



ARROW OUT IN THE COLD

WHILE other ships of the Squadron were enjoying the hot weather of the UK summer last year, HMS Arrow was serving "down under" in the depths of the South Atlantic winter. Here she is pictured visiting Cumberland Bay, South Georgia, on a bright July day.

Deployed in April as part of the Falkland Islands Peacekeeping Force, she arrived home in September via West Palm Beach, Florida. After leave and assisted maintenance, she carried out PWO firings at Gibraltar before joining her sisters at Portland for the Squadron weapon training period, though she missed the subsequent Amsterdam visit.

Having shown her mettle to the other ships of the 21 Club, and with the ship's company fresh from Christmas Leave, the Arrow is looking forward to the sunshine of the Caribbean — and a chance to catch up in the suntan stakes!

Picture: PO(N) Bert Clisby.

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SIR REX TO RETIRE

SIR REX HUNT, Governor of the Falklands, whose name rose to prominence during the Falklands campaign nearly three years ago is to retire in September. He is the islands' Civil Commissioner, and a familiar face to thousands of servicemen.

Sir Rex, who is 58, has spent over five years in the Falklands. His successor has been named as Mr Gordon Jewkes, 53, British Consul-General in Chicago.

QUICK

A 4 000 yam water pipe laid by 11 Fd Sqn RE in the Falklands, crosses four roads, two streams and a sewer tank! The new supply was jointly "turned on" by Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt and Major General Peter de la Billiere, Commander British Forces.

SPOT

Their job is keeping the island peace

THREE Royal Navy regulators are members of a small, elite band of Service policemen who constitute the only military unit to remain in Stanley following the withdrawal of troops to accommodation outside the town.

They form the tri-Service Falkland Islands Garrison Police Unit, or FIGPU for short. To underline their role in providing provost support to the garrison, the military policemen (and one policewoman) share a small station with the tiny civil police force.

In command of the unit is Major John Ridd RMP. Under him are 12 Army Provost NCOs (including one WRAC), six Royal Air Force Policemen, and three Royal Navy regulators — RPO John Newson, LREG Ady Elston and LREG Tam Carmichael.

All 21 are on the usual four months detached duty from their parent units. They provide 24-hour cover by working 12-hour shifts, sometimes on foot around Stanley, and sometimes on mobile patrols in their three Land-Rovers and two motor-cycles.

FOURSOME

Usually the policemen patrol as a foursome, a sight vaguely reminiscent of the France / Russia / UK / USA Four Power Police Patrol of Berlin.

In addition to shore duties, FIGPU is responsible for ship searches (ss Uganda and ss Keren are thoroughly inspected for unauthorised souvenirs going home) and may be called on to perform Customs and Immigration duties at the airport.

Battle honours for two RFAs

FALKLANDS battle honours have been presented to the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries Plumleaf and Appleleaf. The Appleleaf, one of the first vessels to arrive in the Falklands and the last to leave after the war, received her honours plaque shortly before sailing from Devonport to support war-ships on Gulf Patrol.

St Paul's Falklands memorial

A MEMORIAL bearing the names of the 255 men who lost their lives in the 1982 South Atlantic campaign is to be erected in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The memorial is expected to be unveiled next summer by the Queen, with the next of kin of those who died invited to the commemorative service.

AEROGRAMMES which allow Servicemen in the South Atlantic and families to keep in touch by letter free of charge, are to continue for the time being.

This has been made clear in response to reports of plans to discontinue the concession.

The free Forces Aero-gramme, nicknamed the "Bluey" and highly popular among sailors, started during the Falklands war.

Free Familygrammes for South Georgia personnel are included in the concession.

Many interesting mementoes — British and Argentinian — are on display in the newly-opened commemorative Falklands Bar in the WOs' and CPOs' Mess at RN Air Station, Yeovilton.

Latest heroes' medals to go on display at the Imperial War Museum include two Albert medals awarded to sailors: acting second hand John Henry Mitchell, RNR, who saved two seamen from drowning off Iceland in 1940; and CPO Joseph Lynch, who in 1948 rescued a man from icy seas in Port Stanley harbour.

Answering Dalyell 'could have led into deep waters'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detailed answers to an MP's questions on the sinking of the General Belgrano could have led Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, into fresh questions and sensitive areas, his private secretary told the jury trying Mr Clive Ponting, the official accused of leaking papers to the MP.

Mr Richard Mottram, the minister's secretary at the Ministry of Defence, was giving his second day of evidence yesterday in Mr Ponting's trial.

Mr Ponting, aged 38, an assistant secretary at the ministry, has pleaded not guilty to a breach of the Official Secrets Act in passing papers on the Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow.

Mr Mottram agreed that Mr Ponting, in preparing drafts for answers to points on the Belgrano raised by Mr Dalyell, and pointed out that information was not classified. But if Mr Heseltine were to engage in point to point refutations "other questions would take him into areas of sensitivity", the court was told.

Under cross-examination by Mr Bruce Laughland, QC, for Mr Ponting, Mr Mottram said there was no united front at the ministry to frustrate questions on the Belgrano affair.

He said: "It is the duty of Civil Servants to put up advice to ministers for their consideration which is true. It is for ministers to decide how they respond to committees and individuals in the House. It is ministers who are accountable to the House and not officials."

Earlier, Mr Mottram was taken through the documents on the Belgrano affair at the ministry last year when Mr Dalyell was pressing for details and there was debate on handling information.

At one stage, Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, argued against giving any more information on the Belgrano.

As Mr Dalyell continued to press questions including the Commons, Mr Stanley advised Mr Heseltine to answer: "It is not our practice to comment on

military operational matters or details of military operations."

Mr Ponting at the time said that that reply could not be sustained because information about the Belgrano had already been given by the Prime Minister. Mr Heseltine concluded that he would answer questions by saying that the Prime Minister had covered the ground.

The Secretary of State also recognized that Mr Stanley's line would take him into inconsistencies. He ruled that he would use Mr Stanley's suggestion only where professional advice said there was a genuine security risk in giving an answer.

In giving his advice, Mr Stanley talked about the "depth of water the Secretary of State would get into if he were to send" a detailed reply to Mr Dalyell prepared by Mr Ponting.

Mr Mottram was asked if the phrase did not refer to embarrassment, but the Civil Servant disagreed and said it meant that Mr Stanley feared that Mr Heseltine would be forced into "deep water from a security point of view".

Asked if that were true although the material Mr Dalyell had sought was not sensitive, Mr Mottram said it was "not a process that ends there". He accepted that the material had now come into the public domain without damaging security.

There was also, however, the question of speculation which led into areas where ministers could not answer.

At the beginning of the day Mr Justice McCowan commented for the first time on Channel Four's nightly version of the day in court about which he had made an order under the Contempt Act. Mr Laughland said the programme was not antiseptic but anaesthetic.

The judge told him that the programme had scrupulously obeyed his order by using newsreaders instead of actors. He said he had nothing to complain of so far.

The case continues today.

MPs seek access to 'Crown Jewels'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Some members of the Commons foreign affairs and defence committees are concerned about the Government's refusal to allow them to see the Ministry of Defence document, called the "Crown Jewels," which gives a detailed account of the events leading up to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict.

After learning that the full document has been produced in evidence by the prosecution in secret session in the Clive Ponting trial in progress at the Old Bailey, they plan to

raise the matter with their colleagues on the committees.

The foreign affairs committee is conducting an inquiry into the Belgrano affair. When the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, gave evidence to the committee in November he said that the Crown Jewels convinced him that "what the Prime Minister did was totally right and that no other decision was possible for someone in her position."

But he added: "It also revealed to me that there were inaccuracies in the statement made to the House of Commons about the detection of, and attack on, the Belgrano."

The Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, told the Commons last week that the Crown Jewels contain intelligence information.

MPs on the committees are expressing concern that they are not being allowed to see the document even with the assurances that were given by lawyers and the vetted jury in the Ponting case.

Mr Ian Mikardo, a Labour member of the foreign affairs committee, said yesterday: "I can see no reason why the Crown Jewels could not be made available to committee members on the same basis."

Mr George Foulkes, a La-

bour foreign affairs spokesman, in a parliamentary question asked the Attorney-General yesterday if he intended to prosecute Lord Lewin, the former Chief of Defence Staff under the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Foulkes said that in an interview, extracts of which were published in the Guardian last Monday, Lord Lewin had disclosed that a naval system which could pinpoint ships at a distance of up to 80 miles was used by a submarine in the Falklands war. "In contrast to other cases I can think of, sensitive information was disclosed in this case," he said.

Kinnock to meet Alfonsin

By Anthony Bevens
Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is to meet President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina at an Athens conference on Thursday, the Labour leader's office revealed last night.

He will be flying to Greece tomorrow for a meeting on "The five continents peace initiative", sponsored by Mr Andreas Papandriou, the Greek Prime Minister.

Mr Kinnock and President Alfonsin are expected to attend a press conference with President Nyerere of Tanzania and Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden on Thursday, when questions might well be put about the continuing freeze in relations between Britain and Argentina.

President Alfonsin said at a press conference in New Delhi yesterday that although Argentina still claimed sovereignty over the Falkland it had no intention of using force.

● The Falkland islanders would not be given a constitutional right of veto over the future political development of the islands, the Prime Minister said in a letter to Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, yesterday.

● The main runway on the Falkland Islands new £250 million airfield will be completed on time in April, the Commons public accounts committee was told last night by Mr Gordon Manzie executive of the Property Services Agency.

Daily Mail
29.1.85

**Kinnoek will
see Alfonsin**

LABOUR leader Neil Kinnoek will meet Argentine President Raoul Alfonsin in Athens later this week. After a conference in New Delhi yesterday, Alfonsin said Argentina would not try to claim the Falkland Islands from Britain by force.

Ponting agrees he sent papers to Dalyell

By IAN HENRY *Old Bailey Correspondent*

CLIVE PONTING, a senior Civil Servant, agreed at the Old Bailey yesterday that he leaked two Ministry of Defence documents referring to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow.

But Ponting, a 58-year-old Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Defence denied breaching the Official Secrets Act, and claims Mr Dalyell was an authorised recipient of the documents.

Mr Bruce Laughland, Q.C. defending intervened during the opening statement for the Crown at Ponting's trial on a charge under the Act to say that Ponting "communicated information to Mr Dalyell, the duly-elected Member for Linlithgow."

Mr Laughland added: "The live issue is whether the Crown can prove so that the jury are sure that Mr Dalyell was not a person to whom he was authorised to communicate that information, or whether it was in the interests of the State his duty to communicate them."

Secret session

Soon afterwards a dispute in open court concerning secrecy in the case ended with Mr Justice McCowan ordering the court to sit in camera for part of the opening statement by Mr Roy Amlot, prosecuting.

Mr Amlot stressed that the disclosures by Ponting did not involve national security, but a file about events leading up to the sinking contained material "so sensitive that national security demands that that material is not exposed in public."

The file was referred to in court as "the Crown Jewels."

Mr Amlot said: "We don't want to fight the Falklands War over again." But he added, the only way the jury could judge what Ponting disclosed, and why, was to compare it with the position as known to him, which was embodied in the Crown Jewels.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Report—P6

'TV TRIAL' TESTS THE LAW

By ROBIN STRINGER
*TV and Radio
Correspondent*

CHANNEL 4 broadcast a 30-minute digest of proceedings on the first day of the Clive Ponting trial last night, despite a court order earlier in the day ostensibly banning the programme.

Mr Jeremy Isaacs, the channel's chief executive, made the decision after taking legal advice from Mark Carlisle Q.C., former Tory Education Secretary and Home Office Minister, and Geoffrey Robertson, a barrister specialising in the application of law to the media.

In making the order, Mr Justice McCowan said the transmission "could involve a substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice," and expressed concern that "actors were being used in a dramatic setting" by the programme.

Channel 4 decided not to use actors as originally planned, but instead said that the programme, "Court Report," would take the form of ordinary news coverage and be presented by a team of experienced journalists.

Channel 4 says it is breaking new ground with its nightly report at 10.55 p.m. by providing "the fullest, yet objective and dispassionate account that television can provide of a major trial."

The judge said that if the jury watched a dramatic reconstruction of the highlights of the day's proceedings, "the danger is that they will recall the most important parts of the day's evidence not as the witnesses said them, but as the actors say them."

'Killer agents' story a rumour say police

ALLEGATIONS by Mr Dalyell that British Intelligence agents murdered an elderly woman, were officially dismissed as mere rumour by a chief constable yesterday.

Mr Robert Cozens, head of West Mercia Constabulary, investigating the killing of Miss Hilda Murrell, 79, released the text of a letter he has sent to the MP.

Mr Dalyell was interviewed at the Commons two weeks ago by senior West Mercia detectives about his claims that the Secret Service was involved in Miss Murrell's death while searching her home near Shrewsbury for documents about the sinking of the Belgrano.

Miss Murrell was a CND campaigner and her nephew, Cmdr Robert Green, was Fleet Intelligence Officer during the Falklands conflict. She was stabbed and left to die near her home.

'Speculative articles'

Mr Cozens' letter said: "A careful assessment of the information, written and oral, that you provided at your interview has now been completed, but has produced no evidence to lend substance to your claim that there is a link between the death of Miss Murrell and 'British Intelligence'."

"The written material you gave my officers consists mainly of a collection of speculative articles, letters or remarks from various sources, but none of it provides any evidence to support what can best be described as rumours."

Mr Dalyell said last night: "I have kept my promise to the West Mercia police and gone back to my source. The source has said that it must be left

to him if and when and how he approaches West Mercia police.

"But he has authorised me to say that he will not do it until he knows the result of the Clive Ponting trial."

Judge bans television re-creation of trial

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Channel Four was banned yesterday from going ahead with a proposal to show nightly re-creations of the proceedings in the Ponting secrets trial, by the Central Criminal Court judge trying the case.

Mr Justice McCowan banned the proposed programmes under section four, subsection two, of the Contempt of Court Act until the jury had returned a verdict, or until further notice.

He had been "disturbed", he said, by what he had read in a Channel Four press release setting out the plan to screen a 30-minute summary of the trial using actors reading parts of the transcript.

There was a danger that "it might be necessary to bring the trial to an end before it had run its natural course because of

something which had occurred in the projected programmes", and in his view they involved a "substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice" in those proceedings.

After a short hearing in which Channel Four sought unsuccessfully to challenge the ban and have it lifted, Ms Liz Forgan, senior commissioning editor, said that "naturally the Channel would wish to comply with the order the judge had made."

The programme went ahead but with reporters reading the selected parts of the trial transcripts instead of actors. In that way the company clearly hopes to get round the ban imposed by the judge who laid great emphasis on the fact that

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Judge bans television re-creation of trial

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the problem was the proposal to use actors.

Channel Four used experienced and well known news broadcasters, involving the hasty commissioning of Robert Dougall, Kenneth Kendall and Llew Gardner. The fourth reader, Godfrey Hodgson was the link man, as in the original plan.

There is no right of appeal from the judge's order and no procedure for judicial review. Nor would Mr Justice McCowan hear arguments from lawyers on behalf of Channel Four because, he said, they were not parties to the Ponting trial.

He had no reason to doubt that a sincere attempt would be made to present a balanced picture. "But inevitably if approximately five hours of court proceedings are edited to something under half an hour, the more newsworthy and dramatic parts of the day's evidence are likely to be shown".

That happened in any news reports, television or press. But the difference was that the Channel Four programmes would use actors. It did not make a crucial difference that there would be no sets of costumes or attempts to impersonate characters. "The important point is that actors are being used in a dramatic setting.

It would be "the most natural thing in the world" for the jury to watch a dramatic reconstruction of the highlights of the day's proceedings. "The danger is that they will recall the most important parts of the day's evidence not as the witnesses said them, but as the actors say them".

The judge's order, made without any representations having been made by either counsel for the prosecution or the defence, was challenged later in the day by lawyers for Channel Four.

Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, appealed that the company had a right to be heard as a "basic principle of natural justice", unless there was a statute clearly expressing otherwise.

He wanted to be heard to seek clarification as to the terms of the order, and also as to its merits on whether it met the terms in the act that there was a need to avoid a substantial risk of prejudice to the proceedings.

Ponting admits passing papers to Labour MP

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The trial of Mr Clive Ponting, the Ministry of Defence official accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act, opened yesterday with an admission that he sent documents to an MP and a challenge to the Crown to show this was not against his duty as a civil servant.

The admission that Mr Ponting had sent two papers on the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, was made at the Central Criminal Court, London, as the prosecution opened its case.

Mr Ponting, aged 38, an assistant secretary at the ministry, pleaded not guilty to an offence last July under section two of the Official Secrets Act 1911. Mr Bruce Laughland QC, for Mr Ponting, made the admission.

Mr Laughland told Mr Justice McCowan: "I will be submitting at a later stage whether the Crown can prove that Mr Dalyell was not a person to whom he (Mr Ponting) was authorized to communicate or a person to whom it was in the interests of the State this defendant should do so."

Later in legal argument over whether proceedings should be in camera Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, told the judge: "It is not suggested that disclosure in fact damaged national security. This case involves an alleged breach of confidentiality."

Mr Laughland opposing the closure of the court said it was "not a case about spying. It is a case about lying or misleading Parliament".

In his opening Mr Amlot said that Mr Ponting was working last year as the head of a ministry division called DS5, which worked with naval staff on the day-to-day activities of

the fleet particularly in relation to political and policy aspects.

He became involved in drafting various replies to letters and questions on the Belgrano as the Government was pressed by Mr Denzil Davies, the Shadow Spokesman on Defence, and Mr Dalyell.

Mr Ponting also prepared a definitive narrative of the sinking of the Belgrano for Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, which came to be known as the "Crown Jewels" among civil servants, Mr Amlot said.

Mr Amlot said that one of the documents Mr Ponting sent to Mr Dalyell was marked confidential but this security grading had now been removed and the other paper was not classified.

The court was told that Mr Ponting had seen details of the Belgrano sinking and knew that the Government had nothing sinister to hide, nor in his drafts or minutes did he suggest the warship had been sunk for any other reason than it was a threat to the task force off the Falklands.

Mr Amlot told the jury that although Mr Ponting knew all the facts of the Belgrano incident they might consider why he leaked information to Mr Dalyell, who had been pressing the line that the Belgrano had been sunk to halt peace talks.

The information given to Mr Dalyell was misleading and could give a false impression against the true position known to Mr Ponting. Mr Ponting had developed differences with his colleagues on how information should be given to an MP pressing the point which Mr Dalyell had pressed.

The court was held in camera for over an hour in the afternoon after Mr Amlot had argued that the jury of four women and eight men should see the "Crown Jewels" in their entirety.

Ponting trial goes private

Defence opposes hearing in camera

By Richard Norton Taylor and Paul Keel

MR CLIVE Ponting, a senior civil servant at the Defence Ministry, admitted passing two documents about the sinking of the Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell MP but denied that his action had been a breach of the Official Secrets Act, a jury at the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Mr Ponting, aged 38, of Islington, London, an assistant secretary at the ministry and a former adviser to Mr

Ministers 'ignored advice,' page 2

Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, denies a charge under section two of the Act alleging that he gave the information to an unauthorised person — Mr Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow.

On the first day of his trial yesterday Mr Bruce Laughland, defending, submitted that the "live issue" was "whether the Crown could prove that Mr Dalyell was not a person to whom Mr Ponting was authorised to communicate the information or a person to whom it was not in the interests of the state to communicate it."

For the prosecution, Mr Roy Amlot said that Mr Ponting had not received authority to pass the information to the MP and that in the circumstances he knew he would not have received such authority from his ministry. "It is not suggested that the disclosure in fact damaged national security. This case involves an alleged breach of confidentiality," he said.

After outlining the prosecution case, Mr Amlot successfully applied for part of the trial to be heard in camera, despite objections from the defence. Mr Amlot said



CLIVE PONTING at the end of the opening day of his trial at the Old Bailey.

Picture by Martin Argles

that the Crown shared the defence's wish that the whole trial be heard in public, but added: "Some of the most significant events leading up to the sinking of the Belgrano depend upon material so sensitive that national security demands that the material is not exposed in public."

He said the prosecution took the view that it was necessary for the jury to examine in detail this material — called "the Crown Jewels" — in order that it might understand the full facts and, more importantly, Mr Ponting's role in the affair.

Opposing the application, Mr Laughland said that open justice should be done openly and seen to be done openly. He said he had seen the Crown Jewels and it was his submission that they were "predominantly paste." He contended that they contained material that had been in the public domain already and nothing that should be kept from the public.

"This is not a case about spying. It is a case about lying or misleading Parliament, and to go now unnecessarily into camera, with all the surrounding aura that that involves, is to give a wholly unjustified complexion to this case," he argued.

But Mr Justice McCowan, the trial judge, said he had also seen the material and it was obvious to him that the court should go into camera so that it could be seen in full. The court was then cleared of members of the public and press for the remaining hour and a half of yesterday's hearing.

Mr Ponting challenged three potential members — all older women — of the vetted jury panel. This is the maximum to which the defence is entitled to object. A jury of eight men and four women was sworn in.

Earlier, Mr Justice McCowan banned Channel 4 television from broadcasting nightly programmes on the trial, based on transcripts but read by actors. "It seems to me it could involve

a substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice," he said.

The judge, who made his order under section 4 (2) of the 1981 Contempt of Court Act, said that he did not doubt a sincere attempt would be made to present a balanced picture in what Channel 4 had described as "ground-breaking coverage" of a trial.

But it was inevitable that if approximately five hours of court proceedings were edited to something under half an hour, the more newsworthy and dramatic parts of the day's evidence were likely to be shown.

It would be the most natural thing in the world for the jury to watch a dramatic reconstruction of the highlights of the day's proceedings. "The danger is that they will recall the most important parts of the day's evidence not as the witnesses said them, but as the actors say them."

The trial is expected to last into next week.

Ponting trial centres on disclosure rights

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

THE RIGHT of a civil servant to disclose information to an MP, with out being in breach of the Official Secrets Act, was at the centre of the trial of Mr Clive Ponting, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Mr Ponting, formerly a senior adviser to Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Secretary, admitted that he passed two ministry documents about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser the General Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP.

Mr Ponting pleaded not guilty to a charge under section 2 of the 1911 Official secrets Act.

He was charged that, on or about July 16 last year, having in his possession or control information obtained by him, or to which he had access, owing to his position as a person who held office under Her Majesty, he "communicated such information to a person other than a person to whom he was authorised to communicate it, or to whom it was, in the interest of the state, his duty to communicate it."

Mr Bruce Laughland, QC, for Mr Ponting, told Mr Justice McCowan and the jury of eight men and four women: "The live issue is whether the Crown

A Channel 4 television programme in which actors would have read extracts from a transcript of the Ponting trial after each day's hearing was banned by Mr Justice McCowan under the Contempt of Court Act.

The judge imposed the ban under section 4(2) of the Act, which gives a court power to postpone a report of proceedings, "where it appears necessary for avoiding a substantial

can prove that Mr Dalyell was not a person to whom (Mr Ponting) was authorised to communicate (the information), or a person to whom it was, in the interests of the state, his duty to do so."

Mr Rex Amlot, prosecuting, said that Mr Ponting had signed a declaration under the Official Secrets Act that he would not, without official sanction, disclose information to any unauthorised person.

He had not had Mr Heseltine's authority, and had known he would not get it, to pass the documents to Mr Dalyell.

Mr Amlot stressed that it was not suggested that the disclosure damaged national security.

risk of prejudice to the administration of justice."

He said the important point was that actors would be used in a dramatic setting. If the jury saw the programmes, the danger was that they would recall the important parts of the day's evidence, not as the witnesses had said them, but as the actors had said them. The emphasis might not be the same.

What the case involved was a breach of confidentiality, he said.

On an application by the prosecution, opposed by the defence, the judge agreed to sit in camera for part of yesterday's hearing so that the jury could see the full text of a series of documents referred to as "the Crown Jewels."

They were said to be documents collated by Mr Ponting dealing with the events prior to the sinking of the Belgrano. They did not include the two ministry documents.

Mr Amlot said it was necessary that the jury should see the complete "Crown Jewels" and not, as the defence urged,

an expurgated version that could be dealt with in public.

Some of the most significant events leading up to the sinking depended upon material so sensitive that national security demanded it should not be exposed in public, he said.

"We don't want to fight the Falklands war over again, but the only way you can judge what it was that Mr Ponting disclosed to Mr Dalyell, and why he disclosed it, is by comparing what he disclosed with the position as known to which which was embodied in the Crown Jewels."

Among point that emerged from the Crown Jewels was that there had been no suggestion by Mr Ponting that there was anything sinister about the sinking of the Belgrano. The vessel had posed a real threat to the task force and had been attacked for military reasons.

Objecting to a private session, Mr Laughland argued: "This is not a case about spying. It is about lying or misleading Parliament, and to go into camera, with all the surrounding aura which that involves, is to give a wholly unjustified complexion to this case."

The hearing continues today.

Bunkered

One of Sir Rex Hunt's last ambitions before he leaves the Falklands is to see a start made on restoring the islands' nine-hole golf course, or even the construction of a new 18 holes.

A keen golfer, the civil commissioner is one of the 23 members of the Port Stanley Golf Club whose sport was rudely interrupted by the Argentine invasion.

As if the wind, weather and terrain were not hazards enough, the course was in turn shelled, mined and dug into during the hostilities. It is now, apparently, difficult to find a patch of fairway.

But at Hunt's request, golf architect Bryan Griffiths, of Epping, flew out at the weekend to assess the possibilities. With the Government already footing an enormous bill for the islands, it is hoped that the cost will be met by commercial and industrial sponsors.

The Falklands will be the 38th country in which Griffiths has worked. His next assignment is in China.

KINNOCK IN TALKS WITH ALFONSIN

By *NICHOLAS COMFORT* Political Staff

MR KINNOCK is expected to meet the Argentine President, Dr Alfonsin, in Athens later this week—the highest-level contact between politicians from Westminster and Buenos Aires since the Falklands peace talks broke down in Berne last July.

The Labour leader flies to Greece tomorrow night to be briefed with fellow European Socialist leaders on the progress of the “five-continent initiative” on world nuclear disarmament launched by Mrs Indira Gandhi last May.

Dr Alfonsin, who has been attending talks on the initiative in New Delhi, is travelling on to Athens for the meeting with President Nyerere of Tanzania.

Mr Kinnock's time in the Greek capital will be limited because he has to return home early on Friday for the unveiling of the memorial to W P C Yvonne Fletcher, killed last April in the siege of the Libyan People's Bureau.

‘Fringe’ talks

But it is reckoned almost certain that he will take the opportunity for talks on the “fringe” with Dr Alfonsin, bringing him up to date both on British opinion on the Falklands and what a Labour government would propose on sovereignty.

Although the Labour leader, as a Privy Councillor, has access to confidential Government papers on the Falklands, it is far from clear whether he will seek to heal the Anglo-Argentine breach which reopened at Berne.

Ministers reckoned after the breakdown of those talks on the issue of whether sovereignty could be discussed

that it would take at least until now for tempers to cool and for any kind of dialogue to be resumed.

And the impending completion of the new Mount Pleasant airport on the islands, and the military's insistence on retaining total control will, on past form, make Dr Alfonsin unwilling to appear tractable.

Fleeting contacts

Nevertheless it will be widely reckoned at Westminster that any contact with Argentina is better than none, and that as long as Dr Alfonsin recognises that Mr Kinnock is a long way from being able to implement any promises based on election of a Labour government, such a meeting would be worthwhile.

Since the Argentine surrender in June, 1982, and the election of a civilian government, there have been fleeting contacts on neutral ground between junior ministers.

But up to now Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, is the most senior British politician Dr Alfonsin has met.

The Berne talks, at which Britain hoped to secure a formula for an official end to hostilities and resumption of diplomatic links, were attended by envoys from the two countries' Foreign Ministers.

Islands look to brighter future

John Ezard reports on the development of the Falklands economy, using natural resources

IN mid-May, the last of this season's South Atlantic wool clip should reach the United Kingdom by the method which has been traditional for 150 years — by ip after a month's voyage, raw and unprocessed in big quantities, but bringing little revenue to the Falkland Islands.

In the same month, wool is due to start arriving by a new method, born out of the 1982 conflict — by air after a 24-hour flight. The Falklands' first wool mill will have made it up into garments which will sell for up to £40 each on a quality market and send home a profit worth reinvesting.

On the same flights will be samples of frozen crab, freshly caught by a new in-shore trawler, to be tested for bulk processing by a Lincolnshire firm in a plan to export some of the South Atlantic's prolific seafood for the first time.

