-radar missile to be fitted initially to Tornado and Buccaneer aircraft, and later to the Hawk, Harrier, and Sea Harrier. Alarm was preferred over an American missile, the Texas Instruments AGM-88 Harm.

The main adversaries in time of conflict would be the latest aircraft types developed by the Soviet Union, the Backfire, Fencer, Flogger and Foxbat, in Nato code, some 800 of which are produced each year, according to

Western defence sources.

The Tupolev Tu-22M Backfire B, in service with the Soviet long-range air force and naval air force, is the largest variable-geometry aircraft in operational service in the world, with a performance of twice the speed of sound at high altitude. It carries the AS-4/AS-6 stand-off missile, which has a range of 250 miles, and the aircraft's unrefuelled range is 4,500 miles. The Sukhoi Su-24 Fencer is also a swing-wing aircraft developed as a fighter-bomber for ground attack. It, too,

has a Mach 2 performance at altitude, and it can carry a weapons load of 10,000lb.

The Mikoyan Mig-23/27 Flogger, also swing-wing, is a multi-role combat aircraft and has demonstrated its ability to track and engage with radar targets flying below its own altitude. Foxbat - the Mig-25 - is a single-seat, long-range interceptor, with a dash performance of three times the speed of sound, and a ceiling of 100,000ft.

Arthur Reed



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TRANSPORT

Vital workhorses behind the thoroughbreds

Behind the glamour of the front-line strike and fighter squadrons, behind the headline-catching exploits of coastal rescue Wessex and Sea King helicopters, lies the anonymous world of the RAF's workhorses of the air.

The Service operates the equivalent of a medium-sized airline from its bases at Lyneham and Brize Norton, with 13 BAe VC 10 airliners carrying servicemen and their families all over the world, and 60 Lockheed Hercules engaged on tasks ranging from in-flight refuelling to carrying stores and dropping paratroops. Thirty of the Hercules are being "stretched" into the longer-body C.3 version so that they can carry bigger loads.

In addition to the two serving with the Royal flight, the RAF has a small fleet of Andovers - essentially the BAe HS 748 airliner - which it uses as transports and for the calibration of ground electronics aids.

Several aircraft types which many would imagine went out of service a long time ago are still operated by the RAF. They include the Canberra (entered service, 1951), the Hunter (1954), the Devon (1948), and the Pembroke (1953).

A number of versions of the Canberra continue to be used, including the photographic reconnaissance PR.9, and the T.17 electronics warfare aircraft which tests Britain's air defences by cluttering the radars and issuing false commands to fighters.

About 60 Hunters remain on the inventory, with their main role that of training. Devons are used as communications aircraft, operating mainly from RAF Northolt, London, while the Pembrokes do a similar task based in Germany. The RAF has announced that it is to buy four BAe 125 executive jets, known in the Service as Dominies, and these are expected to be the first of a number which will eventually replace the Devons and Pembrokes.

The new 125s will be the 700 version, with American Garrett TFE 731 engines, while a small fleet of 125s already operating from Northolt as communications aircraft are of an earlier version, powered by Rolls-Royce Viper engines. For fleet commonality, the older 125s are to have their Vipers replaced by TFE 731s.

The RAF uses a larger fleet of Dominies as trainers - flying classrooms for student navigators and air electronics operators.

Student pilots training to fly transport aircraft do much of their training on the BAe Jetstream twin turbo-prop, while the first steps towards flying in the Service

are accomplished in Chipmunks, Bulldogs and the venerable Jet Provost, which was first delivered to the RAF for trials in 1955. Bulldogs are used by the 16 university air squadrons.

At the time of writing, the RAF was close to making a decision on a new basic trainer to replace the 110 Jet Provosts still in service. A wide selection of aircraft had been offered from both home and abroad, but the choice was narrowing to the BAe P.164 turboprop, and the turbo-prop Firecracker. As fuel economy is high on the list of the Service's priorities, it appeared as if the turbo-prop aircraft might have the edge over the jet.

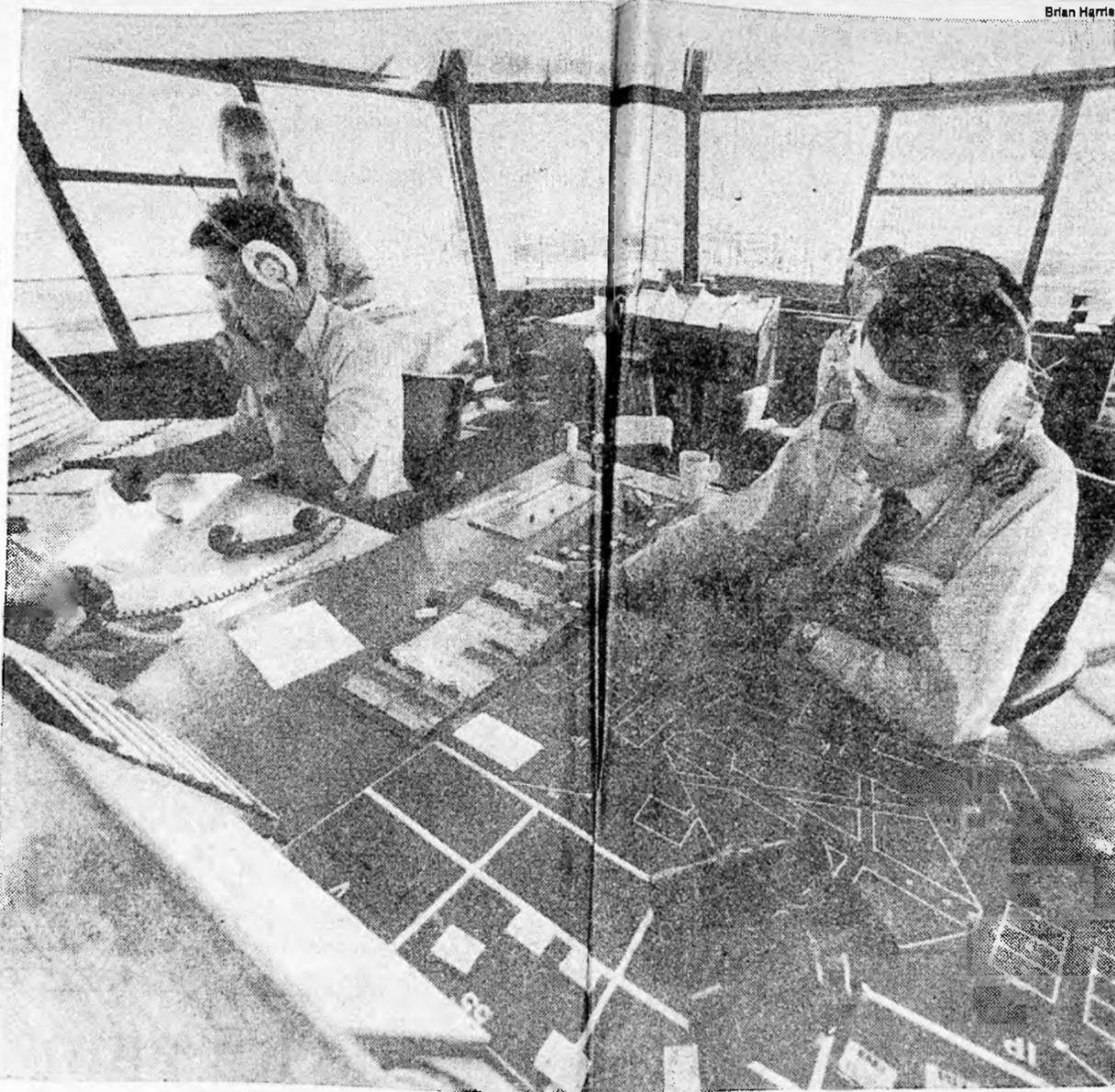
Experience with rotary-wing aircraft in the RAF may be traced back as far as 1934, when the first of a fleet of 12 Cierva C-30A autogiros, manufactured under licence by Avro as the Rota, was delivered, and today the Service has 140 helicopters of five main types carrying out a wide range of different tasks.

The twin-rotor Boeing Vertol Chinook is the most-recent acquisition. A carrier of large loads, the type was sent to the Falklands, but three were lost with the Atlantic Conveyor, and have since been replaced. The Puma, the RAF's other heavy transport helicopter is a product of an Anglo-French development and manufacturing accord, which also produced the smaller Gazelle, used by the Service mainly for training.

The older Westland Wessex has training and search-and-rescue (SAR) roles, and the larger Westland Sea King is mainly involved in SAR. Both aircraft types have saved hundreds of lives around Britain's coasts, winching up yachtsmen from stricken boats and injured crewmen from the decks of tankers and oil rigs.

In addition to Germany and the Falklands, the RAF keeps aircraft on bases in other less-publicized parts of the world. Wessex helicopters are based in Hongkong, and also at Akrotiri, Cyprus, where they support the United Nations contingent, while there is a flight of Harriers in Belize.

With the exception of the famous Red Arrows aerobatic team, flying their Hawk trainers, and the Queen's Flight, with two Andover transports and two Wessex helicopters (two British Aerospace 146 airliners have recently been bought by the RAF for evaluation as replacements for the Andovers), the Service's extensive inventory of other aircraft is seldom in the news.



Keeping the aircraft on target: control tower officers at RAF Marham

THE FALKLANDS

Beating distance as well as the enemy

After the Falklands conflict most of the glory was scooped up by the Royal Navy and the army. For weeks they basked in the cheers of the nation.

The RAF was meanwhile trying to explain why its most eye-catching contribution to the re-conquest of the islands - the bombing of Port Stanley airfield, which only briefly denied its use to the Argentines - was more than a marginally relevant attempt to get in on the act.

In fact the RAF's contribution was always more important than it seemed at the time, and has since become absolutely central to Britain's continued control of the islands.

If the raids on Stanley airport were more a tribute to the RAF's technical resourcefulness than to its military effectiveness, there has since been evidence that the

arrival of a Vulcan bomber out of the blue made the Argentines stop and think. And what they thought was that if the RAF could reach Port Stanley it could probably also reach Argentina. As a result, they redeployed their aircraft more out of harm's way.

RAF Harriers and their crews, who rapidly had to adapt to operating from ships, shared in the achievements of the Sea King.

But the recapture of the Falklands was as much a triumph of logistics as a feat of arms. As critical as defeating the enemy was defeating the distance - 4,000 miles to Ascension, the nearest land base. And here the RAF was indispensable.

Sailing at only a few days' notice, the task force was inevitably only semi-equipped. Ascension, it has been said, briefly became the busiest airport

in the world as the RAF operated a shuttle service carrying men, arms and equipment for the navy to pick up on their long voyage south.

In the weeks before and immediately after the recapture of the Falklands, RAF transport aircraft carried 5,000 tons of equipment and 5,000 men to Ascension.

The short-range RAF vertical/short take-off Harrier's flew out to augment the Royal Navy's aircraft with the task force. Those that flew direct from Britain to Ascension Island needed about eight air-to-air refuellings; those that went on to land on HMS Hermes needed a further eight refuellings. The Vulcan bombing raids on Port Stanley are said to have required the use of 10 air tankers.

Although the RAF was already increasing its air-to-air refuelling

capacity, demands for this facility in the Falklands war far exceeded anything then available. This led to brilliant improvisation by the RAF, and by industry. Vulcan and Hercules aircraft were rapidly converted into air tankers and a system of air-to-air refuelling for Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft was devised and installed in five weeks.

More than 600 air-to-air refuellings were carried out in this period and only six refuelling attempts failed. All aircraft got back to base, though in one instance only after an embarrassing diversion to Brazil.

Since the war the RAF has maintained the "air bridge" from Ascension to the Falklands, using Hercules, which are still dependent on air-to-air refuelling, making about five flights a week. The RAF is concerned that this

RECRUITING

High-tech, but square-bashing comes first

With the introduction into the inventory of increasingly complex aircraft, aircraft systems, engines and weapons in recent years, the RAF has become a high-technology service. It is not surprising that the annual cost of training the men who fly the aircraft, and the men and women who keep them airborne, comes to £200m.

Teaching a pilot to be the complete master of a jet such as a Tornado, Phantom, Buccaneer or Lightning will cost up to £2m. Sixty per cent of all RAF tradesmen are in engineering trades, where the learning process is lengthy and expensive.

The training task never ceases and as many as 15,000 of the 90,000 in the RAF pass through one or other of the 2,000 courses which can be mounted each year at 12 major training establishments or smaller schools at operational bases.

The Service is very conscious of the size of its training bill, which encompasses not only "in-house" courses but those with the other Services, in universities and polytechnics and in industry. The need, objectives, syllabus content, teaching methods, and teaching aids are constantly monitored to ensure that they are relevant to changing operational tasks.

The training machine also has to be extremely flexible for the annual quota of new entrants to the Service varies considerably. It was 3,000 in 1982 but has risen to 8,000 this

year, so placing strains on both instructors and accommodation. A national unemployment level of more than three million has resulted in it being easier to fill the quota, and in recruiters being more selective.

No academic qualifications are required for entry by airmen and airwomen into most of the 128 trades in the RAF, but direct-entry technicians require two O levels at grade C or equivalent, and engineering apprentices require four O levels. Both groups of entrants are expected to have a mathematics or science subject among their results. In recruiting ground-based officers the Service aims for one-third university graduates, but a minimum of five C-grade O-levels is accepted for some branches.

Generations of former airmen will be interested to know that the six-week initial training course for airmen and airwomen includes the traditional "square-bashing", in addition to lectures on RAF history, standard of dress, organization, hygiene, and discipline.

On completion of this initiation the recruit joins a course where he or she is taught the trade chosen on joining. Such courses may last a few months to more than a year, although in the case of apprentices learning esoteric aircraft, engine, and electronics trades, the courses stretch over three years.

Then follows pre-employment training on the specific equipment which will be used - either at an operational station, or at a basic-training school, or occasionally in industry.

Rankers are assessed for potential promotion to NCOs or officers from the day they join (20 per cent of all engineer officers, and 5 per cent of all aircrew come from the ranks). Those selected are sent for command and management training to prepare them for increased responsibilities. The courses are intensive and last for up to three weeks.

Initial training for ground-based officers is done at the RAF College, Cranwell, where the standard course lasts 18 weeks with emphasis on leadership and general administrative skills. The newcomers then go on to specialized training on their chosen areas of employment, and those whose posts require second-degree qualifications, such as officers in the

Lessons of modern warfare upset MoD

By John Ezard

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the Independent Broadcasting Authority should consider whether a schools television series which sets the British Army's role in Northern Ireland within a context of modern warfare was suitable for showing to children.

The Irish link is made in notes for teachers to be issued with a three-episode Thames Television schools play due to begin transmission on September 28, *A Game of Soldiers*, based on last year's Falklands conflict.

The play was separately attacked as "thoroughly slanted" by the Falkland Islands Government representative in London, Mr Adrian Monk yesterday, because its plot hinges on an unsubstantiated belief that Falklands civilians carried out atrocities against young Argentine conscripts.

But this issue was overtaken by a criticism made later by the Army's director of public relations, Brigadier David Ramsbotham, who spoke out after studying the teachers' notes and a programme synopsis with other Ministry of Defence officials.

The notes suggest that, after watching the play, teachers should broaden classroom discussion by encouraging research into questions like: "Where is there a war going on now? A discussion on Ireland could be very relevant here. How does modern warfare differ from wars fought 50-100 years ago? Have the reasons for war changed at all?"

Brigadier Ramsbotham, who commanded the 39th Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland from 1978-80, said: "The role of the Army in Northern Ireland since 1969 has been to support the civilian power. There are objections to even a hint that it is relevant to a discussion of war.

"From what I have seen so far, I question whether this is

a suitable subject to be shown by schools television. Frankly, I think this is something the IBA should consider under the terms of their charter obligation to young people."

Brigadier Ramsbotham and other MoD officials said yesterday that there was "not a scrap" of evidence for the suggestion of a civilian atrocity against conscripts. Mr Monk said: "It sounds thoroughly slanted and, calculated to insert into young minds the idea that something like this happened, even if the play is presented as fiction."

The play's producer and director, Mr Peter Tabern, said the play, by Jan Weedle, did not actually allege that farmers had killed conscripts. The incident was based simply on research evidence that the local Falklands defence force had resisted actively during the occupation. The rest was "invention."

It had been included to help teachers prompt classroom discussion on the way rumour was believed and embroidered as it spread through a community.

"It is like the rumour during the first world war that Russians were seen passing through East Anglia with snow on their boots," Mr Tabern added.

However, neither the atrocity allegation nor the role of rumour are mentioned in the three pages of teachers' notes which accompany the programme.

Mr Tabern said in reply to Brigadier Ramsbotham's complaint about Northern Ireland: "I would not disagree with the brigadier's constitutional point about war and Northern Ireland. But when it comes to what goes through school-children's minds in relation to — let us call it — armed conflict, I would think Northern Ireland is likely to creep into the discussion."

RUSSIANS LEARN FROM LESSONS OF FALKLANDS

By *DESMOND WETTERN* *Naval Correspondent*

BRTAIN aimed to recapture the Falklands last year with "little bloodshed," and much of the success of the operation was due to the "high level of professional training" of the Servicemen, according to senior Russian officers.

An analysis of comments on the conflict in Russian publications over the past year has been prepared by

Dr Milan Vego, a former Yugoslav naval officer.

Dr Vego was partly trained in Moscow before he defected to the United States.

He says that initially the Russians were doubtful of the British success because of the long lines of communication.

They claimed the British Task Force was fulfilling the role of a Nato "vanguard detachment." Although it used tactics and equipment developed for use in the Nato area, its success owed more to "punitive" expeditions overseas because many senior officers had served in Aden, Borneo, Kenya, Malaya and elsewhere.

Dr Vego's compilation of Russian reports on the Falklands was published yesterday in the September issue of the British journal *NAVY INTERNATIONAL*. It appears to confirm that at least one Russian submarine was present for some time in the area of conflict in the South Atlantic.

U.S. assistance

While British nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines operated in close co-ordination with surface ships, they were more noisy than the Argentine diesel-electric-powered submarines but they had more modern sonar underwater detection systems and the Argentine crews were poorly trained.

The Russians' view on the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* by the submarine *Conqueror* was that it was of value for "demoralising the personnel of the Argentine Navy and demonstrating the might of English weapons" as well as for "securing the neutralisation of the Argentine fleet for the rest of the conflict".

Many Russian accounts make much of American assistance for the British forces, but they concede that the lack of airborne reconnaissance and radar early-warning, coupled with the Argentine planes having three times the range of the British Sea Harriers, were important disadvantages for the Task Force.

The success of the *San Carlos* landing showed "the increased significance of amphibious assault forces" and underlined the necessity for the Russian Navy to have modern landing ships and to provide high quality training for troops in amphibious operations.

Inadequate radar

Surface warships played the main role in the fighting and it was only due to them that the British "accomplished assigned missions." But the "lack of large multi-purpose aircraft carriers" contributed much to the loss of British ships.

British ships generally did not have "high resistance to attack by Argentine aircraft, especially in regard to Cruise missiles with low-flight trajectories" (sea-skimming), while aluminium superstructures in some British ships made damage control more difficult.

The radar in British ships was inadequate against very high- or very low-level targets; there was a lack of British electronic countermeasures (jamming); a low level of effectiveness in intelligence interpretation of intercepted enemy communications and inadequate training of warship crews in radar surveillance and electronic intelligence gathering.

Although the various Russian accounts claim that the number of British ships damaged was higher than was actually the case, there is a tremendous degree of unanimity in the analysis by various senior officers most of which fully endorses the views on the conflict of senior British officers.

FALKLANDS 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS'

By Our Political Staff

Admitting that he "nagged on and on" about the Falklands, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, told a TUC fringe meeting in Blackpool yesterday why he was the most persistent critic of Mrs Thatcher over her handling of the conflict with Argentina.

He said: "It is chiefly because the Falklands are unfinished business, and time is not on our side."

"If there is no prospect of negotiations with Argentina, and compliance with the United Nations' request to resume discussions between Britain and Argentina, there will sooner or later be a replay, of uncertain outcome but certain bloodshed."

'SUN'S' LIES OVER VC CONDEMNED

By ROBERT BEDLOW
Industrial Staff

THE SUN newspaper's fabricated "world exclusive" story of an interview with the widow of Falkland's VC Sgt. Ian McKay has come in for further condemnation from the union leader of the newspaper's journalists and from the editor of ITN.

Mr Malcolm Withers, Father of the Chapel (Branch) of the National Union of Journalists, said yesterday that the SUN was guilty of "lying and deceit."

Mr David Nicholas, editor of ITN, said that the SUN's excuse that it had "lifted" material from an unscreened interview between ITN and Sgt McKay's widow Marica was totally wrong.

He said: "We certainly did not make any material available to the SUN. We checked with all the material not used, and the interview did not take place. If Mrs McKay had said the words alleged then obviously we would have used them ourselves. They did not appear."

'Insensitive deception'

Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, SUN editor, was said by Mr Withers to be responsible for the fabrication. He said: "It is only one of many instances of lying and deceit practised by the SUN since Kelvin MacKenzie replaced Sir Larry Lamb as editor."

The story which sparked off the dispute was sent to the Press Council which described it as "a deplorable, insensitive deception on the public."

In an interview with the NUJ publication the JOURNALIST, Mr Withers said of the McKay story: "I condemn both the paper and the editor for publishing this deception, and also for a string of similar incidents: even if, in themselves, they have appeared less serious."

Mr Withers said that journalists were being coerced to write what they knew to be uncheck stories, with regard to accurac

Plan to 'blur and erase' border, says Paisley

By Brendan Keenan in Dublin

THE REV Ian Paisley, MP, claims he has documents which reveal plans to establish an Anglo-Irish inter-parliamentary body and develop cross-border links on a wide range of subjects including energy, education and sport.

Mr Paisley says these subjects will be discussed at a summit meeting in November, between Mrs Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister.

Officials in Dublin were sceptical about Mr Paisley's claims and believe he may have acquired normal Civil Service discussion documents which would be drawn up in advance of any summit meeting.

A Northern Ireland Office official said they had always believed that cross border cooperation benefited both Northern Ireland and the Republic, but in no way compromised Northern Ireland's constitutional position.

Mr Paisley claimed there was a plan to "blur and eventually erase" the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic. He complained particularly about what he said was a proposal to give voting rights to citizens of the Irish Republic living in Northern Ireland.

Official sources concede that a November meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald is likely, although no definite date has been fixed. But Dublin sources were doubtful that anything as sweeping as Mr Paisley's claims would emerge from it.

They do believe that Anglo-Irish relations are "back on the rails" after the problems caused by the Falklands crisis. The Irish would like to see an inter-parliamentary group established as an adjunct to regular contacts between ministers, but Mrs Thatcher has always said that this is a matter for parliament rather than the Government.

The issue of voting rights could be a thorny one. The Irish Government has introduced legislation to give the franchise to UK citizens living in the Republic, and, when this is passed, Irish citizens in Northern Ireland will be the only group in either country who are unable to vote in their country of residence.

FINANCIAL TIMES

7.9.83

Spain tries again on Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain yesterday mounted a diplomatic initiative to try to break the deadlock with Britain over Gibraltar when Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, met Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

After talks which lasted for more than three hours, the Spanish spoke of an atmosphere of great cordiality and understanding, but the British sounded a lot more cautious, and emphasized that no decisions had been taken.

The two ministers agreed to continue their talks, which also touched on East-West relations and Spain joining the EEC, at the UN General Assembly in New York in about three weeks.

Emphasizing the exploratory nature of the meeting, with the two ministers getting to know each other's positions on the Gibraltar question, British sources afterwards denied that there was any question of doing a deal, with Spain lifting the border restrictions in return for Britain granting immediate equal rights for Spaniards on the Rock. These will come automatically on Spain's accession to the EEC.

The British sources also described the Lisbon agreement as the only existing framework for tackling the Gibraltar question which, they said, Britain remained ready to implement fully.

Yesterday's meeting was the first at ministerial level to discuss the Gibraltar problem since total disagreement emerged over Spain's continuing border restrictions and sovereignty claim to the Rock when Señor Moran met Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Pym, the then Foreign Secretary, in London last March.

Speaking before they met, Señor Moran had argued that what was now needed was a way out of the situation created by the Falklands conflict which, he maintained, had produced a "climate of nationalism" in Britain, making it difficult to proceed down the path indicated by the Anglo-Spanish Lisbon Agreement of 1980.

Señor Moran had refused to detail exactly the contents of the Spanish initiative before his talk with Sir Geoffrey, but indicated that what he hoped for was at least agreement on a timetable for future meetings on Gibraltar.

Sir Geoffrey will have an audience with King Juan Carlos today

Liberal move to avert clashes

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Liberal establishment yesterday moved to head off the possibility of damaging in-fighting breaking out at the party assembly, which starts in Harrogate on September 19.

Mr Paul Hannon, chairman of the assembly committee, said yesterday that the much-heralded confrontation between party activists and the leadership over control of the election manifesto might not take place.

The constitutional amendment on the manifesto, which would remove the party leader's "final authority" over content, is tabled for a closed-session debate on the second day of the assembly.

But Mr Hannon said yesterday that it was number six in a three and three quarter hour private session on party business. There was a chance that it might not be reached.

It was disclosed that another possible area of conflict, the case put for changes in the leadership structure by Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, and David Alton, MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill, could also be avoided.

The two MPs have proposed a

more "corporate style of leadership", which includes the election of a deputy leader by all party members, and the election of a chief whip and parliamentary party chairman by the party's 17 MPs. They are hoping that the issue can be thrashed out on the first day of the assembly.

Mr Hannon said yesterday: "I would not anticipate that questions relating to the internal management of the Parliamentary Liberal Party would be one of the key issues. A commission of 500 people is hardly the ideal body to try to sit down and grapple with the details of any proposals for reform of the organization and administration of the party."

It is expected instead that the matter will be handed over for detailed discussion by the party's executive.

Mr Stuart Mole, the Liberal candidate for Chelmsford and a member of Mr Steel's staff, says in the latest edition of *Liberal News*: "It is curious that unhappiness with David Steel's rather cloistered style of leadership should spawn proposals for change which are very much in the same styles."

He says that the weekly meeting of Liberal MPs is "indifferently attended" and that it needs to be forged into a much more effective instrument.

In an attempt to set the tone for the assembly, Mr Hannon says in the same newspaper: "We have a week of media exposure at our disposal and it would be a tragedy to throw away this opportunity by concentrating on internal disputes".

Among the controversial debates will be a Young Liberal proposal for a "phased withdrawal" of troops from Northern Ireland "to be replaced by UN or EEC troops if necessary". In a debate on the Falklands it will be proposed that small island communities should have their autonomy guaranteed internationally.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, will attend the assembly for a fringe meeting at which Liberals will have a chance to put questions on the Alliance. Mr Wedgwood Benn is billed for a debate with Mr Michael Meadowcroft, the MP for Leeds, West, on "The Politics of the Left".

Memorial plan

Sixteen cottages in South Yorkshire for young disabled servicemen are being planned as a memorial to Sergeant Ian McKay, who was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously after the Falklands conflict.

NOAH'S ARK BOUND FOR FALKLANDS

By JOHN PETTY
Shipping Correspondent

A "NOAH'S ARK" is to set sail for the Falklands in two weeks time.

The tiny Dina Khalef, only 357 tons and under the flag of Qatar, will sail from Poole with 171 sheep, 24 cattle, 20 horses, four goats, five pigs and some working dogs.

The animals are needed to restock the islands following the war and the occupation by the Argentines.

Some cats and budgerigars are already on the way in Royal Navy ships.

Money to buy the animals comes from the Falkland Islands Fund subscribed by the public. "There is no Government money involved and we are trying to keep down costs," said the Crown Agents, who booked the ship.

The voyage will take about 28 days, with private veterinary surgeons and specialist animal handlers on board. The Ministry of Agriculture has provided experts to inspect the Dina Khalef to ensure her suitability.

DAILY
TELEGRAPH
7.9.83

McMillan-Scott Associates Public Affairs

Noah's Ark symbolism of the post-Malvinas era

BUENOS AIRES'S Palermo Park momentarily became a symbol of prosperity again last month as more than a million Argentines filed through the steel gates to witness what must rank among the world's more impressive agricultural shows.

Suckling pigs the size of sheep, rams with enough wool to clothe a family, stallions out of Greek mythology; cows the size of elephants. All of them there in their hundreds and all immaculate, to be gaped at.

The hundreds of stands had every imaginable kind of agricultural product on view, from Argentine's impressive versions of French cheeses to the latest combine harvester made by Vasalli, a local private company recently resurrected from a two-year bankruptcy to start competing again with the big international names like Fiat, John Deere, and Massey Ferguson.

This, could be a sign, perhaps, not just that the country's industrial recession may be bottoming out but also that Argentine farmers may be heading for a boom.

The fair caricatured itself having everywhere gauchos dressed as gauchos, even though labourers on many modern Argentine farms no longer wear traditional garb.

Nationalist sentiment in the post-Malvinas era also ensured an even bigger display than usual of Argentine flags. Rather too often for total comfort a military band would march in

and out of the livestock—Argentina since the end of the Falklands war.

Argentine farmers have been looking to the U.S. as a potential ally against the EEC, but are equally worried that Washington may sign much too many grain deals with the Soviet Union, the main recipient of Argentine exports. Nothing concrete came out during the visit on either issue.

The third highlight was the auction of the champion Aberdeen Angus called "Superbull," which was bought by three

Jimmy Burnus reflects on Argentina's agricultural past and contemplates prospects for the future

farming syndicates for \$170,000 (\$114,000); an extraordinary sum, given Argentina's current financial crisis and the shockingly weak state of the peso.

Total sales of bovines, sheep, pigs, and horses was put at about \$2.4m.

The fair was organised by the 108-year-old Sociedad Rural Argentina. With many of its 12,000 members owning estancias of 20,000-120,000 hectares, the Rural remains the aristocrat and most influential of the country's three main farmers' associations.

In the early half of this century, when Argentina was still predominantly a rural

society, the landowning class had the power to break and make governments. Members of the Rural board would occupy Cabinet posts much like old Etonians have dominated Parliament.

The rural's power was a reflection of Argentina's position as the granary of the world. In the early 1930's, Argentina accounted for 25 per cent of wheat, 65 per cent of maize, and 38 per cent of meat traded worldwide.

After the Second World War, Argentina's own industrialisation and international factors — such as the introduction by the U.S. of favourable credit terms for its agricultural exports and the creation of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy — gradually weakened Argentina's position as an agricultural exporter.

By the mid-1970s the percentages had fallen to 4.12, and 13 per cent respectively.

Many of the country's larger estates, meanwhile have been gradually whittled away thanks to the country's hereditary laws which insist on equal division of land among descendants once the owner dies.

Rural members insist that the days when they helped promote military coups to oust populist governments belong to history and that they look forward to the October 30 elections.

But the agricultural fair remains paternalistic rather than democratic, with the estancieros

in their camelhair coats and tweed suits keeping a sober distance from the urban masses.

"We are the lynchpin of our economy and the next Government should recognise this," says Sen Horacio Gutierrez, the current president of the Rural.

Agriculture remains the main engine of growth, contributing to over 80 per cent of total exports and 12 per cent of GDP. Argentine meat has been badly affected by adverse international conditions. There has been a decrease of 10m cattle head since 1977 and in the first half of this year meat exports were 50 per cent down on the same period in 1970.

But the country's record grain harvest this year of nearly 41m tonnes has been fundamental in helping Argentina weather its \$39bn foreign debt problem.

Argentine farmers complain about excessive taxes, non-existent export incentives, and an overweight and inefficient state sector which survives thanks to countryside profits. They fear the expected election victory of their traditional enemies, the Peronists, but say that without political continuity, inflation will increase and there can be no medium-term investment.

As Sen Gutierrez put it: "With the right kind of policies we can boost our agricultural production by 40 per cent over the next five years. We don't care what government we have. We just want it to last."

Second time lucky for St Helena trip?

TWENTY - nine - year - old London photographer Rory Coonan is hoping for better luck today when he sets out once more on his delayed three-month round trip voyage to St Helena.

Coonan, who lives in Victoria, and colleague Stuart MacKay are travelling to the South Atlantic island to make the first-ever full photographic survey of the people of St. Helena.

The photographs are to be exhibited in London next May as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of St. Helena's incorporation as a British colony.

The only way to St. Helena is by RMS Centaur,

the boiler burst just as the ship was leaving harbour and 120 passengers were sent off home or to hotels to await further news.

Now the Centaur is set to sail again this afternoon. Among those awaiting its arrival is TV camerawoman Cindy Buxton, the heroine of South Georgia, now making a film on Ascension. Coonan, whose photographs are on show at the National Portrait Gallery, will be delivering photographic equipment to Miss Buxton on behalf of Anglia TV.



Cindy Buxton

a curious container-cum-passenger ship which leaves Avonmouth every six weeks for Tenerife, Cape Verde, Ascension, St. Helena and Cape Town.

Last Thursday, however,

6.9.83

Re-export of books from Argentina

By JOHN IZBICKI
Education Correspondent

ABOUT 200 consignments of books imported from Argentina and intended for university libraries, including the Bodleian at Oxford, the Scott Polar Research Institution at Cambridge and the British Library, are to be re-exported, it was disclosed yesterday.

Almost 1,000 books have been seized by Customs since the embargo on trade with Argentina and are now being stored at Dover docks.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour M P for Linlithgow and a critic of the Government's Falklands policy has demanded a special debate about the books.