These are among early milestones due to be reached 2½ years after Mrs Thatcher's Government agreed to act on most of Lord Shackleton's report on the need to rescue the stagnant Falklands economy.

A recent report by the Conservative-dominated Commons Foreign Affairs Committee attacked the pace of progress on his recommendations as "funereal."

Its indictment was based mainly on evidence given to the committee up to early last year about Whitehall legal delays in setting up a local development corporation.

But the corporation's general manager, Mr Simon Armstrong said yesterday: "We are no longer a ghost organisation. We have become a real corporation doing real things with real money."

Mr Armstrong is in London for planning talks with Whitehall and private agencies.

He is working with the British Tourist Authority on specimen brochures to test the UK, United States and German holiday markets for a scheme to organise ranch house and wildlife packages for several hundred tourists a year, possibly starting in the 1985-6 season.

The corporation is spending £200,000 on 50 per cent grants for farm fencing to control and improve grazing land productivity. Other agricultural schemes include a new Port Stanley dairy; an EEC-standard slaughterhouse to supply the garrison with mutton, and a market garden using hydroponics to supply vegetables. "They will produce cash that will remain in the islands," said Mr Armstrong.

But the flagship projects are land reform, which was Lord Shackleton's priority, and the pioneering wool mill. The mill, at Fox Bay, West Falkland — on land sold to farm employees — is due to begin producing 250 Falkland sweaters a month in March. Its initial turnover is expected to be £500,000 a year.

A crisis arose earlier this month when the Ministry of Defence in Port Stanley said that despite repeated ministerial assurances to the Commons it did not expect to carry civilian freight or passengers when the new £240 million strategic Falklands airport opens this spring.

That would have left the mill and other development projects high and dry, and would have halted planning for tourism. A civilian protest was made last week, and the next day a joint civilian/military committee was set up to agree transport allocations.

About 400,000 acres of farmland, mostly foreign-owned, have so far been subdivided and sold to islanders.

Constraints include a local shortage of valuation staff and, more significantly, a big block of farms still held by the Falkland Islands Company, a Coalite subsidiary. The Government rejected Lord Shackleton's recommendation that this land should be nationalised.

Among solutions being considered by development corporation officials is an audacious request to the Overseas Development Administration for £7 million so that Coalite's chairman, the former Labour minister, Mr Eric Varley, can be asked to sell outright. The company is already known to have taken seriously a bid from the Bahamas-based millionaire, Mr Jack Hayward.

Falklands misled on sovereignty — Owen

By John Ezard

The SDP leader, Dr David Owen, last night accused unnamed officials of misleading the people of the Falklands Islands and falsely raising their hopes after the Prime Minister denied having given them a right of veto on the sovereignty issue.

Dr Owen's attack came after Mrs Thatcher replied to a letter from him criticising a new constitution, approved by the Foreign Office and islanders, which enshrines a right of self-determination. Mrs Thatcher said that a "human rights chapter" in the constitution was taken from the United Nations covenant on civil and political rights. This was ratified by Britain in 1976 but not — she added pointedly — by Argentina.

She denied that the provisions imposed on the British Government "any obligations, whether legal or political, over and above those which already bind the UK as a party to the covenant. They do not give a right of veto to the islanders, nor do they derogate from the sovereignty of Parliament.

The new constitution "underlines our commitment to safeguard the right of the islanders to live under a government of their own choosing in a climate of security and economic

well-being. But it does not create any new commitments."

She added that another concession to the islanders, the agreement to let them retain a consultative right on decisions over the island of South Georgia and a role in its administration, was to meet their "deep and legitimate concern" about being left isolated. But the legal separateness of the Falklands and South Georgia was demonstrated by the different provisions made for each territory.

In a comment Dr Owen said: "It is clear that the islanders were misled and given to understand that some new safeguard was being incorporated in their constitution."

But British interests in Antarctica would have been better safeguarded by total constitutional separation of the two territories.

South Georgia is important to Britain's claim to share in any future mineral exploitation of Antarctica. The Government's legal advice is that its claim to sovereignty over the island is stronger than its case over the Falklands.

Colin Brown adds: The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, will meet President Alfonsín of Argentina for the first time on Thursday at a meeting in Athens to promote world disarmament.

Police discount Dalyell charges

By David Hearst

Police investigating the murder of Miss Hilda Murrell, the anti-nuclear campaigner, yesterday dismissed as speculation evidence provided by the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, about the alleged involvement of British Intelligence agents.

Mr Dalyell has claimed that Miss Murrell, aged 78, was killed by agents who were disturbed while searching her home near Shrewsbury for documents about the sinking of the Argentine warship, the General Belgrano. Miss Murrell's nephew, Commander Robert Green, was a Fleet intelligence officer during the Falklands war.

After his allegations Mr Dalyell was interviewed by West Mercia detectives in the House of Commons last week. Yesterday the Chief Constable, Mr Robert Cozens, said Mr Dalyell's evidence amounted to no more than rumour.

He said in a letter to Mr Dalyell: "A careful assessment of the information, written and oral, that you provided at your interview has now been completed but has produced no evidence to lend substance to your claim that there is a link between the death of Miss Murrell and British Intelligence.

"The written material you gave my officers consists mainly of a collection of speculative articles, letters or remarks from various sources but none of it provides any evidence to support what can best be described as rumours. Regrettably, this also applies to the answers you gave to my officers at your interview."

He ended with a plea to Mr Dalyell's source to come forward and give evidence to the police: "I give you my assurance that any evidence that is forthcoming will be very thoroughly investigated."

Mr Dalyell said last night: "I never pretended that the information I gave police amounted to evidence," he said. "I don't now the name of the murderer."

His informant, he added, would consider approaching the police after the trial of Mr Clive Ponting.

Mr Dalyell yesterday put down a question in the Commons to Mr Barney Hayhoe, the Civil Service minister, about allegations in the Observer that Government departments used a private detective agency, Zeus Security Consultants, to obtain lists of the names of objectors to the Sizewell inquiry.

Miss Murrell was one of the objectors to the construction of the nuclear reactor at Sizewell

Trial not about spying but lying, jury told

Clive Ponting, a senior civil servant, admitted to the police that he sent two confidential documents about the sinking of the Argentine ship, the General Belgrano, to Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

One of the documents, known colloquially as the "crown jewels", showed that Mr Ponting believed disclosure of the facts about the sinking would refute the claims made by Mr Dalyell, Mr Roy Amlot QC, for the prosecution, said.

The MP had consistently alleged that the Belgrano was sunk to scupper any peace plan with Argentina over the Falklands, not because it was a threat to the task force, he added.

The prosecution successfully applied for the "crown jewels" evidence to be held in camera, despite opposition from Mr Bruce Laughland QC, for the defence. He said the "crown jewels" were "predominantly past" and did not include evidence that should be kept from the public.

"Let me make our position perfectly plain. This trial is not about spying, it is a matter of lying, misleading Parliament," Mr Laughland said.

Mr Amlot told the jury - all of whom had received a security vetting before the trial, with the agreement of the judge, Mr Justice McCowan, - that the disclosure had not damaged national security. "This case involves an alleged breach of confidentiality," he said.

Mr Ponting, aged 38, a senior Ministry of Defence civil servant, of Cloudesley Road, Islington, north London, pleaded not guilty to one charge under section two of the Official Secrets Act, 1911. He denied communicating information - to which he had access because he held office under Her Majesty - to someone other than a person to whom he was authorised to communicate it, or other than a person to whom it was his duty to do so in the interests of the state.

Mr Laughland said the "live issue" would be whether Mr Dalyell came into this category.

Mr Amlot said Mr Ponting, who held the OBE and was a member of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, headed a group advising naval chiefs of staff at the time the select committee on foreign affairs was investigating the Belgrano affair. The cruiser was sunk by the British submarine HMS Conqueror on Sunday, May 2, 1982, and went down with the loss of 312 lives.

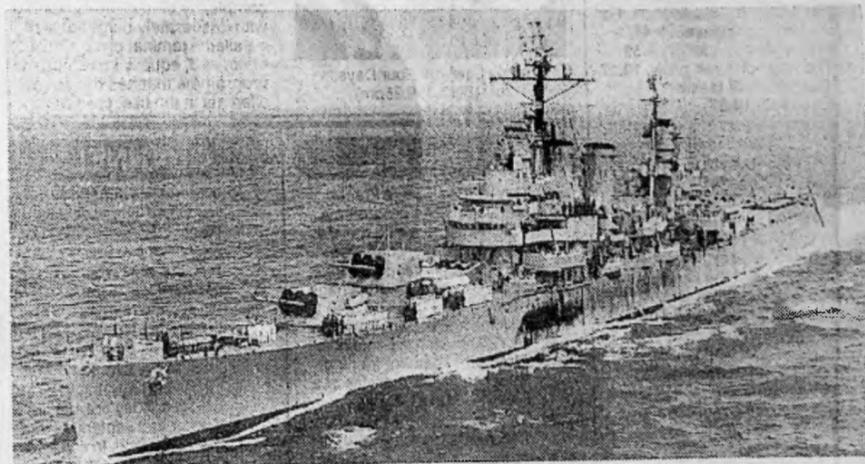
At the time of the alleged offence in July last year Mr Ponting was head of one of MoD's divisions, Defence Secretariat 5, Mr Amlot said.

"He was working in a close relationship with the naval staff on the day-to-day activities of the fleet, and had particular responsibility for the policy and political aspect of the operational activities of the Royal Navy, both in home waters and abroad," Mr Amlot said.

Last July, Mr Ponting, who held a "very responsible position" photocopied two documents and sent them to Mr Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow. Before doing so, he removed all markings to hide their source. One was marked "confidential" while the other had no security marking.

Mr Dalyell passed both documents to the select committee on foreign affairs. Its chairman, Sir Anthony Kershaw, passed them straight back to the Ministry of Defence, calling in person on Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

Outlining the background of the case, Mr Amlot said the starting point was a letter from Mr Denzil Davies, Labour Party spokesman on defence and disarmament, to the Prime Minister on March 6, asking for



HMS Conqueror returning to port after the Falklands conflict; and (right) the General Belgrano before and after she went down.

her comments on the "serious discrepancies" between the Government's version of the sinking and statements made in two new books on the affair.

Mr Amlot said that on March 19 another letter was sent, from Mr Dalyell to Mr Heseltine, asking a number of questions about the sinking of the Belgrano.

The jury was given details of minutes between Mr Ponting and other senior civil servants working for defence ministers. They included two possible replies, provided by Mr Ponting, for the Prime Minister to answer Mr Davies.

Mr Amlot then read a minute to Mr Ponting by Mr Richard

Mottram, private secretary to Mr Heseltine, in which he requested a chronological breakdown of the events leading up to the sinking.

Mr Heseltine wanted an assessment of how much could be published without compromising security.

The memo asked for details on the timing of the detection of the Belgrano; when the request came through for a change in the rules of engagement so that the cruiser could be attacked outside the total exclusion zone; which channels the information went through; which ministers were informed and when; the sequence of events in relation to the Peruvian peace initiative and also to the intelligence information of the order instructing the Argentine fleet to return to port.

Mr Amlot said Mr Ponting did the work and brought into existence "a series of documents which have become known colloquially as the crown jewels. They contained a lot of top secret information". A number of high-level meetings on the Belgrano were held at the Ministry of Defence, including

one on April 1 when Mr Ponting was present as well as Mr Heseltine.

At the meeting lengthy consideration was given to the question of what information could be given without damage to national security and also the problems involved in starting a process of disclosures which might rapidly prompt further questions on sensitive areas of security.

Mr Amlot, summarising the prosecution's case, said that at no time did Mr Ponting suggest that the Government or the Ministry of Defence had "anything sinister to hide, in particular at no time did he suggest that the Belgrano was sunk for any reason other than it was a threat to the task force at the time".

However, Mr Amlot said the prosecution alleged the information in the two documents fed to Mr Dalyell gave a "misleading impression" when compared with the true position - which Mr Ponting knew. One - which Mr Ponting knew. One document was about the Belgrano's course - and what would leap out at Mr Dalyell was a reference to its reversal of

course 11 hours before it was attacked.

With the other document, about the changing of the rules of engagement, Mr Dalyell would have been struck by a reference to the full list of changes, Mr Amlot said.

The list of changes showed that engagement of the Argentine carrier "25 Maya" outside the total exclusion zone was committed from April 30 and the change on May 2 was not restricted to the Belgrano, but included all Argentine warships.

After an investigation was launched into the leak, Mr Ponting was seen by police, and said: "Good God, you don't suspect me". He admitted there was "strong circumstantial" evidence, but added "honestly, I did not do it".

Asked who had, he mentioned the names of people in his own department.

"At this stage it might have been that he was suggesting that someone else may have been responsible for copying the documents," Mr Amlot said.

Later he said to the officer: "This country has not got anything to hide, so why hide

it? Most of this information is unclassified and the whole thing has been blown up out of proportion." But he said he would not have sent the documents.

Mr Ponting then asked to see his wife, and after talking to her and other people, returned and made a statement, it read: "I am sorry that I have breached the trust the department had in me and that I photocopied and sent two documents to Tam Dalyell."

"I did this because I believe that ministers within this department were not prepared to answer legitimate questions from an MP about a matter of considerable public concern, simply in order to protect their own political position."

He said he regretted his actions and any embarrassment to the department. Mr Laughland then admitted to the court that Mr Ponting had sent the information to Mr Dalyell.

After submissions from prosecution and defence, the judge then ruled that evidence about the "crown jewels" documents should be held in camera.

The trial was adjourned until today.

- April 2: Argentine forces occupy Falklands
- April 30: Sonar contact made with tanker escorting the Belgrano. Engagement made with Argentine carrier, 25 Maya, outside 200 nautical mile exclusion zone
- May 1: Belgrano sighted

- May 2: Changes in rules of engagement signalled from fleet headquarters. Rules cover total Argentine fleet
- 3.00pm: HMS Conqueror receives garbled transmission
- 5.00pm: Message decoded
- 8.00pm: Belgrano sunk, outside total exclusion zone

Ministers ignored Ponting's Belgrano guidance

By Richard Norton-Taylor and Paul Keel

An Old Bailey jury heard yesterday how Clive Ponting, a senior Ministry of Defence official, in the early part of last year persistently advised ministers to release more information about the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the Belgrano, during the Falklands campaign.

Mr Roy Amlot, prosecuting, said Mr Ponting, aged 38, had sent two documents — one unclassified, the other declassified later by the ministry — to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, on July 16, in a typewritten envelope posted in Paddington. Ten days later Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, to whom Mr Dalyell had sent the documents, returned them personally to the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine.

When questioned by Detective Chief Inspector Hughes of

the Ministry of Defence police on August 8, Mr Ponting denied that he had sent the documents to Mr Dalyell. Mr Amlot said. Two days later, during further questioning, Mr Ponting was alleged to have said: "I can see there is a strong circumstantial case against me, but honestly I did not do it."

Asked of he was blaming his personnel assistant or his higher executive officer, Mr Ponting said allegedly: "No, of course not — I have no grounds." He added: "This country has nothing to hide, so why hide it? Most of this information is unclassified and the whole thing has been blown up out of all proportion."

Mr Amlot said Mr Ponting again denied sending the documents, but asked to see his wife, Sally, who also worked at the ministry. He returned and made a short statement. "I am sorry that I have breached the trust the department had in me and that I photocopied and

sent two documents to Tam Dalyell," Mr Ponting was alleged to have said.

"I did this because I believe ministers within this department were not prepared to answer legitimate questions from an MP about a matter of considerable public concern, simply in order to protect their own political position."

Mr Ponting is charged under Section 2(1) of the 1911 Official Secrets Act with, on or about July 16 last year, being in his possession information obtained by him or to which he had access owing to his position as a person who held office under her Majesty, and communicating the information to a person other than a person to whom he was authorised to communicate it or to whom it was in the interest of the state to communicate it.

Mr Bruce Laughland QC, counsel for Mr Ponting, said that the live issue in the case

would be whether Mr Dalyell was somebody other than a person to whom Mr Ponting was authorised to communicate the documents, or to whom it was in the interests of the state to communicate them.

The court heard that one of the papers allegedly sent by Mr Ponting to Mr Dalyell was a Ministry document — then marked confidential — about how the Ministry should reply to questions from the Commons Foreign Affairs committee about changes in the rules of engagement during the Falklands conflict. The other was a draft letter from Mr Heseltine to Mr Dalyell — but never sent — giving details about the Belgrano's course and change in direction, 11 hours before it was attacked on May 2, 1982.

Mr Amlot said that Mr Ponting was an assistant secretary and head of a division, defence secretariat 5, responsible for policy and political aspects of naval operations.

This was obviously, "a very responsible position." Last July he sent the documents to Mr Dalyell, removing all markings to hide the source, "in breach of the trust imposed on him as a servant of the Crown."

Mr Amlot said the starting point to the case was a letter sent to the Prime Minister on March 6 last year from Mr Denzil Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, on behalf of the shadow cabinet. Mr Davies asked for her comments on "serious discrepancies" between the Government's version of the circumstances surrounding the Belgrano's sinking and statements made in a book and in the Government's white paper on the Falklands campaign, published in December 1982.

Mr Ponting wrote two draft answers for Mr Heseltine, and the armed forces Minister, Mr John Stanley. One maintained the existing public line, the other said that the Belgrano was first sighted on May 1,

and not May 2, as previously suggested.

"There are no operational or intelligence reasons for withholding the May 1 date, and the choice between the drafts is therefore essentially political," Mr Ponting's minute to ministers said.

Mr Amlot said that Mrs Thatcher in early April agreed to give the May 1 date. But before that Mr Richard Mottam, Mr Heseltine's private secretary told Mr Ponting that Mr Heseltine had requested a full chronological breakdown of the events leading up to the sinking. This document, classified top secret, was known as the "Crown Jewels."

Mr Dalyell continued to ask questions, notably about when the orders to sink the Belgrano were given, and about the position and course of the cruiser when it was attacked. Mr Stanley had suggested that the reply should be that the questions could not be

answered as it was not departmental practice to give information on military operations.

Mr Amlot said that Mr Ponting had argued that he did not believe it was possible to sustain that line. Information about the Belgrano's change of course was unclassified, he had said, and there was a sound tactical reason for giving a more complete picture rather than allowing the information to emerge in pieces via parliamentary questions.

But Mr Heseltine had replied to Mr Dalyell that the MP's purpose was to "pursue your campaign and demonstrate that the Belgrano was attacked to stop peace negotiations."

There was no suggestion made by Mr Ponting that material showed that there was anything sinister about the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano.

The hearing continues.

Documents leaked 'only four months after appointment of new aide for Heseltine'

PONTING'S ADVICE 'NOT ALWAYS TAKEN BY THATCHER'

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent

CLIVE PONTING leaked two documents to the Labour MP, Mr Tom Dalyell, just four months after taking over as head of one of Mr Heseltine's Defence Ministry secretariats, Mr Roy AMLOT, prosecuting, said at the Old Bailey yesterday.

During that time, Mr Dalyell kept up his interest in the Falklands conflict with questions to the Prime Minister and Mr Heseltine on the controversial sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano.

Ponting had responsibility for advising Ministers on policy and political aspects of Royal Navy operations.

He collated material and drafted proposals for Ministerial replies to both Mr Dalyell and Mr Denzil Davies, Shadow Defence spokesman.

But Mr Amlot, outlining the Crown's case against Ponting, told the jury that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine did not always take his advice.

In July of last year, two years after the sinking of the Belgrano, Ponting, whose work involved the handling of much classified material, posted two documents, one marked confi-

cern, simply in order to protect their Parliamentary position."

Ponting, of Cloudsley Road, Islington, who joined the Civil Service in 1970, pleads not guilty to a charge under Section 2 (1a) of the 1911 Official Secrets Act, alleging he passed two documents to an unauthorised person.

Outlining the background of the case, Mr Amlot said the starting point was a letter from Mr Denzil Davies, Labour party spokesman on defence and disarmament, to the Prime Minister on March 6 in which he asked for her comments on "serious discrepancies" which exist between the Government's version on the circumstances of the sinking of the Belgrano and statements made in two recent publications.

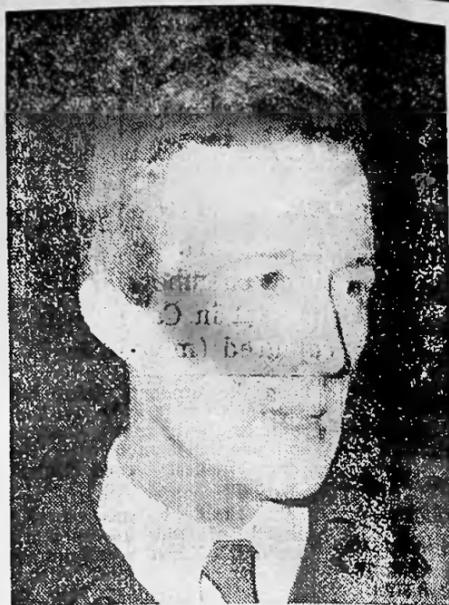
A particular and unremitting interest

Mr Amlot said that not long afterwards another letter was sent, from Mr Dalyell to Mr Heseltine asking a number of questions about Conqueror.

Mr Dalyell wanted to know when it sighted the Belgrano, details about the sinking of the Belgrano, at what time on April 30 Conqueror detected it on its sonar and when the Belgrano came into visual contact.

Mr Dalyell also asked about the Belgrano's course, speed and position through the period it was tracked and speed at the time of the attack.

Mr Amlot told the jury: "As is well known, Mr Dalyell has a particular and unremitting



Clive Ponting on his way yesterday to the Old Bailey where he admitted that he "leaked" documents concerning the sinking of the Belgrano to Mr Tom Dalyell, the Labour MP (right).



Interest in the fate of the Gen. Belgrano."

Explaining the circumstances of the sinking, Mr Amlot said she was torpedoed at about 8 p.m. British time on May 2. She was south of the Falklands, having reversed course that morning from an easterly to a westerly direction, in effect changing course towards the mainland.

The cruiser was just outside the 200-nautical mile "total exclusion zone," declared by the British Government and Conqueror had been following her for some time, having sighted her the day before.

The rules of engagement had been altered and were signal-

led to Conqueror in the early afternoon of May 2, and had allowed the attack to take place.

Mr Amlot said: "Mr Dalyell's apparent contention has been for some time that the Belgrano was no threat to the Task Force at the time she was sunk, and that she was attacked in order to destroy the prospects for peace negotiations based on proposals initiated by the Peruvians late in the day."

Mr Amlot referred the jury to a minute from Ponting to the Assistant Private Secretary to Mr Heseltine dated March 16.

In it, Ponting stated that he

had been asked by the Minister for the Armed Forces, Mr Stanley, to prepare a draft admitting for the first time that the Belgrano had been sighted on May 1, not May 2.

Choice of drafts essentially political

"I have, however, prepared an alternative reply which maintains the existing public line," the minute read.

"There are no operational or intelligence reasons for withholding the May 1 date, and the choice between the drafts is therefore essentially political," the minute went on.

It pointed out matters which, Ponting said, any decision to admit the May 1 date would have to take into account.

On Dec. 10, 1982, the minute continued, Mr Dalyell had been told by Mr Peter Blaker, a Minister at the time, that it would not be in the public interest to say at what time contact with the Belgrano was made by the Royal Navy submarine.

Also, the Government had frequently taken the line that the affair had been fully explained. The Prime Minister, the minute said, had taken this position on Feb. 21, 1984, in the Commons in response to a question from Mr Dalyell.

However, Ponting said in his minute, if it were decided to admit the May 1 date, it might be possible to argue that a statement by Sir John Nott, the Defence Secretary, in which he said the Belgrano was detected on May 2, had clearly been meant to refer to the sinking at 8 p.m. London time.

Ponting's minute said the main objection to a change of position over the sinking was that it would "only encourage Mr Dalyell in his other accusations."

"Mr Dalyell will also use an admission to continue his argument that the sinking was for political, not military, reasons," the minute said.

"Any admission will also raise questions about why an admission was not made when the discrepancy first emerged about a year ago."

Mr Amlot read from a minute to Ponting by Mr Richard Mottram, private secretary to Mr Heseltine, sent on March 22, in which he requested a chronological breakdown of events leading to the sinking.

Mr Mottram said that the Defence Secretary was seeking a wider appraisal of the events in the light of nine new questions tabled by Mr Dalyell and the forthcoming publication of a book on the subject.

Mr Heseltine wanted an assessment of how much could be published without compromising security.

Mr Amlot said Ponting did the work and brought into existence "a series of documents which have become known as the 'Crown Jewels.'" They contained a lot of top secret information.

A number of high-level meetings on the Belgrano at the Defence Ministry were held, including one on April 1 when Ponting was present, as well as Mr Heseltine.

At the meeting lengthy consideration was given to the question of what information could be given without damage to national security and also the problems involved in starting a process of disclosures which might rapidly prompt further questions on sensitive areas of security.

Mr Amlot said that after this and further discussions, Mrs Thatcher replied to Mr Davies recording the background to the Belgrano affair.

The following day Mr Dalyell wrote to the Prime Minister after he had seen her letter to Mr Davies.

Four pages of questions

Mr Dalyell asked her to reply to four pages of questions including ones about attacks on Port Stanley airfield and also asked: "Who perceived the Belgrano to be a threat to the Task Force in general?"

Ponting, said Mr Amlot, was asked to provide a proposed reply for Mr Heseltine in response to Mr Dalyell's letter.

Mr Amlot read to the jury Ponting's suggested answers to a number of questions posed by Mr Dalyell about the sighting and the sinking of the cruiser. Mr Dalyell's first question

was: "At what time on April 30, 1982, had HMS Conqueror first detected the Belgrano on its sonar?"

The suggested answer was: "As the Prime Minister has pointed out, HMS Conqueror did not contact Belgrano on its sonar on April 30. It made contact with an accompanying boiler auxiliary."

Another question asked at what time the order to sink the Belgrano had been sent on May 2 from Northwood, headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, Fleet.

Ponting's suggested reply stated that no order had been sent from Northwood to sink the Belgrano.

Mr Heseltine, said Mr Amlot, decided not to go on Ponting's advice and made a short reply to Mr Dalyell's letter.

Access to all relevant material

Mr Amlot, summarising the prosecution's case said: "It is clear that Ponting was fully conversant with all significant events surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano because he himself carried out that detailed review of those events for Mr Heseltine which led to the coming into existence of the 'Crown Jewels.'"

"He had access to all relevant material including top secret information which could not be revealed to the public."

"At no time did he suggest that the Government or the Ministry of Defence had anything sinister to hide, in particular at no time did he suggest that the Belgrano was sunk for any reason other than it was a threat to the Task Force at the time."

Ponting was first interviewed by Det. Chief Insp. Hughes on Aug. 8. At that time he was not a suspect but he was told that the leaked documents had probably been copied on the photocopier in his department's registry.

"At that stage Ponting kept quiet about his involvement," said Mr Amlot.

Two days later Chief Insp. Hughes interviewed him under caution and told him he was a suspect.

Ponting replied: "Good Gd, you don't suspect me."

Shown a copy of the first document — the draft letter to Mr Dalyell — Ponting told Mr Hughes he had drafted it.

He was then asked who could have copied it. Mr Hughes said fully to Ponting: "It points directly to you being responsible."

Mr Amlot said Ponting paused and replied: "I can see there is a strong circumstantial case against me, but honestly I did not do it."

This country has nothing to hide

Ponting added: "I cannot deny that this has not changed my view about the Belgrano business if that is what you mean."

"This country has not got anything to hide, so why hide it?"

Mr BRUCE LAUFHLAND, defending, said the "live issue" in the case would be whether Mr Dalyell was somebody other than a person to whom Ponting was authorised to communicate the documents—or to whom it was in the interests of the State his duty to communicate them.

Mr Amlot successfully applied to the judge, Mr Justice McCowan, to be allowed to deal with certain material in camera.

Opposing the application, Mr LAUFHLAND said: "Open justice should be done openly and be seen to be done openly."

The trial was adjourned until today, with the hearing still in camera.

MARGARET Thatcher's government has abandoned every essential detail of its initial rationale for sinking the Belgrano. In that slow process key members of the 1982 War Cabinet have consistently contradicted each other, leaving a trail of new discrepancies, half-truths and omissions. The Prime Minister's refusal to come absolutely clean has reinforced suspicions that the security she says would be threatened is not her country's—but her government's.