Mr Dalyell also called for Parliament to intervene to save them from being burned or pulped.

But a spokesman for Customs and Excise said last night that there was no question of the books being destroyed.

"The importer would be given the opportunity to re-export the books, either back to Argentina or to any country where no ban exists on them," he said.

Seizure 'regretted'

A Trade Department spokesman said the books might also be auctioned and sold overseas. "There is certainly no question of burning these books," she added.

"We appreciate the concern over the books and sympathise with the libraries. Indeed, we regret very much the side-effects caused by the trade embargo with Argentina.

"We should like to see a full resumption of trade with that country but there has been no sign of any willingness to do so on the part of the Argentines."

Only journalistic material, such as news copy and film are exempt from the embargo.

Evening Standard
5th September 1983

ANYONE with four thousand plus to spare and a yen to shake former Falklands Governor Sir Rex Hunt (now Civil Commissioner) by the hand could opt this year for a winter cruise aboard the Lindblad Explorer, which sets out on a South Atlantic expeditionary cruise from the Chilean port of Punta Arenas on December 13. Christmas Day will be spent at sea off South Georgia, Boxing Day the ship will be berthed at Grytviken, and New Year's Eve will be spent in the Falklands, culminating in a party hosted by Sir Rex and Lady Hunt.



Philip Marchington's "San Carlos Observation Post" from the exhibition at the Mall Galleries.

ART / Echoes of the Falklands

4/7. 519

ECHOES of recent actions in the Falklands, and indeed memories of earlier traumatic events, are plentiful in the 38th Annual Exhibition of The Royal Society of Marine Artists. Their exhibition has a short run until Friday in the Mall Galleries, at the Admiralty Arch end of The Mall.

The visitor is greeted by four paintings, hanging on a screen, by David Cobb, the President. All are scenes in the Falklands and they now belong to the P & O.

Other paintings of the recent

war include "San Carlos Observation Post: Special Boat Squadron, Royal Marines, 21st May 1982" by Philip Marchington, exhibited by permission of the Royal Marines, and a big picture by Bill Wynn-Wernick. It represents San Carlos Water and shows a Royal Corps of Transport raft leaving a landing ship of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Such works demonstrate one of the legitimate roles of the Society. Most of those concerned with what is widely acclaimed in modern art tend to have little time for illustration. It is, on the other hand, one

of the preoccupations of many of the members of this Society.

In their exhibition we see battles past, familiar yachting haunts, and famous ships. We are also, in paintings such as Colin Verity's "Arrival at the Lockpits, Grimsby", showing trawlers of another era, reminded of the little ships that were the life-blood of Britain.

In his introduction to the catalogue David Cobb remarks that it costs no more to devise a scheme of paintwork that makes the best of the qualities of a "she" afloat, just as the same is true with a "she"

ashore. Of how beautiful ships used to be we are reminded by Colin Verity's painting of the Aquitania.

Yet this is not exclusively an exhibition devoted to nostalgia. Keith Shackleton, a Past President of the Society, Terence Storey and others recall North Sea Oil.

Above all, it is an exhibition to stir the sea-fever in so many sons of these islands, and to make us sing with Masefield: "I Must Go Down to the Sea Again, To the lonely sea and the sky"

TERENCE MULLALY

5.9.83

Data on imports from Argentina 'inflated'

By Christian Tyler,
World Trade Editor

CLERKS at the Department of Customs and Excise have been accidentally inflating the figures for British imports from Argentina, while Customs officers are busy impounding Argentine goods at UK ports.

The Department is blaming "keying errors by computer operators" for £95,000 of the £241,000 worth of Argentine goods recorded as having entered Britain in the first half of this year.

Since Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in April last year imports have been banned, except for personal effects, newspapers, news film and periodicals. The Government is likely to continue the ban until Argentina formally declares a cessation of hostilities.

According to Customs and Excise, another £58,000 of the first-half figure was due to late entry of documents related to goods that came into the country before the embargo. Goods worth an estimated £20,000 had been sent to Britain by post. The balance remains unaccounted for. But some of it, such as a consignment of animal hides seized at Northampton two months ago, may have been illegally imported.

According to Customs figures supplied by the Department of Trade, Britain took delivery of £69,000 worth of office and data-processing equipment, £116,000 worth of machinery and transport equipment and £30,000 worth of textile yarns from January through June.

Meanwhile, the Customs people are being assailed by complaints from scholars and librarians that the import ban is being too strenuously operated.

The librarian of the Institute of Economics and Statistics at Oxford complained in a letter to The Times on Friday that import licences had been refused for volumes of commercial statistics from Argentina.

Thousands of leaflets brought by Argentine delegates to the World Petroleum Conference in London last week were also seized. The Department of Trade is trying to reassure frustrated academics by saying that the procedure under which seized goods are "condemned" does not necessarily mean they will be destroyed.

£6bn plan to improve Rapier air defence

By Bridget Bloom,
Defence Correspondent

British Aerospace Dynamics Group, backed by the Government, has started a programme to improve the towed version of its Rapier air defence system.

The programme, which has Defence Ministry support, will be completed at an estimated cost of £1.27bn over the next 10-15 years.

The Ministry expects the full scheme to cost about £6bn at present prices, considerably more than the original £5bn estimate for Britain's controversial Trident nuclear deterrent.

Rapier development dates from the 1960s and the improvement programme is designed to take the system into the 1990s. The total expenditure represents roughly the amount spent by the Defence Ministry on the whole of the defence equipment procurement budget last year.

Both the Ministry and British Aerospace hope for substantial overseas sales of Rapier, which is believed to be Britain's largest single arms export item.

Sales to 10 countries in the last decade have earned more than £1.4bn. Turkey became the 11th country to buy Rapier last month, with a contract worth £146m for 36 systems.

The first public indication of the improvements was a two-line entry in last July's Defence

White Paper, which noted that the "estimated cost of comprehensive improvement and development of the army and RAF Rapier" amounted to £1.27bn.

It is understood that the ministry has so far signed contracts with British Aerospace for about £100m of the programme. Improvements planned for the towed system include a new surveillance radar.

While British Aerospace Dynamics is the prime contractor for Rapier, other defence companies involved include Marconi Space and Defence Systems and Ferranti.

Rapier is designed to attack aircraft flying low to escape radar detection. Its original towed version, in service with the RAF and the Army, has accounted for most export sales so far.

A tracked version, with missiles and launchers carried on a single vehicle, which is just entering service with the Army, was developed originally to meet an Iranian order.

Competitors for Rapier in a cut-throat market include the Franco-German Roland, the French Crotale and the U.S. Chapporal and a variety of anti-aircraft gun systems.

Customers include Switzerland, Singapore, Qatar, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Australia, Brunei, Zambia and, in an "offset" deal on Trident, the U.S. Air Force in Britain.

British Aerospace so far has failed to persuade the U.S. to buy Rapier for its Rapid Deployment Force and a 20-year effort to sell it to Norway failed when the U.S. clinched a deal there this summer.

Rapier's performance in the Falklands is being used by British Aerospace in an effort to boost sales.

Fears grow for French fishing boat

By a Staff Reporter

The severe gales of the weekend do not necessarily mean that the summer is over.

But the London Weather Centre said yesterday that there would be no return of the heatwave and said the next few days will continue windy.

There is serious concern for the safety of the five or six-man crew on board the French fishing vessel *Renie Berceaux* which has been missing since Friday despite an intensive air search. The last known position of the boat, from *Concarneau* in Brittany, was 250 miles north-west of Land's End.

The gales have blown rare sea birds to Britain, including one whose nearest colony is on the *Falklands* - a seven-inches-long *Wilson's Petrel*, an Antarctic species of which only about ten have been recorded previously. More than 80 *Sabine's gulls* from the Arctic, have also been swept onto land.

In *Snowdonia* the A5 *London-Hollyhead* road was reopened last night after being blocked for 38 hours by a landslide, and in *Milford Haven* experts were examining the damage caused when an ocean-going tug was flung by mountainous seas onto the BP jetty at its Angle Bay terminal.

Fruit farmers in the South-East have been badly hit and some apple growers have lost a third of their crop.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

5.9.83

'Thinking' torpedo for Navy

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

A new British lightweight anti-submarine torpedo, claimed to be the most advanced in the world, will come into service with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force within the next few weeks.

The *Stingray*, which has been under development for more than 10 years, is one of a new generation of computer-controlled "smart" weapons. The United States is working on a similar weapon.

Stingray has a very advanced system and once launched in the general vicinity of a target it can conduct its own search and navigate to strike it in the most favourable way in the most vulnerable areas. It can distinguish between real targets and objects which might be mistaken for them.

The torpedo is said to be highly resistant to electronic countermeasures and is claimed to be capable of penetrating all known submarine hulls.

Development of *Stingray* began in the early 1970s at the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment at Portland, but in 1978 *Marconi* was given a £200m contract to complete the development and produce the torpedo.

It is believed that in the *Stingray's* acceptance trials every torpedo fired which was intended to score a hit did so, and almost all of them were in the vulnerable central sections of the targets. The torpedo is designed to be launched from ships, helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft. They were carried with the Task Force to the *Falklands* before they had officially completed their acceptance trials but were not used.

ROMNEY SHEEP FOR FALKLANDS

Nearly 200 *Romney Marsh* sheep are to be shipped to the *Falkland* islands later this month. The sheep from wind-swept, but rich, grazing grounds of the *Marsh* area on the East *Sussex-Kent* border will be used to re-stock the islands' sheep farms still suffering from the aftermath of the *Argentina* invasion.

A spokesman for the *Romney Marsh* sheep breeders society said: "They are a hardy breed and will withstand the rigours of the South *Atlantic* weather."

UK companies still face Argentine restrictions

By Our Banking Correspondent

British companies in *Argentina* are still being discriminated against by the *Argentine* authorities, according to *Whitehall* sources, although they are now being allowed to remit dividends from the country.

Last month *British* banks were, in effect, forced to delay signing a \$1.5bn international loan for *Argentina* because of pressure from the Government. It said it wanted evidence that *Argentina* was no longer blocking dividend payments. Once the *International Monetary Fund* formally confirmed that *Argentina* was allowing *British* companies to repatriate dividends, the government withdrew its objections.

British companies have confirmed that they have been allowed to take money out. But a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said: "We understand it is operating on a case-by-case basis. We will be monitoring the situation closely."

Other restrictions, outside the remit of the *IMF*, remain in force. *British* companies are said to be denied access to public sector contracts. They also have to operate under an *Argentine* over-see and are forbidden to sell any local asset or property.

Britain lifted financial sanctions against *Argentina* last September and the government would like to see a resumption of normal trading relations. But *Whitehall* officials say there has been no positive response from *Argentina*.

Britain maintains a ban on imports from *Argentina*, imposed in April 1982. According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the only exceptions are news material and non-commercial imports.

Last month's political dispute over *British* bank participation in the *Argentine* loan is believed to have stemmed directly from intervention by *Mrs Thatcher*.

GUARDIAN
5.9.83

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP tries to save books

A *LABOUR* MP yesterday called for swift action by Parliament to stop *Customs* men burning hundreds of books destined for libraries and universities but seized at *Dover* under the order banning imports from *Argentina*.

Mr Tam Dalyell, a persistent critic of the Government's *Falklands* policy, said that many rare volumes could be burned under the order. They were sent from *Argentina*, to the *Bodleian Library* in *Oxford*, the *Scott Polar Research Institution* in *Cambridge*, and many leading universities.

Mr Dalyell, who represents *Linlithgow*, has written to the Speaker, *Mr Bernard Weatherill*, asking for a debate on the issue when Parliament resumes next month.

Why Britain may burn books it has banned

A VIOLENT storm is about to break over the head of Mr Paul Channon, MP, because he is banning books.

He is the Minister for Trade at the Department of Trade and Industry, under Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State, who may also need to field a few thunderbolts.

At Dover, in the customs parcel depot, books sent from Argentina are piling up that the Department of Trade will not allow into the country, under its 'total embargo' on trade with Argentina.

The British Library has had 60 parcels of books seized. The Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge has also had books seized. So have the University of Essex, the University of St Andrews, and the Institute for Latin American Studies at London University, among many others. All these books are liable to be destroyed, the Customs and Excise Department told me last week. They might be burned.

The total ban on all imports from Argentina came into effect on 7 April 1982. It followed a Cabinet decision and was introduced in the form of a statutory instrument signed by the then Minister for Trade,

MICHAEL DAVIE notebook

Mr Peter Rees, Mr Channon's predecessor. The key phrase ran: 'Nothing in this licence shall authorise the importation of any goods which have been exported from Argentina.' 'Any goods' included books.

Goods for which the Department of Trade refuses to issue an import licence become, after 28 days, 'forfeiture to the Crown.'

Until recently the ban does not seem to have been very rigorously applied.

Mr Harry Fairhurst, a librarian for 35 years, runs the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries in London, a registered charity, whose purpose is to further the cause of all the university and national libraries who form its members.

The book-banning has come to a head, he says, only in the past three months. The British Library had some problems before that, but it is only since the early summer that the Standing Conference has star-

ted getting a flood of protests and complaints from its members.

Dr A. Matheson, the keeper of the printed books in the National Library of Scotland received a consignment of books from Argentina last March, but another package in July was seized.

When the books started piling up, librarians, institutes and scholars made private representations to Ministers and Department of Trade civil servants.

These got nowhere. Here is a typical example of such exchanges.

On 24 June, the acting director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, Dr T. E. Armstrong, wrote to the International Trade Policy Division of the DoT.

He enclosed an invoice for books that had been prevented from reaching the institute. The books, he pointed out, concerned issues of sovereignty

in the Falklands and Antarctica.

'As a department of the faculty of geography and geology in the University of Cambridge,' he wrote, 'responsible for teaching and research in the polar regions, it is the duty of the library at the Scott Polar Research Institute to acquire or publish materials relevant to the Falkland Islands, their dependencies and the British Antarctic Territory, whether published in the UK or elsewhere.'

'In addition to our responsibility to this University of Cambridge, there is a responsibility at national level both to the Ministry of Defence, from whom we receive an annual grant-in-aid of £20,000 and to the polar research section of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who rely on our library and information services for their own research purposes.'

If the books he listed were lost to the library, the gap would in all probability never be filled. Such books went rapidly out of print.

He 'begged' the International Trade Policy Division to relent.

It did not. The reply, from S. L. Hodge, said it was the Government's aim to maintain a total embargo on all Argentine goods. Argentina was discriminating against British firms, despite undertakings not to do so. 'Any shift in our position would send entirely the wrong signals to the Argentinians' and hinder British efforts to get the reciprocal lifting of all remaining sanctions. The licence was refused.

Others tried to get the policy changed, working quietly 'within the system.' Now, frustrated, they are ready for a public row.

The Standing Conference of National and University Libraries wrote to three Ministers: Lord Gowrie, in charge of arts and libraries; Sir Keith Joseph, the Minister of Education, and Mr Channon. 'All the replies were in concert: no dice. 'Censorship' is now the word being used by Mr Fairhurst.

A Treasury Minister, Mr



Trade Minister Paul Channon faces a book-ban storm, and Argentina's oil congress stand is bare.

Barney Hayhoe, said in a written answer to a parliamentary question on 29 July that, yes, books sent from Argentina to libraries in the UK, including the Bodleian, were being held up by HM Customs and Excise. The 'importation' of the 'goods concerned' was prohibited.

But the answer was buried and little noticed. Then last month the alert *Times Literary Supplement* printed a sharp comment. Ringing round the great libraries, the institutes of Latin American studies, scholars, professional organisations, and booksellers, I have encountered uniform hostility shading into incredulity about the ban.

To begin with, there is a general sense of shock, even shame, that it should be a British Government not a dictatorship that is applying such a ban. Second, it is everywhere pointed out that there is an absurd anomaly in government policy. Books are banned, but newspapers and periodicals are not. The tortured government explanation is that newspapers and periodicals reflect current Argentine thinking, whereas books do not. Books, you see, are 'commodities.'

'We should not be denied information of any kind,' says one very important person in the library world, who did not wish to be named. 'Even if the Argentinians are to remain our enemies for life, the need for knowledge of Argentina is

increased rather than diminished.'

Government policy is based on the notion that the more trade pressure is kept on Argentina here, the more likely it is that they will do what we want. Hence the confiscation of the 4,000 Argentine brochures brought in for the World Petroleum Congress at the Barbican in London last week. But no one I spoke to can see why books should be lumped in the same category.



4,000 brochures seized.

It is not only current political books that have been seized. The Oxford University Institute of Economics and Statistics has just been informed that five volumes of 'Foreign Trade Statistics of Argentina, 1979' have become forfeitures.

Mr Harold Blakemore, an adviser to Lloyds Bank as well as a London University academic, says the customs have seized a book sent to the journal he co-edits which is a scholarly history of Buenos Aires containing contributions by British scholars. Thus

British scholars are prevented from reading the work of other British scholars.