For Mrs Thatcher the most influential protagonist of the claimed operational necessity for sinking the Belgrano—before and after the event—was Admiral Lord Lewin. As Chief of the Defence Staff he attended all meetings of the War Cabinet, performing a crucial role in liaising between the military and political hierarchies. For the War Cabinet he interpreted the often-complex tactical and strategic problems and options facing the fighting forces; to the service chiefs and theatre commanders he relayed back any constraints on their conduct of the campaign demanded by the realities of national and international political life.

In practice, then, Lewin emerged as the highly competent head of the War Cabinet's military executive, sharing in the making of decisions as well as ensuring their translation into effective action. But to those able to observe the skill with which he formulated and presented the need for these decisions and actions, especially in the context of changing Rules of Engagement, it seemed as if he had transferred the War Cabinet into the Defence Ministry.

After retiring, Lewin agreed to meet Desmond Rice and myself, among other reasons, to correct what he termed inaccuracies in our book *The Sinking of the Belgrano*. Some of his observations appeared in an earlier Guardian on October 2, 1984.

Lewin criticised suggestions we had made that HMS Conqueror would have known at once that the ships detected on sonar on Friday, April 30 were the Belgrano group. Our own assumption was based on an entry in the diary kept by Navendra Sethia, a former Conqueror officer, which for that day read: "Continuing passage to an area where the threats are from the cruiser, Belgrano, an ancient ex-US Second World War ship with no sonar or ASW antisubmarine warfare capability...." The Admiral was concerned to explain the lapse of 30 hours which he said it took before Northwood naval headquarters could be sure of the Belgrano's identity.

In graphic detail Lewin volunteered a description of how Conqueror would have gone about the business of detecting, sighting and shadowing the Belgrano group. The system of towing a very long array of hydrophonic listening devices is used, he said, as far away as possible from the submarine's own noise. With this system a ship as distant as 70 miles can be detected even though the hunter-killer



Going down: the Belgrano in a picture taken by one of the crew from a lifeboat

A first strike philosophy that sank the Belgrano

ARTHUR GAVSHON

submarine would not initially know just how far its quarry might be or the direction in which it was moving. The array would have to move slowly, and would be plotted several times, then the submarine would change course and the array would snake around, lining up behind the vessel. This might take some time and would enable the searchers to decide which side the sound of their target ship was coming from.

(Because of the possible sensitivity of the information Lewin's detail relating to course changes, timing and speed of the hunting submarine have been deleted from this account.)

Lewin related how the submarine commander "goes on plotting for hours and builds up a picture that that ship, or group of ships, is about 50 miles away around that way. He nips off at (deleted) knots towards it and after about (deleted) hours he shows down... (deleted) again, steadies her course and tries again. This takes a long time... to build up another picture and eventually he gets it and moves to within (deleted) miles, puts up his periscope and realises it's the Belgrano. Now he knows that the contact he had 13 hours ago was the Belgrano."

There was no point in Commander Christopher Wreford-Brown "bashing off

a message" during the detection process because, Lewin said, "Northwood only wants to know what's real." But after the sighting Saturday afternoon, May 2, Conqueror withdrew, not about Conqueror in order safely to surface and transmit a report confirming that the Belgrano had been identified. The report reached Northwood after midnight (London time), according to Lewin. Sethia told us (on November 26, 1984) that Conqueror's signal went off and was acknowledged on Saturday afternoon (London time). (Mrs Thatcher told Labour MP George Foulkes on January 14, 1985 the same thing; she could not explain why Lewin had not been informed immediately.)

Admiral Sir John Woodward, in the South Atlantic, was advised at once, Lewin described the way Woodward saw things: "The Argentine fleet is at sea; there's a group to the north and a group to the south and they're doing a pincer on us. I don't like it. I don't know where the carrier (Veinte Cinco 25 de Mayo) is exactly, but I do know where the Belgrano is, and I would like the Rules of Engagement changed and this Belgrano group dealt with."

"So he gets on to Northwood and this is 0200 (London time) and (Admiral Sir John) Fieldhouse is asleep, and I was asleep. (Flag Officer Submarines of movement, we don't want

enemy ships around when we're fighting a war. So I went to Fieldhouse. He said, 'Chequers with Fieldhouse.' (May 2) and I think Woodward's right and I think he's changed. And the Prime Minister's country home

"We took the war cabinet into a side room," Lewin recalled. "We had this little meeting which lasted about 20 minutes, explained the situation and got agreement to authorise all submarines that they could now attack any Argentine warship that they intercepted outside territorial waters. This was telephoned through to Northwood and transmitted about 1300."

The first signal authorising Wreford-Brown to attack the Belgrano arrived garbled, Lewin said. It was repeated two hours later via an American satellite channel. Conqueror's commander announced the instruction over the vessel's tannoy system, telling his crew at the same time that he intended, with proper caution, to ask for a confirmation; Belgrano was outside the Total Exclusion Zone and had been ambulating toward the mainland since about dawn; meantime, he suggested, while waiting everyone should take lunch.

Around 1800 (London time) or 1400 (South Atlantic time) the confirmatory message through and then it was action stations. Lewin said he was sure

that Francis Pym, then visiting Washington, had been informed of the decision to change the Rules of Engagement permitting the attack on the Belgrano. Sir Anthony Acland, permanent head of the Foreign Office, telephoned him an hour or so after the decision was taken — by about 1400 hours London time. That meant Pym went into his meeting with Alexander Haig knowing that new military action was, at the least, probable. That knowledge may well have accounted for his apparently casual attitude to Haig's report to him on the Peruvian-American peace initiative.

Lord Lewin was emphatic that the military at all times considered themselves under the political control of the War Cabinet. He cited two proposals for changes in the Rules of Engagement, involving extraordinary military action, which were vetoed on grounds that their legality was dubious. One would have permitted hunter-killer attacks on warships within Argentine territorial waters. The other contemplated preventive bombing strikes against mainland Argentine airfields.

On the first, he observed: "Our submarines once or twice saw Argentine naval units going along the coast in territorial waters and we could not attack them and this was frustrating. The Attorney General's (Sir Michael Havers) ruling was that an attack within territorial waters was tantamount to attacking the mainland." "It would be very difficult to justify in international law as self-defence."

He explained why the second idea was turned down: "The classic way of air defence is to knock out the enemy airforce on the ground before the planes from that airbase can take off. But the Belgrano was very isolated, and it was suggested that it would be a good idea to use Sea Harriers to do a quick dawn strike and knock off the Super Etendards before they took off. But the Attorney General said no, a strike against the mainland would be difficult to justify."

Additionally, Lewin said, Woodward could not afford the Sea Harriers. And he noted, nor could the Task Force afford the 14 Victor tankers that would have been needed to sustain a Vulcan bomber when the possibility of an air raid on Buenos Aires was discussed.

The Belgrano was a handier target for a High Command hawking to display its power. It was on the high seas, British ships undoubtedly were vulnerable. The "threat" posed by the cruiser descended in scale from the "immediate" to the "potential." This enabled the military to invoke the factor of preemption and with it the idea of "get your retaliation in first."

Arthur Gavshon, formerly AP's diplomatic correspondent in Europe, is the author with Desmond Rice of *The Sinking of the Belgrano*, published by Secker & Warburg, price, £8.95.

Ponting secrets trial may act as spur to campaign for more open government

THERE SEEMS to be no inhibitions, legal or otherwise, on the ceaseless stream of public comment on the prosecution of Mr Clive Ponting, the senior civil servant in the Ministry of Defence, for supplying documentary material to Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, relating to the Belgrano affair.

This discounting of the *sub judice* rule by the commentators is not an aberration but symptomatic of the increasing demand the public that it should know a great deal more about what is done by government in the name of the body politic.

If Mr Ponting's trial, which begins today at the Central Criminal Court, has its intrinsic interests, it is the context in which the Crown uses the ill-starred and much maligned Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 that arouses the greater interest.

Civil libertarians have concentrated their agitation in the past week on the development in the case, which had previously no national security element in it, but only the crucial question of a public servant's loyalty to the Crown, and has suddenly attracted a security aspect. Some of the trial is now to be held in camera and consequently the jury panel has been vetted by security officers.

The expectation is that the trial itself will mainly have interest for what Mr Ponting is going to say when he gets into the witness box. How much more will he reveal about the Government's handling of information about the sinking of the Belgrano after the end of the Falklands' conflict? The lawyers will have particular interest in seeing whether the Judge, Mr Justice McCowan, leaves the issue to the jury of the public duty defence, namely, whether a civil servant has a higher duty to parliament and to the public than his undoubted duty to ministers and to the Crown.

Much the most fascinating aspect of the coming days in court will be the dramatic reconstruction of the day's proceedings by Channel 4 the same evening.

This is a novel form of court reporting that may not be entirely to the liking of the authorities, which have stoutly resisted any attempt by broad-

casting authorities to broadcast or televise live proceedings in court, a growing feature of trials in the U.S. There is the faint prospect that the judge may use the power in Section 4 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to order that publication of any report of the proceedings should be postponed for a period if it appears to the court to be necessary "for avoiding a substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice." Any exercise of such power would be violently objected to by the media; any such restriction would have to be indiscriminate.

The press would regard any such restriction on its right to report as quite outrageous and unprecedented. The High Court has recently held that that section has only the most limited

So long as the blunderbuss was not fired the position was tolerable?

application to protect witnesses in blackmail and rape cases.

Of abiding interest in official secrets cases has been the constitutional role of the Attorney-General. What influence, if not direct or indirect insistence of political considerations led the Attorney-General to authorise Mr Ponting's prosecution? The allied question is the use of Section 2 in a case such as this.

Ever since 1924, Attorney-Generals have been sensitive to any suggestion that their prosecutorial role has been dictated by political considerations emanating from their ministerial colleagues.

In that year, the first Labour Government took office and instantly ran into trouble.

The Workers Weekly, the organ of the Communist Party, published seditious articles and incitements to mutiny in the armed services. This was too much for Mr Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet. Sir Patrick Hastings, the Attorney-General, who had had little political experience during a career of outstanding advocacy at the Bar, authorised the editor's prosecution. The left-wing of the Labour Party in the House of Commons was up in arms and

the prosecution was lamely abandoned, with unfortunate results for both the extremists and moderates in the Government.

The Liberals, egged on by the Conservatives, pressed for an inquiry into the conduct of the Attorney-General, and a vote on the question went against the Government. Their decline accelerated by the Zinoviev letter, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet were defeated in November 1924 and replaced by a Conservative administration with a comfortable majority.

The classical statement of the role of the Attorney-General since then has been that, in deciding whether or not to authorise the prosecution in the interests of the Crown, the Attorney-General is entitled "to acquaint himself with all the relevant facts, including the effect which the prosecution (successful or unsuccessful) would have upon public morale and order. The one thing he may not do is to consider the repercussions on the Attorney-General's personal or his party's or the Government's political fortunes.

Thus he may properly consult his political colleagues for the purpose of informing himself adequately on all the relevant considerations. What is constitutionally impermissible is for him to defer to his political colleagues. Sir Michael Havers has persistently stated that he adhered faithfully to the constitutional doctrine.

Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act makes it an offence for any civil servant to communicate any document or information to an unauthorised person, such person being also liable to be prosecuted for receiving the unauthorised information. "Unauthorised person" effectively means everyone outside the Crown employment including, therefore, an MP.

As Sir Martin Furnival-Jones, a former head of MI5, told the Franks Committee, set up in 1971 to review the operation of Section 2: "It is an official secret if it is in an official file." Even that was too narrow a definition, since the information can be communicated orally and not be from any file.

Given this wide definition, civil servants break the law

every day of the week. What might offend against the law is, moreover, determined by the Government of the day. Any Minister may reveal information about his policies and decision-making. This is, in fact, how advance information is supplied to the parliamentary lobby. In short, what constitutes an offence is entirely arbitrary. So long as the blunderbuss was not fired the position was tolerable.

The Franks Committee recommended the abolition of Section 2, to be replaced by an Official Information Act. Almost every politician, when not in power, and every independent commentator has echoed that sentiment. The Labour Party manifesto of October 1974 promised to replace the section "by a measure to put the burden on the public authorities to justify withholding information."

That promise was never honoured. The section remains. A highly restrictive Official Information Bill was promoted by the present Government, but was hastily withdrawn in the shadow of the revelations of the Blunt affair. The campaign for a Freedom of Information Bill continues to attract wide public support, but so far the official response has been deafeningly negative.

The immediate future of the campaign for more open government may be materially affected by Mr Ponting's trial. If Mr Ponting is acquitted by the jury, presumably on the ground that a civil servant does have a higher duty to report to parliament and members of parliament than he does to his masters, that would drive another nail into the coffin of Section 2. But so many nails have been driven in before, without burying the provision, that no one is sanguine about legislative reform.

Reformers might take greater comfort from a conviction, particularly if it was visited with a prison sentence. When Miss Tisdall was sent to prison for six months for leaking documents of national security to The Guardian there were many who joined the chorus of opposition to the present law. A martyr to a cause always tends to propel the desired change.

Justinian

Ponting test for Whitehall freedom

By Richard Norton-Taylor

There is some basis in British law and administrative practice for an official accused of unauthorised disclosure to justify his action as being in the public interest, the independent Policy Studies Institute (PSI) says today in a report which coincides with the opening of the Ponting secrets trial in the Old Bailey.

The report also says that it is highly unlikely that an American civil servant in circumstances comparable to Mr Ponting, could be convicted of a criminal offence under US law.

The clearest expression of the circumstances in which a British civil servant has a duty beyond loyalty to his minister is contained in an official Whitehall report named Legal Entitlements and Administrative Practices, the PSI says.

In constitutional terms, according to the Whitehall report, published in 1979, a minister is responsible for the actions of his departmental staff.

But it adds: "This, however, does not absolve the individual civil servant from his obligation to act within the law in carrying out his duties: if he breaks the law he cannot seek to excuse himself in terms of the constitutional responsibility of his minister."

The Whitehall committee which wrote the report was set up after the Ombudsman had condemned civil servants who had deliberately underpaid benefits to disabled ex-service men and misled them about their rights.

The Scottish Lord Advocate's Department said about the case that in Scotland "there would be 'fraudulent silence' if an official had previously given information which he subsequently discovered to be incorrect and failed to communicate the true situation if that failure would result in the person remaining ignorant of a right to claim."

Mr Ponting is charged under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act with sending two documents about the Belgrano Affair to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell. One of the documents sent to Mr Dalyell showed how the Ministry of Defence planned to withhold information from the Commons foreign affairs committee.

It has already been made clear that the trial could be a test case for section 2, (1)(a) of the Official Secrets Act, which declares that a civil servant does not commit an offence if he communicates official information to "a person to whom it is in the interests of the state his duty to communicate it" even if he has not been specifically authorised to do so by his superiors.

The PSI report says that the law makes no attempt to define who such "a person" might be. The 1972 Franks Report which recommended that repeal of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act said that the Act provided no guidance on the interpretation of these words. But in practice, it said, "implicit authorisation to disclose official information is regarded as flowing from the nature of each Crown servant's job."

The PSI report refers to the US Civil Service Reform Act—passed in 1978 after the Watergate affair. This protects civil servants who leak information which they believe reveals "mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety."

(The Ponting Dilemma—Secrecy, the Civil Servant and the Public Interest. Available free from Policy Studies Institute 1-2 Castle Lane, London, SW1E 6DR).

Agenda, page 7

TV to act out Ponting trial

Channel Four television plans to break new ground in court reporting with a nightly re-creation of the day's proceedings in the Ponting secrets trial, which begins at the Central Criminal Court today.

The 30-minute summary will begin at about 11 pm each night, with actors reading parts of a verbatim transcript.

Mr Clive Ponting, aged 38, an assistant secretary at the Ministry of Defence and one of Mr Michael Heseltine's closest Civil Service advisers, is accused of leaking documents on the Belgrano sinking to the

Falklands campaigner, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP.

He faces a charge under section 2 (1A) of the Official Secrets Act 1911 alleging that he passed two documents to an unauthorised person.

The trial, expected to last at least a week, has attracted great public attention, not only because of Mr Dalyell's continuing pursuit of the Government over the Belgrano affair, but also over the latest revelations that potential jurors were being given a security vetting and that part of the hearing would be in secret.

Daily Telegraph

PONTING TRIAL STARTS TODAY

The trial starts today at the Old Bailey of Clive Ponting, 38, accused under section two of the Official Secrets Act, of passing information about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, Belgrano, to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour M.P.

Daily Mail
28.1.85

Atlantic duo

FOLLOWING their forays to the South Atlantic filming King Penguins and Ascension Island on the trail of giant green turtles, the intrepid Cindy Buxton, 34, and Annie Price are contemplating a sojourn for up to three years on uninhabited islands Down Under. Now working in London on two half-hour wildlife films, the duo were on South Georgia when the Falklands were invaded. They were rescued by Royal Navy helicopter, after the Argentines failed to capture them. Former wife of an Army officer—their 1978 marriage ended 'after two stormy years'—Annie celebrated her 36th birthday yesterday.



Annie and Cindy : Intrepid.

REFLECTIONS OF A MAN WHO HAS TOILED TO SAVE THE WORLD

Scott's Antarctic battle

Sir Peter's major new struggle takes him into the wilderness

SIR PETER SCOTT looked out on the two thousand geese, ducks and swans paddling just outside his picture window on the Severn made famous by TV.

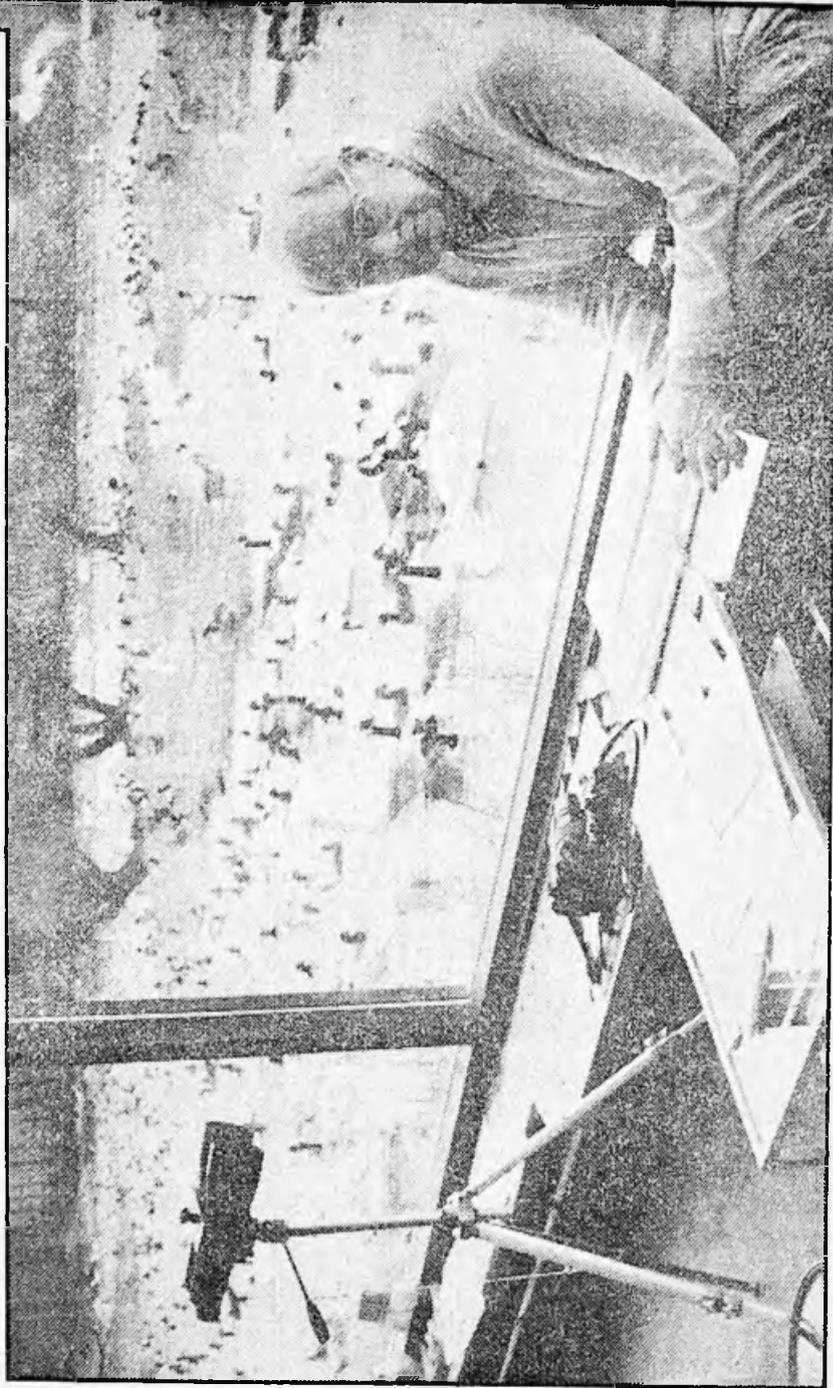
Then he turned and said: 'Look at this.' It was a poem he had written which had never been published before. Part of it ran:

I belong to a species of animal called Homo Sapiens. It has many subspecies, and is itself too numerous for its own good. But it is only one of several million: Large and small and very tiny. Which share the planet Earth. It's their world, too.

Why should Homo Sapiens, who threaten their very existence: Lay claim to the only God, or gods? Do not the gorillas have their God within them? And the chimpanzees and the intelligent whales . . . ?

Sir Peter, 75, has just retired as chairman of the World Wildlife Fund — the shock troop of the environmental movement which he founded with a few pioneers like Sir Julian Huxley in 1961.

But if I was hoping to meet a man dazzled by his own success, then I was to be disappointed. Sir Peter was only too well aware that the campaign to save the environment from ourselves has hardly yet begun — and eventual victory is by no means certain.



CAMPAIGNER: Sir Peter Scott looks to the tasks beyond Slimbridge Picture KEITH WALDEGRAVE

By ANGUS MACPHERSON

'We have won some battles, but we have not won the war. On one hand, I doubt if there would be any tigers in the world now but for us,' he said at his wildfowl reserve in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

'Governments in tropical countries are now aware of the quite extraordinary variety of wildlife in a tropical forest that is threatened by clearances.

'But we haven't by any means managed to stop its destruction. At present rates it'll all be gone by early next century — usually to be replaced with some quite unsuitable kind of agriculture.'

Alarming backslide

He added: 'Things in one place have developed quite differently from anywhere else — all part of the marvelous machinery of evolution that has brought our world to where it is.

'So if you uproot a bit of tropical forest in New Guinea, it's no good saying: "Never mind, we've still got some left in South America." You've destroyed something unique — one of the cogs in that machine has gone for ever.'

And he said: 'Despite the overwhelming support of most governments, we still haven't managed to stop the killing of

the whales. Indeed, there has been some alarming backsliding there.'

Japan, the Soviet Union and Norway had, said Sir Peter, refused to accept the moratorium on commercial whaling that governments had agreed to impose this year.

But what he found even more alarming was that the U.S., which could impose hard-hitting sanctions against Japan, had reached a private agreement with the Japanese that it would not do this.

America had, he added, a law requiring it to put sanctions on the Japanese. 'Yet unilaterally, they let the Japanese off the hook and, in effect, give them a licence to go on killing whales.'

Sir Peter added: 'It's a quite shocking action. I'm afraid Mr Reagan's record on conservation is not very good.'

America is not the only country recently where there have been recent signs of impatience with the word 'environment'. There has been a resurgence of the old-fashioned bullishness that the Earth belongs to man, not to a bunch of obscure creatures.

And Sir Peter said: 'In any great struggle like this, when you're getting the world used to a wholly new idea, there's

bound to be resistance, and some to and froing. But a degree of strife can be useful, so long as you do go on fighting.'

By a strange twist of history, Sir Peter's current major battle is over a part of the world to which his father's name has always been attached — Antarctica.

'It's the world's last unspoiled, unpolluted continent. To destroy that for a few years' supply of oil or minerals would be simply awful,' he said.

Sir Peter is urging nations with rights in Antarctica to declare it an untouchable 'World Park' — but he is not betting on victory.

Infinite variety

The British Government does not regard this as the most important aim — the Foreign Office has said 'no way'. And if this wilderness gets dirtied up a bit, whose life is going to be different?

Everybody's, says Sir Peter, though the loss to him would be something closer to the spiritual than the material.

'The concept of wilderness,' he said slowly, 'is a noble one. If man destroys things that are beautiful, he loses something that cannot easily be put into words, but is none the less real.'

The infinite variety of life on Earth is something Sir Peter Scott lives by, in the hundreds of birds at Slimbridge, in his sketches of small Red Sea fishes, in the exotic promise of a few unfamiliar caterpillars.

Having read his poem, I was reminded what another British poet wrote centuries ago. John Donne reflected: Any man's death diminishes me.

Peter Scott's warning to the 20th century is that so does the death of any living thing.

Ponting secrets

THE CONTENTS of an internal Ministry of Defence report on the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, known as the 'Crown Jewels,' which will be read out when the trial of Mr Clive Ponting goes into camera, is already available on public record.

Mr Ponting, a former civil servant, who appears at the Old Bailey tomorrow charged with passing information to an MP, wrote the report which contains an account of how naval intelligence assessments made by the Royal Navy during the Falklands war were wrong on a vital point.

The assessment was based on the interception and decoding of Argentinian navy signals by GCHQ at Cheltenham. The former Defence Secretary, Sir John Nott told a Commons select committee last year about the assessment and gave details to MPs.

Sunday Telegraph

Ponting trial tomorrow

The trial begins tomorrow of Clive Ponting, 58, accused, under section two of the Official Secrets Act, of passing information about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, Belgrano, to Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell.

Part of the trial, at the Old Bailey, is expected to be in camera, despite attempts by Mr Ponting's lawyers to ensure a completely open trial.

A preliminary hearing was held, unusually, at the Pimlico home of the trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, a week ago, on jury vetting and the holding of the trial in camera. Sir Michael Havers, Attorney-General, told the House of Commons last week that the decision was made because the Crown felt that a sensitive document requested by the defence should be shown in full.

'Argie' guns to guard RAF base

ANTI-AIRCRAFT guns used by the Argentinians to shoot down four British Harriers during the Falklands war are to be used to form a new RAF air defence regiment squadron, writes James Adams.

The 12 35mm Oerlikon guns were captured after the surrender, complete with their Sky-guard radar and fire-control equipment. The value of the guns and ancillary equipment is £30m. For the past 18 months they have been undergoing tests by the Ministry of Defence.

There has been some political sensitivity over the formation of the new squadron. The Foreign Office has been anxious that publicity be kept to a minimum to avoid upsetting Argentina.

The new regiment, which will be formed in April, will be based at RAF Waddington and give the station an all-weather air-defence capability. With the radar, the system can lock on to a target and fire with three guns.

Initially, the Ministry of Defence planned to sell the guns abroad. But the RAF, which had been very impressed by their effectiveness in the Falklands (where they had also shot

down two Argentinian aircraft by mistake), suggested that they could be used by British forces. The cost-conscious MoD was enthusiastic.

The guns and the fire-control system are now working perfectly and should have a life of at least 10 years. They may last into the next century. Employing guns rather than Rapier missiles marks a big departure for the RAF, which has traditionally favoured missiles for airfield defence both in the UK and at British bases in West Germany.

"Weapon for weapon, the Rapier is cheaper to operate because it needs fewer men," says an MoD source. "But, when you get the equipment for nothing it reduces the cost considerably."

Tons of equipment - from rocket launchers to shovels - were captured during the Falklands war. For over two years the MoD has been evaluating and testing all the different equipment to see where it can be of use to the armed forces. Most of it will be given to different army regiments for use in training. At the moment there are no plans to sell any weapons to other countries.

Ponting trial

A victory for darkness

Ministers are, after all, to be relieved of the embarrassment of a fully public trial of the civil servant, Mr Clive Ponting, accused of leaking confidential information about their handling of the Belgrano affair. The trial opens at the Old Bailey on Monday. In a strangely undignified

affair. The trial opens at the Old Bailey on Monday. In a strangely undignified series of manoeuvres involving the director of public prosecutions, the attorney-general, prosecuting counsel and the ministry of defence, a request for certain material by Mr Ponting's lawyers was converted into a prosecution application for a trial in camera on grounds of national security. It has always been Mr Ponting's contention that the leaked material did not involve a breach of national security. This contention was specifically conceded by the prosecution in his committal hearing.