Mr John May, a director of May and May Ltd, a second-hand and antiquarian bookseller in Salisbury says he has had a consignment of 25 books on the history of music seized by the customs at Dover. The books were published in Buenos Aires between 1923 and 1981. Mr May has been in touch with HM Customs. He understands the books are 'likely to be destroyed.'

His bookshop imports and exports scholarly music books all round the world. He wonders what other countries will think when they hear that a British Government is seizing such books and threatening to destroy them. 'There are very, very few parallels in modern times,' he says, 'for such a policy. This is a total seizure and threat to destroy any books from a particular country.'

'Suppose a bookseller in Argentina sends me a rare book on music published in England a hundred years ago. That would be seized and threatened with destruction. I fought in the last war against tyranny. I never thought to see anything like this in Britain. Mrs Thatcher has been saying she hopes to be compared to Churchill. I don't think he'd have done this. It's a wicked business, disturbing and distressing.'

Absurdities abound. The librarian of the Institute of Latin American Studies at

London University, Mrs Travis, said: 'At the height of the Falklands crisis the Foreign Office were ringing us for information, hoping we had books that they hadn't. Now they're stopping the same books from coming in.'

At the Dover customs parcel depot, a helpful Mr Darler, who is in charge there, conceded that 'a considerable number' of book parcels had been seized, and were now Crown property. He was awaiting instructions on how to dispose of them.

I asked Mr England at Customs and Excise headquarters what the Commissioners of Customs had in mind. He stressed that the books did not present any special problem. 'We treat them as perfectly ordinary goods, like textiles.' They would be disposed of. They could be pulped. Or burned? Mr England paused, possibly remembering something about book-burning, but he went nobly ahead. 'Could be.'

Mr Paul Channon could not immediately say, when I called him, why newspapers and periodicals were allowed in but not books. He was, he said, 'unbriefed.'

Mr Channon promised me a statement after he was briefed. When it came, it merely repeated the Government's position. Yet only two months ago—as the people I spoke to unfailingly reminded me—Mr Channon was the Minister in charge of libraries.

Storm brewing over Falklands airport cost

ST 419

By NORMAN KIRKHAM, Diplomatic Correspondent

SOARING costs of the multi-million pound airport to be built on the Falklands and plans to buy materials for the project from South Africa are likely to bring a storm of criticism among MPs as the work begins this autumn.

Experts on the islands believe that the total cost of the airport, ancillary buildings, two access roads and a new harbour facility nearby will reach £400 million or more rather than the £215 million being allocated at present by the Government.

Port Stanley sources also reported yesterday that a string of cargo vessels is to carry building materials, equipment, fuel and even drinking water for the project from South Africa instead of Britain or South America.

A Government announcement in June that the British work force of up to 1,400 would travel to the Falklands via South Africa has already prompted some criticism at Westminster.

The supply of large quanti-

ties of building materials either from or via South Africa can be expected to draw an immediate reaction from Labour and other backbenchers.

The decision to buy in South Africa is thought to have been influenced by difficulties finding the necessary materials and equipment in South American countries and the prospect that Argentina would bring pressure on her neighbours not to offer Britain such help.

Another factor is that the military base at Ascension Island, the British staging post to the Falklands, is not equipped as a major port to deal with building supplies and workers moving down to the Falklands.

An advance party of geologists and surveyors has arrived already on the Mount Pleasant site and one of the first tasks is to instal a jetty and landing facilities at Mare Harbour so that supplies can be shipped in.

The new airport, which is to be equipped for instrument landings in zero visibility, will have an 8,500 ft runway to take large jets and a 5,000 ft cross runway.

The Government is still negotiating to buy the site from the Falkland Islands Company and the islanders expect that a premium price will have to be paid for the land.

One expert source in Port Stanley also forecast yesterday that the project would take several years to complete, a considerable problem for the British Government which is relying at present on expensive flights from Ascension with in-flight re-fuelling.

A consortium, Laing-Mowlem-Amey Roadstone won the overall contract for the airport and announced that supply contracts were going to several British companies.

Sayings of the week

OBSERVER
4.9.83

obs
4/6

WE haven't exactly lost it, but we can't lay our hands on it at the moment.—Defence Ministry spokesman on the Falklands surrender document.

I FIND so much to emulate in Winston.—Mrs Thatcher.

FALKLAND KNITWEAR BOOM ^{3/9}

DEMAND for hand-knitted garments made with Falkland Islands' wool is so heavy that the Lake District firm who are the sole British distributors of the wool are preparing to employ 500 more out-workers to knit garments at home.

Viking Wools, of Hawkshead, have applied for planning permission to build a £200,000 warehouse on a former refuse tip so they can store enough wool to keep up to 600 knitters supplied.

They already use about 50 knitters, who collect wool from existing premises.

"We were originally just selling the wool, but there has been a clamour for finished products," the firm's proprietor, Mr Alan Gaynor, explained yesterday.

"We have now established a countrywide market for hand-knitted garments in the wool and are getting inquiries from Germany and Japan."

He said that home knitting was proving ideal employment for local women as they could collect the wool when they wanted it and then knit a sweater a week at home.

ARGENTINA : UN IS WRONG ^{3/9}

THE UNITED NATIONS decolonisation committee has once again in New York passed a resolution in its Third World wisdom proposing direct negotiations between Britain and Argentina including the sovereignty issue. It might have been thought the committee would by now have registered the fact that Britain fought and won a war to stop the Argentine occupying the islands by force. Over the years this bombastic body has proved the most superfluous of the UN's many spawning bureaucracies, obsessed with American colonies in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with South Africa and Rhodesia, while ignoring Soviet and Cuban activity in Ethiopia, Angola, Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe. The committee retains "on its agenda" some 20-odd countries—14 being British dependent territories, with some like Gibraltar, St Helena, the Falklands, Bermuda, who want to maintain links with the mother country. So Britain can ignore its deliberations.

The British position is that by her actions, Argentina has forfeited in the foreseeable future any possibility of a change in sovereignty, and the first need, anyway, if civilised relations are to be restored is for Argentina to end the state of war. With the islanders being in a state of shock, the overwhelming desire is to remain British, so there is nothing to discuss. It has been a cardinal principle of all British Governments that the islanders should have the right of self-determination and that the local inhabitants must be consulted before there can be any change of status. All this matters much more than the entertaining and unimportant question of what Mr MICHAEL FOOT did or did not say in private to Sir ROBIN DAY about the sinking of the General Belgrano.

With the political situation inside Argentina uncertain and murky, no British Government however well disposed can contemplate talks. The military régime is largely discredited. Elections later this year may well produce a civilian Government, although if the past is any guide, Argentina will continue to suffer from misrule whether it is civilian or military. Civilian administration does not mean the country has embraced democracy, and it remains to be seen if the military will really surrender their interference in politics. Britain may well have problems in the future concerning the cost of defending the Falklands. At the moment there is no alternative.

Spending priorities

From Sir David Lane

Sir, Other readers, too, may have been disturbed today (August 24) by the contrast between (a) a television documentary on the "Lifeline to the Falklands", which made clear its astronomical cost, and (b) yet another report in your columns of the harmful effects of the financial squeeze on the National Health Service.

All of us admire the heroism, in their different ways, of the men who liberated and are now defending the Falklands and of the doctors, nurses and others who strive to maintain standards in the NHS (and for whom my wife has recently had cause to be grateful). Yet are we not in danger of getting our spending priorities badly wrong?

In the forthcoming public expenditure review one must hope that Mr Norman Fowler and Mr Kenneth Clarke will stand firm against any further Treasury pressure for cuts in the NHS, and that other ministers will support them. It must surely be possible to keep total public expenditure under control, including an adequate share for defence, without subjecting to still greater strain a service which is used and appreciated by the great majority of the people.

Yours truly,
DAVID LANE,
5 Spinney Drive,
Great Shelford,
Cambridge.
August 24.

Falklands wool boosts jobs ^{3/9}

The growing demand for hand-knitted garments in Falklands Islands wool has encouraged a Lake District firm to try to employ more than 500 more outworkers to knit garments.

Viking Wools, of Hawkshead, have applied for planning permission to build a £200,000 warehouse on a former refuse tip in Hawkshead where it can store enough wool to keep up to 600 knitters supplied.

Mr Alan Gaynor, the proprietor, said yesterday: "We have now established a countrywide market for hand-knitted garments in the wool, and are even getting orders from overseas. We have just had two fantastic inquiries for hand-knitted garments from Germany and Japan, but need new premises to enable us to cope."

Trade sanctions as a bar to learning

From Mr John Gillard Watson

Sir, Notification was recently received here that the *Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute*, vol. 49, "Proceedings of the 43rd Session of the Institute", held at Buenos Aires in December, 1981, had been seized by the Customs. This was on the grounds that importation was forbidden, but an application could be made for an import licence.

The application was duly made to the Department of Trade and Industry, but was refused by the International Trade Policy Division. The reason given was that the ban on Argentine imports imposed on April 7, 1982, would remain "until such time as we can bring Argentina to restore normal trade relations with the United Kingdom." It was argued that "any shift in our position would send entirely the wrong signals to the Argentinians and hinder our efforts to achieve a mutual lifting of sanctions."

Since then notification has also been received that five volumes of *Comercio Exterior Argentina 1979*, published by the Instituto de Nacional de Estadística y Censos, have been seized similarly. Both sets of items are liable to forfeiture and legal proceedings will be taken for the condemnation of the goods as forfeited if we venture to make a claim that they are not liable to forfeiture - a claim which, it is evident, will fail in view of the above-quoted letter.

I do not question the object of the Government in maintaining trade

sanctions, but is it not obvious that so far as the items cited are concerned it is this country, and not Argentina, which is damaged?

It cannot be maintained that to forbid scholars access to the proceedings of the ISI session of two years ago and to forbid not only scholars but business firms access to the trade returns of four years ago can in any way promote our interests; nor could an intelligent interpretation of the embargo, allowing the import of material of benefit to this country, be in any way a source of aid and comfort to the enemy. Both items are sent free of charge.

If this absurd situation is not put right without delay by the Government there is evidently every intention that the whole of the learned and business material in what is presumably a shipload, at present held in a Dover warehouse, will be forfeit and, in plain English, destroyed. Where then will the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade and Industry get the most recent figures on Argentine commerce? Will the inquiring businessman, and the scholar be told to fly to Switzerland to look things up?

Yours etc,
JOHN GILLARD WATSON,
Librarian
Institute of Economics and
Statistics,
St Cross Building,
Manor Road,
Oxford.
August 27.

THE TIMES

2.9.83

SUNDAY TIMES

4.9.83

'Charity King' rakes off Falklands widows cash

by Iain Scarlet

ALLAN STEIN, the businessman who was exposed in The Sunday Times as "the brochure king who cheats charities," is now known to have made a profit of some £25,000 out of the souvenir programme for a charity gala held to raise money for the South Atlantic Fund.

The glossy 116-page commemorative brochure consisted almost entirely of advertisements and grossed nearly £55,000 in revenue. But only £10,800 of that amount - less than 20p in the pound - was handed over to the organisers of the fund, which was set up to benefit the widows, orphans and wounded of the Falklands war.

Corawell, a company set up by Stein, produced the souvenir programme. Advertisers who took 108 pages at between £445 and £645 a page believed that, after printing and other costs, most of the money would go to the fund.

The gala was held in June last year at the Royal Engineers' Inglis barracks in Mill Hill, London, at the invitation of the commandant, Colonel Rolph James. It starred Frankie Vaughan, David Burglas and the pop group, Barley, and was compered by the comedian, Bernard Bresslaw. All gave their services free.

The stars and organisers became aware of the profits made by Corawell only after The Sunday Times disclosures on July 17 about Stein's so-called "charity support publishing" activities.

and it is now run on a day-to-day basis by two of his close associates, Steve Marr and Harvey Collier.

For the South Atlantic Fund Gala, Corawell produced up to 1,000 programmes at a maximum cost, including the printing, commission and overheads, of about £19,000. The brochures were distributed free at the gala, for which 400 people paid £10 a head. During the entertainment, gifts were auctioned to raise more money. In all, £7,000 was made during the evening, and the entire sum was later given to the South Atlantic Fund.

"It was an extraordinarily emotional evening and people's generosity was heart-warming," said illusionist David Burglas, who auctioned the gifts. He was angry that Stein should have chosen the occasion to make a profit.

Frankie Vaughan who invited Burglas and Bresslaw to give their services free, told The Sunday Times yesterday: "I am furious that anyone should even think of making a profit out of a good cause like the South Atlantic Fund."

● We should like to make clear that the £5,000 which we reported last week as having been received by St Bartholomew's Hospital from the charity Children With Cancer was in fact accepted by Bart's Foundation for Research Ltd.



Charity show star Frankie Vaughan: "I'm furious"

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Daily Telegraph 29 83



Falkland Islands farmer Tim Miller (left), who was accidentally blinded in an eye by an R A F bomb, with his bride and British pen-pal sweetheart, Elaine Hood, a nursing auxiliary, after their marriage at Manchester register office yesterday. The best man, Flt Lt Mark Hare, had dropped the bomb.

Sharp practice

THERE WERE, I gather, personal as well as professional reasons for Fleet Commander-in-Chief Admiral Sir William Staveley's recent visit to the Falklands.

Apart from inspecting ships and naval units, he laid a wreath at the war memorial commemorating the Battle of the Falklands in 1914 in was destroyed. It was his grandfather, vice-Admiral Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdec, who commanded the British South Atlantic squadron.

Sadly, however, Sir William was unable to see his grandfather's sword once proudly displayed in the Falklands council chamber. It was stolen last year by the invading Argentines.

Sir Robin rebuked by Foot over Belgrano remark

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

MR FOOT rebuked Sir Robin Day yesterday for having quoted him as saying privately that Mrs Thatcher had had no alternative than to order the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

But he did not dispute the interpretation which Sir Robin put on his views.

The Labour leader, who is on holiday in Venice, concentrated instead on stressing his support for the Shadow Cabinet's recent call for a Commons inquiry into the sinking.

Sir Robin was challenged during a debate at the Edinburgh Festival on Wednesday as to why he had not pressed Mrs Thatcher or Mr Foot on the issue when he interviewed them during the election campaign.

The challenge came from Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who has been seeking to prove that Mrs Thatcher ordered the sinking to ensure conflict at a time when a Peruvian-inspired peace plan was reputedly being accepted by Argentina.

Over the mark

Soon after his reply, Sir Robin quickly realised that he had been goaded into overstepping the mark, and he subsequently promised an apology to Mr Foot.

Among MPs of all parties yesterday, surprise that Sir Robin should have breached a confidence was overshadowed by dismay that they could expect to face a continued and unrelenting campaign from Mr Dalyell over the Belgrano sinking.

Mr Foot, who with retirement barely a month away had hoped to complete his holiday undisturbed, dictated to his office at Westminster a statement reading:

"The Shadow Cabinet recommended a few weeks ago that the matter of the sinking of the Belgrano should be investigated by a Select Committee of the House of Commons.

"I am sure that this is the right way to deal with the matter and to have a proper investigation. I am sure the wrong way to deal with the matter is by public declarations about private conversations."

Daily Telegraph

2 9 83

Financial Times

2 9 83

Energy

Britain's

low cost

windmills

AN UNUSUAL new design of windmill which could cut dramatically the cost of electricity generating using alternative energy was shown in Australia yesterday.

It has been developed by Derek Taylor at the Open University's Alternative Technology Group in the UK. The design has a very simple design and needs little material to build.

The windmill spins on a vertical axis and can harness wind coming from any direction. The group at the Open University is looking for an industrial company to take up the project.

In practice the Taylor design resembles an inverted cone. Mr Taylor has envisaged having one or more blades with fixed or variable tilt angles.

The initial wind turbine which is being shown at the Solar World Congress in Australia is a two-blade "V" type with a fixed tilt angle and bracing wires. This is a relatively simple design in which the blades are attached by their roots to the hub by means of a "flapping" type hinge in much the same way as conventional horizontal type wind turbines.

Mr David Sharpe, at Queen Mary College's Department of Aeronautical Engineering in London, has been working with the Open University on the testing and design of the system.

Advantages for the new design are claimed at being multidirectional harness of the wind, self-starting of the turbine so avoiding the cost of a starting device or the use of stored or mains energy for starting as is required on other types of vertical axis machines, and simple blades which are relatively inexpensive to make.

ELAINE WILLIAMS

Daily Express

2 9 83

Britain firm on Falklands

BRITAIN told the United Nations last night that it would not discuss sovereignty over the Falkland Islands with Argentina.

The move came as the UN's decolonisation committee voted 19-0 in favour of Britain and Argentina resuming talks.

Britain's UN representative, Sir John Thomson, told the committee Argentina had shown no regret for its invasion of the Falklands last year.