The attorney general, Sir Michael Havers, allowed that part of the trial involving the sensitive material to be held in camera. He then told the house of com-

mons why—after the prime minister had refused the same information at question time on the ground that it was sub judice. Sir Michael spoke on a point of order and thus could not be cross-questioned by MPs. He said that, after Mr Ponting's lawyers had asked for a ministry document on the events surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano, he asked the defence ministry whether the document would have "defence implications". Not only was the reply yes, but the effect of censoring it (which the defence had been ready to accept) to make it usable in open court would have been so misleading that it would be better to hear the full document as evidence in a closed court. Sir Michael said he had also agreed to a request from the director of public prose-

cutions to call in the special branch of the police to vet the jury.

Mr Ponting was arrested last year. He is alleged to have confessed to leaking documents concerning the handling of the Belgrano affair to Mr Tam Dalyell, MP. It was widely felt that the government had overreacted by invoking the discredited section 2 of the Official Secrets Act against him—rather than merely sacking him. Section 2 makes no distinction between security-sensitive material and official material of any sort. Officials conceded privately that a public trial would serve only to prolong the Belgrano affair and could seriously embarrass ministers. It was felt that ministers would dearly love it to be held in camera. Part of it now will be.

Argentina and Chile both hit at spy plane report

From Douglas Tweedale Buenos Aires

Argentina yesterday accused Britain of trying to poison its relationship with Chile and undermine ratification of the peace treaty which put a peaceful end to the 100-year-old border dispute between the two countries over islands in the Beagle Channel last November.

Responding to an article in this week's *New Statesman*, which claims that Britain and Chile reached a secret agreement to allow British aircraft to spy on Argentina during the Falklands war, the Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires, said

"Once again, statements of this kind designed to jeopardize relations between Chile and Argentina, originate in the British press precisely when the

Senate is about to consider the Peace and Friendship Treaty".

Government officials believe the Beagle Channel treaty could play an important role in Argentina's diplomatic battle to recover the Falklands

● SANTIAGO: Chile has categorically denied the *New Statesman* report

"The Foreign Ministry denies in the most categorical form and as absolutely false the affirmations of the English magazine the *New Statesman*, which maintained that there was a 'secret agreement' between Great Britain and Chile during the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict," a ministry statement said.

The Times
26.1.85

Falklands sale

Sedge Island, an island three and three-quarter miles long off the western mainland of the Falklands is for sale. It has about 500 sheep, a house shearing and baling sheds and a grass air strip, and is expected to fetch between £14,000 and £20,000.

Guardian 26.1.85

New man on Falklands maintains hard line

By John Ezard

The Government has chosen a new Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands whose views on sovereignty are just as hard-line as those of Sir Rex Hunt, his predecessor, it emerged last night.

Mr Gordon Jewkes, who takes over in September, was asked in his first interview about prospects for talks with Argentina. "There can be no question of sovereignty being discussed," he replied.

Speaking on the BBC External Services programme, Calling the Falklands, he said that he was in favour of talks to normalise commercial relations with Argentina. "But unless Argentina is prepared to come to the (negotiating) table and not raise the question of sovereignty, I don't think we are going to get very far. But we must try."

Mr Jewkes was at pains to indicate during the interview that this view was his own. He recalled that during the 1982 conflict he had often been asked, in his post as British consul-general in Chicago, to discuss the issue on local television and radio.

Sovereignty had been a strong issue then. Like many other people, I don't suppose I had thought very much about it. But the more I read, the more it was borne in on me that it was not a question which should be reopened. It is important that under a democratic government Argentina should see that Falkland islanders also have a right to self-determination and a democratic government."

In the interview he presented himself as a diplomat with not only the right hobbies — walking and boating — for the post, but with the right background in commerce and export promotion for a period when British policy emphasis switches from military fortification to economic development.

He said he had not applied for the job and had felt "a little surprised and very honoured" to be offered it. He confirmed press reports that he had been interviewed by the Prime Minister before the final decision was announced.

Argentine fends off backlash

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

THE Government yesterday fended off a nationalist backlash against President Alfonsín's planned treaty ending a territorial dispute with Chile.

The backlash came after claims that Britain made a deal with General Pinochet's regime during the Falklands war.

With President Alfonsín away on an official visit to India, the Government reacted slowly to the New Statesman's report, even though it attracted considerable attention in the local press.

In a statement released on Thursday night, the Foreign Ministry said that the report was "designed to jeopardise relations between Chile and Argentina" just as the Senate was about to debate the treaty settling the two countries' quarrel over three islands in the Beagle Channel.

Argentine forces seek arms buyers in cash crisis

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S armed forces are considering selling off millions of pounds worth of ships and warplanes to ease budget cuts imposed by the civilian government, according to military sources in Buenos Aires.

Iran is said to be interested in two missile-carrying destroyers which the Argentine Navy can barely afford to keep afloat.

The 10-year-old destroyers, the Hercules and Santifina Trinidad, both 5,150 tons, proved useless in the Falklands conflict, but could be fitted with modern defence systems by a navy with money.

Iraq is also reported to be interested in a major purchase of Puchara aircraft for use in the Gulf War although President Alfonsin's concern at the political problems of supplying arms to the Gulf is thought to be one of the principal obstacles to the deals.

The Argentine military search for potential arms customers stems from acute financial difficulties in the wake of slashing budget cuts ordered by the Alfonsin government.

Food shortage

In recent months some Army barracks have run short of food for troops as suppliers refuse to do business unless outstanding bills are paid.

While civilian sources take the Army's complaints about financial hardship with a pinch of salt, most analysts agree the military has recently been forced to get by on vastly reduced funds.

To the further consternation of the generals proposals for Argentina's 1985 defence budget would slash military spending by more than a half compared to 1983, the dictatorship's last year in power.

The spending squeeze has forced the Army to cut back sharply on traditional privileges for officers and men. Troops going on leave, for example, are no longer supplied with tickets home. "They are dumped at

the barracks gate and told to catch the bus," one source complained.

Air Force training flights have been reduced by 80 per cent, and if the military grumbling is to be believed many planes are grounded for lack of spare parts.

Just desserts

So far, however, there has been little popular sympathy for the armed forces' plight. Most Argentines seem to believe that after years of living off the fat of the land, the generals are getting their just desserts.

That attitude was encouraged last week by a report that confirmed what most Argentines suspected—that in the dictatorship years the three wings of the Argentine forces had squandered public money on a prodigious scale.

The report, by the Civilian Centre for Defence studies, claimed that the independent bureaucracies of the Army, Navy and Air Force, overlapped to such an extent that there was appalling triplication of supplies.

"From the manufacture of aspirins for troops to the installation of the most advanced computers, everything is accomplished three times over," the report concludes.

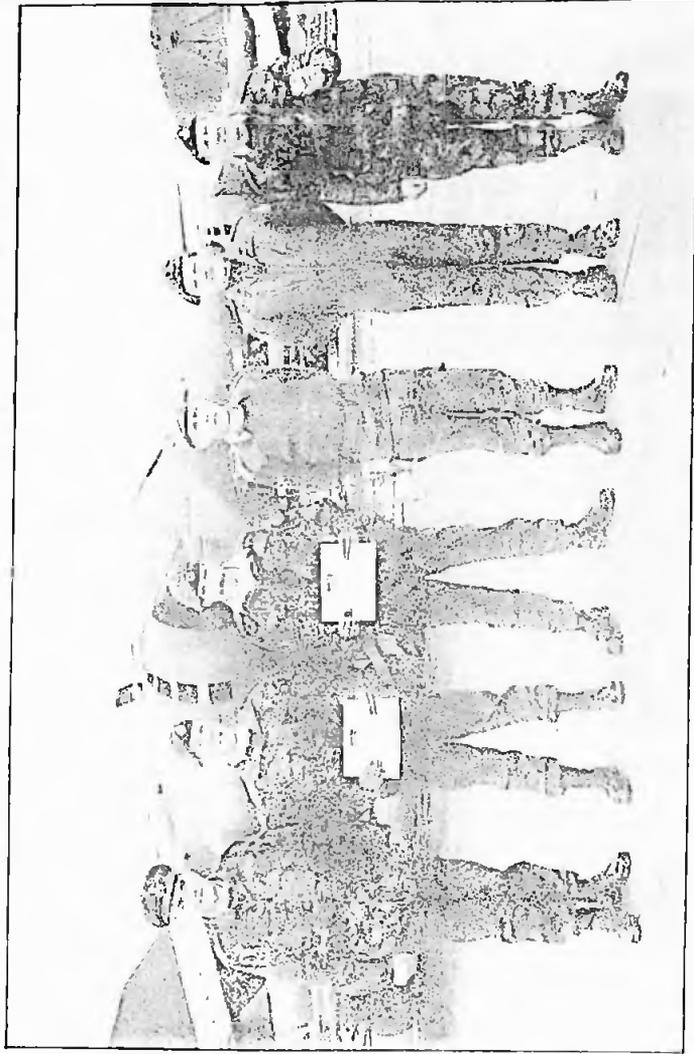
Dramatic cutbacks

The findings have encouraged the government to proceed with dramatic cutbacks of the military budget.

Diplomats and other sources agree that the present state of affairs tends to suggest the recent deliveries of arms to Argentina were ordered and paid for before the Falklands War and are not part of a post-war re-equipment programme.

Many of the missiles that were delivered last year, including sea-to-sea Exocets, are believed to have been ordered in 1980 as armaments for the Navy's new West German-built destroyers, which were themselves ordered in 1978.

LIFE SAVING DASH EARN'S AWARD



TWO AIRMEN WERE AWARDED the personal commendation of the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands for their part in the rescue of a Harrier pilot who had been forced to eject over the sea.

Cpl Stephen Hepinstall and SAC Mark Thomas were engaged in a ship to shore transfer operation when the incident occurred. The aircraft crashed into the sea, and the pilot landed about 150 metres from where they were working. Luckily, a Gemini speed boat was nearby which the two airmen quickly boarded, and raced to the pilot's assistance. The pilot was not too seriously hurt but he was entangled in his parachute rigging and the injuries he had sustained would have prevented him from freeing himself.

Stephen and Mark quickly freed him and took him ashore, where land based rescuers took over. In making the presentation, the CBF, Maj Gen Peter De La Billiere, said the pilot's injuries were such that there was no doubt he would have drowned had it not been for the swift action of both airmen concerned.

In the photograph above are, left to right: Gp Capt Mike Gibson, station commander, Stanley; SAC Thomas; Cpl Hepinstall; Maj Gen De La Billiere, CBF; Sqn Ldr Malcolm White, representing 1453 (Harrier) Flt; and the station warrant officer WO John Harvey.

Is it a ball — or a bone?

Natural hazards are plentiful, like the "bunkers." Unlike those full of sand, these were designed by artillery shells. Often golfers have difficulty locating their golf balls on the fairways due to the abundance of sheep bones left to naturally fertilise the course. Well, that's what the club's secretary told me!

The Felton stream, which bisects the course, "bats"

GOLF By Sgt M. R. MORRIS

golf balls. If an unfortunate golfer mislaid his shot and careers into the stream, he simply plays another ball, as all Stanley golfers know that once in the depths of the "Felton" all is lost.

Felton stream averages only one metre deep and wide, with peat-stained water briskly flowing, hardly transparent.

To offset most of the course's natural and unusual hazards, the golf club committee have instigated a few strange local rules. One is the "Within a putter's length" rule. If a player's ball rests within one putter's length from the hole, one shot is added to the score

and then the ball is considered in the hole. It may seem that I dislike the course; quite the contrary, I consider it to have a lot of character. In fact, recently I volunteered my spare time to the golf club and now hold the post of Competition Secretary.

Competitions are held fortnightly and on fine days the course has been filled with civilians, Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. After each competition, we all gather in the Portakabin clubhouse, have a few jars and talk about the putts missed that morning.

The highlight of the 1984-85 season will undoubtedly be the "Stanley Open." This is open to all golfers who wish to compete for the coveted title of "Falkland Islands Golf Champion." The club also intends to hold smaller competitions on the Open Day including the longest drive, nearest a particular hole in one shot and highest score.

Golf at Stanley is good fun, so all you "pros" and weekend golfers who are visiting the Falklands, pack away a few golf clubs in your kitbags and look forward to the golfing experience of a lifetime.

TWO DAYS out from Ascension, sailing south-bound on the ss Uganda, I was informed by one of the ship's crew that Stanley had a golf club. Cursing the fact that I had not been told of this before I departed from UK, thus not carrying my own golf clubs, I enthusiastically looked forward to inspecting the course.

Once settled into my new post at RAF Stanley, I ventured the 2½ miles to the golf course with the intention of arranging a match. Over the many years I have been playing golf I have seen and played on numerous courses of varying standards but was yet to be confronted with such a golfing test.

Out on the course walked two lonely golfers. I approached them and chatted between strokes. One of the gentlemen was the golf club secretary, Mr John Sherwood, a school teacher in Stanley. My first impression was not encouraging, but soon I was to learn that its natural rugged fairways and uncanny cambered greens were a match for any budding golf enthusiast.

The course is best described as "Rough links" type. It has ten greens with 18 different tee positions, thus giving an unusual 18 playable holes. Invariably the wind is gusting strongly and the temperature a little low and if that does not catch your breath, the enchanting undeformed contourside will.

Argentina warning

ARGENTINA has warned Britain that oil drilling in the Falklands could jeopardise any long term settlement over the islands.

The warning follows the award of prospecting rights to a company with British connections, reported last week in Labour Weekly.

Argentina has written to United Nations secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar to object to the planned oil exploration.

Lombard

Economics of the Falklands

By Robert Graham

THE TIME has come for a thorough independent study of the economic prospects of the Falkland Islands. Mrs Thatcher's support for self-determination for the 1800 islanders and the impending approval for a new constitution makes such a study imperative. The study should embrace the other dependencies in the South Atlantic—South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands—and British claimed territory in the Antarctic.

The first and only serious modern study of the Falklands was that prepared by Lord Shackleton in 1976 which was dusted off and relaunched as the framework for the islands' development in the wake of the 1982 conflict. The revised version was quickly prepared for political expediency. Since then the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee has touched on the issue several times in hearings but has become hijacked by investigating the Belgrano affair.

Meanwhile journalistic effort devoted to this aspect has been limited. This is largely because the journey to Port Stanley is such a saga of discomfort and cost (over £2,000 the round trip, courtesy of the Ministry of Defence). Accommodation difficulties and seat space availability on the military aircraft force visits to be short.

Robert Fox, who distinguished himself as a BBC reporter during the conflict, last year had the opportunity to visit the whole region and has now been given the space to record his views and findings. No one could accuse him of being unsympathetic to the islanders or of deliberately setting out to undermine the credibility of British policy. Yet it is quite clear that things on the ground are different from the simplistic opinions voiced in Whitehall, and what has been achieved in the civilian sphere so far is not impressive. Fox himself concludes a review of current Falklands policy is essential.

He lists six main areas for review: the policy of land reform; the structure of the Falklands Islands Development

Corporation and the adequacy of its funding; immigration and housing policy; the public administration of the islands; civilian-military relations (the imported garrison outnumbering the local inhabitants); and topics such as education and health not covered by the Shackleton Report.

Fox attaches great significance to the issue of land "Without a thriving farming community, the garrison and their defences form a hollow ring of hardware and sentinels." Shackleton too saw this as the key to halting the decline in population; he proposed the splitting up of the large estates owned by overseas companies and absentee landlords. This has been slow to materialise. Since the conflict, the land purchase programme has involved loans for only one and a half estates. The new smallholders, Fox notes, are dangerously undercapitalised, mortgaged to the hilt and risk ruin if the wool price dips.

The kind of people interested in Falklands farming generally lack the necessary capital. Thus land is going to be settled only if there are very generous financial incentives to encourage it. Yet the Government does not dare talk of encouraging "colonisation"—getting people to leave the UK to settle the land—and this very process is handicapped by the lack of, and cost of, housing.

The principal post-conflict housing programme has been the 52 ill fated "Brewster" houses that cost £7.2m. Even with better management and cheaper models, settlers cannot be housed cheaply because so much has to be imported. These issues deserve as much scrutiny as the huge military cost because they lie at the heart of the islands' future. They suggest formidable development problems and considerable cost overruns of existing civil expenditure—even if links were established with the Latin American mainland which is a remote possibility at present.

Antarctica and the South Atlantic, Discovery, Development and Dispute: BBC publications, £12.95.

Ponting case document ordered by Heseltine

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The document at the centre of the dispute over the decision to vet the jury in the Ponting secrets case was compiled last March on the personal instructions of the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine.

He ordered it to be drawn up by Mr Clive Ponting, who had just been appointed head of the Ministry's defence secretariat 5 which deals with naval operations and policy. Mr Heseltine was not at the Ministry during the Falklands conflict.

At that time the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, was asking a series of specific questions about the Belgrano's movements.

The document, described in the ministry as the "crown jewels," was discussed in the Ponting committal hearings in October and by Mr Heseltine, when he gave evidence to the Commons foreign affairs committee a month later.

It is separate from the two documents—one marked with the low confidential classification, the other not classified—which are the subject of the original Official Secrets charges against Mr Ponting, whose trial starts on Monday.

The "crown jewels" document is understood to be inches thick. Last autumn Mr Dalyell said that he had learned from Whitehall sources that it included details of how Britain intercepted Argentine signals—notably recalling its fleet home—which were quickly decoded by GCHQ.

In public evidence to the foreign affairs committee last

month Lord Lewin, the chief of defence staff during the conflict, confirmed that Argentine orders to its fleet to return to their coastal waters were intercepted by Britain. In the Commons on Tuesday the Attorney-General, Sir Micheal Havers—who spent yesterday at work on the Ponting case—said the "crown jewels" contained "intelligence information."

According to Mr Ponting's lawyers, it was the prosecution which decided last week to use the document as part of its case. Mr Chris Smith, the Labour MP for Islington South where Mr Ponting lives, yesterday asked Sir Michael to clarify the role of ministers in the decision.

It is understood that Mr Heseltine refused to approve an edited version of the document which had been prepared by the ministry. His advice—as indicated by Sir Michael in the Commons—was that this would be misleading.

Mr Smith has asked Sir Michael to explain more fully why part of the trial will be held in camera and why sensitive information needs to be used in evidence.

He also asked what criteria the Special Branch was using in vetting the jury. He wanted to know if membership of political parties antipathetic to the government or membership of pressure groups would be grounds for exclusion.

"These are surely important questions, and at the moment no information is available about the principles against which the vetting is proceeding," he said.

Agenda, page 12

YET another aspect of the inquiry into the murder of Hilda Murrell (*Eye* 602) now emerges to demolish the official story that she was killed by an "ordinary" burglar.

This "official" story was wheeled out again in a pompous letter to *The Times* (10 January) from Dr P.R. Acland, the Birmingham pathologist who carried out the first of the two post-mortems on Miss Murrell. After defending his own part in the case, and denying any Secret Service involvement, Acland opined:

"I don't know who killed Miss Murrell, but I have a strong suspicion that some two-penny half-penny thief is gloating over a pint of beer in a pub not many miles from Shrewsbury about all this media interest."

But immediately after Miss Murrell's death in March last year, the Murder Inquiry Room at Shrewsbury began systematically contacting and questioning all the individuals and organisations having any connection with "peace", "disarmament", "arms control", opposition to nuclear power, etc. whose names they found among Miss Murrell's papers or on her cheque-book stubs.

They were asked how long they had known Miss Murrell, how well they knew her, whether they had ever met her, whether they had had any contact with her recently.

These inquiries were still going on, with repeated telephone calls to try to locate an obscure radical-sounding publisher to whom Miss Murrell had once sent £15, as late as July.

If the police never suspected that Miss Murrell's death was caused by anyone but a chance burglar, these inquiries do not make a lot of sense.

But they do if, as Tam Dalyell suggests, a search (in the course of which Miss Murrell was killed) was going on for missing papers relating to the *Belgrano* sinking, which might have been given to her by her nephew Commander Robert Green (who was involved in transmitting the order to sink the ship) which Miss Murrell might have passed on to one or other of her "peace" or "disarmament" contacts. . .

Meanwhile police at St Albans and at Shrewsbury are pooh-pooing the raid on the flat of Peter Hurst. They point out that there have been several other burglaries in the area and they are convinced, even before their investigations, the raid can have nothing to do with the murder of Hilda Murrell.

Hurst worked in intelligence at naval headquarters in Northwood, Middlesex during the Falklands war. He was a friend and colleague there of Rob Green, Hilda's nephew.

Apart from those who have reached retiring age, *Hurst and Green are the only two senior men to have left Northwood since the Falklands war.*

Tam Dalyell MP suggested that Miss Murrell's house may have been entered by intelligence agents on the hunt for any documents leaked from Northwood. He made this allegation on December 20. Before the news of his speech had got out, Mr Hurst's flat was broken into. It was the only flat in the block to have been broken into, though it is not on the ground floor, or on top. Nothing at all was taken. His papers were all inspected.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2130 GMT.

CALLING THE FALKLANDS TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH
MR GORDON JEWKES, NEWLY APPOINTED CIVIL COMMISSIONER TO THE FALKLAND
ISLANDS BY BBC SPECIAL FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT HAROLD BRILEY.
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THURSDAY 24th JANUARY,
1985.

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BRILEY: Were you conscripted or did you volunteer?

JEWKES: I didn't volunteer for the job - I was asked to do this by the Personnel Department of the Foreign Office, and I must say that I was a little bit surprised to be asked in the first instance. But my second reaction was to feel very honoured that my wife and I had in fact been asked to take up this position and I can assure you and your listeners that we are looking forward with very keen anticipation to going to the Falklands later this year.

BRILEY: It's a very important job and one that remains in the public eye. Did Mrs Thatcher herself vet you for this job.

JEWKES: I think it's fair to say that Mrs Thatcher must have been drawn into the consideration and one newspaper at least was quite correct just a few days ago in saying I had been interviewed by Mrs Thatcher and I did discuss the appointment with her.

BRILEY: She has this great rapport with the Islanders, of course, so they'll be pleased that she's looked you over, I think.

JEWKES: Mrs Thatcher left me in no doubt that the Islanders have a very warm place in her heart.

BRILEY: Now it's a great contrast from the job you are doing now, Consul General in Chicago, a big bustling skyscraper city. You're going to one of the remoter parts of the world, how do you feel about it.

JEWKES: It's a curious thing. I've been a civil servant for all my working life, and if one were to look at my history, one would say what a disjointed sort of career this chap has had. But I find really that one appointment has constituted a building block for another, so that I don't know whether you or others would describe me as a rounded person now, but certainly there is an interconnection between things that I have done. I joined the civil service as a youngster, and deliberately when I took the civil service examination put my name down for the Colonial Office, and I did go there. I had a vision, I must say, of serving in palm fringed islands - well I have indeed served in palm fringed islands because I was in Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, and therefore I have that feeling for territories which were once dependent which in their case subsequently became independent. But also I've had a broad administrative experience both in the Home Civil Service and in the Diplomatic Service. I've had experience on the financial side, as Finance Officer for the Diplomatic Service, and I have been deeply involved in some of the warfare, you know the trench warfare that goes on in Whitehall, so I'm no stranger to that sort of in-fighting I can assure you, and latterly I've been in the United States for a stretch of six years in posts that are essentially concerned with the furtherance of British export interest, but more recently with the promotion of something called Direct Inward Investment. That is investment by American companies in Britain. But in doing that I think I have obtained a very wide experience of those elements that go into the economic well-being of countries. And, as you say, the Falkland Islands is much smaller geographically parished than the one that I've been dealing in. But I think essentially, the sorts of problems that I will face there will find some echo if I look back into the past.

And so I have a great. great deal to learn about the specific problems of the Falkland Islands, but I do feel quite confident that I have the equipment to tackle them.

BRILEY: You mentioned palm trees, you won't find any of those down there, but contrary to popular belief there are some trees there. You're hobbies, I think, are particularly apposite for the Falklands, walking, boating, travel, the music I'm not so sure about - you won't find any orchestras there but you'll get lots of opportunity for walking, I think, and travel.

JEWKES. Well, provided someone will allow me to have a record player in the Island I will take a collect of my own records and then who know we might find somebody with similar interests with whom we might swap. But I've certainly been very interested in walking. When I was a boy - I keep going back to that don't I? I lived for sometime on the fringes of the Lake District developing a great love for that kind of thing. In the West Indies again, yes, that's where I did most of my boating. I'm essentially a warm water boater. But we'll see to that. One thing that I'm wondering whether I may do in the Falklands is whether it would be worthwhile taking my cross country skis. It seems that they do get snow periodically but whether it lays long enough is one of those things I've got to learn.

BRILEY: When you do your boating be very careful with - storms come up very suddenly.

JEWKES: Yes, I appreciate that.

BRILEY: Now, you did mention your disjointed career. You used the phrase. I was a bit surprised as I read your background that it has - you've spent a good bit of time in the Home civil service, in the Inland Revenue, the General Register Office - those things and Commerce too, those things should come invaluable to you, I think, in the Falklands and the unusual type of job it is you'll be concerned very much with development.

JEWKES: Yes, I think so. And as I say, I think a broad administrative experience is very essential. When it comes down to it you are dealing with people and their problems, and I suppose the common thread that runs through my life, and indeed my wife's life, is a fundamental interest in people. And I find, of course, that I don't always agree with what everyone says, I'm not that sort of person. But I think I'm a pretty good listener, on the whole and I think that that is one of the main things that I will have to do - not merely before I get to the Falklands, because, obviously I have to go through a fairly long briefing session, but also when I get to the Islands themselves. That ability to listen, the ability to get on with people, and I hope to motivate and then the broad administrative experience, I think, they will stand me in good stead.

BRILEY: In this post, of course, you'll be closer to the people you are helping to administer than perhaps any other post conceivable. You do have the difficulty, I think, of working in harness with the Military Commissioner - will that be a problem for you?

JEWKES: I certainly hope it won't. I spent two years as a National Serviceman in the early 1950's.

BRILEY: You were an officer in the Royal Ordnance Corps.

JEWKES: Yes. And I enjoyed my association with the military so much, that I stayed on quite voluntary for several years more in the Reserve, and so have a tremendous respect for the Military defined in the broader sense whether we're talking about the Army, the Navy or the Airforce. Again especially in Trinidad and Tobago I had a great deal to do with the Navy there. And I have always been much impressed by the technical skill of men in the Armed Forces, by I think their sheer willingness to get on with the job. And also, of course, in the case of the Falkland Islanders, I'm well aware that there is a very large Military Garrison down there which in some senses, some outsiders I think would, say "well goodness me that's going to cause an enormous problem." But from all that I've been hearing so far I believe relations to be very very good. Of course, at my personal job will be to get on with the Military Commander of the day and I understand that there will be a new man as opposed to Air Vice-Marshal Campbell, and I shall make it my job as I'm sure he will make it his job, to make sure that we get on with each other that we read each other minds because we must co-operate in everyone's interest.

BRILEY: I think there's a feeling that because the forces are so large there four thousand men or so, and yet the people you are in charge of, particularly only eighteen hundred of them that they are very much the dominant fact, the military, and that perhaps more attention should be paid to development, more money spent on development, more progress made on development, there's been a lot of criticism of the slowness of development. Do you think you can give some impetus there?

JEWKES: Well, first of all I think I can understand the view that you've just expressed. The people in the Island have been through a traumatic experience both within 1982 itself, and since then. But I think when we get further away from that sad time in the Islands history the balance is bound to change it always does, but I can't put a term of months or years on that. I think it is the process that will go on once the new airfield is open - which I understand is to take place later this year, I believe it will be possible, perhaps not immediately, but certainly within a relatively short time for the Military Garrison to be reduced somewhat in size and to the extent that size itself is a problem that will mitigate that problem somewhat. You mention the developmental side, now it's been born in on me by many to whom I've spoken in the last few weeks that this is a very essential part of my job. But I'm experienced enough to know that one can't work miracles overnight. One has numerous factors to take into consideration. First of all there is the all important factor of the availability of money and secondly, there is the no less important factor of the availability of people to do jobs, some of which demand special skills, and so on.

And thirdly, I suppose there is the ability of a given country, and I'm not talking solely about the Falkland Islands now to absorb change to quickly. So part of my job will be to review the situation both before I get to the Islands and when I get down there, and to try to make my own judgements with the advice of people on the spot as to how fast we can go and how far we can go. But I think in due time the balance of, shall we say, importance, the relative balance of importance, shall we say the military commitment on the one side and the developmental commitment on the other is bound to say somewhat. Let me say, however, that the military commitment remains very very important because, as we all know we have to keep up our guard in those Islands, and I think that the military will maintain no more and no less a presence than is required to do the job that is required of them now.