Foot renews demand for Belgrano inquiry

BY IVOR OWEN

THE Labour Party's demand for a Parliamentary inquiry into the events that led to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano during the Falklands conflict last year was renewed by Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, yesterday.

At the same time, he interrupted his holiday in Italy to issue a mild rebuke to Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster. Sir Robin had asserted on Wednesday that Mr Foot told him in a private conversation that he believed there had been no alternative open to Mrs

Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, but to order the attack on the Belgrano.

In a statement from his private office at Westminster, Mr Foot commented: "I am sure the wrong way to deal with the matter is by public declarations about private conversations."

Repeating the demand for an investigation by a House of Commons select committee into the sinking of the Belgrano, the Labour leader insisted: "I am sure that is the right way to deal with the matter, and to have a proper investigation."

During the general election campaign, Mr Foot publicly stated that he did not think the sinking of the Belgrano was an issue—a point Sir Robin had sought to emphasise when he revealed his private conversation with Mr Foot. (He has since apologised for the revelation.)

During the Falklands conflict, Mr Foot declined the Prime Minister's offer to discuss detailed operational issues, as among Privy Counsellors and so in confidence, in order to

preserve his freedom to comment in public debate.

It is understood that, at one stage, Mr Foot did privately express the view that Mrs Thatcher had been bound to act on the advice given her by the Admiralty.

Wider issues, including the impact of the sinking on the peace initiatives being undertaken at the time by the Peruvian Government, would be covered by the type of select committee inquiry for which Mr Foot is still pressing.

BY DAVID TONGE IN LONDON AND DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

Howe hopes to heal rift with Spain over Gibraltar

AFTER six frosty months, Britain and Spain hope to lay the ground for an eventual solution of the Gibraltar problem when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, meets Sr Fernando Moran, his Spanish counterpart, in Madrid next week.

Throughout the summer the two countries have been having to pick up the pieces left behind after Sr Moran's talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, in March. British officials restrict themselves to talking of their "disappointment" at that visit, but it is clear that the visit was as if a Spanish bull had entered Mrs Thatcher's china shop.

Sr Moran came to London set on achieving "clarifications" of the 1980 Lisbon Statement signed by both countries. That agreement implicitly committed Britain to talks on Spain's

claims to sovereignty over Gibraltar and saw Spain agreeing to lift the frontier restrictions introduced by General Franco in 1969.

Hopes that his agreement would end the 270-year quarrel between Madrid and London have so far foundered because of differing interpretations of the agreement. Britain argues that negotiations with Spain should follow the opening of the border.

Spain insists the agreement should be taken as a whole and that the suspension of restrictions should be matched both by negotiations on sovereignty and by Britain giving Spain "reciprocity and full equality of rights."

The clarifications requested by Sr Moran were seen by Britain as amounting to asking for a virtual renegotiation of the Statement.

Relations took a further turn for the worse when Spanish officials reacted to HMS Invincible's visit to Gibraltar in April with the indignation which Drake might have shown at the arrival of the Spanish Armada.

However, a quiet summer has followed as Britain has kept a low profile and the Spaniards have realised they have no alternative to dealing with a re-elected Mrs Thatcher. They have also been stating in public the need to take account of the wishes of the 50,000 Gibraltarians.

Sr Moran has repeated that sovereignty "has to be resolved in a form compatible with the interests of the population." One of his aides has said: "We realise we cannot get Gibraltar back unless the Gibraltarians agree."

The one thing common to both sides' positions is that each

claims the ball is now in the other's court.

After the partial opening of the Spanish-Gibraltar border last December—a move benefiting the tradesmen on the Spanish side—Spain's Socialist Government clearly feels too vulnerable to domestic attack from a still untamed army to risk what might be seen as further unreciprocated concessions.

Sr Moran has set forward two steps he would like from Britain, the granting of European Community status to Spaniards in Gibraltar, and resolving problems Gibraltar's airport causes to airports on the Costa del Sol.

Britain sees no way of giving Spaniards rights to work in Gibraltar earlier than they would receive them following accession to the Community.

with the subsequent transition period for labour movement that this will certainly involve—particularly given current unemployment levels in La Linea.

There, is, however, a possibility that it would ease restrictions on Spaniards buying property in Gibraltar. This move would be of more symbolic than real importance given the shortage of housing on the Rock.

For the British some hope lies in Sr Moran's indications that Spain might ease some of the remaining restrictions as part of an overall negotiating strategy. He has suggested that it was unhelpful "to tighten the screws" on the Gibraltarians. He also appreciates the support Britain has given to Spain's efforts to join the European Community.

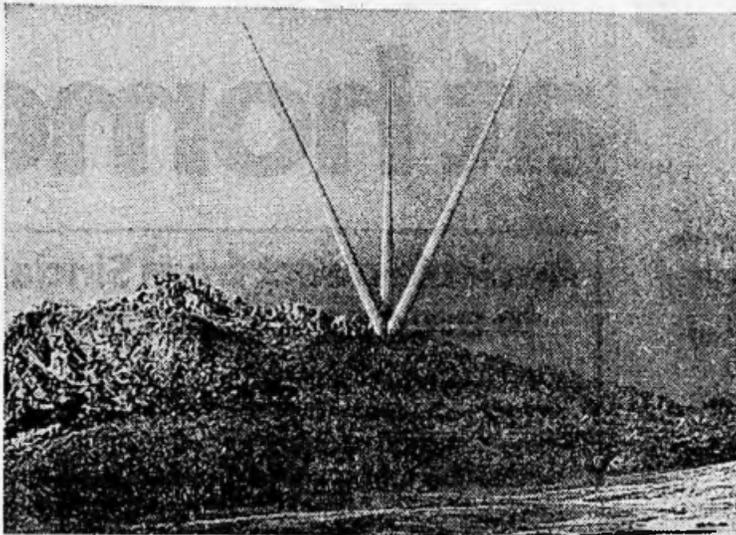
Britain's own interest in Spanish contracts—it is keen to sell the Torrado multi-role aircraft and Rapier missile system to Madrid—weighs less heavily with British policy makers than the country's obligations to the Gibraltarians themselves.

Sr Joshua Hassan, the chief minister, has been voicing the restlessness many Gibraltarians feel as they see Britain reducing its involvement on the Rock by going ahead with plans to turn the Royal Navy dockyard over to commercial hands at the end of next year.

This is turn ties British hands and makes British concessions hard to offer. It also explains why British officials see next week's Madrid meeting on Gibraltar as crucial if the personal relations and trust necessary for solving the issue are to be re-established.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: DESIGN



The memorial that moves

Apart from a motley collection of regimental memorials, some modest cairns and crosses, and the small Falklands Government plaque, there is no single national monument to those who died in the Falklands War last year. It is a lack that has inspired a London-based group of designers, architects and engineers, called Transfer, to come up with a design for a major landmark that would be strong enough to serve as a permanent memorial, but which would be light and portable enough to be flown out to the South Atlantic, and helicoptered into position.

They came up with a 40 metre high

steel tripod, made up of telescopic aluminium alloy sections protected by plastic, and reinforced with carbon fibre which could fold into a Hercules transport plane. It would have the advantage of being capable of being erected in Britain before departure so that people who will never get to the Falklands could see it. And as for the significance of the tripod shape, Transfer says: "It would look as if it had just landed on the island, in exactly the same way as the men and equipment who took part in the action there. We thought that a simple, strong shape would be much more powerful than tons of marble".

Falklands setback for Britain

From Our Correspondent
New York

Argentina once again won a diplomatic victory at the United Nations as the 25 member Decolonisation Committee yesterday overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution calling on the British and Argentine Governments to resume negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Nineteen members of the committee decided that the principle of negotiation promoted by Argentina throughout the debate was more important than Britain's claim that the paramount issue in the dispute was the protection of the Falkland Islanders' right to

self-determination.

There were no votes against the resolution which would have been a measure of support for Britain, while five countries, Australia, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Norway and Sierra Leone abstained.

● **British rejection:** Britain, in advance of the vote, ruled out resuming the negotiations that were broken off last year when Argentina invaded the islands.

Sir John Thompson, the British representative, expressed "a degree of disappointment" that the committee charged with promoting the principle of self-determination did not show more regard "for a people whose future is at stake."

UN wants talks on Falklands

New York: The UN Decolonisation Committee yesterday adopted a resolution calling for renewed talks between Britain and Argentina to resolve the dispute over the Falkland Islands. The vote on the Argentine-backed resolution was 19-0, with five abstentions. Neither Britain nor Argentina is committee members.

Britain, in advance of the vote on the Venezuelan-sponsored resolution, ruled out resuming the long-drawn-out negotiations that were broken off last year when Argentina invaded the islands to assert its 149-year-old claim. The British Ambassador, Sir John Thomson, expressed "a degree of disappointment" that the committee, charged with promoting the principle of self-determination, did not show more regard "for a people whose future is at stake."

The resolution makes no reference to self-determination, affirming only the need "to take due account of the interests of the population of the Falkland Islands." Britain and Argentina are requested "to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute."

Earlier, Sir John said Argentina had shown no regret for the invasion and appeared to preserve the option of a further resort to force.

The Argentine Ambassador, Mr Carlos Manuel Muniz, allowed to address the committee, along with Sir John, as an interested party, said that the "decolonisation and recovery of the Malvinas" was a permanent priority objective of all Argentines.

Two elected members of the Falkland Islands government, Mr John Cheek and Mr Anthony Blake, addressed the committee earlier, along with two former islanders who favour links with Argentina, Mr Derek William Rozee and Mr Alexander Jacob Betts.

Mr Cheek said: "We look to the United Nations to support and protect our right as a people to determine our own future, to decide the form of government under which we wish to live and to live in peace and security from further aggression."—

AP/Reuter.

Falkland flagship to retire early

By Defence Correspondent

THE flagship of the Falklands task force, the carrier *Hermes* is to be withdrawn from full operation service nearly two years earlier than planned because of a shortage of sailors.

At the end of this year the 24-year-old ship will put into Devonport for maintenance and her crew will then gradually be run down and transferred to *Ark Royal*, a new carrier now being built.

For the rest of next year and throughout 1985 she will be used as a training ship in Portsmouth before being de-commissioned and either sold to a foreign navy or scrapped.

In dock

Ark Royal, a sister ship to the other new carrier, *Illustrious*, will not be ready for operations until the end of 1985.

So for nearly two years the Royal Navy will be left with only two operational carriers, *Invincible* and *Illustrious*.

For much of that time one of them is bound to be in dock for repairs and maintenance.

The 1,350 crew of *Hermes* will ease the Navy's manpower shortage slightly.

But the planned run-down of the total number of men in the Navy is still going ahead.

In March 1981 there were 66,360 men in the Navy compared with 63,638 today. A further 10,000 are scheduled to go within the next three years.

Angry Foot calls for Belgrano inquiry

By JOHN HARRISON,
Political Reporter

MR Michael Foot has reacted angrily to the way Sir Robin Day broke a confidence by revealing that the Labour leader backed Mrs Thatcher's decision to sink the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*.

In a brief comment relayed via Westminster from his holiday retreat in Venice, Mr Foot insisted that the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the *Belgrano* should be investigated by a Commons committee of MPs.

At the same time, however, Mr Foot's aides confirmed that, on guidance from Navy chiefs at the Ministry of Defence, the Labour leader readily accepted that Mrs Thatcher's Falklands War Cabinet had no option but to order an attack.

Infuriated

The issue — immensely embarrassing for the Labour Party — came to a head in sensational fashion in Edinburgh on Thursday when Sir Robin revealed that Mr Foot acknowledged in private that he considered Mrs Thatcher had no alternative.

Sir Robin — who was provoked into the admission by Labour MP Tam Dalyell during a debate at the Edinburgh international television festival — has written to Mr Foot to apologise.

What is certain to infuriate Labour Left-wingers is the fact that Mr Foot appeared ready to accept the judgement of Navy chiefs at a time when proposals for peace were emerging from Peru which, in their view, might have produced a ceasefire.

Bravo, Sir Robin

THANK heavens for Sir Robin Day. We are all in his debt for his revelation that Mr Michael Foot really believed that the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano* had to be sunk and that Mrs Thatcher had no alternative but to order its torpedoing.

Although he has written to apologise to Mr Foot for betraying a confidence, he has in truth nothing of which to be ashamed.

For one thing, he was sorely provoked and goaded into making his statement by superbore Mr Tam Dalyell.

For another — and this is much more to the point — surely it is one of the highest duties of a journalist to expose humbug especially among the high and mighty.

The posture of Mr Foot and his party over the *Belgrano* was a classic bit of hypocrisy.

Labour leaders positively seethed with moral indignation, kept on demanding an inquiry and all along implied, when they did not openly suggest, that Mrs Thatcher had blood on her hands because she had deliberately had the Argentine cruiser sunk in order to scupper United Nations efforts for peace. When all the time their leader secretly agreed that Mrs Thatcher had no choice but to order the sinking of the cruiser.

Doubtless efforts will now be made by the Left to oust Sir Robin from his position in the BBC for failing to observe the rules about not divulging information obtained on a 'lobby' basis, but his detractors must not be allowed to succeed.

The contribution of Sir Robin to serious political debate in this country is almost beyond price.

He is the one interviewer in broadcasting who consistently pricks the pretensions of inflated public personalities and makes them address those questions they would prefer to dodge. Long may he go on doing it.

Happy end to story of love and war

FALKLANDS farmer Tim Miller, accidentally blinded in one eye in an RAF raid, married his English sweetheart yesterday.

And by his side as best man was the Harrier pilot who dropped the bomb that injured him.

Had it not been for the accident, 32-year-old Mr Miller would never have met his bride, Manchester nursing auxiliary Elaine Hodd, 31.

She became his pen friend while he was being treated on the hospital ship Uganda and they met and fell in love when he came to England for more treatment.

After the 20-minute ceremony at Manchester Register Office, Mr Miller said he thought choosing Flight Lt. Mark Hare to be best man was 'as good a way as any' of repaying him for bringing about the introduction.

Flt. Lt. Hare, based at Wittering, Lincolnshire, bombed Mr Miller's farm because it was believed to be an Argentine airstrip.



Sheep farmer Tim Miller (left) with his bride and best man

THE GUARDIAN Thursday September 1 1983

Goaded Day betrays Foot secret

By Jean Stead,
Scottish Correspondent

The broadcaster, Sir Robin Day, said yesterday that the Labour leader, Mr Michael Foot, had told him during the election campaign that he thought the Prime Minister was right to order the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano during the Falklands campaign.

"He told me: 'She had no option but to sink the Belgrano.' I did not think it was an election issue and nor did Michael Foot," Sir Robin said during a debate at the Edinburgh Television Festival on coverage of the election.

He was replying to an angry intervention by the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, who wanted to know why Sir Robin and other television interviewers had not followed up questions about the sinking put to the Prime Minister by Mrs Diana Gould, during the

Nationwide television programme.

Sir Robin leapt to his feet and said it had been agreed by everyone concerned that the Belgrano was not an election issue.

The Labour leadership candidate, Mr Roy Hattersley, who shared the platform with the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, and Mr Tom King for the Tories, asked Sir Robin when Mr Foot had told him this.

Sir Robin replied that it was during conversation at a private meeting.

Mr Hattersley, obviously furious, said: "I am not saying it is not true. I am saying I would not want to have a private conversation with you."

Sir Robin replied: "I knew we would not get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark."

After the debate Mr Hattersley said: "I think it is extremely wrong for an

accusation to be made in public like that which is entirely uncheckable."

Sir Robin said: "I had been attacked by Tam Dalyell and I gave an honest answer. I think I had better leave it at that."

But later he said that he would be writing to Mr Foot to apologise for breaking a confidence.

"I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument I disclosed the gist of what Michael Foot had said privately to me," he said.

"I am writing to Mr Foot to apologise for this disclosure, and to explain that it was made only in the heat of the moment."

The question of lack of coverage of the Belgrano issue reinforced a number of criticisms during the debate that the election campaign was unprovocative and unrepresentative of ordinary life.

Mr Steel, on his first public appearance after his illness, attacked "supermarket" TV coverage, which required political leaders to go round buying cheese for the benefit of cameramen.

He also said that the daily party press conferences were superficial set pieces which had given little idea of the realities of the campaign.

He complained that the Alliance had not had a fair share of broadcasting time in relation to its strength in the country.

Mr Steel was looking tanned and healthy after his illness, even if a post-mortem on the election campaign just before the Liberal conference was not the ideal cure for the depression he is said to have been suffering.

Heffer's union block call, page 2; Shore criticises Scargill, back page

The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, September 1, 1983

Day will apologise over Foot quote

By GRAHAM PATERSON
Political Staff

SIR ROBIN DAY is to apologise to Mr Foot for disclosing yesterday that the Labour leader had told him off the record that Mrs Thatcher had had no option but to sink the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

A row developed over the disclosure between Sir Robin and Mr Roy Hattersley, a Labour leadership candidate, during a debate at the Edinburgh International Television Festival on the media coverage of the General Election.

The flare up came after Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, complained that Sir Robin had not raised the subject of the sinking of the Belgrano during his pre-election interview with Mrs Thatcher.

Sir Robin replied: "I didn't ask Mrs Thatcher because I didn't think it was an election issue, nor did my editor nor did anybody else I met, nor did Mr Michael Foot, who told me personally 'I thought she had

no option but to sink the ship.'"

Gasps from audience

There were gasps from the audience at this apparent breach of confidentiality.

Mr Hattersley, a member of the panel, asked in what circumstances Mr Foot had made this comment?

Sir Robin replied: "He told me in the course of a conversation during the election. In the interests of truth I am not going to rely on lobby terms but to say what he said.

"If, of course, he says he did not say it, and if, of course, you're saying this is untrue, I will apologise. But he said it to me personally."

Mr Hattersley immediately retorted: "I'm not for a moment saying it's untrue — I'm just saying I mustn't have any private conversations with you."

'Honest answer'

Sir Robin said afterwards: "I gave an honest answer because Tam Dalyell was being very provocative."

Later he added: "I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument I disclosed the gist of what Mr Michael Foot had said privately to me some months ago about the sinking of the Belgrano.

"I am writing to Mr Foot to apologise for this disclosure, and to explain it was made only in the heat of the moment in answer to a challenge from Mr Tam Dalyell."

Sir Robin's use of lobby terms refers to the convention whereby some political journalists speak to politicians on the understanding that their words will not be used in print.

THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1 1983

Falklanders to put case at UN

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The Falklands sovereignty issue has become a distant rather than a pressing preoccupation for most members of the UN Decolonization Committee.

Late last night it was due to begin debating whether Britain and Argentina should resume negotiations.

In the more subdued atmosphere, debating skills and powers of argument of the two main opponents are expected to take on added importance. The dazzle or dreariness of their presentations could make a lot of difference to members torn between supporting Argentina as a member of the non-aligned movement or Britain, in deference to its role in international diplomacy.

Mr John Cheek and Mr Tony Blake, elected members of the Falklands Legislative Council, were due to begin the proceedings as petitioners. They, as well as Britain, are expected to emphasize self-determination as the issue of paramount importance in the conflict, and the brutal way in



Mr John Cheek: Plea for self-determination

which Argentina interrupted their way of life.

Argentina and its Latin American supporters are expected to paint Britain as an imperialist power bent on retaining its remaining colonies for strategic purposes. The principle of negotiation will also be emphasized.

Venezuela began circulating a

draft resolution on Tuesday requesting Britain and Argentina to resume negotiations and expressing its support for the renewed good offices mission undertaken by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, on the basis of last year's General Assembly resolution.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar briefed Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's Foreign Secretary, about his recent visit to southern Africa, where he was trying to find a solution to the Namibia problem.

They spent 75 minutes at the Foreign Office yesterday during what UN sources described as "very much a private visit" by the Secretary-General.

Whitehall officials were at pains to point out that the Falklands was only touched on during the discussions.

The UN conference on Palestine, the Gulf War, Chad and Afghanistan were also on the agenda. The Secretary-General flew back to New York later.

Bravery award for Navy diver

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A Royal Navy deep-sea diver has been awarded the Queen's gallantry medal for his part in "possibly the most dangerous task ever undertaken by a Royal Navy diving team".

He is Petty Officer Michael Harrison, aged 33, who has been in the Navy for 18 years.

The medal was won while divers were recovering classified documents and equipment from ships sunk during the Falklands campaign last year. The nature of the material recovered has not been specified but it is thought to have included top secret code

books and cryptographic equipment.

The citation says that "though working in extremely unpleasant, hazardous and dark conditions, and despite becoming entangled on two separate occasions with hanging debris, Harrison persevered with the task, putting himself at grave personal risk."

The action was in depths of more than 300 feet, and was carried out by a team of 27 naval divers.

The operation was conducted from a chartered vessel, the 7,000 ton Stena Seaspread. It involved

using a diving bell to carry the divers down.

The divers left the diving bell, but remained connected to it, while searching for the documents and equipment in the sunken ships.

It is believed that much of the activity centred on Coventry which sank north of the Falklands.

The recovery of the material has been regarded as a sensitive matter by the Royal Navy not only because it was highly classified, but also because ships lost off the Falklands have been designated as war graves.

THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1 1983

Day to apologize to Foot over confidence slip

Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster, said last night that he was writing to Mr Michael Foot to apologize for breaking a confidence in a sudden outburst during a debate with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, at the Edinburgh international television festival.

Sir Robin said that Mr Foot had told him he believed Mrs Thatcher had no alternative to sinking the Argentine battleship, the Belgrano.

The admission stunned the audience of broadcasters and journalists, which included Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, and Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport, as chief guests.

Mr Hattersley immediately asked Sir Robin where and when Mr Foot had made the remark, and if it was made in private. Sir Robin said that it was and Mr Hattersley retorted: "I won't have a private conversation with you again!"

The broadcaster replied: "I knew we would not get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark."

Mr Dalyell had asked during the festival's debate on television's general election coverage why he had not questioned Mrs Thatcher on the sinking of the Belgrano. Sir Robin said that both he and television editors did not think that the sinking was an election issue.

When Mr Dalyell took up the subject again, Sir Robin rounded on him and shouted: "Mr Foot did not think that Mrs Thatcher had any alternative to sinking the Belgrano. He said it was not an election issue, and that he did not want to talk about it when I interviewed him."

As Mr Hattersley left the debate early to catch a train to another function he said that Sir Robin's remark had been a breach of confidence.

Sir Robin said afterwards: "I gave an honest answer because Tam Dalyell was being very provocative".

Later he added: "I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument about television election coverage I disclosed the gist of what Mr Michael Foot had said privately to me some months ago about the sinking of the Belgrano."

"I am writing to Mr Foot to apologize for this disclosure, and to explain it was made only in the heat of the moment in answer to a challenge from Mr Tam Dalyell."

Mr Richard Clements, one of the Labour leader's aides, said last night: "Michael Foot is away on holiday. He is not contactable at the moment."

During the election campaign, Mr Neil Kinnock, the favourite candidate to succeed Mr Foot, called for a full-scale investigation into the sinking of the Belgrano. But it was noted at the time that when the demand was put to Mr Foot, at Labour's campaign press conference on June 2, he refused to endorse Mr Kinnock's view.

Earlier in the debate, Mr Hattersley said that the Labour Party had lost the general election because of its own failings, not because it was the victim of antagonistic newspapers and television companies.

"This election was determined before the first television camera moved into the first press conference", he said.

All that the media could do was to magnify features which were already established by the parties, he said. "We lost the general election for the Labour Party."

Labour had found itself squeezed between the presupposition of defeat and the media's interest in the newness of the Alliance, and increasingly neglected the issues completely, Mr Hattersley said.

Financial Times Thursday

September 1 1983

Britain firm on Falklands

By David Tonge, Diplomatic Correspondent

BRITAIN yesterday told Sr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General, that it remained opposed to negotiations with the Argentines over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, explained to Sr Perez de Cuellar Britain's demand that Argentina should make a formal declaration of the end of hostilities before relations could be normalised. Let alone any negotiations be considered. Argentina links declaring an end of hostilities to Britain accepting negotiations.

Despite the costs of maintaining troops in the Falklands, the British Government's view is that the issue of sovereignty has to be left to one side until the islanders' confidence in Argentina has been built up.

Sr Perez de Cuellar's own view is closer to that of the 90 countries that voted in favour of early negotiations at the UN General Assembly

The Standard
1st September 1983

Falklands UN clash

United Nations, Thursday
BRITAIN and Argentina
clashed when the UN's
Decolonisation Committee
took up the question of
the Falkland Islands dis-
pute.

Britain's representative Sir
John Thomson, rejected a
draft resolution, sponsored by
Venezuela, calling for a re-
sumption of negotiations on

the question of sovereignty
over the Islands.

He said Argentina had
shown no regret for last year's
invasion and appeared to pre-
serve the option of a further
resort to force.

Argentine ambassador Car-
los Manuel Muniz said the
"decolonisation and recovery
of the Malvinas" was a per-
manent priority objective of
all Argentinians.

Invincible sails again

WIVES and sweethearts lined
Fortsouth harbour today
to wave farewell to the
Invincible — which is
leading a Naval Task Group
on an eight-month deploy-
ment to the Far East.

It is the first opportunity the
Navy has had of carrying
out such a deployment
since the Falklands war.
With the Invincible will be
six warships.

DAILY MAIL
1st September 1983

Belgrano

attack:

'Foot

backed

Maggie'

By JOHN HARRISON

A REVELATION by interviewer Sir Robin Day last night threw the Labour Party into a new paroxysm of shock and embarrassment.

During the General Election campaign, declared Sir Robin, Labour leader Michael Foot had said privately that he agreed with the decision of Mrs Thatcher's War Cabinet to sink the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano — an attack that cost 368 lives.

The revelation is bound to embarrass Mr Neil Kinnock, a staunch Foot supporter and the man almost certain to be Mr Foot's successor as party leader.

At the election, Mr Kinnock noisily demanded an impartial inquiry into the sinking.

The depth of the Labour Party's embarrassment is underlined by the fact that more than 150 Labour MPs signed a Commons motion calling for an independent inquiry.

Sir Robin broke the confidence during a flare-up with Labour MP Tam Dalyell at the Edinburgh International Television Festival

Questioned

Mr Dalyell had asked during a debate on TV's General Election coverage why Sir Robin had not questioned Mrs Thatcher on the sinking of the Belgrano. Sir Robin said television editors and he himself did not think the sinking was an election issue.

When Mr Dalyell took up the subject again, Sir Robin shouted: 'Mr Foot did not think that Mrs Thatcher had any alternative to sinking the Belgrano. He said it was not an election issue, and that he did not want to talk about it when I interviewed him.'

Mr Hattersley immediately asked Sir Robin where and when Mr Foot had made the remark, and if it was made in private. Sir Robin said yes, and Mr Hattersley retorted: 'I won't have a private conversation with you again!'

The TV presenter snapped back: 'I knew we would not get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark.'

Sir Robin said later that he intended to apologise to Mr Foot for the breach of confidence. He said: 'I gave an honest answer because Tam Dalyell was being very provocative.'

'I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument I disclosed the gist of what Mr Michael Foot had said privately to me.'

'I am writing to Mr Foot to apologise

Turn to Page 2 Col. 2

Angui

Foot and Belgrano

Continued from Page One

for this disclosure, and to explain it was made only in the heat of the moment.

Mr Foot, on a visit to Venice, said at his hotel last night: 'I have absolutely nothing to say.'

Many senior Labour figures believed that the sinking of the Belgrano was the one weak spot in Mrs Thatcher's Falklands campaign.

It coloured the attacks on her conduct of the war by Mr Kinnock and by Labour deputy leader Denis Healey, who later apologised for accusing her of 'gloating in slaughter.'

One of the few moments during the campaign when Mrs Thatcher appeared to be discomfited came when she was questioned on the sinking by housewife Diana Gould during a Nationwide TV talk-in.

Mrs Thatcher was forced to devote a good deal of time at her election news conferences explaining the course of events which led to the decision to sink the Belgrano.

Labour MPs headed by Mr Dalyell have campaigned for an inquiry into the Belgrano attack, made by the nuclear submarine Conqueror.

And in July the Shadow Cabinet, led by Mr Foot proposed to Labour MPs the idea of an investigation by a Commons Select Committee. This was agreed by the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The disclosure of Mr Foot's real opinion on the issue is unlikely to lead to any attacks on him as the 70-year-old Labour leader has only four weeks before he leaves office.

The revelation is another embarrassing moment for Sir Robin involving senior politicians.

At the Tory Party Conference a year ago, the then

Defence Secretary, Sir John Nott, stormed out of a Day interview. During the election Sir Robin had an acrimonious programme with Mrs Thatcher during which she frequently addressed him as 'Mr Day'.

Sir Robin also had an angry clash at election time with Mr Hattersley. Sir Robin told him 'Chuck it, Mr Hattersley. You know perfectly well that this is not a party political broadcast.'

Mrs Thatcher has consistently refused an inquiry into the Belgrano affair. Nor is she willing to publish the log of the Conqueror as the critics have demanded.

David Steele's appearance at the TV debate marked his first return to public life since the start of his summer sabbatical.

He made no comment on Sir Robin's revelations. 'I'll leave others to argue,' he said.

Ma hood



'Trust Robin Day to open his mouth and put Foot in it!'

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WHAT LIFE'S LIKE
NOW FOR THE LADS
IN THE FALKLANDS
SPECIAL REPORT ON CENTRE PAGES

THE WEEKLY NEWS

Price 16p

AUGUST 20, 1983

No 6688

HOW THE ROYAL NAVY KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE ARGIES

IT'S all quiet off the Falklands as the crew of a British destroyer scan the sea and sky for any sign of the enemy.

Suddenly, a group of aircraft is picked up on the radar screen, screaming towards them.

A hush falls over the operations room as the captain declares an "air-raid warning red." The men's stomachs tighten. The planes are little more than 20 minutes' flying time away.

They could be carrying Exocet missiles.

The radar operators are concentrating too much to be frightened. There can be no mistakes. A full picture has to be built up of the planes so they can be pinpointed and engaged should they come in to attack.

Testing our defences

Thousands of tiny computer lights twinkle in the otherwise darkened room.

The clock ticks on and 30 minutes into the red alert it is clear the planes have turned back, content once more to simply test our defences.

"It is only then that you ponder on what might have been if they had attacked and start thinking of your wife and children back home," Petty Officer George Goodfellow told *The Weekly News*.

George is a radar operator on HMS Exeter, a Type 42 guided missile destroyer, which returned to Britain recently from a five-month spell of duty in the South Atlantic.

Lifejacket

Apart from periodically patrolling around the Falklands, they are stationed on defence watches between the islands and Argentina to detect any approach by enemy forces.

They are in the front line. An attack could come at any time.

Hence the amount of safety equipment our seamen have to carry around with them.

In a bag hanging from the waistband of their green overalls, which are tucked into their woollen socks to stop flash burns should fire break out, is an anti-flash hood and gloves.

These are made of cotton dipped in a heat-resistant liquid.

Also around the waist is a lifejacket.

Only minutes

Another piece of equipment is a folded-up "Elsa." The "Emergency Life-Support Apparatus" consists of a hood and mask attached to an oxygen bottle which contains an eight-minute supply of air.

Should the ship be hit and filled with acrid smoke, these would give the men a chance to escape to safety without suffocating.

"Wherever you are working in the ship you have to have this gear within arm's length," said George, aged 32, who lives near Portsmouth with his wife Janet and their three children.

All of our planes emit signals that our radar can identify. If there are enemy planes on the way, with the help of a computer George builds up a picture of the exact line they are travelling and at what height, and passes on this information to his commanding officer.

**MORE ON
NEXT PAGE**

FALKLANDS NURSES GET HEAPS OF INVITATIONS

SOME of the busiest people on the Falklands are our Army nurses. The girls, from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, work 24-hour shifts at the hospital in Port Stanley, which was taken over by the military after the capture of the islands.

They get just one and a half days off a week.

In that time they receive a constant stream of invitations to dances from soldiers, sailors and airmen.

And the girls still find time to help the islanders shear their sheep when the season comes round.

"The girls find it relaxing as it gives them a complete break from nursing," the Ministry of Defence told *The Weekly News*.

There has been a detachment of the nursing corps, numbering 11 or 12, on the islands since July 1982. Like the rest of our forces, the girls do a five-month tour of duty in the South Atlantic.

"The hospital has 40 beds, 24 to take military cases and 16 for civilians. If an islander is ill and needs surgery, he is treated by a military surgeon before returning to the civilian section of the hospital which is staffed by local nurses," said the Ministry.

More work

The most serious military casualties now are soldiers who are injured when treading on land mines.

When they have finished their nursing duties, the girls are often asked to clean the floors, put up curtains or even hang wallpaper. This is because domestics and maintenance men are a rarity in the Falklands.

But there have been no complaints from the girls.

They have the use of a house in Stanley to sleep in as well as quarters in the hospital.

There will be even more work for our nurses soon.

While a brand new hospital is being planned, an extension to the existing building, providing 30 extra beds and costing £80,000, is being built.

WHAT LIVES LIKE NOW FOR IN THE FALKLANDS

SOME of our soldiers in the Falklands are eating out of dog bowls—but don't worry. Life is pretty good for our lads serving on the islands in the South Atlantic right now.

It is just that some of the troops find it easier to eat out of the large plastic bowls, which they buy from the general store in Port Stanley, than their square mess tins.

They can get to the very last drop of gravy, and the bowls are nice and easy to clean.

It is coming towards the end of the winter in the Falklands now.