BRILEY: You talk about taking advice on the spot. I think the Islanders particularly would welcome it if you, as the most important person going there, from their point of view would take advice from them and not so much from so many of the administrators and experts that have gone there. People say they've been bemused and bewildered by so many experts suddenly descending on them. What do you think about that.?

JEWKES: Well, again the problem is how many people can one deal with at a time. Obviously with a relatively small civilian population in the Falklands I will in time get around to speaking to many of them, and they will be able to speak to me, I hope from the heart and from the head and I shall certainly listen. But they, of course, have the ability to elect their own representatives to represent their interests and in terms of practical operations I don't think it will be feasible for me to take eighteen hundred separate points of view into consideration, but I will certainly listen on the spot to the individuals that I meet and specifically to those who are the elected representatives of the Island, who obviously compliment those who are appointees.

BRILEY: Now one big black cloud just over the horizon - Argentina and no progress in solving the dispute with them, how do you think that will affect your job?

JEWKES: Well, first of all I think it's bitterly disappointing that there's been no progress to-date with Argentina. Let there be no mistake about it that there can be no question of the question of sovereignty itself being discussed with Argentina. That matter of course, was raised last year in talks which my listeners will know about in Berne. But I think that over a period of time it must, I think be in everyones interest to reach - it sounds question begging, a more normal level of relations with Argentina - what I mean by that is that, for example, between this country and Argentina there had long been historic relationships in the financial and commercial fields which were stopped, largely stopped due to the 1982 hostilities, and its that type of thing that in time must be resolved, but unless and until Argentina themselves are prepared to come to the table not to raise this question of sovereignty, I don't think myself we're going to get very far, but we must I think keep trying.

BRILEY: Your view accords with the British government's view - it must do I suppose or else you would not have been appointed. The Falkland Islanders are entitled to democracy in the same way as the Argentines...

JEWKES: Yes...

BRILEY:....now have democracy.

JEWKES: I couldn't agree more - I think it's very important that under a democratic government now that the Argentines see that the Falklanders should have no less than they themselves have - that is the right to self-determination of their own future and the right to their own form of democratic government.

BRILEY: Have you had anything to do with the Argentines in your career before?

JEWKES: Only at the margins. And it has no bearing whatsoever on my dealings with the Falkland Islanders. Some years ago I dealt with the policy in relation to trade and temperate agricultural products, and at that time Argentina was just one of about twenty-five other countries with which I was dealing and sometime the odd problem would crop up. But not specifically with the Argentines.

BRILEY: Anyway your view is very strong on the sovereignty question that the sovereignty is British.

JEWKES: It's very strong indeed and I don't think I thought very much about the question - I suppose I was in the majority at that time in 1982 when I was serving in Chicago when hostilities broke out and I was appearing there on radio and television daily, and sometimes several times a day talking about this issue to American audiences, and I think the more I read about the matter the more that it borne in me was that really there wasn't a question to be reopened. There we are. Other points of view exist although happily they have not prevailed.

BRILEY: I'm sure that the Islanders will be pleased to hear you say that. Have you had any contact with Falkland Islanders before?

JEWKES: I can't say that I have. I think probably my chief contact with the Island - and there again at a great distance - was as a collector of postage stamps - and I do remember some of the beautiful postage stamps that came out of the Falklands. At least I have known where the Falkland Islands were on the map since I was a very little chap - and I think that's more than a great many people can say!

BRILEY: That's important - not many people did before 1982.

JEWKES: That's right.

BRILEY: I think you'll find them very hospitable and friendly and very good judges of character and very keen to get to know you better. The previous holder of this post, the man now there, when he took over was Governor of the Falkland Islands and he inherited - at least he had - a cocked hat, a Governor's uniform and a maroon taxi do you think you'll have all of those things there?

JEWKES: [LAUGHTER.] I think when it was mentioned to my son, one of my sons, when I was going there that was the first thing that came to his mind, and so I've always loved the London taxi, it's about the one car that I can get into and out of without - although I'm not a particularly large chap, as you can see, but certainly one can get in comfortably - and as for the uniform and cocked hat - well it that goes with the office and I believe it does I certainly inherit them.

BRILEY: I was told that the taxi was the one vehicle you could get into with a cocked hat and a sword on.

JEWKES: Well, in that case I think that was a very shrewd choice of vehicle.

BRILEY: You'll also inherit some interesting staff among the Falkland Islanders, who I think will be very helpful to you. Thank you very much for talking to me.

JEWKES: It's my pleasure. I look forward to meeting the Falkland Islanders later in the year. Thank you.

FALKLANDS CHILE DEAL IS DENIED

The Ministry of Defence last night discounted a report in the *NEW STATESMAN* magazine that Britain had reached a secret deal with Chile for help in the fight against Argentina during the Falklands conflict.

The Left-wing magazine, which has been at the forefront of the campaign against the Government over the sinking of the *Belgrano*, claims in today's issue that Britain swapped arms for co-operation from General Pinochet's military regime in Chile.

The magazine says that Britain gained the use of the Punta Arenas airbase in southern Chile for operating Canberra spy planes disguised in Chilean colours and as a base for missions into Argentina by the S.A.S.

Secret deal with Chile during Falklands conflict

Britain made a secret deal with Chile during the Falklands war under which, in return for military help against Argentina, the Government gave the Pinochet regime equipment and softened the British attitude at the United Nations to the regime's human rights violations, it is alleged in this week's edition of the *New Statesman*.

In a series of alleged disclosures the weekly political journal states that within a week of the conflict starting the two countries had come to "understandings" which allowed Britain to use Punta Arenas, an air base in southern Chile, for RAF spy planes disguised in Chilean markings and to use that base and other areas to infiltrate Special Air Service forces into Argentina to destroy Argentine aircraft on the ground.

The Chilean Government, it is alleged, gained RAF Canberra aircraft turned over to Chile

when the operation was over, and a squadron of RAF Hawker Hunter aircraft, most of which was delivered to Chile after the war started.

The Ministry of Defence in London last night confirmed that RAF aircraft had been delivered to Chile, but as part of an arms sales deal signed before the Falklands conflict.

It pointed out that in July, 1980, Britain ended its ban on arms sales to Chile. As a result of that, an agreement was reached to sell a number of Hunters and Canberras to Chile which were surplus to RAF requirements. Not only was that sales agreement signed but arrangements were in hand for delivery prior to the war, the ministry said. Delivery began, but was not completed until after the end of the conflict. An official said: "Any suggestion that these aircraft were a gift in return for assistance can be discounted."

The Guardian

Chile 'in Falklands deal'

By Seumas Milne

Britain made a deal with Chile's military ruler General Pinochet during the Falklands war to supply military aircraft and to oppose United Nations investigations of human rights abuses in Chile in exchange for the use of bases and intelligence, this week's *New Statesman* claims.

The magazine alleges that the agreement, set out in a series of secret telegrams between the British ambassador in Santiago and the Foreign Office in Whitehall, has been confirmed by senior civil servants and a Minister in the Thatcher government of the time.

The agreement is said to have included:

- The use of Punta Arenas, an air base in southern Chile,

for RAF spy planes with Chilean markings and to infiltrate SAS saboteurs into Argentina;

- The handover of RAF Canberra aircraft used in secret operations from Chile during the war to the Chilean airforce, as well as a squadron of RAF Hawker Hunter aircraft;

The Ministry of Defence last night denied that Hunters and Canberras delivered to Chile in recent years had either been a gift or were sold as a result of agreements made during the Falklands war.

It said Britain had withdrawn its ban on arms sales to Chile in July 1980, and as a result an agreement for the sale of a number of Hunters and Canberras, surplus to RAF requirements, had been made before hostilities.

Conveyor sails

The new Atlantic Conveyor embarked on her maiden voyage from Liverpool this afternoon. The £46 million container ship replaces the vessel sunk with the loss of 12 lives during the Falklands War.

Alfonsin may take on non-aligned chair

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN of Argentina, who is now in India for a week's visit, shrugged off speculation before his departure from Buenos Aires on Monday that he may succeed Mr Rajiv Gandhi as head of the world's non-aligned movement.

The influential post held by Mrs Indira Gandhi until her assassination is due to change hands next year.

In diplomatic circles it had been assumed that an African leader would be next in line, but Senor Alfonsin's growing reputation as a clever and concerned democrat, who is guiding Argentina away from dictatorship, could win him support as the movement's next chairman.

Such an appointment would bestow public recognition on the efforts of Latin American democrats to rid their continent of its traditional image as a haven for corrupt and incompetent dictators.

Costs too great

Argentina's uncompromising opposition to Communism also impresses those diplomats who feel the non-aligned movement has in the past been dominated by pro-Russian interests.

But the problem for Senor Alfonsin in accepting the post remains the continuing volatility of Argentina's politics. Senior presidential aides say Argentina is "just not prepared" to cope with the bureaucratic costs of the non-aligned group.

It remains to be seen whether Senor Alfonsin can overcome the country's daunting economic crisis.

Only a few weeks ago Senor Alfonsin's visit to India was still in doubt because of the 1985 domestic budget

In the end the international significance of the visit outweighed economic consideration, but hours before he departed Senor Alfonsin signed a budget preamble which envisages a freeze on civil servants' salaries at 1984 levels, while increasing personal taxation.

FALKLANDS ORDER

A £2 million contract to supply 3,200 tonnes of steel frames for 91 buildings at Mount Pleasant airfield in the Falklands was announced yesterday by the Conder Group, Burton-on-Trent.

PONTING VETTING CLARIFIED

By **TERENCE SHAW**
Legal Correspondent

SIR MICHAEL HAVERS, Q.C., the Attorney-General, sought to end confusion yesterday over vetting of the jury for the trial next week of Clive Ponting, the senior Ministry of Defence official charged under the Official Secrets Act.

He told M.P.s in the Commons that he had authorised the vetting of the jury panel after a request from the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, Q.C., at the end of last week.

Sir Michael indicated that the decision to allow jury vetting and the prosecution's wish for part of the trial to be held in camera followed a request from the defence solicitors for a copy of a document prepared by Ponting setting out events leading up to the sinking of the General Belgrano.

The defence recognised that certain parts of the document might involve intelligence information and were prepared to accept a bowdlerised version, said Sir Michael.

'Extremely misleading'

But he had taken the view that this would have been "extremely misleading" and had sought permission of Ministers concerned with security for the whole document to be used but in camera.

In a statement earlier, Sir Thomas stressed that he had not sought leave of a judge to vet the jury panel as no leave from a judge was needed.

But in accordance with the Attorney-General's guidelines on jury vetting, he had obtained the authority of the Attorney before asking for checks to be undertaken.

The vetting was solely on grounds that he considered that the evidence would involve national security and that part was likely to be heard in camera.

He had undertaken to provide counsel for the defence with any information about a member of the panel that was provided to counsel for the Crown.

Ponting was committed for trial at the Old Bailey last October on charges of leaking confidential papers about the sinking of the Belgrano to Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour M.P.

He has been charged under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act.

Jury vetting protests

By Richard Norton-Taylor and Colin Brown

Controversy over jury-vetting in the Ponting secrets case broke out in the Commons yesterday when Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, was pressured by Liberal and Labour MPs to explain why part of the trial will be held in camera.

He appeared to admit that the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael

Parliament, page 4

Heseltine, was involved in the decision.

The issue was first raised by the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, who reminded the Prime Minister that the prosecution said at the committal proceedings in October, that national security had not been damaged. Why, he asked, was Mr Ponting now being subjected to "an East European-style secret trial now?"

Mrs Thatcher replied that the matter was sub judice. But, despite this dusty answer to Mr

Turn to back page, col 4

Ponting case protest forces hint of Heseltine hand in secrecy

Continued from page one
Steel, Sir Michael responded when challenged by Labour MPs, including his shadow, Mr John Morris, QC.

Sir Michael said that the Director of Public Prosecutions had asked him at the end of last week for permission to vet the jury.

He said that the defence had applied for a copy of the document prepared by Mr Ponting, setting out the events leading up to the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands conflict.

"It was recognised that certain parts of the document might have defence implications and they were prepared to accept a bowdlerised version," he added. "Such a version

would be extremely misleading and I sought permission for ministers to use the whole document but in camera.

Mr Brian Raymond, Mr Ponting's solicitor, challenged this explanation last night. "Not for the first time," he said, "the Attorney-General has made a misleading comment about Mr Ponting's case."

Sir Michael, he said, had left out one important fact: that it was the prosecution which had now decided to use the document — called the Crown Jewels in the Ministry of Defence — as part of its case. It had decided to do so five months after Mr Ponting was charged and just 10 days before the trial was due to start. "The defence has always wanted the

full truth of this matter to come out in open court," Mr Raymond said.

Both Mr Steel and Labour MPs — angry because Sir Michael was speaking on a point of order and could not be questioned — were questioning last night precisely what role Mr Heseltine took and why he argued that the whole of the document should be produced as evidence.

About 50 MPs had by last night signed a Commons motion tabled by Mr Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South — Mr Ponting's constituency — expressing deep concern about the use of jury-vetting in cases where no issue of genuine national security was at stake.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, issued a statement yesterday saying that, in accordance with the Attorney-General's guidelines on jury checks, the director obtained Sir Michael's authority before asking that the checks be undertaken.

"This was solely on the grounds that the director considers that the evidence involves national security and that part of it is likely to be heard in camera," it said. The DPP would provide the defence lawyers with jury information to the prosecution. The vetting process is being carried out by the special branch.

Secrecy in Ponting trial defended by Havers

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, yesterday told the Commons that he agreed to jury vetting for the trial of Clive Ponting, the civil servant accused of leaking information on the sinking of the Argentine warship the General Belgrano, because of evidence touching national security.

The evidence was a document written by Mr Ponting, a senior official at the Ministry of Defence, setting out the events leading up to the sinking. The document, nicknamed the "Crown Jewels" in Whitehall circles, will be examined in camera during the trial starting next week.

Sir Michael made his statement on the case and vetting yesterday after Opposition MPs had pressed for more information on the trial and why national security was being invoked after earlier assurances that it was not an issue.

After the Attorney General's statement Mr Brian Raymond, solicitor for Mr Ponting, said Sir Michael had been misleading and failed to point out that the document was being entered late in the day as prosecution evidence.

Sir Michael spoke to the Commons after the trial, under Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, was raised at Prime Minister's question time by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader.

MPs were told the matter was *sub judice* and no comment could be made but a number of them raised points of order about the case before Sir Michael made his statement.

He said: "The Director of Public Prosecutions asked me for permission to vet the jury at the end of last week. I consented to that request.

"The defence lawyers applied for a copy of the document prepared by Mr Ponting setting out the events leading up to the sinking of the Belgrano. They recognized certain parts might involve intelligence information and were prepared to accept a bowdlerized version.

"Such a version would be extremely misleading" and I sought permission from ministers concerned with the national security in the document to use the whole document but in camera."

Our Man in Port Stanley

PATRICK KEATLEY on the elusive figure going to the South Atlantic

IT IS typical of the tough, quiet-spoken administrator who has been designated as the new Commissioner in the Falkland Islands, succeeding Sir Rex Hunt, that no photograph of him could be found when they ransacked the files in Whitehall yesterday.

Gordon Wesley Jewkes is, at 53, a senior member of the Diplomatic Service with a reputation for taking nuts and cracking them. He is an outdoorsman who grew up in a small town in County Durham and never lost his rural roots. He lists hiking and

boating among his interests, and is said by friends to be happiest, when off duty, striding the moors or scaling the fells in boots and anorak. His wife, Joyce, a Londoner, has come to share these interests, as have their two sons.

In other words, he seems well equipped to take on his next and largest task since joining the foreign service 17 years ago, taking over as Her Majesty's Civil Commissioner for the Falkland Islands next September. He will find there another outdoorsman as his running mate, Major-General P. E. de la Billiere, the Military Com-

missioner, who has some 4,000 British servicemen under his command.

Gordon Jewkes will have fewer people in his care — the civilian population is now just over 1800, having grown by about 4 per cent by immigration since the restoration of British administration two years ago. But the scope of his duties is wider and more complex than that of the military commander — he has responsibility for a territory as large as Wales, and the daunting task of putting a massive economic modernisation programme into high gear.

The governor of any territory has to handle all the briefs that come the way of a prime minister in Britain, from agriculture and aviation to transport and telecommunications. He has to be prepared for the unexpected — in the case of the Falklands, intrusions into the protection zone by stray fishing vessels which may be Soviet or Argentina. Or a fuss can blow up about "the Company" and its complex legal role in the re-allocation of leaseholds that is meant to turn the Falklanders into sturdy yeomen farmers.

On top of these internal

duties, Our Man in Port Stanley also bears the resonant title of Her Majesty's High Commissioner for British Antarctic Territory. This is no sinecure. It means that he is directly responsible to Whitehall for the huge wedge of territory on the Antarctic continent, starting at 60 degrees south and going right down to the US Air Force Base at the Pole. The assignment is complicated by the fact that Argentina and Chile have overlapping claims to parts of it.

The Governor of the Falklands has a black London taxi for his official car — the heavy springing and

extra batteries are ideal for the roads — and a couple of Otter aircraft with floats and wheels to taxi him around his huge and watery parish.

He has to combine the qualities of town administrator with a genuine affinity for the outdoors. If, like Gordon Jewkes, he can take nature in the raw and talk as easily with sheep farmers as with townsmen, then he has that rare combination needed for the Stanley post. If, to boot, he has done a couple of years National Service (as an Ordnance Corps officer) and can talk the military lingo, that too is an asset.

FIADGE AND FIGPU

Keeping a watchful eye

KEITH ANSELL reports from the Falklands on two units helping to keep the peace in the Islands — on land, sea and in the air.

SINCE THE first fighter controllers and their engineering support came ashore at Stanley the day after the surrender of the Argentine forces, the RAF staff of FIADGE (Falkland Islands Air Defence Ground Environment) have been working closely with the Army and Royal Navy in the defence of the islands.

British forces now have several air defence radars located in forward positions in the East and West Falklands which have all-round high and low level detection capabilities. One such radar is situated on Mount Kent within sight of Port Stanley.

The tri-service aspect comes in operating the facility, defending it and complementing it with the Royal Navy back-up picket ship. If anything suspicious is spotted the infantry, ships or a QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) aircraft are at action stations to investigate.

Since the construction of the Mount Kent site by sappers, the base, under the command of a squadron leader of the Fighter Control branch, has been manned by an assortment of RAF fighter controllers, aerospace systems operators, engineers, cooks, medics, supplies and a general duties airman, together with soldiers of the infantry, artillery and signals who live together for a four months tour of duty.

On arrival in the Falklands all newcomers proceed to the site by a ten minute helicopter flight, or by a BV 206 — some would liken this to a two-piece snow mobile, but its rubber tracks are ideal for traversing the peat bogs during its two hours leisurely meander through the rugged but beautiful countryside.

Despite the remoteness of this site, the long hours and the need for constant vigilance, morale stays high among all who serve at

the outpost. They maintain razor sharp reactions, honed by the importance of the job they are doing and regular exercises — including the odd sneaky Harrier or Phantom that tries to catch them out. A liberal sprinkling of heli-pads assures them of good communications and transport in any emergency.

For off-duty periods there is the all ranks Puffin Club with its table-tennis tournament, darts matches and in a quiet corner even a chess set and spare chair to read Blueys — the all important air mail letter.

TREES

A sense of humour is all important. Intercept controller Flt Lt Alistair Wood claims to have 'grown' the first tree to stand up to winds in excess of 150 knots. His wooden mock-up reacts to seasonal changes, "We repaint the leaves" laughs Alistair.

Napoleon said an Army marches on its stomach and he would not be disappointed with the gourmet's delight which is a regular feature at meal times. The recent Egon Ronay report praising the food received by the three Services gets an enthusiastic thumbs up agreement from all three sites, "it's the best on the Islands" claims each site. But Kent has an edge — known as 'Mum's Recipe' it is the best mix for bread pudding ever put to-



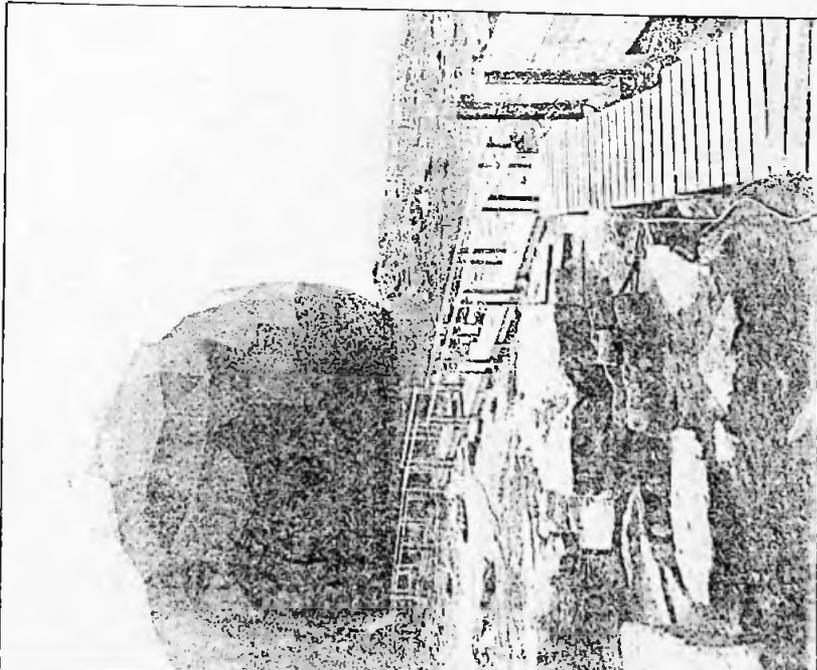
The man behind the Aladdin's cave of Kent, Sgt John Wright with just a few of his goodies.

gether, claims SAC Roy Brunning who brought the secret from his home in Maidstone.

For souvenirs and presents to take home, as well as day to day extras, the happy band on Kent doesn't have to leave its mountain lair. Thanks to the enterprising neural spirit of Sgt John Wright one old container is now an

at that!

With the current turn over of personnel on these sites most can expect another tour in the Falklands within two or three years, but there are not too many groans at that!



FIADGE's radar on Mount Kent within sight of Port Stanley which is helping in the defence of the Islands.

NOAH'S ARK ANIMALS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

by Linda Glennie

There are over 650,000 sheep in the Falkland Islands, over 8,000 cattle, 2,300 horses, 820 dogs and only 50 pigs!

At Saunders Island in the north west archipelago of the Falklands, General Alan Mills, Director of the Falklands Appeal watched amazed during his October 1984 visit as Bracken, (an Oxford sandy and black gilt donated for shipment on the 1983 Noah's Ark) from Nancy Howard's Howard Herd of Happy Hogs in Devon, consumed an entire Upland Goose, feathers and all, for lunch. This wild goose breeds in its thousands in the Falklands, especially on the small undisturbed tussac islands of West Falkland.

Bracken and Fern, now owned by Susan Pole-Evans on Saunders Island, looked very healthy, had had two litters each since arrival and were usefully employed rotavating a potato patch.

A mixed bag of 250 livestock had arrived in Stanley in October 1983 for onward shipment to 31 different isolated settlements. Romney sheep were sent from Kent to Mount Kent, Shetland cattle — a classified rare breed — were to be pioneers at Port Howard, and Goats, beautiful British Toggenburgs, paid their first visit to the Islands for 40 years in spite of the fears of sheep farmers and conservationists.

At Golding Island, to the north of West Falkland, where Fenton Hirtle and his family live and farm quite alone, a Jersey bull, cow and newborn calf arrived — a modest beginning for the South Atlantic Jersey Herd which Fenton believes will supply high quality dairy produce to the increasing numbers of tourists and immigrants in the Islands. Having tasted the delicious butter and marvelled at the self reliance, care and ingenuity of this farmer, we had no reason to doubt it.

Arab stallions travelled on the Noah's Ark and are enjoying life in the Falklands. 'Mirific' at North Arm on East Falkland and 'Taluqdar' in Stanley had, like the other horses and ponies on Noah's Ark shed their winter coats at the correct time which was clever of them. Eleven local mares were expected foals by Mirific in February 1985. Taluqdar's owner Mrs Heather Pettersson had

circulated a video of Taluqdar resulting in invitations for him to visit 23 mares on West Falkland — he was just waiting for the ship.

104 Romney rams and ewes were donated for the Noah's Ark project by the Kent Branch of the NFU and the Romney Sheepbreeders Society, forming the major part of the 150 strong group of Romneys that went on the Noah's Ark. The donated sheep were sent to Claude Molkenbuhr at Murrel Farm who had lost nearly 2,000 of his total 3,000 flock in the battles of 1982 and later the minefields, and to Terance and Carol Phillips, young farmers who had lost 700 sheep at their Mount Kent farm.

Most of the 660,000 Falklands sheep are crossbred. They contain an admixture of Romney and Merino blood, using mainly Polwarth and Corriedale types. They produce very good quality wool in the 22-30 micron range. The total woolclip from the Falklands is over 2,000,000 kg.

This summer, 1984/85, shearing was due to start in early November on most farms. The contract shearing gangs were preparing for a season of hard, well-paid work. Some were experienced local men and some were imported labour. Girls with office jobs in Stanley sometimes spent their holidays carrying the wool from the sheep's back to the grading table.

At Fox Bay West, a Falkland Islands Company farm on West Falkland, I watched the early shearing of double-fleeced sheep. Shearing was to begin in earnest on 15th November. Foreman Eric Morrison graded the wool A, AA, B, C, CC by the softness and fineness of the fibre. The wool was then pressed, sacked and baled. We were told that it was important for a farm's wool clip to be graded by one man only. When the sacked and baled fleeces reached the UK wool market at Bradford the experts there would know at once when, say, farm owner and wool-grader Jock McPhee of Brookfield Farm had been off work for a day or two and been forced to hand the job over to someone else!

Following the visit of General Alan Mills, Director of the Falklands Appeal, exactly one year after the animals' arrival, and incidentally during the wettest October for 40 years, he reported:—

"New blood lines have been introduced and the animals have, in the main, come through a very very hard winter. The cattle have been slower to adapt than the horses, ponies, sheep, goats and pigs but the general opinion is that they can now survive anything".

KEEP FARMING SAFE

Soldier Magazine
14.1.85

FALKLANDS POST IS STILL FREE

GOOD news for soldiers in the Falklands is that — contrary to Press reports — their free letters home to the UK are not to end.

Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley told the House of Commons that the value and importance of free airmail facilities for servicemen in the Falklands and their families in the UK was fully appreciated and they would continue for the time being. So would free 'familygrams' for those serving in South Georgia.

Soldier Magazine 28.1.85

Latest VIP to visit 37 (Falkland Islands) Engineer Regiment is Major General P E de la C de la Billiere, Commander British Forces in the Falklands. A round of their various work sites and locations gave the Commander an insight into the problems facing the Sappers and he left congratulating CO Lieutenant Colonel Francis Daniell on the quality of the work carried out by his teams.

QUICK

Service in Hong Kong twice, Canada and the Falklands has led to a proud day for Staff Sergeant Edward Miles — known to his pals as George. A 32-year-old combat engineer with 17 years service, George is currently in the South Atlantic islands with 11 Field Squadron. And it was in Government House, Stanley, that George received from Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt the British Empire Medal.

SPOT

SERGEANT Stuart Andrew, Army Photographer of 1984, Royal Army Ordnance Corps hails from Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire.

Stu, 31, joined the Army in 1972 to train as a combat engineer, but seven years ago as a Lance Corporal RE he decided to develop his career by transferring to the RAOC to be a photographer. Since then he has served in Turkey, Norway, Kenya, Cyprus and Germany three times. When selected for his present post of Force Photographer, Falkland Islands, he was serving with 3 Armoured Division at Soest, BAOR.