The mornings can still begin with flurries of snow and the temperature rarely rises more than a few degrees above freezing.

If someone stands in the bitter wind for too long without warm headgear on, their face will be "windburnt" and will become too raw to touch.

Ready to repel any threat

Yet, from first light until dusk, the 4000 soldiers of the British garrison stationed on the islands are working flat out laying roads, building radar stations and strengthening defences. And always ready to repel any threat from Argentina.

The life is tough, the work hard, but the food is good, the clothing warm and living conditions improving all the time. In the famous British military tradition, they are making the best of it.

Corporals Ken Matheson and Nick Grimshaw recently returned from a six-month tour of duty in the Falklands with their unit, 34 Field Squadron of the 38th Royal Engineers Regiment.

Their routine was typical of the soldiers still there.

The squadron of 140 men was detailed to build a radar station for the RAF on one of the mountains, an operation codenamed "Project Zeus."

Ken Matheson, a 24-year-old from Oban, Scotland, stayed on the mountain almost continually for three months, using his skill as an electrician to help build the station.

Nick Grimshaw, a fair-haired, 31-year-old from Doncaster, was working 14 hours a day in an office in Port Stanley, making sure his colleagues 1500 feet up had the equipment and supplies to carry on.

The men on the mountain lived in square, steel cabins, called modus accommodation units, that measure 20 feet by eight feet.

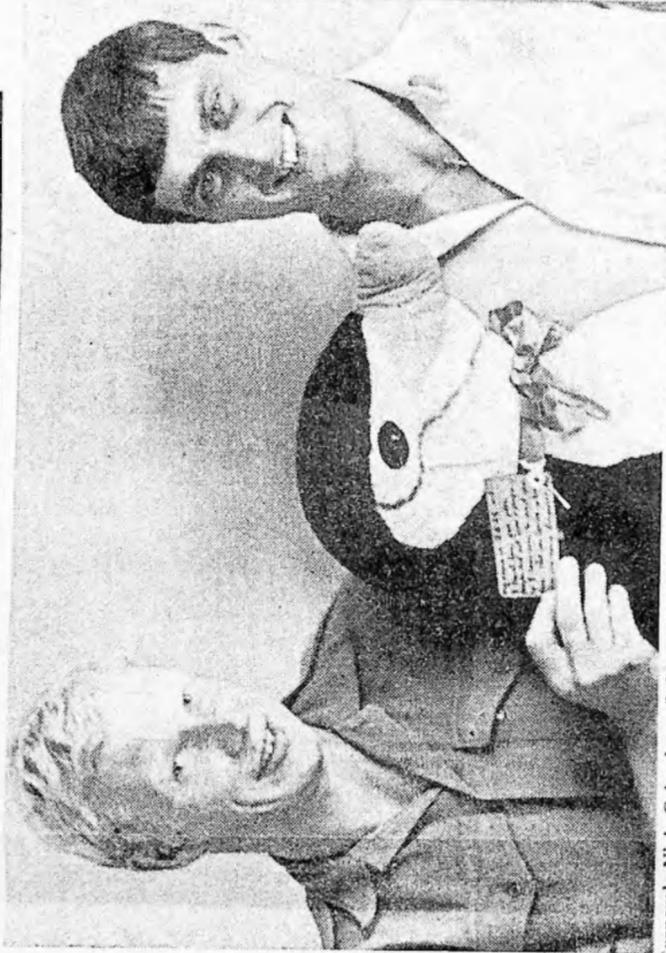
They are provided for men working in the more barren parts of the islands and are popular because they are windproof.

Heaters keep cabins cosy during night

The cabins ideally house four people, but Corporal Matheson shared his with seven others. They slept in four two-tiered bunk beds.

The building work had to go ahead quickly and the cabins had to be transported up the mountain, like all other supplies, by Chinook helicopter. Often the weather was too bad to fly.

"Conditions were a bit cramped and we took it in turns to get out of bed," laughed Ken Matheson. "But we didn't get on one another's nerves really, because we knew we had a job to do and had to get on with it."



Corporals Nick Grimshaw (left) and Ken Matheson with "Zeus" the toy penguin gifted by a Falklands farm manager.

BEER BY HELICOPTER AND THREE NEW FILMS A WEEK

The men hung any clothes that were wet near the cabin's fan heater to dry. The heater was so good that at night they could keep it on a low heat and still be warm in their sleeping-bags while wearing just shorts, even though it was freezing outside.

They rose at 6:30 a.m., first light, and got washed in the ablution unit, another cabin fitted with wash-basin, shower and chemical toilet.

A mountain stream was discovered before the squadron moved up the mountain and with skill and ingenuity they fixed up pipes that led into a kitchen unit as well as the ablution cabin.

The stream also provided lovely, clear drinking water. The mains water supply in Stanley is safe to drink although the troops are put off by its sometimes reddish colour. A soldier's kit in the Falklands consists of thick seaman's socks, ordinary green army fatigues and a set of waterproof trousers and jacket.

"These are really effective," Ken Matheson said. "They keep out the cold beautifully."

34 Squadron were also issued with thick padded "Arctic hats" with ear and neck flaps to keep out the wind, and thick leather gloves.

Inside these gloves they wore woollen thermal gloves for extra protection. But as time went on the men adapted with their clothing.

Some found that they could do intricate jobs like wiring more effectively and not freeze if they wore just the inner gloves. And most of them discovered that Wellington boots gave them a better grip on the muddy radar station building site than traditional army boots.

All troops on the islands are under orders to have three cooked meals a day to keep their strength up and fend off the cold.

Virtually all the food is from tins and packets. The Falkland Islanders have just enough fresh mutton for themselves because most of the sheep on the islands are bred for wool.

the shore a few miles from Stanley.

This allows the men to board straight from a jetty rather than have to catch a boat out into the bay.

In the past men have been stranded on land when the sea has been too rough to cross to the ships.

The "coastals" are particularly popular because they have comfortable beds, bars, videos, swimming pool, plentiful hot-water showers and even squash courts.

About a quarter of the Falklands garrison uses them and it is hoped that many more men can be accommodated in this way in the future when more barges arrive.

Some of the troops are still billeted with islanders and others live in prefabricated buildings.

In Stanley, there is plenty for the troops to do to avoid boredom. The 34th Squadron actually set up their own bar in a disused building on the road to the capital.

"You wouldn't even guess it was a bar from the outside with its broken windows and ramshackle appearance," laughed Corporal Grimshaw.

The bar was stocked with cans of beer and bottles of spirits from the NAAFI stores. The only draught beer on the island comes from a small brewery that makes "Penguin Ale," a kind of real ale.

Hundreds packed in to concert

A 16 fluid ounce can of beer, that is about four fifths of a pint, cost 39p, cheaper than at home because once it leaves Britain it does not have duty on it.

Similarly, a one litre bottle of whisky cost £3.40 and twenty king-sized tipped cigarettes just 38p.

If they want to, the troops can use any of the three civilian pubs in Stanley as well as the seven junior NAAFI bars run by the NAAFI.

In the daytime they can play rugby and football on pitches in the town.

"The only trouble is that the rugby pitch is full of holes," Corporal Grimshaw told The Weekly News.

"This happened after the recapture of the islands. The Argentine prisoners dug out bits of turf so that they could sink their cooking pots down and keep the wind off them."

As spring approaches, the soldiers will be able to go fishing in some of the more sheltered bays on the islands. The NAAFI shop in Stanley supplies fishing tackle.

There are also traditional Falkland Islands events that the soldiers will be able to go to and mix with the islanders.

The race track just outside Stanley has been repaired and the lads can go and have a bet on the horses.

Every six weeks a troupe of professional singers, dancers and comedians is flown to the islands from Britain.

They are employed by the Combined Services Entertainment Group and take a variety show around all the outposts of the islands as well as doing a concert in Stanley.

Sometimes they are accompanied by a really big name in the showbusiness world.

One very popular visitor was Sir Harry Secombe, who kept



★ Invite along the your choice—and era of first-class travel Plus £200

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★ The hotel has c and restaurants, ar American-style night

IN THE WEEK

NEXT

a promise he made during the Falklands War.

"I was very moved by my visit to the Falklands," Harry told The Weekly News. "The lads were in good spirits and I think they are doing a fantastic job."

Harry did seven concerts in as many days. Bringing cheer to the troops with his singing and chirpy good humour, even though his often played in draughtily church halls and was accompanied only by an old piano on occasions.

Hundreds crammed in to see and hear him, some of the soldiers hanging from window sills and any other vantage point.

The most moving moment of his visit was when he went to see a gunners' regiment.

Barges offer taste of luxury

Every three weeks Ken Matheson went down to Stanley for "rest and recreation" for two days and was relieved by a colleague.

While on "R and R," he slept on one of the accommodation ships anchored in Stanley Harbour or in one of the three "coastals" that have now arrived in the Falklands.

These are huge metal, flat-bottomed barges, that have sleeping room for hundreds of men. They are moored to

three new video films a week. Each cabin had a small video machine as well as a cine film projector and pocket cassettes that played taped music.

The inside of the cabin walls are lined with white Formica, perfect for showing cine films, which were sent to the Falklands by SKC, the Service Kinema Circulation Department.

They were fairly new films apart from the constantly requested old favourites like Clint Eastwood's portrayal of the tough American policeman in "Dirty Harry."

"Lights out" was never much after 10 o'clock with the men having to get a good night's sleep before another busy day.

For this they often get asked back to dinner.

In fact, the relationship between the troops and the civilians is still very good. The 1800 islanders will never forget the men who liberated them.

34 Squadron had a surprise one day when their supply helicopter landed. For aboard was a giant toy penguin with red, white and blue ribbons around its neck, sent from Mr Alan Miller, the farm manager at Port San Carlos.

Attached to the toy was a label with the message, "My name is Zeus and I heard how you poor people had not seen a penguin, so I have come to visit you from Port San Carlos, where there are many penguins."

"That really gave us a good laugh," said Ken Matheson. "Zeus" now has pride of place in the squad room at the 34th's barracks in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.

After supper, the squadron on the mountain settled down for the night. Despite the cramped conditions, the men managed to clear one corner of their cabin and made it their "bar." The drink consisted of cans of beer bought from Naafi stores and transported to the men by helicopter.

This is where Corporal Grimshaw was so vital, making sure the men got the little luxuries every day that kept their morale high.

Along with the beer went

But, occasionally, the Army is able to buy fresh eggs from some of the farms.

Breakfast for the troops consists of sausages, beans, bacon and tomatoes. For other meals, the cooks conjure up things like fishcakes, steak and kidney pudding, curries and soup.

All this made on standard Army petrol-burner stoves.

"The food was always good and filling, and there was as much as you wanted," said Corporal Matheson.

Bar fixed up in corner of cabin

The men had tea, coffee, powdered milk and orange juice to drink.

Then, apart from a break for lunch, the squadron worked through until dark. They fell shortly before 7 p.m. They completed the radar station in three months.

From Port Stanley, ten miles away, all that can be seen of it are two huge domes. But the station will be vital to the RAF in detecting any incoming enemy planes.

For the rest of the troops on the Falklands, the hard-working day is spent on weapons training, physical training, building roads and so metimes helping the islanders on their farms.

LIFE'S LIKE NOW FOR LADS

THE FALKLANDS

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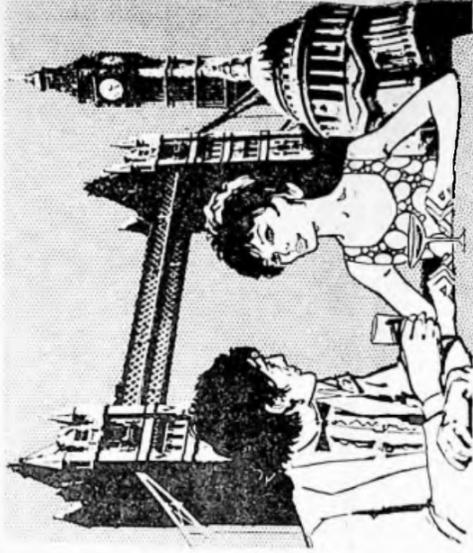
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IN THE WEEKLY NEWS

NEXT WEEK

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The most moving moment
of his visit was when he
went to see a gunners
regiment.

Harry was in the Royal
Artillery during his Army
days but never progressed
above bombardier. So the
men gave him the base of a
spent shell case as a souvenir
and inscribed on it were the
words, "to Sergeant Harry
Secombe."

"They wanted to promote
me but still keep me as one
of the lads and not an
officer," chuckled Harry.

The shell case is about the
size of a large ashtray and
sits nicely on Harry's mantle-
piece at home.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

HOW GIRL SOLDIERS COPE

WITH THE FALKLANDS

"YOU'LL find attempts at glamour will be futile"—that was the message for the 20 WRACs lined-up for inspection before they set off for the Falklands.

With the cold wintry gusts blowing hard in their faces as they stepped on to dry land after a two-week journey from Britain, the girl soldiers knew the advice was spot-on.

Elaborate hairstyles are out—the constant high-speed winds see to that.

The WRACs were selected from 100 volunteers. They're trained in the use of weapons, not to be recognised as fighting soldiers, but for self-defence so that they won't be a hindrance to the men in case of action. They'll have weapon training, occasionally to keep their hand in.

Very choppy

The girls are out there because by doing jobs like cooking, courier work and administration, they free the same amount of men to do the guarding of the area.

Captain Diane Foster, senior member of the group, told The Weekly News in a phone interview from the Falklands, "The first thing you notice is the wind. But

the sheer beauty of the islands and the amazingly clear air far outweighs any climatic difficulties."

Four of the girls were flown ashore by Sea King helicopter from their ship not long after its arrival in Port Stanley.

But the first official working day saw them transported in a rather different style.

Hanging on to their berets, the girls were brought ashore in a Royal Navy "Kiwi", a small motor launch which takes about half a dozen at a time.

Said Diane, "It's only a five-minute journey from our living quarters aboard the converted ferry Rangatira in Stanley Harbour to the quayside, but it can be

choppy, and it's none too easy getting on to dry land.

"You can aim your foot for the quayside then suddenly find it's moved about a metre away."

On the Rangatira, they have their own section of the ship, away from their male colleagues.

Hot wafers

"At the moment, there's plenty of room for us," said Diane, "we each have a room to ourselves."

"Some of the cabins are quite large, having been designed for two, three or four people."

"There's central heating, and if you keep things tidy, there's enough space to live quite comfortably."

"Each room has a wash-hand basin, and there are

FOUR OF THE GIRLS MADE LAST PART OF JOURNEY BY HELICOPTER.



Left to right—Captain Diane Foster, Sergeant Jill Rich, and Corporals Sarah Hickson and Sonya Steinert.

"In the space of seconds the snow and sleet can come blasting in"

ing on the beach in the evening. Others like to put their feet up.

If it's a sing-song someone fancies, there's a folk club in Port Stanley.

Numerous video recorders have been donated by companies, private individuals and benevolent funds.

The girls have the use of them on the ship, and an up-to-date selection of video films is available. Tapes are swapped around.

There's no television, of course, but Diane enjoys the local broadcasts from the Radio Falklands service.

"Every night you have to prepare your uniform for the next day, though, and polish your boots."

Practical

Each girl brought two suitcases of clothing and a kitbag. Sweatshirts and jumpers are the most popular items in the girls' wardrobe. Clothes have to be practical.

"But with 4000 men to 20 WRACs and 11 female nurses, skirts are admired," laughed Diane.



"The garage are going to assess the damage as soon as the tide goes out!"

"Conditions basic, as nearly as they might be. Generally, you can buy what you need."

"There are many female civilians in the islands and there are shops for them."

"The only slight problem is choice. You may be used to a certain type of talcum powder or lipstick in Britain. Well, you can get talcum powder and lipstick here, but you have to settle for the brands they have."

Huge hit

"Any special items have to be sent home for."

"As far as entertainment is concerned, we've had shows put on by the Combined Services Entertainment Corps."

"The tickets for these go very quickly."

"At the latest one, comedian Jim Davidson went down well with everyone here. And the all-girl rock group 'Mistress' were a huge hit, especially with the lads."

In more serious vein, the girls want to visit the battlefields on the islands.

"We have one Welsh girl and she has said she'd like to visit Bluff Cove, where the Welsh Guards took such a pounding."

The accommodation the girls have on the ship at the moment is only temporary. There are plans to bring another "coastal", a huge floating hotel in which they'll be housed.

"It's all a tremendous challenge," says Diane. "It's an exacting job, but an exciting one as well."

And with that, she was back on the Kiwi and away to the ship, to wash her hair. There are electric hair-driers on board. They ensure the girls have that groomed look... as long as they stay inside, away from the South Atlantic blast.

Folk club

"We generally work until five in the evening with a half-hour break for lunch," said Diane.

"The girls working as posties, sort out the mail which comes in for the troops."

"But the mail is collected by the men."