His first and successful entry into this annual photographic competition was a portfolio of 10 photos with a military subject. Stu says he never went out for specific shots but simply went through his

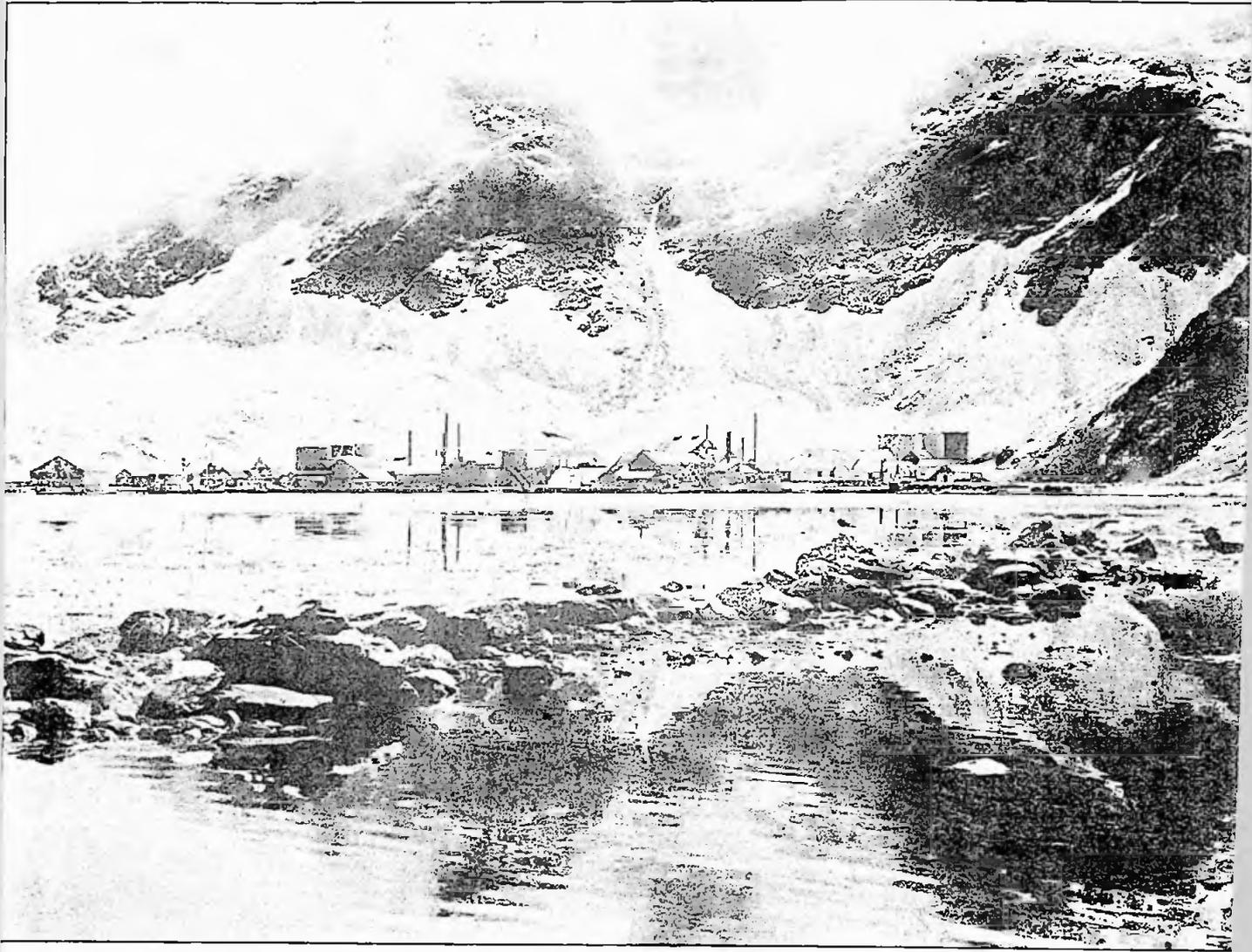
work over the year and selected what he considered to be good photography. His topics included the Queen Mother reviewing a parade, Irish Guards on night manoeuvres, and charging in a skirmish, a tank night shoot, Swingfire missile on release, a lone piper on Möhneh Dam marking the 40th Anniversary of the famous Dambuster Raid and the Fijian Farewell ceremony.

Stu is now moving around the Falklands getting results that he hopes will be good enough to defend his title next year.

Back in Germany Stu's wife Angela and their daughter, seven year-old Kelly are looking forward to their new posting in Germany at Viersen as a report photographer. "It'll be a bit different from PR work" reckons Stu.



And in another competition . . .



... a prestigious portfolio by Denis

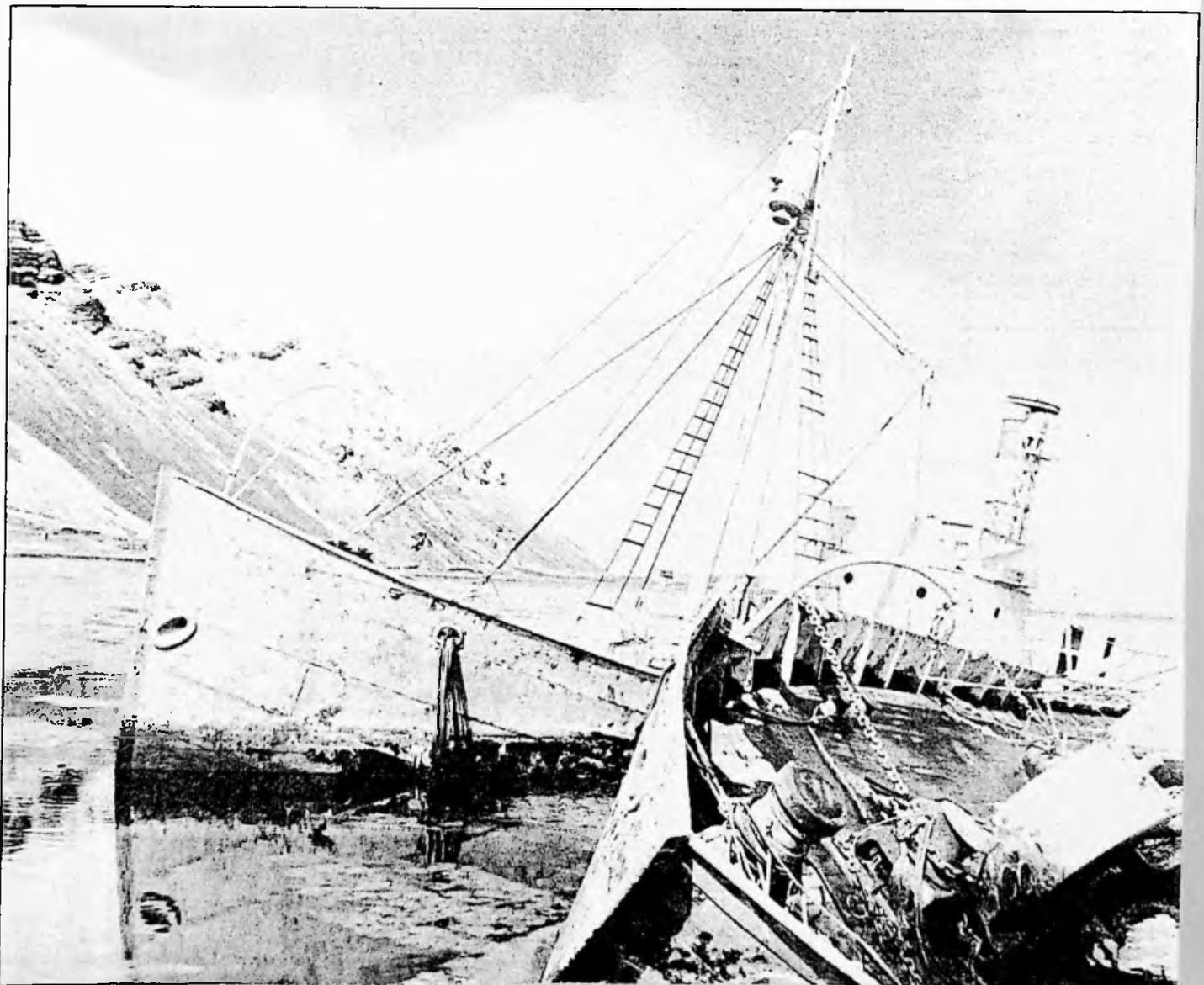
CAUGHT the other side of the camera lens for a change is Staff Sergeant Denis Hayward RAOC, whose portfolio came in the top ten of this year's Ilford photographic awards.

The annual competition attracts about 6,000 entries and is recognised as the country's leading black and white photographic competition. This was the first time the work of any Government Service photographer has been nominated in the highly competitive General Folio category.

Denis, has been an Army photographer for 15 years and has served with many units all over the world including South Georgia in the South Atlantic, where these pictures were taken.

Although proud of his work Denis modestly admits his subject was a gift handed to him on a plate:

"It was all perfect: everything was already there. The clear air, the scenery, the birds and animals. All I had to do was point the camera and the rest was easy. It's a fantastic island!"



WHAT Sgt Wayne Howell and the crew of 31 Delta didn't know when their Deputy Squadron Commander and his unknown civilian companion arrived at their Rapier site was that they were to be the subject of "the Falklands Commission", Flt Lt Nigel Owen of 37 Squadron RAF Regiment tells me.

37 Squadron, one of the four RAF Germany-based squadrons that provide Rapier cover for Stanley, decided that they wanted something better than items of captured Argentine equipment as mementos of their tours of duty there.

So, in May '84, during their second roulement tour, the squadron commissioned a visiting MOD-sponsored artist, David Bell, to do a water-colour painting. Their instructions to him were simple; it should show their Rapiers "at work" in a Falklands setting. They wanted that setting because the Falklands roulement had become a significant part of all their lives.

So successfully did David Bell capture the atmosphere of their tours of duty in the Falklands that prints are being made of it so that squadron members can have copies. Even non-squadron personnel who have done a Falklands tour and who have seen it have asked for copies too.

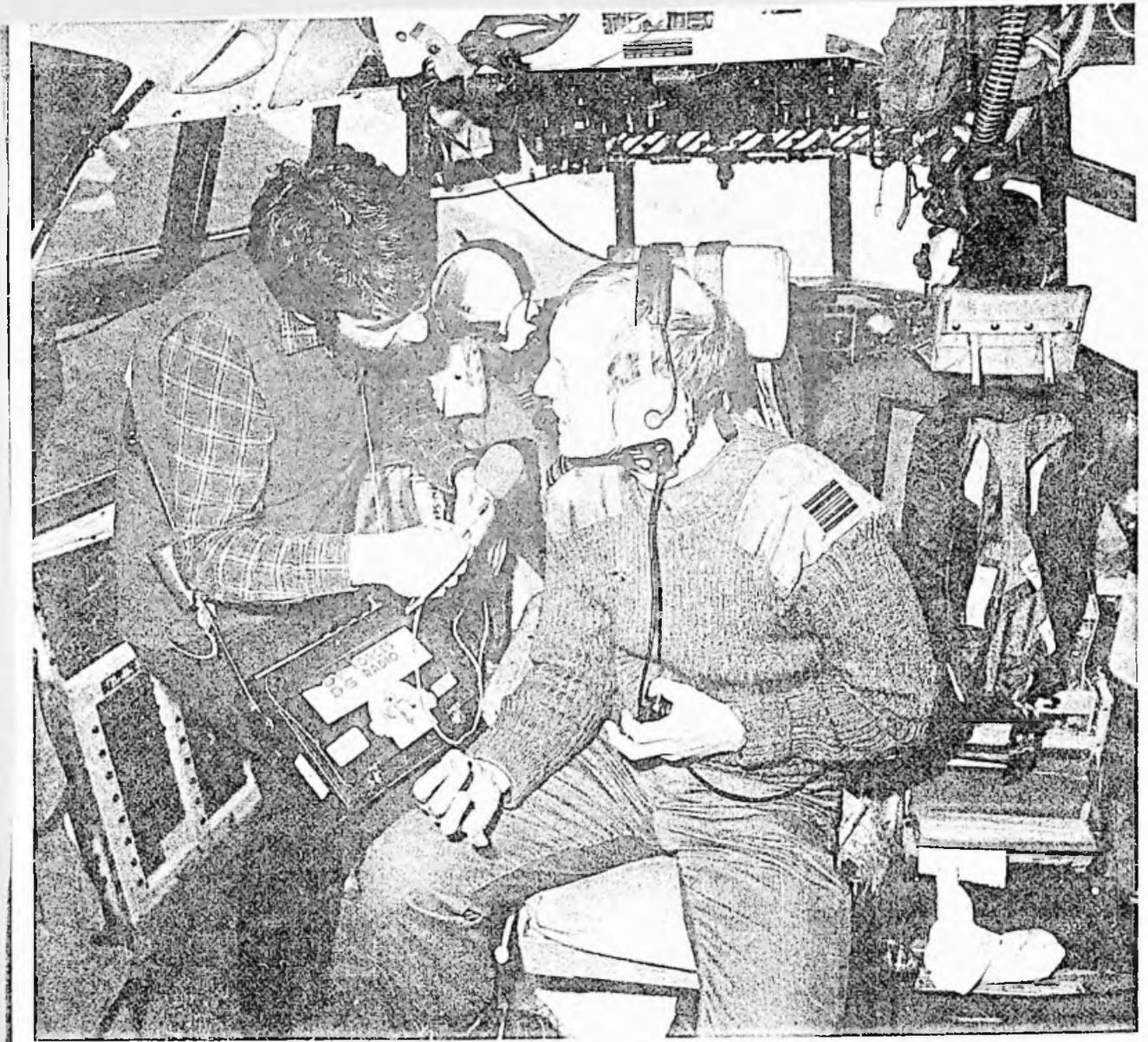
Pleased that the painting has proved so popular, the squadron has decided to make the prints generally available to anyone with an interest in the RAF Regiment, in Rapier, or simply in the Falklands. For details on how to get a copy, contact: *The Adjutant, 37 Squadron RAF Regt, RAF Bruggen, BFPO 25.*

Sir Rex is "tentertained"

A NYLON tent may be the ideal home for an explorer overwintering in the Antarctic, but it's hardly the most suitable place to entertain a VIP.

But that didn't stop the Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island welcoming a visit from the Civil Commissioner for the Falklands, Sir Rex Hunt, who dropped in with some mail for the team members.

In fact a video made of Sir Rex's visit shows him diving head first into one of the tents with a fellow visitor grabbing his boots at exactly the right moment.



On the air in the air at Christmas was Padre Chris Long who resides at Ussala, calling "Pause for Thought" on the flight deck of a Hercules from Port Stanley. With him was BFBS presenter Colin McDonald (left) and the programme was scheduled to go out from the local Falkland Island Broadcasting Station on Christmas Day.
The aircraft was from No. 312, flying at Stanley and was on a 1000hr maritime reconnaissance sortie when the recording was made. It was captained by Flt Lt. Craig Taylor who was also the pilot.
Photo by Gai Barr, Lowhallin Photo section, Stanley.

And walking the beat in Stanley

A SMALL elite band of Service policemen, with the distinction of being sworn in as local police officers, is the only military unit to continue to live in Port Stanley following the withdrawal of troops to coastals and camps on the outskirts of the town. They form the tri-service FIGPU (Falkland Islands Garrison Police Unit).

To underline its role in providing provost support to the Garrison, the unit shares the small civil police station with the tiny civil police force of just eight — three islanders and five on detached

duty from the UK — and they go on patrol as a foursome. The sight is vaguely reminiscent of the four power police patrol of Berlin.

Under the command of Major John Ridd, RMP, FIGPU is manned by six RAF policemen, 12 Army Provost NCOs, — including one WRAC — and three RN Regulators and are kept very busy on general service police duties.

Insisting that they are operational Servicemen first, with an important role to play in the defence and security of the area, the 21 stalwarts, all on the usual four months detached duty from their parent units, give a 24 hour



Cpl Stu Webber on patrol.



Cpl Gary Mitchell.

service by working 12 hour shifts "8 till 8"; sometimes on foot around Stanley and sometimes on mobile patrols in their three Land Rovers and two motor cycles around the surrounding areas, usually with a civil counterpart.

As if to emphasise their dexterity with all three elements of land, air and water, in addition to shore duties they are responsible for ship searches — the SS Uganda and SS Keren are always thoroughly searched for any unauthorised souvenirs going out — and FIGPU may be called upon to perform Customs and Immigration duties at the airport.

An SIB (Special Investigation Branch) element conducts

enquiries into any serious crime and also gives assistance to the civil police. This job is not too difficult as British law prevails and all members of FIGPU are sworn in as local police officers by the Magistrate.

Subsidiary tasks are numerous and vary from crime prevention lectures, advice on security measures and a drugs presentation.

This unique band had its foundation in a platoon of 160 Provost Garrison from Aldershot who first came ashore during the conflict two years ago. In mid 1982 this was made a completely tri-Service Unit.



Cpl Carl Bromfield.



Cpl Brian Parton.



Sherlock Holmes? No. Sgt Les Andrews.



Sgt Alun Healing.

Hong Kong Bill

The Bill (Bill 56, HMSO £1.30) was presented by Secretary Howe and ordered to be printed on January 10, 1985.

Clause 1 states that from July 1, 1997 Her Majesty will no longer have sovereignty or jurisdiction over any part of Hong Kong. This clause will come into force at the same time as the Joint Declaration of the Governments of the UK and of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong. The Joint Declaration was signed in Peking on December 19, 1984 and will come into force on a date before June 30, 1985, which will be agreed with China.

Orders in Council subject to the procedure of affirmative resolution may be made which will:

- prevent anyone after July 1, 1997 from holding citizenship of the British Dependent Territories by virtue of a connection with Hong Kong;
- allow anyone who is a citizen of the British Dependent Territories because of such a connection to acquire a new form of British nationality; and
- prevent anyone from becoming stateless.

Orders in Council subject to the procedure of negative resolution may be made which will:

- allow any legislation which is part of the law of Hong Kong to be repealed;
- allow the Hong Kong Government to repeal or amend any legislation which is part of its law, and to make laws which operate beyond its own territory.
- allow any part of the law of the UK, or of a British possession other than Hong Kong, or of Northern Ireland, which relates to Hong Kong to be repealed or amended.

Such technical modifications are usually made in Acts which confer independence.

Diplomatic privileges and immunities will be granted to the Chinese members of the Joint Liaison Group who will attend meetings of the Group in London.

Hunt to retire from Falklands post

By Robert Graham

SIR REX HUNT, Civil Commissioner in the Falklands Islands, is to be replaced in September after having his tour of duty twice extended, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

Sir Rex, who is 58, stayed on last year after pressure by the islanders, and with the support of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, it was agreed he should remain as Britain's chief representative until September 1985 when he will retire.

He is to be replaced by Mr Gordon Jewkes, currently British consul-general in Chicago.

The Foreign Office said yesterday the announcement was a routine matter. Last week Sir Rex presided over the island's legislative council which approved a new draft constitution that recognises the 1,800 islanders' right to self-determination.

Sir Rex arrived in the Falklands in 1980 and two years later he led the surrender of the British to invading Argentine forces. He was deported but returned triumphantly at the end of the conflict and since then shared responsibilities with a military commissioner in charge of the islands.

He has strongly defended the islanders' cause and to some in Whitehall his forthright support has been seen as impeding the normalisation process with Argentina.

Coming in the wake of the islanders' endorsement of the new draft constitution, Mrs Thatcher is making it clear Sir Rex's replacement involves no policy change.

Where's the need to vet this jury

Oh, come on; or rather, come off it. At first sight, the news that the jury in the Clive Ponting trial, due to start at the Old Bailey next week, is to be vetted comes as no great surprise. Whenever anybody faces an official secrecy charge, the jury is liable to be vetted. That has been the case since at least 1948, the date when Western Powers began stricter security vetting of their employees. As is the way with these things, though, jury vetting itself remained an official secret for 30 years. It was only during the course of the "ABC" trial of 1978 that the then Attorney General, Mr Sam Silkin, first allowed the vetting guidelines to be published. They revealed that the prosecution is allowed to make checks on potential jurors in "certain exceptional types of case of public importance." Among such cases, they said, were big gangland trials and "serious offences where strong political motives were involved such as IRA and other terrorist cases and cases under the Official Secrets Act." Since then, new guidelines have been issued by the current Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, in an attempt to allay public disquiet. Under these 1980 guidelines, vetting can still be authorised in national security cases where evidence is to be heard in camera, as well as in terrorist cases.

But the vetting of the Ponting jury raises two general issues of importance. The first is vetting itself, and the ways in which juries are now selected for criminal trials. Ever since legislation in 1974 quadrupled the pool of potential jurors by removing the old householder qualification, police and prosecution authorities have looked for ways of restricting jury rights. The search for "responsible" jurors has proceeded on several fronts. Certain sorts of case are being removed from juries altogether. As we pointed out on January 9, current attention is focused on the alleged unsuitability of juries to hear long fraud cases. Simultaneously, though, the rights of specific groups of people to sit on juries at all are being attacked. Jury-vetting is a part of

this process. But, at this point, it is worth reminding ourselves what the vetting actually consists of. It is, above all, a trawl through Special Branch records. In the 1979 "Persons Unknown" trial, in which four anarchists were charged with (and acquitted of) firearms and explosives offences, it was revealed that these files contain often irrelevant material, such as that a potential juror had been a crime victim or was believed to live in a squat. On such unsubstantiated trivia is a juror's unsuitability decided.

The vetting of the Ponting jury, though, also reopens the relationship between Official Secrets Act charges and the concept of national security. Mr Ponting is charged under Section 2 of the act. This, as we have repeatedly pointed out, is a catch-all clause which covers the disclosure and receipt of official information, whether or not it has anything to do with national security. As the evidence to the 1972 Franks committee inquiry eloquently showed, this can involve everything from Britain's nuclear defences to the number of cups of tea consumed by civil servants in the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a provision against which, as one legal textbook has it, "hundreds of technical infringements" are committed each day. A prosecution under Section 2 therefore does not necessarily involve national security. But it is, by common consent, a discredited law which Franks and many others since have wanted to see repealed. Today, indeed, sees the latest of many such repeal moves, in a Commons 10 minute rule bill from Mr Chris Smith, MP. In such circumstances, prosecution authorities would not be human if they were not tempted to muddy the waters of Section 2 cases with dark, but perhaps wholly illegitimate, references to national security considerations.

We do not know if such considerations apply in Mr Ponting's case. What we do know is that at his committal at the magistrates' court, the prosecution specifically denied that a breach of security was involved. We also know that the case is widely regarded, in Whitehall, at Westminster, in Fleet Street and beyond, as a test case for Section 2 itself. There is therefore a very unpleasant smell about the prosecution's attempts to have parts of the case moved in camera and the consequential decision to start vetting the prospective jurors. It looks

suspiciously like either scare tactics or a cover-up, or both. Such an approach would be both unworthy and unjust. Oh, come on; come off it.

Future of the Falklands

From Mr Eric Ogden and Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir. The three articles by Robert Fox and Rodney Tyler (January 7-9), form a welcome statement of today's problems and challenges in the Falklands. They highlight tragic administrative shortcomings but also some spectacular successes of British industry, particularly in establishing the islands' military security, and in providing the vital airport and shipping terminals essential to a more varied economy.

Economic development and some diversification are essential to establishing a viable community and several actions by Government are needed urgently to promote more rapid progress than there has been over the past 2½ years. Some of these are purely administrative, particularly the removal of the dead hand of Whitehall at 8,000 miles range and a declaration by Ministers of their trust in the judgement of the admirable Falkland Island Government (FIG) team led by Sir Rex Hunt, who has by no means "gone native" beyond his essential role of striving for real progress where time is not on anyone's side.

Land reform is crucial in the camps, and the gradualist approach surprisingly supported by the Foreign Affairs Committee's report is likely to prove far too slow, even if tackled with the vigour they found to be lacking. No doubt it was for this reason that Lord Shackleton's

second report in 1982 advocated compulsory powers both to initiate progress and to contain land prices at realistic levels.

The development authority as proposed was designed to provide the resources and expertise to take over certain farms and carry out the essential land reform needed to create a property-owning democracy in the Falklands.

Nearwater fisheries may well be able to develop following quite short experience with the trawler now exploring the grounds, but it is becoming more and more urgent for positive actions by HMG in London to declare fishing limits before lasting damage is done, and then to manage the stocks - not the enormous task that some would have us believe.

Negotiations with Argentina on regional issues and the normalisation of relations are in both countries' best interests, but sovereignty cannot now be on the table nor is it likely to be in the foreseeable future. It must not be allowed to divert our efforts from developing the Falklands economy on sound long-term foundations, which is certainly in the interests of all concerned both internationally and nationally.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC OGDEN, Chairman,
UK Falkland Islands Committee,
MICHAEL RANKEN, Director,
The British Maritime League,
19 Bevis Marks, EC3,
January 11.

Falklands governor title goes

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Falkland Islanders have lost the first round in their campaign to get the title of governor restored to the chief British administrator of their territory. A curt announcement in Whitehall last night says that Sir Rex Hunt will be retiring in the autumn and that his place as Civil Commissioner will be taken by another member of the Diplomatic Service, Mr Gordon Jewkes.

When Sir Rex, with his civilian staff and 42 members of the Royal Marines, surrendered to the invading Argentine forces in April 1982 he held the time-honoured title of Governor and High Commissioner for British Antarctic Territory.

Last night's announcement preserves the second part of the title but states plainly that Mr Jewkes will be Civil Commissioner. The official reason for the change, given when Argentina's forces surrendered in June 1982 and Sir Rex and his staff returned, was that the local population of 1,800 Falklanders was now greatly exceeded by British military forces, nearly three times that number.

But the real reason for the change is political, to deflect the odium at the United Nations which attaches to such vestiges of the imperial era as a colonial governor.

Sir Rex to retire from Falklands post

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Rex Hunt, Civil Commissioner in the Falkland Islands, is to retire in September, when he will be succeeded by Mr Gordon Jewkes, Consul-General in Chicago, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced last night.

Sir Rex, whose name became widely known in the Falklands conflict, will be retiring on full pension nine months early, apparently in recognition of six demanding years at Port Stanley. He will be 60 in June 1986.

He and the 1,800 islanders pleaded last year for him to remain a further 15 months in the Falklands, despite speculation that the Foreign Office



Sir Rex: Leaving in
September.

would have preferred to replace him with a more docile diplomat.

As it is, he should now be able to usher in the islands' new constitution before he goes, while elections in September

mean that Mr Jewkes will make a fresh start with a newly-elected council.

Mr Jewkes, aged 53, who is married with two grown-up sons, has been in Chicago since 1982. He is expected to pay an exploratory call on his new territory before officially taking over.

Britain's other south Atlantic dependencies, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, will continue to be under his administration too, according to the draft constitution, which has pleased islanders by enshrining their right to self-determination.

Mr Jewkes was born in Durham, educated at grammar school and commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

He spent part of his career in the General Register Office

before transferring to the diplomatic service in 1969, where he later became head of the Foreign Office finance department.

He has served once before in the Chicago consulate on the commercial side and has also been consul-general in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr Jewkes's financial, commercial and consular background has presumably been taken into account by Whitehall in appointing him to a post in which the concern of the Falklands people and the commercial future for their islands will occupy most of his time.

His outside interests, too, might have caught the eye of the Foreign Office personnel department. They include boating, walking and travel.

'Folk hero' Hunt to leave Falklands



Sir Rex Hunt: Falklands folk hero.

By DAVID ADAMSON
Diplomatic Correspondent

SIR REX HUNT, Governor of the Falkland Islands at the time of the Argentine invasion and now their Civil Commissioner, is to retire in September.

He will be replaced by Mr Gordon Jewkes, 55, British Consul-General in Chicago. Mr Jewkes's Foreign Office background is largely in commerce and finance, and he goes to the Falklands with the personal blessing of Mrs Thatcher, who interviewed him before his appointment.

Sir Rex, 58, has the status of a folk hero in the islands, where there was an outcry last year when the rumour reached Port Stanley that the Foreign Office wanted to retire him.

He was reprieved until September, which gave him time to steer the new constitution through the islands' Legislative Council. It was largely the islanders' concern that their right to veto a change in sovereignty might be eroded that led to the demand for him to stay on.

Forfeited chance

By the time he leaves, Sir Rex will have spent five-and-a-half years in the Falklands, a long time by the standards of the Foreign Office, who would have liked to replace him last year with someone less closely identified with the islanders' views on sovereignty.

If he had had his way, he would have stayed on until he reached the normal retiring age of 60 next year. As it is, by staying on for extra time he has forfeited the chance of another posting before retirement.

Foreign Office officials explained yesterday that the short span of time between Sir Rex leaving in September and his 60th birthday the following June meant it would not be possible to offer him anything "substantive" in the way of a posting. He will retire on full pension when he returns to Britain.

Sir Rex has spent much of his career in Africa and the Far East. He was a district commissioner in Uganda for 12 years before moving in 1964 to Malaysia. He was Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur before becoming Governor of the Falkland Islands in 1980.

Mr Jewkes, who began his career as a civil servant in the Inland Revenue, joined the Diplomatic Service in 1968.

He has held his current appointment since 1980. He was Consul (Commercial) in Chicago in 1969 before being posted to Trinidad as Deputy High Commissioner for three years.

Concern about use of airport

By NICHOLAS COMFORT
Political Staff

THE £359 million airport nearing completion in the Falklands will have no facilities for civilian flights though the Government has insisted it will have a civil as well as a military function.

The Falklands' only scheduled air service was to Argentina, and ceased when they were invaded in 1982.

So the Mount Pleasant airport due to open in May offers the sole opportunity for flights out by islanders and the development of tourist traffic.

But the Ministry of Defence is understood to have refused consistently to discuss with the Falkland Islands Government or with the colony's Development Corporation the provision of terminal, handling or other facilities for civilian flights.

As things stand, the position when the airport opens will remain that while there are seats on board RAF planes for a limited number of civilians, there will be no civilian flights.

When such flights do eventually begin, they are likely to operate under stringent conditions imposed by the Ministry of Defence, whose first priority is prevention of further attacks by Argentine forces.

Hunt is beaten by his own side



The Hunts : They'll be sad to go.

LESS than three years after he bravely defied the Argentine invaders of the Falkland Islands, Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt has been told to pack his bags and retire from the Diplomatic Service — although he will not be 60 until June 1986.

Twice the 1,800 islanders have petitioned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to keep him at his post in Port Stanley, where he is felt to be as integral to the local scene as the penguins.

There is no doubt Sir Rex, a vigorous 58, and his wife Mavis will be sad to leave the people they love. He is a familiar sight to all, as he drives around his parish in a black London taxi.

But Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe is a stickler for procedure and insists that people are circulated from post to post. Father of two Sir Rex will have been there almost five years (he is also High Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territory).

The former RAF pilot will have rather more time to prepare for his departure than he enjoyed in Saigon, when the Communist Vietnamese swept in ten years ago. He will be allowed to retire from his £26,000-a-year job on full pension.

Sir Rex, whose successor will be named by the Foreign Office within a month, upstaged Whitehall last week by disclosing parts of the new constitution to the islanders.

New man named as Falklands Governor

By JOHN DICKIE

Daily Mail
22.1.85

THE new man to run the Falkland Islands will be 53-year-old Mr Gordon Jewkes, at present the British Consul-General in Chicago.

Mr Jewkes, who spent 16 years in the home Civil Service, will take over from the present Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt. He is taking early retirement, as reported in yesterday's Daily Mail.

The change, announced yesterday by the Foreign Office, came as a sad blow to the islanders, who have immense respect for Sir Rex, who has stood up for their rights against all pressures from Whitehall and the Argentines.

In Downing Street yesterday it was emphasised that a first-class job had been done by 58-year-old Sir Rex, a former RAF pilot, but he had to make way for others in the diplomatic service.

The Falklands constitution

MRS MARGARET THATCHER is perfectly entitled to her view that the wishes of the Falkland Islanders must be paramount in discussing their future. Yet in the row over the island's proposed new constitution she has unwisely sought to impose these views with little reference to parliament.

The row centres on both the proposed wording of the new constitution and the means by which the Government intends to have it approved. The constitution refers to the islanders' right to self-determination and, without specifically saying so, appears to confer a right of veto on any future change in their status. The document, approved last week by the Falklands' Legislative Council, will be made law, according to Mrs Thatcher, through an order in council. This procedure in principle avoids a parliamentary vote.

The constitution has yet to be made public, and if less secrecy had surrounded its elaboration, the Government might have had a better chance of putting its case. But sprung on an unsuspecting parliament, it has aroused strong feelings among all parties over what is seen as an attempt to bypass debate on a vital constitutional matter.

Questionable

The Government's case runs like this. A new constitution was under discussion before the 1982 conflict with Argentina and the present document is merely the confirmation of this process. The wording in the preamble on self-determination is vague and does not amount to a veto. As for the order in council, the present administration on the islands is conducted via an interim order in council issued in the wake of the conflict. Parliament is not barred from debating the matter or indeed from seeking amendments.

This is all very well; but the arguments look highly questionable. The UN Charter does not recognise the right of self-determination of dependent territories. To get round this, the preamble has borrowed from the little known 1966 UN International Convention on Civil and Political Rights which the

UK only ratified in 1976. The convention is full of ringing phrases about political freedoms so abstract as to make the British Government doubtful of originally ratifying it.

Even if the self-determination phraseology falls short of veto powers, to go this far in granting autonomy to the 1,800 inhabitants of the Falklands is a major departure from the status quo. Any act which commits, or is likely to commit, the UK to further obligations in the South Atlantic should not be hurried through by order in council. It implies disrespect towards parliament, which must be the ultimate arbiter on the Falklands, and to the British taxpayer, paying over £700m a year to defend the islands.

Irritate

The constitution contains two other interlinked issues which should be fully debated: the future of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Britain's claimed Antarctic territory. The former islands will remain constitutionally independent but their effective administration will be linked to that of the Falklands. The same will apply to the Antarctic. The Falklanders will be given a say in the future of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. This means that the Government is envisaging the entire British territory and presence as one whole, ending speculation that the Falklands might eventually be hived off to Argentina, while retaining a claim to Antarctica through South Georgia.

This policy represents an important hardening of Britain's position on the future of the Falklands and on its presence in the South Atlantic. Negotiations on the Falklands' future must sooner or later be held with Argentina; and no move should be made that would prejudice such negotiations. The present policy seems bound to irritate if not antagonise Britain's European allies whose support over the Falklands cannot be taken for granted indefinitely.

The new constitution needs to be fully debated, and it must be made clear that the inhabitants of this small community should not bind the sovereign interests of Britain.

Open secrets in the Falklands

Back to the curious—and mendacious—matter of the Falklands constitution. Last week, the Falklands' Legislative Council agreed certain changes to the new constitution for the islands. They were told that these amendments—enshrining their right to self-determination, had been "agreed by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe." But in London the Foreign Office said they didn't have a copy of these documents. Rat-smellers of Parliament duly united. Baroness Young told the Lords that it was "only reasonable that a new constitution should be discussed privately with the councillors." Mrs Thatcher told the Commons about perfectly understandable "discussions" and "consultations" between HMG and the Councillors. So Parliament is told, essentially, about private and quite understandable chats. What happened, however, was altogether different. Sir Rex Hunt, the seconded Foreign Office diplomat and Civil Commissioner, announced on Falklands radio last Monday night that he had received the amendments enshrining self-determination from London. The Legislative Council met the next day in formal Town Hall session, with the public gallery well stocked. The amendments were formally approved. And, as usual, the entire proceedings were broadcast—and rebroadcast—on local radio. The islanders may thus reasonably feel that they have done something legal, open, binding and definitive. Meanwhile Westminster is told only of "private" chats. Who, pray, is kidding who? And why?

Ponting jury vetting begins today

By Our Crime Reporter

Special Branch officers will today begin vetting potential jurors for the trial of Clive Ponting, the Ministry of Defence official accused of passing information on the sinking of the General Belgrano to an MP.

Mr Ponting, charged under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, goes on trial at the Central Criminal Court in a week's time.

The vetting of jurors is the first step in a process which may mean that part of the case is heard in camera, as is usual in cases of national security.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, yesterday questioned the decision to vet the jury.

He said that when Mr Ponting appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court last autumn the Crown said that the case did not involve national security.

In the last week there have been two meetings in chambers before Mr Justice McCowan, the trial judge, and news of the vetting came after the second meeting on Saturday.

Yesterday Mr Brian Raymond, solicitor for Mr Ponting, refused to comment on the details of either meeting in chambers but confirmed that the defence and the prosecution will be given the list of jurors available for the trial. It could include up to sixty.

BETTER IN THE OPEN

The news that the Special Branch is to begin vetting potential jurors for the trial of Mr Clive Ponting next week indicates that the prosecution is considering an application to have all or part of the trial in camera. Closed hearings are regular practice in cases where matters involving national security are likely to arise in evidence, and it has been usual for some years for a check to be made on jurors in such cases. The latter practice was challenged on appeal by the defence in the Bettaney espionage case, and the Court of Appeal found that Crown and defence alike are entitled to make inquiries before exercising their option of challenging jurors. There are grounds for not wishing vetting to develop on any extensive scale in ordinary cases, but where major security issues are involved both vetting and in camera hearings are fully justified.

But there has been no suggestion that the Ponting case involves major security issues.

The memorandum about the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the *General Belgrano* that Mr Ponting allegedly leaked to Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, was not classified. There were no operational secrets, no espionage, no suborning by foreign powers, no release even to the public in general. Counsel for the Crown said at the committal stage (openly heard) that Mr Ponting's alleged offence involved not a breach of security but a breach of confidence. The defence have made it clear that they would prefer an open hearing and a jury selected in the usual way.

Of course, it must remain open to the parties to the case to decide whether to seek in camera hearing in the light of their knowledge about what evidence may be produced. But on the information so far available, there seems little reason why all or nearly all of the case should not be heard in public. Secret hearings are undesirable and only to be resorted to where the public interest clearly requires it.

The Ponting case is already widely seen as a trial not only of Mr Ponting but also of the archaic and indiscriminate Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911, under which he is charged. More than ten years ago it was declared by the Franks committee to be ripe for abolition and replacement by a more specific statute.

The case inevitably brings to the surface fears (justified or unjustified) that the pretext of security is being used to cover over mere official embarrassment. It has also provoked argument about where a civil servant's duties lie - to his minister, or to some more nebulous concept like the public at large. Any appearance of arbitrary or surreptitious proceeding in this case is more likely to multiply these doubts than to still them. The more secrecy there is in the trial, the greater the scope it will offer to those who have reason to persuade the public that the Government has something shameful to hide.

MP ATTACKS 'IN CAMERA' TRIAL

By IAN HENRY

MR TAM DALYELL the Labour MP to whom Clive Ponting, a senior civil servant, is alleged to have passed information on the Belgrano sinking, claimed yesterday that Government embarrassment was behind an application to have part of the forthcoming secrets trial held in camera.

With the case due to begin at the Old Bailey next Monday, Mr Dalyell said he had also tabled Commons questions to Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, over the Crown's application to have the trial jury vetted.

Until last week both Crown and defence lawyers had intended to hear the case against Ponting in open court. But during the weekend the trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, approved an application by Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, to have part of the case heard in camera.

It is understood the Crown has recently introduced new evidence said to be of a "sensitive" nature.

Mr Ponting, a senior Ministry of Defence official, faces a charge under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act alleging that he passed information concerning the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, to Mr Dalyell, MP for West Lothian.

Official 'knew of Falkland secrets'

by MARTIN BAILEY

A FORMER Ministry of Defence official, accused of corruptly receiving money from *The Observer*, was privy to secret information about the Falklands, it was claimed in Bristol Crown Court last week.

Raymond Williams, a civil servant based at a MoD office in Bath, knew about British plans to re-equip the Argentine Navy six months before the Falklands conflict it was alleged by the defence.

The court was also told he had sensitive information on SAS difficulties with equipment in the Falklands, the Exocet attack on the destroyer Sheffield, the enormous costs of Trident, and the construction of a hangar too small to take particular aircraft.

A jury was told that this information was not provided to *The Observer*. The prosecution admitted that the material actually supplied was not classified secret.

Mr Williams, 38, from Bath, has pleaded not guilty to two charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

They relate to the receipt of a £1,000 cheque and £500 in cash from *The Observer* as 'an inducement or reward' for information obtained in the course of his employment.

Mr Michael Brodrick, prosecuting, said that after Mr Williams had written to *The Observer* on 11 October 1983 reporter Patrick Bishop telephoned him and went to meet him in Bath. This was followed by a further meeting at *The Observer's* office on 1 November.

Shortly afterwards Mr Williams posted a batch of MoD documents to *The Observer*. He had said he was in severe financial difficulties and the newspaper arranged to send him a cheque for £1,000, which was paid into his account on 9 November.

On the same day Mr Bishop, and the Defence Correspondent, Mr Ian Mather, travelled to Bath, where Mr Williams handed over a second set of papers.

On 13 November *The Observer* published a major story, 'The Black Hole of Whitehall,' exposing massive waste by the MoD. Five days later Mr Williams visited the newspaper's office and was given £500 in cash.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Williams had behaved corruptly. 'The defendant was "bought," and as a result he betrayed his employer's confidence,' Mr Brodrick said.

Mr Paul Chadd QC, defending, said that Mr Williams had supplied the documents only in the hope that they would improve his chances of getting employment with *The Observer* as a defence consultant.

Two days after *The Observer* article Mr Williams was suspended from the MoD.

On 17 November he posted a suicide note to his wife. The next day he again visited *The Observer*, where he was given the £500 in cash.

The court was told that he bought aspirin and whisky, planning to commit suicide.

His wife, Teresa, telephoned Bath police after receiving her husband's note. They rang up the Editor, Mr Donald Trelford, and asked about Mr Williams. Mr Chadd said that the Editor replied: 'All I can say is that a man of that description has been seen alive and well in London today, and he has sufficient resources to go aboard.'

Last week Mr Williams said in court that he had only supplied documents to *The Observer* 'to impress them with the range of my activities,' and he regarded the payments as 'a retainer against being accepted as a consultant.'

He is due to continue his evidence when the trial is resumed tomorrow.

As the matter is now *sub judice*, *The Observer* is unable to comment on the trial. We hope to publish our comments at the earliest opportunity.

Court may try Ponting in secret

by DAVID LEIGH

THE Clive Ponting Old Bailey secrets case is expected to be held *in camera* next week, following a hearing at the trial judge's home in London yesterday.

The prosecution will move to have at least part of the proceedings against the Ministry of Defence civil servant heard behind closed doors.

Tomorrow, the Director of Public Prosecutions will begin vetting of potential jurors.

Mr Ponting faces a charge under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. It is alleged that he passed information to Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell. He intends to plead not guilty.

Until last week, it had been the intention of both sides to hear the case in open court. Counsel for the Attorney-General had already said at the committal proceedings that the documents concerned did not affect national security.

Yesterday, an application was made to the trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, at his Pimlico home. As this was technically a hearing in chambers, neither side would reveal what took place.

Mr Ponting's solicitor, Mr Brian Raymond, would only say: 'For our part, we have always wanted the truth of this matter to be examined and discussed in open court.'

Defence Secretary Mr Michael Heseltine and Army Minister Mr John Stanley are not expected to give evidence, though the Crown is to call civil servant Michael Legge, author of a memorandum proposing the concealment of material from a House of Commons committee.

An exhibit at the trial may be the document known internally as the 'Crown Jewels,' which



CLIVE PONTING :
Behind closed doors.

was prepared by Mr Ponting about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *Belgrano*.

Legal reformers have viewed the idea of jury vetting with concern since its existence was first revealed seven years ago. Prospective jurors can be rejected in the preliminaries to a trial without any reason being given after Special Branch checks.

Mr Ponting's MP, Mr Chris Smith, is to introduce a Bill in Parliament this week to repeal Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. Though supported by the National Council for Civil Liberties, it stands little chance of becoming law.

Mr Des Wilson, chairman of the Committee for Freedom of Information, told a conference on secrecy yesterday that Section 2 of the Act should be withdrawn and that the Ponting case was 'an act of outrageous cynicism, an immoral, political prosecution.'

Miss Sarah Tisdall, who was jailed for six months under the Official Secrets Act for leaking documents about cruise missile deployment to *The Guardian*, was in the audience at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

Mail on Sunday 20.1.85

'Fortress' not safe enough for Prime Minister

Maggie misses the flight to Falklands

By DAVID ROSE

BRITAIN'S top brass have declared the Falkland Islands a 'no-go' area for Mrs Thatcher.

Plans for her to open the new £359 million airport there in May have been vetoed by the Ministry of Defence.

For despite spending more than £2,000 million making 'Fortress Falklands' near impregnable, the brass hats told her they were concerned about the 'security implications' of a Prime Ministerial visit.

And in a further move that has opened up an embarrassing rift between the islanders and Whitehall, defence chiefs have said they cannot allow civilian use of the new airport until after a second runway is built in February, 1986.

This has prompted Falkland Island officials to plan a protest to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. They say the decision threatens their intention to boost the economy by exporting fish

and wool to this country and by attracting tourists from Britain and the United States.

With the building consortium due to hand over the Mount Pleasant airport at the end of April, the Government is already discussing plans for an inaugural flight from Britain in one of the RAF's new TriStars.

Whitehall sources confirmed that a plan had been mooted for Mrs Thatcher herself to lead the UK team of Ministers, service chiefs and MPs. But yesterday Downing Street said the visit was 'not on.'

Mrs Thatcher visited the Falklands two years ago but for security reasons her trip was only announced after her arrival at Port Stanley.

With the much trumpeted inaugural flight defence chiefs argued they

would be denied the element of surprise, essential for ensuring maximum security.

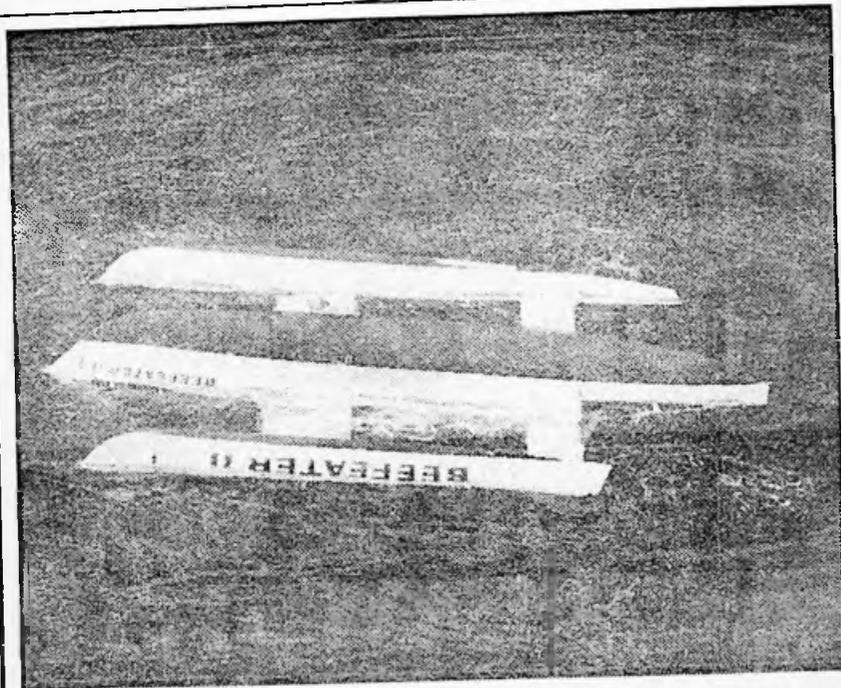
The honours for opening the airport will have to be shared between Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin. But it will not be available to civilian traffic for at least another 10 months and it was this that prompted the protests from the Islands' Development Corporation.

The corporation plans to export wool, fresh salmon, fresh and frozen crab, and to attract tourism. One American cruise company has already approached them with a plan for Antarctic cruises from the Falklands.

A possible explanation for the ban on civilian traffic could lie in plans to reduce the size of the garrison. Defence chiefs would be reluctant to allow civilians to see the amount of soldiers and equipment being ferried out by air.

Mail on Sunday 20.1.85

WORLDWIDE



Chay's hope floats on

STAR yachtsman Chay Blyth's £100,000 trimaran Beefeater II bobs upturned and helpless in the freezing South Atlantic, ten weeks after he abandoned it.

The yacht capsized in heavy seas off Cape

FALKLANDS

Horn last November. Blyth and his partner, Eric Blunn, clung to its hull for 12 hours before they were rescued by helicopter. The 53-foot yacht was spotted south-east of Port Stanley by an RAF crew on a

reconnaissance mission.

Beefeater II came to grief during Chay's second attempt at breaking the 133-year-old record for the fastest sailing from New York to San Francisco. On the first attempt his yacht sank before it reached the starting line.

Belgrano trial may be secret

By CHESTER STERN

THE 'Belgrano' secrets trial of civil servant Clive Ponting at the Old Bailey next week will be held partly in camera.

Until last week, both sides had intended to hear the case in open court as Counsel for the Attorney General had indicated that the documents Mr Ponting is alleged to have passed to Labour MP Tam Dalyell did not affect national security.

But last night the Director of Public Prosecutions Office said that some 'sensitive' aspects of the trial would be held in camera.

Yesterday, the prosecution applied to the trial judge, Mr Justice McGowan to have the trial conducted in secret.

Because the application was made in chambers, neither Mr Justice McGowan nor Counsel for the Attorney General would reveal what took place.

Playing patience at the UN

By Our U.N.
Correspondent

IF THE CYPRUS summit at the United Nations this week ends in agreement between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders on a federal system to reunite the island, much of the credit must go to the patient, quiet diplomacy of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, under whose auspices they began their meetings on Thursday. He has been in his UN post just three years and many feel that he needs a success. This could be it, if progress achieved in pre-



Sr Perez de Cuellar

liminary talks is maintained in these first face-to-face exchanges between the two sides in almost six years.

It would be a pleasing birthday present for Sr Perez de Cuellar if the basis for an accord were reached this weekend. He is 65 years old today. An agreement would be a fillip for another peace mission. He is going to South East Asia to try to ease tensions affecting Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam.

Sr Perez de Cuellar is due in London tomorrow on his way to Bangkok and will see Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe on Wednesday, after having travelled to Scotland to deliver the Montague Burton lecture on international affairs at the University of Edinburgh. Cyprus and the Middle East are expected to dominate his London meetings.

The Secretary-General would dearly like to be able to resume his Falklands good offices mission, as Argentina wishes. But Britain opposes this, while recognising that he performed a valuable diplomatic service for both sides during the 1982 war.

If he has what might be called a favourite problem it is perhaps Cyprus rather than the Falklands. Having presided, as chief delegate of Peru, at the UN Security Council meeting in July 1974 that followed Turkey's invasion of the island, he became Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim's special representative in Nicosia for two years.

He never campaigned for his present post. It was thrust upon him only after China repeatedly vetoed Dr Waldheim's moves to gain an unprecedented third term, saying that it was time the UN had a Third World representative at the helm.

In fact, Sr Perez de Cuellar is in many respects less Third World inclined than Dr Waldheim was. Admirers of his diplomatic style already compare him to Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General (1953-61), an extraordinarily innovative and skilful negotiator. He seems also to share some of Hammarskjöld's philosophy, and recently told an interviewer: "To do this job one must heed Albert Camus's advice—acting if you absolutely believe that justice, happiness, peace will prevail even when you are plagued by doubts."

Sr Perez de Cuellar prides himself on what might be termed his cool ("I am a very calm person"). Unlike the often testy Waldheim, he seldom raises his voice or rebukes a subordinate.

Also, he is no workaholic. As often as he can he returns to his Manhattan townhouse for long lunches with his elegant wife Marcella.

He got into diplomacy almost by accident, through a part-time job as a clerk in the Peruvian foreign ministry. In 1946, he was a delegate to the first UN General Assembly in London.

A fine linguist, well-read in several languages, Sr Perez de Cuellar delivers most of his major speeches in English. "He's also something of an Anglophile," one aide remarked.

and the phone rings. You realise in the end you can't say no.

"The other side is that when you win you get a big kick out of it. I go out to the pub with my client and their family and celebrate with them."

Not believing the scales of justice to be evenly weighted, he has never prosecuted. "I am not interested in the law at all as an academic subject. I do this job in order to act for people who find themselves involved in the law against their wishes."

Of the Ponting trial he says that the prosecution, which has been obliged by the rules to disclose its case, must have a shrewd idea of the defence's strategy. He does not expect new revelations in the Belgrano affair. Both sides are opposed to sessions in camera, which would involve jury vetting, and will be at pains not to stray into the shoals of national security. (Crown counsel stated in the committal hearing that Mr Ponting's alleged offence was not a breach of national security.)

The defence team for what is expected to be an eight-day trial will comprise leading and junior counsel, Raymond, his assistant and sundry members of staff. He puts the bill at well over £20,000, being raised by the Clive Ponting Defence Fund (sponsors: Kinnock, Owen and Steel).

The hazards of predicting the outcome of a criminal case are compounded in the Ponting trial, he believes. "First, the defence involves an uncharted area of law. Secondly, although the case is essentially about relationships between Ministers, civil servants and Parliament, the subject matter that has brought the issue to the fore is the Falklands War, about which people have strong views."

Now he was talking like a lawyer. "What was his hunch? "Well," he said, "I was watching across Lincoln's Inn Fields the other day and a bird shot on my head, which my mother told me is lucky."



RAYMOND — In the end you can't say no. Picture by Martin Argles

Ponting's legal aide

Trial" which exposed the Crown's over-zealous jury vetting.

Raymond was one of the founders of Bindman & Partners which is currently engaged on the "Alconbury Nine" case, a conspiracy trial involving the peace movement, she said. Known for its libel work in the employ of such organs as Private Eye, the firm of 10 partners takes on an unusual number of non-remunerative and criminal cases. Its unique feature is immigration, sending staff to remote villages in India and Bangladesh to verify entry applications to this country. "They are not mad lefties but good, committed, socially conscious lawyers who provide as high a standard as many of the more traditional, conservative firms," she said. "British lawyers are generally not very imaginative. In court his firm is

sure he's changed since he's

then." At this point I had to caution him.

He admits experiencing moments of alienation in British society, notably when he wandered into a beano thrown by the university's Conservative Association. A conspicuous devotee of flower power, he was barefoot and clad in transcendental vestments. "Seeing these young people drinking hock and baying with laughter at each others' jokes I remember thinking I could never be part of that."

Doesn't he get the same feeling as the Old Bailey? "Yes, I do. If you are at one with the system, you don't care whether your client wins or loses. I have walked out of courts feeling so sick with what has gone on inside that I have wanted to leave the profession on the spot. I know this has happened with a lot of my colleagues. But you get back in the office

ANY hopes the Government may have entertained about becalming the Belgrano affair by prosecuting Clive Ponting, the senior civil servant accused of leaking two documents to Labour MP Tam Dalyell, were rapidly dismasted by linked shot as the usual pre-trial niceties were thrown overboard.

While Black Tam rocked with repeated salvos and Messrs Kinnock, Owen and Steel hurled insults from the rigging, Mr Ponting was proffled on television and penned a newspaper review on the iniquities of the Official Secrets Act section under which he was charged. Then the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, was criticised for remarking publicly on issues in the case which have yet to be proved at the Old Bailey trial on January 28.

Mr Ponting's solicitor, Brian Raymond, says that during the widespread public debate on the broad issues, his client has been as free as anyone else to contribute, provided it did not influence the trial. All that was now water under the bridge: "I have not received the slightest hint from the prosecution that there has been anything improper about the way we have conducted ourselves up to now," he said.

Decorum, it seems, has now been restored. As a matter of policy, Mr Ponting has gone into strict purdah during the run-up to the trial, with his solicitor in close attendance.

Raymond (36) is a new breed of lawyer who is not enamoured of his profession. "Lawyers lead cosseted lives and they need their bottoms kicked by their clients from time to time," he said.

Since Sir David Napley, one of our most illustrious practising lawyers, has not flinched from publishing his legal casebook, it is not amiss to record Raymond's endeavours. Professional ethics prevent one publicising one's own practice, so I turned to Helena Kennedy, a barrister who has worked with Raymond on a number of cases. Notable among these was the "Anarchists

Captured Argentine guns for RAF base

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER Air Correspondent

A DOZEN Argentine anti-aircraft guns captured during the Falklands war will equip a new Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment Squadron in April to help to strengthen Britain's air defences.

The Swiss-made 35 mm Oerlikon guns are believed to have shot down four Harriers during the conflict, as well as two Argentine aircraft by mistake.

The guns, valued at £50 million, have been refurbished by the British Manufacture and Research Company of Grantham, Lincolnshire. They will be sited at RAF Waddington, the Lincolnshire base of the RAF's 11 AEW Nimrods whose entry into service is being seriously delayed by technical development difficulties.

The United States bought the Rapier equipment for the defence of seven Third Air Force bases, but Britain pays for the cost of manning the missiles under an offset deal connected with the purchase of the Trident missile system.

Describing the state of Britain's air defences in a briefing for defence correspondents this week, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig, C-in-C RAF Strike Command, said the delay in bringing AEW Nimrods into service was not the only problem.

"We need adequate firepower to meet the threat and we have not yet got enough fighters," he said.

Fighter numbers are due to be increased by 40 per cent. to a total of about 150 when Tornado F2 fighters join the squadrons next year.

Honouring the fallen

WHILE THE memory of the Falklands campaign fades in the minds of those who merely observed it from afar, relatives of those British servicemen who gave up their lives in the south Atlantic are preparing a commemorative pilgrimage to the islands next year.

The Falkland Islands Families Association, formed after the Government-sponsored trip to the war graves two years ago, estimate that some 80 of their members will go — this time away from the intrusion of the cameras.