"Supply specialists, or store women, keep clothes and supplies in good working order for distribution to the men."

"They don't do laundry—that goes to a private contractor."

"Other girls are working as clerks in Army HQ, Port Stanley," Diane went on.

"It's getting near the end of the Falklands winter now, so we hope to be able to wear some lighter clothing soon."

"But one thing I won't be wearing is my Indian silk long evening dress."

"I thought I could wear that at one of the dances and parties that are arranged here, but getting in and out of the 'Kiwi' in it would be impossible."

Usually after a hard day's work, the girls are glad to get back to their ship.

"It's a question of freshening up and then having supper, the favourite meal of the day, when we can talk and relax."

There are regular dances in Port Stanley, also parties. Everyone gets at least one day off a week. Some of the girls go jog-

RAF MAKE EPIC JOURNEYS OVER AIR BRIDGE TO FALKLANDS

SIX days a week a skilful and daring manoeuvre takes place twenty thousand feet above the bleak South Atlantic. Two RAF Hercules planes are linked together as one aircraft refuels the other.

Countless dashboard dials are available to guide the pilots, but there is a man in the rear of each plane watching one of the most important pieces of equipment.

This is an ordinary plumb-line, any tradesman would use, which shows whether each Hercules is keeping to an absolutely even keel while the refuelling goes on.

Because, if one plane tilted too much, the link could be broken and the operation ruined.

It is this mix of modern technology and old-fashioned ingenuity that provides the Falkland Islands with its lifeline.

Every day except Sunday, at around three o'clock in the afternoon, an RAF Hercules freight carrier lands at the airstrip in Port Stanley with urgent supplies. These include drugs so that Port Stanley hospital can treat patients, spare parts to repair guns and missile systems needed to fend off any Argentine invasion attempts, and sacks of mail from home.

Modified

The 100-foot-long Hercules need to refuel if they are to complete the 3,400-mile "air bridge" from the British staging post at Ascension Island, near the Equator, to Port Stanley.

So a fleet of 22 Hercules Mk 1 aircraft have been modified, so that 16 can receive fuel in flight and six can give that fuel.

The fuel takers are called Mk 1P and the givers Mk 1K.

One of the pilots doing the run is Squadron Leader David Drew, aged 36, of 30 Squadron at RAF Lyneham, in Wiltshire. He has clocked up over 3500 flying hours in his nine years of piloting Hercules aircraft.

For three weeks out of ten he is away from his wife Elizabeth, posted on Ascension Island with his four-man crew — a co-pilot, a navigator, a flight engineer and a loadmaster.

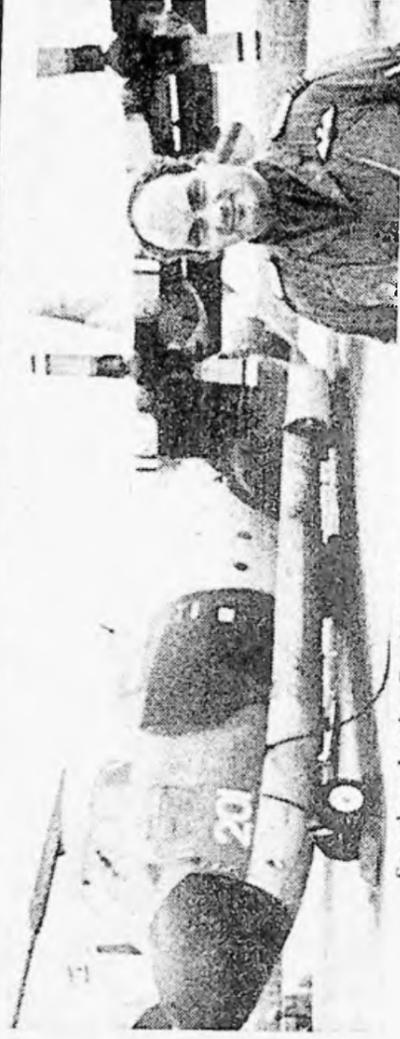
Extra tanks

Their job is to fly a Hercules Mk 1K, which has been fitted with huge extra fuel tanks, halfway to the Falklands, three times a week, where they rendezvous with a Mk 1P, also from Ascension, and give her enough fuel so she can reach Port Stanley with her load of supplies.

Squadron Leader Drew then turns round and heads back to base. There are another two crews at Ascension doing the same job as him on the days he does not fly.

David and his crew take off from Wideawake Airfield on Ascension at 6 a.m. They are up at three o'clock in the morning to go through the extensive checks needed before the aircraft can fly.

Fifteen minutes later, the Mk 1P takes off in the same direction. Using a simple, but ingenious system, the



Squadron Leader David Drew pictured beside an RAF Hercules.

Six days a week around three o'clock in the afternoon a four-engined freight carrier lands at Port Stanley with urgent supplies



The Squadron Leader on the flight deck.

Skill and precise planning have turned a demanding flight of 3,400 miles almost into routine

"Smoking is not permitted, but only one of the crew smokes anyway," Squadron Leader Drew told The Weekly News. "And he disciplines himself very well. He is not pulling at the seat covers in frustration at the end of the flight, or anything like that," he laughed.

"It's not uncomfortable when we are flying," David said. "The plane is air-conditioned."

The airmen wear black flying boots, white knee-length socks, one-piece green flying suits and towelling scarves around their necks. They also wear thin leather

gloves and sometimes berets, although most wear headphones throughout the flight, using them to talk to each other and receive instructions from base.

If passengers are ever carried in the aircraft, they are issued with cotton-wool earplugs. There are canvas seats that fold down from the wall in the body of the plane, and the Hercules can carry over 60 passengers.

When the rendezvous between the two Hercules is made, the following plane swoops a little below and behind David's plane.

Altitude drop

David's loadmaster opens the back hatches of the Mk 1K and lets out an 80-foot-long flexible fuelling hose made of rubber. On the end is a drogue made of metal and nylon, which is a funnel device and measures 4 ft. 6 in. in diameter.

It is into this drogue that the pilot of the Mk 1P has to insert a rigid metal probe which is situated just above his cockpit.

There are markings on the back of the Mk 1K to help him line up with the drogue, and his co-pilot will also guide him, as he has to concentrate on keeping the aircraft level and in touch with



"It's me again—I keep forgetting what time it is!"

the Hercules Mk 1K has to descend with it. By the end of refuelling the two planes are often no higher than 5000 feet.

There is little danger of them colliding with other aircraft, though, because the air space on the way to the Falklands is some of the least used in the world.

In fact, David says he doesn't think the refuelling manoeuvre is dangerous even though the two great four-prop planes, each with a wing span of 132 feet, fly within a few yards of each other.

"My co-pilot would stop me in time if I was ever about to make a mistake and the machinery of the aircraft is checked scrupulously before we take off," he said.

One of his nastiest moments came when the rubber hose snapped during refuelling on one occasion. Pumping was stopped immediately and the mission aborted. Both of the Hercules had enough fuel to return safely to Ascension Island.

Good surface

In emergencies, the RAF has an arrangement that allows their planes to land on Brazilian airstrips.

Once the tanks of the Mk 1P are full it withdraws its probe from the drogue and poses in a show which it reserves for those who have been sent from Ascension.

The refuelling procedure is very similar between the VC-10 and the Hercules Mk 1K.

Pilots enjoy landing at Port Stanley because the airstrip is out on a peninsula and so easy to approach and has a good surface."

When the crews of the transports reach Stanley they head straight for one of the "Coastels," the floating hotels moored outside the capital where they have a shower, meal, maybe a few drinks and then usually go straight to bed.

For although it is only 3 or 4 p.m. there, the Falklands are four hours behind Ascension Island and the men have been up since before midnight Stanley time.

Metal fatigue

There is a set of rooms reserved for RAF pilots on the "Coastel," but like all airmen, they don't leave belongings in the bedrooms, but prefer to carry a small kit bag wherever they go.

The air crew stay in the Falklands for 24 hours before returning to Ascension Island. During that time they are often invited to a game of football with RAF crews stationed on the islands.

The supply airmen can expect to visit the islands three times in a fortnight.

But the life of a Hercules crew is not without its surprises. David Drew remembers with a chuckle when he was stationed in the islands for four months to refuel Phantom and Harrier fighters from his Hercules while they were on patrol.

"One day I was sitting at the controls on the runway at Port Stanley when the front wheel under the cockpit just gave way through metal fatigue.

"And very gracefully the nose of the plane sank and came to rest on the tarmac. We blocked the runway for hours!"

RED ALERT AS AIRCRAFT RACE TOWARDS BRITISH DESTROYER

Continued from previous page

Such is the speed of modern warfare that if the planes came into range the ship would only have a few minutes to counter an attack.

Meals are one of the highlights of the day. The cooks do the men proud with anything from a Sunday roast, including excellent Yorkshire pudding, to curry and chips or bacon and eggs.

The meat all comes out of the ship's freezers. The ratings sleep in large cabins, about 30 to each. They have wall bunks and plenty of locker space.

There is also room for bookshelves, comfy chairs and a table on which the men can play cards or write letters.

The ship's helicopter takes the mail to the islands every day, where it is handed over to the RAF for delivery to Britain.

Big events

The lads can also telephone home regularly, most ships having a "Marisale" system which beams the calls off a satellite and costs £5 for every 30 seconds.

They also have another system using high frequency radio signals which is more popular with the men because it costs just £1.25 a minute.

In the messes there are televisions which can take cassettes containing recorded programmes.

"The television companies record a lot of popular programmes the men are missing and send them down to the South Atlantic through the Navy," said Petty Officer Goodfellow.

"On one occasion we had two hours' worth of 'Coronation Street' and Saturday afternoons were dedicated to sport. The men get to see all the big events like the cup-final and Wimbledon."

Thanks to the Royal Naval Film Club, all the top movies go to our ships as well.

On the Exeter a corner of the dining mess was reserved for a cine film projector screen.

Play games

George Goodfellow remembers with a smile the night when the rather moving film, "An Officer And A Gentleman" starring Richard Gere was shown.

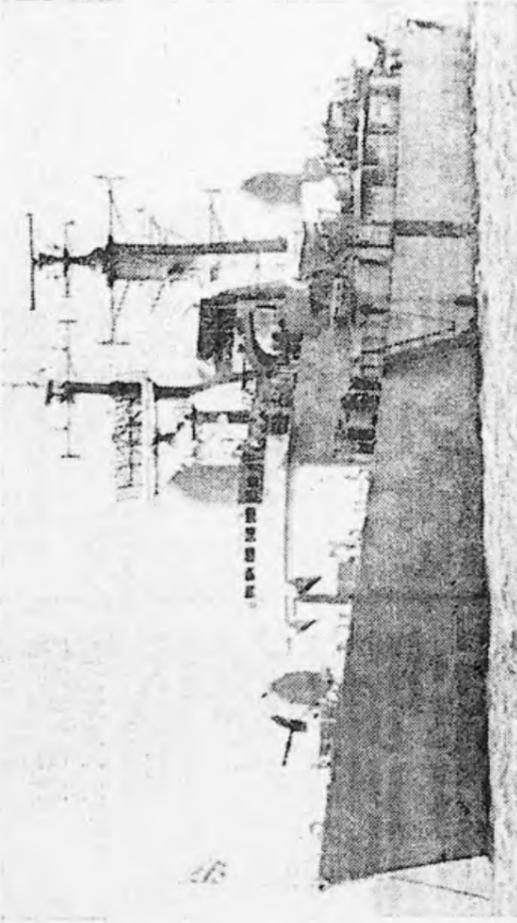
"I was quite sad at the end," said George. "And I thought I would get out of the room before anyone noticed I had tears in my eyes."

He needn't have worried. When the lights were turned back on there were at least 30 tough sailors with very red eyes!

The bathrooms on the ships have stainless steel showers and wash basins which supply plentiful hot water. The vessels nowadays can take in sea water and purify it using in-built desalination plants.

The men wash their socks and underclothes in the wash basins and hang them up to dry. They give their bigger items to the ships' laundry-men and the cost comes out of their wages.

In fact all the space on



HMS Exeter lying off Portsmouth on return from the Falklands.

ON FRONT-LINE WATCH CREW CARRY SPECIAL SAFETY GEAR

They can have a good jog around the deck—the Exeter, for example, is 412 feet long—or play games.

The favourite on the Exeter was a form of cricket using a ball made of rolled-up cloth surrounded by sticky tape.

"The balls often went into the sea so we had a good supply made up before we started so we didn't have to keep stopping the game," said George.

All deck games are dependent on the changeable weather. One day the men can sun themselves, the next there is such a thick blizzard that they can't see the bow of the ship.

Friendly

When they are stood down, the men can enjoy their beer rations. They are allowed to buy two pints of beer and three lots of spirits a day from the NAAFI shop when they are at sea, but there is no drinking during the period the ship is on "Defence Watch."

Shore leave is taken when the ships are stood down. Again, at least 50 per cent of the crew must stay on board at any one time so that the vessel remains operational.

Petty Officer Goodfellow managed to get on to the Falklands six times during his stay in the South Atlantic.

One of the things sailors like to do is set up a barbecue on the beach. They take a few steaks from the cold stores. All ships have their own barbecue equipment.

This is a large oil drum split down the middle from top to bottom in which they put charcoal and on top of that a grill.

The crew of the Exeter

were invited to a party at the community hall in Port Stanley. A ship carrying the same name did stirring service in the South Atlantic during the Second World War and the link between the islanders and the Exeter runs deep.

"We were excited by the great number of islanders who came along to greet us," George Goodfellow said.

There was singing and chatting, and dancing to music. They were continually treating us to drinks."

George found himself sitting next to Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner on the islands.

"We just chatted casually about how the ship was getting on and about the future of the Falkland Islands. He was very friendly like all the rest," said George.

Sad moments

"There were a lot of merry seamen who caught the boat back to the Exeter at around midnight."

There are regular games of football and rugby between ships and between the Services.

"I was at one game of rugby between us and the Army on the outskirts of Stanley that was played on a patch of ground which had shortly before been cleared of mines.

"And all around there were still minefields. Although there was a gap between the touchline and the explosives, there was not much diving for tries in the corners," laughed George.

"And as there wouldn't have been too many offers to collect the ball had it landed in a minefield, all of the kicking was very straight."

There are sad moments, too, on land.

One day, on the way to play football, the men of the Exeter were dropped off at San Carlos Bay and had to pass the military cemetery there.

"All of the graves are very well kept, and it is a beautiful spot. We all read the inscription on the monument dedicated to the British war dead. It was very moving and brought a lump to the throat," said George Goodfellow.

Spend money

While off ship, the men try to catch one of the shows given by entertainers visiting the islands. George saw Harry Secombe on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Fort Grange, and his verdict was "marvellous."

Although there might not be much of it, shore leave is important to our sailors, because it helps them let off steam.

It gives many the chance to spend some money. If they don't smoke or drink much and have taken things like toothpaste and soap along with them on tour, there is little to spend it on aboard ship.

George's total outlay in one month was just £2.

After a few hours on shore, it is back to the tough routine of Defence Watches. Our men are ready 24 hours a day to fend off any attack, and now have an extra sting in their tails.

Since the Falklands war, our ships have had new, super-accurate missiles fitted.

Ship nears port with beer and sausage rolls

A SHIP is due to sail into Port Stanley harbour on September 11 carrying a remarkable cargo. On board is £200,000 worth of beer and hundreds of frozen Cornish pasties and sausage rolls.

There are 350 tins of black boot polish, stacks of washing powder, fabric conditioner and toothpaste.

All of it will be heading for the stores, bars and canteens that have been set up by the NAAFI since the Task Force landed in the Falklands.

The NAAFI—the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes—is like an armed services store.

It sells the little luxuries our lads look forward to and the home comforts which boost morale.

Flowers

It also provides special services.

A serviceman can make sure his wife wakes up to a beautiful bouquet of flowers on her birthday, thanks to an arrangement between the NAAFI and Interflora.

Two men who have been involved in the Falklands operation in the NAAFI are John Perry and Peter Clozier.

John, a married man of 37, was in charge of the NAAFI detachment on the islands for four months.

Peter, aged 52, married with four children, went to survey buildings the NAAFI was planning to buy.

"We have about 50 men on the Falklands now," John told The Weekly News. "There are also several more serving in the shops on board the Navy ships stationed around the islands."

Draught ale

The NAAFI has one warehouse and a general store in Port Stanley and runs seven "Portakabin" type bars around the islands for the troops to relax in after a busy day. The bars are furnished with comfortable seats, have video games and have recently been stocked with a brand of keg beer as well as all the types of canned beer the men can buy at home.

The draught ale is transported to the Falklands in barrels and was chosen because it keeps very well. The NAAFI also has two "mobiles" on the islands. These are high-sided green vans which contain equipment that makes hot drinks. They are driven around every day to where our soldiers are working.

All of the NAAFI establishments on the islands are open to the military only.