MP probes Falklands oil drilling bid

A COMPANY at the centre of a bid for oil drilling rights in the Falklands is to be raised in the commons.

Firstland Oil and Gas company was awarded a four-year licence by the Falkland Islands administrative head Sir Rex Hunt in July last year — only one month after it was set up.

In a deal with the Jersey-based Falkland Islands Property company, Firstland then paid \$150,000 for the prospecting rights as well as \$600,000 for a 50 per cent stake in the profits of any find.

Firstland is a subsidiary of an Antilles registered company, Campatou, which is headed by a London entrepreneur.

Labour MP George Foulkes, who has been investigating the oil deal, says the parent company has capital assets of more than £7 million.

"This raises a lot of questions about what happens if any oil is found," said Foulkes.

"It indicates that there is possibly more to the natural reserves than a lot of us thought. I believe the Falkland Islands government has been duped into thinking it was dealing with a small business.

"I am concerned that any revenue benefits might be siphoned off and not go to Britain and that the prospect of a long-term agreement with Argentina over the Falklands could be damaged."

Thatcher admits Belgrano error

AN astonishing admission of top level bungling at a crucial point in the Falklands conflict was made this week by prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

In one of the most important disclosures in the Belgrano affair she reveals a serious breakdown in communications between the war cabinet and the military between the sighting and sinking of the Argentine cruiser.

But the timing of the admission and the contents of a letter to Ayrshire Labour MP George Foulkes are seen as a calculated attempt by Thatcher to shift the blame firmly onto the then chief of defence staff, Admiral Terence Lewin.

The implication of the version of events given in the letter to Foulkes are that:

- Thatcher and the war cabinet were kept in the dark about the sightings of the General Belgrano for more than 24 hours despite the fact that senior ministry of defence officials were informed;
- when the war cabinet was even-



Lewin — waited.

two counts: first of not knowing about the Belgrano sighting for 18 hours; secondly of waiting another seven hours before informing the war cabinet.

Thatcher and Lewin have levelled claim and counter claim over the timings of the sighting of the Belgrano and the receipt of signals from the British submarine Conqueror.

The significance of the letter to Foulkes is that Thatcher for the first time appears to accept that there is blame to be apportioned over the decision to sink the Belgrano.

It is convenient for her, said Foulkes, that her version of events enables the blame to be levelled at Lewin.

"She has shifted all the blame and totally repudiated him," said Foulkes. "It is an astounding claim to make over the most senior military person and a member of the war cabinet."

Foulkes accused Thatcher of timing the letter to ensure that it reached him before Wednesday's meeting of the foreign affairs select committee which was to decide on the next stage of its investigations

into the Belgrano incident.

In the letter, Thatcher says: "Although HMS Conqueror's signal was received by Northwood (the task force British headquarters) and the ministry of defence on the afternoon of May 1, and both task force commanders and senior staff at the ministry of defence were aware of the report, at that time Lord Lewin himself had no knowledge of this and his belief that it was received around midnight was mistaken."

"As to the timing at which Lord Lewin was informed, it has not been possible for some two years after the event to establish with certainty why he was not told sooner."

Thatcher later says ministers were "necessarily reliant on senior advisers to bring together all relevant operational information to provide the basis for strategic decision making."

Lewin recently told the foreign affairs select committee that he was the sole link between the war cabinet and the military.

CHRIS McLAUGHLIN

Big arms build-up revealed in Argentina

ARGENTINA'S military chiefs are engaged in a rearmament programme designed specifically to plug the gaps which led to its defeat in the war for the Falklands, writes *Chris McLaughlan*.

A new study concludes that Argentina would be better equipped now to win a conflict with Britain than it was in 1982.

The report from the University of Bradford's school of peace studies reveals a massive build-up of arms which has:

- expanded the air-to-air refuelling capacity of Argentina's strike aircraft — during the Falklands war some fighter bombers had fuel for only a single pass at British ships before turning home to their mainland base;

- replenished and added to Argentina's stock of Exocet missiles. Argentina has also become the first overseas customer for a new Gabriel missile which its Israeli makers say is more effective than the Exocet;

- provided Argentina with a new French anti-runway bomb capable of destroying up to 1,000 square feet of runway in one strike.

Paul Rogers, of the school of peace studies, said: "This rearmament programme is designed for only two possible kinds of conflict — over the Falklands or over Chile.

"The dispute over the Beaver Channel between Argentina and Chile appears to be cooling down.

"But the Argentine military has set out to plug the deficiencies which showed up in the war over the Falklands."

Among the other improvements to Argentina's forces are:

- the complete refurbishment of the air force and naval air forces — the number of front line aircraft has risen from 70 at the end of the war to 160;

- increased numbers of air-launched anti-ship missiles — at the start of the Falklands conflict Argentina had five Exocets, it now has 28 plus the new Gabriels;

- the building of six long range patrol submarines;

- the probable development of a surface-to-surface missile which could threaten the Falklands from the Argentine mainland.

Rogers says: "A war of economic as well as military attrition could develop. It is not suggested that such a process is likely in the immediate future.

"Another period of political strain or crisis in Argentina, or indeed another military coup, might, however, be a prelude to increased conflict."

Tory MPs criticise Falklands veto deal

By Colin Brown.
Political Correspondent

The Government last night faced Tory criticism over its handling of the new constitution for the Falkland Islands which gives the islanders a veto in future negotiations over their sovereignty.

The Prime Minister confirmed in the Commons yesterday that the Government would not be seeking to introduce a bill to enact the new constitution but instead would do so by an Order in Council, which could avoid any vote in the Commons.

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP for Thanet South, later protested to the Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, that these arrangements were highly unsatisfactory to Tory MPs.

He said it was quite wrong that the changes, such as the decision to have a separate administration for the Falklands and the South Sandwich Islands with South Georgia,

should go through without being presented to the Commons. "This just will not do," he said.

It is expected that Tory MPs will insist that they be given the chance to debate and vote on the constitutional arrangements which were disclosed to the Falkland Islanders at a recent meeting.

They were told that the Foreign Office had backed down on plans to divorce the Falklands from its dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group after the islanders had objected because they feared Britain might bargain away the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina while retaining the Antarctic dependencies which are strategically important.

The issue was first raised by the SDP leader, Dr David Owen, who followed up a protest letter to Mrs Thatcher yesterday by telling her at Prime Minister's question time that the Government should introduce a bill on such an important issue of foreign policy.

Belgrano affair in new venue

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Members of the Commons defence committee are now anxious to investigate aspects of the continuing controversy surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands conflict. Their concern has been prompted by the growing number of contradictions given in evidence to the foreign affairs committee.

Both Tory and Labour MPs on the defence committee believe that it is more appropriate for them to investigate some of the issues that have recently been thrown up, including the whole question of political control of the military.

Back-bench MPs are concerned—and intrigued—about the long letter sent by Mrs Thatcher to the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, Mr George Foulkes, on Wednesday. She said that Lord Lewin, then Chief of Defence Staff and her senior military adviser, did not know about a crucial signal from the submarine Conqueror reporting the sighting of the Belgrano on May 1, 1982.

Labour MPs on the foreign affairs committee have succeeded, meanwhile, in getting the endorsement of their Tory colleagues to press ahead with their inquiry into the Belgrano sinking. They have drawn up a list of detailed questions to Mrs Thatcher, Lord Lewin and the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine.

THOSE of you who yearn for those glorious summer days of 1982 when Britain could once again hold its head up high may be interested to read Donald Featherstone's new edition of *Battles with Model Soldiers* in which he writes: "The British recapture of the Falkland Islands in 1982 was so unique as to be a 'must' for wargaming, for which it is ideally suited."

Falklands wargaming "poses classical tabletop-battling features... handling such inspiring troops as British paras, Guards... in such easily reproducible actions as Goose Green, Darwin... you might come up against the difficulty of finding volunteers to handle the enemy forces." Perhaps a role for Denis during the twilight retirement years of Mrs T.

Falklands hospital

From the Representative of the Falkland Islands Government

Sir, I would like to comment briefly upon the extract from Mr Robert Fox's book *Antarctica and the South Atlantic* published in *The Times* of January 7.

I am particularly concerned by the misleading impression created regarding the proposed new hospital and provision of medical services in the Falkland Islands.

The "remains of the walls of the old hospital" to which Mr Fox refers is in fact the Churchill Wing, opened in 1953, which survived the fire largely unscathed, apart from some smoke damage. It is planned that this should accommodate the civilian out-patient and community health-care facilities, whilst a new wing will contain acute cases and surgical facilities.

Plans for sheltered accommodation for the elderly had been drawn up before the hospital fire and the Falkland Islands Government was negotiating for a suitable site. Provision for 11 such units has now been included in the outline plan for the new hospital.

I should like to make it quite clear that the Falkland Islands Government's prime concern in approving these plans is to provide an efficient, comprehensive and cost-effective medical service for the islands. We believe the new hospital will fulfil all these needs.

Yours faithfully,

ALASTAIR CAMERON,
Representative,
Falkland Islands Government,
29 Tufton Street,
Westminster, SW1.
January 14.

POLL FOR FALKLAND COUNCIL

By Our Diplomatic Staff

THE new draft constitution for the Falkland Islands will pave the way for Legislative Council elections in the territory when it comes into effect later this year, according to Whitehall sources.

The proposed constitution won the warm approval of the islanders this week after Mrs Thatcher agreed to the insertion of a clause guaranteeing the right to self-determination.

The Foreign Office is now awaiting formal notification of the Islanders' approval before the constitution is laid before Parliament for the required period of 40 days.

After that it will be taken as read and an Order-in-Council will be issued, probably in March, bringing the constitution into force.

September poll

An electorate of 1,049 out of an estimated resident population of 1,900 will then vote in September for eight Legislative Council members — two more than under the present constitutional arrangements.

The Foreign Office offered no comment yesterday on the Islanders' acceptance of the constitution, saying it would be improper to do so while the document remained at draft stage.

OUR POLITICAL STAFF writes: Dr David Owen, SDP leader, last night called on the Prime Minister to rethink her intention, reported yesterday, to give the Falkland Islanders a constitutional guarantee of self-determination.

The former Labour Foreign Secretary told Mrs Thatcher in a letter that to include the guarantee in an Order-in-Council confirming the new constitution would be an improper use of Parliamentary procedure, and would also jeopardise chances of any settlement with Argentina.

Already the Islanders had been granted the full rights of United Kingdom Citizens. To grant them a right of "veto" over future British governments was both unwise and improper, and would "derogate from the sovereignty of Parliament," he claimed.

'Bring back Governor'

PATRICK WATTS in PORT STANLEY writes: A select committee of the Falklands Legislative Council, which has been discussing the new constitution, has called on the Foreign Office to restore the title of "Governor" to Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, and his successors.

The Times 17/1/85

Many questions

Tories on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee who were keen to conclude its all-too-revealing investigation into the Belgrano sinking have been outmanoeuvred. Labour members of the committee yesterday put down a formal motion asking for further questions to be sent to Mrs Thatcher, Lord Lewin, Michael Heseltine and others about inconsistencies in evidence. Had the Tories opposed the motion it would have to have been recorded in the final report and they would have been vulnerable to accusations of blocking the investigation of legitimate issues. Thus prolonged, the investigations may now have to consider a whole new can of worms: evidence thrown up at the Ponting trial later this month.

Ex-officer's flat burgled

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The home of a former naval commander who worked at fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, during the Falklands conflict was broken into last month, it was disclosed yesterday.

The incident has been reported to West Mercia police who are investigating the murder of Miss Hilda Murrell during a break-in last year. Her

nephew, Mr Robert Green, also worked at Northwood during the conflict.

The break-in at the flat in St Albans of Mr Peter Hurst occurred on December 20.

Mr Hurst said his flat had been searched carefully but no valuables had been taken.

Hertfordshire police said they were treating the break-in as a normal crime, one of a number in the same neighbourhood recently.

Lewin not told that sub spotted Belgrano

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Information about the sighting of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, was not known to Lord Lewin, as chief of defence staff, the war cabinet's most senior military adviser, the Prime Minister disclosed yesterday.

Writing to Mr George Foulkes MP, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, Mrs Thatcher says that the submarine Conqueror's signal about sighting the Belgrano reached Northwood naval headquarters on the afternoon of May 1, 1982.

Lord Lewin — who kept ministers in touch with military developments — was not informed of the signal until May 2. It had not been possible to establish why he was not told sooner, said Mrs Thatcher.

Northwood did immediately inform senior Defence Ministry staff, but "Lord Lewin himself had no knowledge of this." Speaking from memory, he was mistaken when he told the Commons foreign affairs committee last month that the signal was received around midnight, she says.

Lord Lewin told the committee that he regarded himself as "the only link between the war cabinet and Northwood, through the Ministry of Defence."

He suggested that the "mandarins' committee"—whose job was to brief ministers—was not informed because the signal arrived too late.

The decision to attack the Belgrano was made at a 20-minute meeting at Chequers on May 2 and it was sunk at about 8 pm the same day while heading away from the task force.

Falklanders give unanimous backing to new constitution

Thatcher giving islanders 'veto on negotiations'

By James Naughtie

The Prime Minister was accused last night of seeking to give the Falklanders a veto on future negotiation over the islands by unconstitutional means.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, wrote to Mrs Thatcher to protest against the reported intention to enshrine the islander's right to self-determination in the new Falklands constitution by means of an Order in Council.

Dr Owen said it was quite wrong to use the procedure of an order to make such a change which effectively gave UK citizens in the islands the right of veto over negotiation conducted on their behalf by a future government answerable to Parliament.

He said: "We have never given a right of veto to the people of Hong Kong nor to

Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had carefully considered councillors' wishes and had agreed that the islanders' rights to self-determination should be enshrined in the new constitution.

This could be done by the incorporation within the constitution of a reference to Article One of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1956 and ratified by the British Government in 1976.

"The Islanders' right to self-determination is now protected long into the future," said Councillor Tony Blake, who represents East and West Falklands farms. Elected members of the legislature feel that this move ensures that they must be consulted should the British Government open future talks with the Argentine Government on sovereignty.

The Foreign Office has also backed down on plans to divorce the Falklands from its dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group.

The islanders had expressed their fears to the Foreign Office that under previous proposals, Britain might bargain the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina while retaining the Antarctic dependencies.

However, a constitutional amendment now states that there should be a commissioner for South Georgia and South Sandwich, "who shall be the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands."

Another proposal calls for the abolition of the military commissioner's title. Since the 1982 conflict the Commander, British Forces, has held this role and shared authority with the civil commissioner. Under the new Constitution the military commissioner's position will lapse when the present occupant, Maj Gen Peter De la Billiere, completes his 15-month tour in August.

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the people of Gibraltar. I believe it to be profoundly wrong in principle to give such a constitutional provision for the Falkland Islanders. It is also constitutionally improper to do so in an Order in Council which is not amendable. It will be seen as slamming the door on any future negotiation with the Argentinians."

The Order is also to be used to implement the decision to separate the legal and administrative arrangements relating to the Falklands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich islands.

The proposals to amend the Falklands constitution have won unanimous approval from the Falkland Island members of the Legislative Council.

Introducing the constitution to the legislature in Port Stanley, the Falklands' civil commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, told members that Mrs Thatcher in consultation with the Foreign

Belgrano delay for defence chief

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister said yesterday that Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff and member of the so-called War Cabinet during the 1982 Falklands conflict, was not immediately told of the initial sighting of the General Belgrano at 2 pm on May 1, and that he had given mistaken evidence to a Commons select committee.

Mrs Thatcher said that Lord Lewin had correctly told the committee last year that the Argentine cruiser had first been sighted on the afternoon of May 1.

But in a letter to Mr George Foulkes, a Labour front-bencher, she then added: "Although HMS Conqueror's signal was received in Northwood and the Ministry of Defence on the afternoon of May 1 and both the Task Force Commander and senior staff in the Ministry of Defence were aware of the report at that time, Lord Lewin himself had no knowledge of this and his belief that it was received around midnight was mistaken."

"As to the timing at which Lord Lewin was informed, it has not been possible for some two years after the event to establish with certainty why he was not told sooner."

"However, the key development, which led to the subsequent consideration of a change in the rules of engagement, was the clear and unequivocal indications of the threat posed by Argentine warships on 2 May."

Lord Lewin informed ministers of that threat at 1 pm on May 2 and the rules of engagement were changed to allow the sinking of the cruiser, with the subsequent loss of 368 lives.

A further signal was sent by Conqueror, and received by Northwood at 3.40 pm, that the Belgrano had reversed course back towards Argentina, but ministers were not told of that signal until the following November.

Mrs Thatcher also told Mr Foulkes: "The conflict emphatically underlined the fundamental principle that, in any such

crisis, ministers must be responsible for the overall political and military strategy on the basis of the information and advice provided by their professional advisers, but that they cannot and should not attempt to be involved in the conduct of operations on a minute-by-minute basis."

"In the case of the Falklands it would have been neither realistic nor sensible for ministers to see copies of all operational signals exchanged between Northwood and the Task Force."

Mr Foulkes said last night that the Prime Minister's answer was astonishing. If the General Belgrano had been a threat, the Chief of Staff would surely have been told.

He said: "I don't know what changes the Government have made in their crisis management arrangements, but I hope they were drastic ones."

Mr Tom Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said: "How on earth has it taken more than two years of hard Labour to find this out?"

Falklands get pledge on self-rule

By Rodney Cowton

The right of self-determination for Falkland islanders is to be enshrined in a proposed new constitution for the islands.

A revised constitution has been under consideration for two years. It is seen primarily as a tidying-up operation, pulling together elements of the present constitution which are contained in a large number of documents.

A draft of the new constitution is being considered by the legislative council of the Falkland Islands, and the fact that Mrs Thatcher had agreed to the right of self-determination being enshrined in the constitution is said to have been greeted with great enthusiasm in the islands.

There has been concern among the islanders that Britain's other dependencies in the South Atlantic - South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - are to be given a constitution separate from that of the Falkland Islands.

The Government appears to have made a concession to the islanders' feelings by proposing that as an administrative convenience all the dependencies should continue to be administered by the Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands, at present Sir Rex Hunt.

Belgrano signal evidence mistaken says Thatcher

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

THE Prime Minister, in what Labour critics yesterday termed her "most embarrassing admission" over the Falklands has stated that Lord Lewin, former Chief of Defence Staff, was mistaken in evidence to a Commons committee.

The mistake was over when a crucial naval signal was received.

Mrs Thatcher said the sighting of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano by the submarine which sank it was not reported to Lord Lewin until the day after Fleet Headquarters and the Defence Ministry received the signal.

She told Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock, and Doon Valley, that the signal had been received on the afternoon of May 1, 1982, and not around midnight as Lord Lewin had told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee last month.

Mr Foulkes said that this meant Lord Lewin, responsible for informing the War Cabinet of key developments, had not been told of the sighting of a ship supposed to present a major threat to the fleet for 18 hours after the signal came in.

But Lord Lewin said last night that the fact that he was not notified until the morning of May 2 had "no significance in it whatsoever."

'Would not quarrel'

He said that he had nothing to add to his evidence to the committee and stressed that although he had not been shown Mrs Thatcher's letter, he "would not quarrel" with what he understood it to say.

"It has not been possible for some two years after the event to establish why with certainty (Lord Lewin) was not told sooner," the Prime Minister wrote.

"However, the key development, which led to the subsequent consideration of a change in the rules of engagement, was the clear and unequivocal indications of the threat posed by Argentine warships on May 2."

Mr Foulkes and fellow Labour sceptics see Mrs Thatcher's disclosure as raising new questions as to whether the cruiser was really a major threat to the task force if no one thought its sighting worth reporting to Lord Lewin.

They also consider that it depicts as unnecessarily rushed the War Cabinet's decision to

order the sinking after 20 minutes' discussion on May 2, given that crucial information supplied by Lord Lewin at the last moment had been available in Whitehall 18 hours before.

However the Prime Minister's letter, replying to two Mr Foulkes sent her before Christmas, also provides an important element to a picture rather different from one of Ministerial deviousness which the critics have painted.

In common with a number of previous answers, it suggests that at crucial stages of the conflict, Ministers were not informed of crucial developments by senior civil servants and military personnel who were fully aware of them.

The Prime Minister made it clear in her letter that she was as convinced as ever both that Ministers had not needed to be involved on a minute-to-minute basis, and also that Lord Lewin did not need to know the contents of every signal received.

But she left little doubt that this was one signal she felt the Chief of Defence Staff, and by implication the War Cabinet, should have had brought to their attention without such a delay.

ARGENTINA GAINS DEBT EXTENSION

The "Paris Club" of Western creditor nations has agreed to give Argentina more time to pay its debts. Finance Minister Grinspun said in Paris yesterday.

Argentina under the agreement will repay 90 per cent. of the capital and interest on the \$2.18 billion (£1.94 billion) debt due in 1985 over 10 years, including a five-year grace period. The remaining 10 per cent will be repaid in five equal annual instalments during the five-year grace period.—Ruter.

But who controls Sir Rex?

It was Lord Hailsham, long ago, who first talked about an "elective dictatorship." It is Mrs Thatcher, this week, who has provided an arrant example of what the Lord Chancellor was talking about.

Eight thousand miles away, on Monday evening, members of the Falkland Islands' Legislative Council — to whom no opprobrium attaches — gave their "unanimous approval" to an amended Constitution for the islands which enshrines their right to self-determination. Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, told them that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe had agreed to insert that clause in Chapter One of the Constitution of Language referring to Article One of the UN International Covenant on Human Rights. He further informed the councillors that a plan to divorce administration of the Falklands from that of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands had now been scrapped. Instead a further Constitutional amendment would give that role "to the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands." Yet another amendment abolishes the post of military commissioner for the Falklands. The level of policy transformation (or, less politely, U-turning) implied in these matters can be gauged by reference to a recent interview in the Penguin News with Mr David Thomas, the senior Foreign Office department head lately visiting Port Stanley. The decision to sever the political links between the Falklands and the Dependencies, said Mr Thomas, on the record, stemmed from a 1982 meeting presided over by the Prime Minister. "The idea is that separate constitutions should be drawn up reflecting the actual conditions and needs of, on the one hand, the Falklands, and on the other hand the Dependencies."

And now, at a distant stroke, all is utterly changed. In London, if you please, the Foreign Office has no on the record statement whatsoever. No transcript of this revised Constitution. No explanation of what's involved. No comment. Nothing. Off the record we may perhaps expect an Order in Council in the Spring. But no final decision has been taken.

Either members of the Falklands' legislature, meeting in council, are deluded; or someone is peddling delusions closer to home. And one can't be too understanding about "communications difficulty." The Falklands lie at the end of copious telephone, radio and telex links. And Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, is not some ethereal, indigenous figure. He is a seconded Foreign Office diplomat. When he addresses the Legislative Council and introduces the new Constitution, he is London's man. Yet London denies all knowledge.

It is one thing for this Government — and this Prime Minister — to espouse a particular policy towards the Falklands. When Mrs Thatcher, in her Christmas message to the islands, said that "it is the wishes of the Falkland islanders that are paramount and so it will continue to be" she was fully entitled to her personal opinion. Not a very sensible opinion, perhaps. And not one, self-evidently, that will survive her tenure in Downing Street. But there is all the difference in the world between Mrs Margaret Thatcher shooting from the lip and Foreign Office officials — without any debate or any opportunity for debate in Britain — promulgating Constitution-amending policies which are not even available for scrutiny in London.

British policy on the Falklands is hugely expensive policy, topping £600 million in this financial year — and with no real end in sight. We have not — for all its new democracy — established negotiating links with Argentina. We have not followed through the Prime Minister's quite specific pledge to consult the islanders about their future. Nor have we been allowed to debate — in the House of Commons — what the options for that future might be. The history of the past two years has been one of manifest evasion, orchestrated from Downing Street, imposed on glum Foreign Office. And now, it seems, the islanders are being given all manner of Constitutional pledges — no bill attached — which Parliament cannot be allowed to see. An Order in Council is a Government decree approved by the Privy Council. Has that approval already been given? If so when, and by whom? Or has even the Privy Council — all unheralded — yet to meet? "Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey have agreed," says Sir Rex, as though that were the end of the matter. On the contrary, it ought to be the beginning of some proper scrutiny and democratic control in this greyest of grey areas.

Helicopter hero

Pilot who crashed to glory cheats death once more

A DEATH-DEFYING helicopter hero has done it again.

Eleven years after surviving a terrifying rescue operation off the Cornish coast, Captain David Mallock has narrowly escaped death in an Antarctic crash.

His Bell Jetranger, loaded with British Antarctic Expedition supplies and equipment, plunged into the frozen Weddell Sea. But although the helicopter was wrecked, Captain Mallock, 46, escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Yesterday his wife Jean, 48, said at their home in Devoran, Cornwall: 'He rang after the accident and told me he was very, very lucky.'

Captain Mallock joined the Antarctic Expedition's survey vessel Bransfield in November and was flying to the ship from a supply depot when the crash happened.

Mrs Mallock added: 'He is coming home as soon as arrangements can be made to get him off the ship. I just

hope this isn't an 11-year cycle!'

The accident has been reported to the Civil Aviation Authority and is being routinely investigated by the Transport Department.

Officials there said: 'The helicopter was flying straight and level when it hit the ice. There is always a problem in helicopters when you are flying in less than full visibility.'

'It is too early to speculate. We are hoping to get the wreckage back.'

A British Antarctic Survey



Wrecked: A Bell Jetranger



Escaped: Capt. Mallock

spokesman said yesterday that Captain Mallock's helicopter would not have been flying if weather conditions had been poor.

Captain Mallock's first brush with near-disaster was in January 1974.

As a Lieut. Commander with the Royal Navy, he led five Sea King helicopters into 70-knot gales off Land's End to reach a capsized Danish ship.

During a three-hour battle against 50ft-high waves, he helped rescue seven seamen and recovered five victims

before his helicopter developed engine trouble.

With both engines about to fail, he somehow got back to shore and crash-landed in a field in darkness.

He was awarded the Air Force Cross for gallantry. The Navy said: 'Only an outstanding piece of flying ensured his crew's safety.'

Argentina denies rearmament report

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina has denied that it is rearming on the scale suggested by reports in Britain, and insists that harsh budget austerities are cutting into military capability.

Reacting to a report issued this week by Bradford University an Argentine Defence Ministry spokesman said the elected Government had not made any arms purchases since it took office just over 13 months ago.

He conceded that the navy took delivery of surface ships and submarines last year, but claimed these had already

been paid for under contracts signed as long ago as 1973 or 1974.

He said the Bradford University report, which concluded that in at least some sectors Argentina was now better armed than before the Falklands War almost three years ago, was "totally inaccurate."

Since President Alfonsín assumed office on December 13, he said, the military budget had been reduced, "in some cases drastically." With the budget as it was, reequipment of the armed forces was impossible.

In what seemed a concerted effort to deny the Bradford University findings, a civilian

research group dismissed the report as "psychological action" by the British Government, and the civilian Government took the unusual step of producing one of the army's most senior officers at a separate press conference.

Colonel Miguel Abbate, said the budget for the military last year had been "in the order of 50 per cent lower" than in 1983.

Colonel Abbate confirmed that the army had been slow in paying some of its suppliers. Several companies are said to have halted deliveries some weeks ago.

With President Alfonsín

putting the final touches to the 1985 national budget, official sources say the army is likely to draft 20,000 fewer conscripts this year, cutting the total to between 30,000 and 40,000 against more than 80,000 under the former regime. Colonel Abbate said all but 20 per cent of last year's conscripts were being sent home ahead of schedule.

A shortage of cash prompted the Argentine navy into cancelling its high sea exercises last year, and to seek buyers for two British-built destroyers, partly to help repay the debts incurred by an ambitious purchasing programme under the regime.

FALKLANDERS TO KEEP RIGHT TO DECIDE FUTURE

THERE were joyous scenes in the Falkland Islands Legislative Council when Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, announced that Mrs Thatcher had agreed that the Islanders' right to self-determination should be enshrined in the new Falklands constitution.

Councillor Tony Blake who represents East and West Falklands, and had proposed the amendment, said that the Islanders' rights to self-determination were now protected "long into the future."

The clause was inserted in the constitution after a visit to the Islands recently of a Foreign Office official.

Councillors now feel that in addition to reassurances from the Prime Minister regarding their rights to self-determination this latest move ensures that they will have to be consulted on any moves which future governments might make with Argentina.

The new constitution, which Councillors are certain to approve, also recommends the abolition of the Military Commissioner's title. This will lapse when Major-General Peter de la Billière completes his tour of duty in August.

However, the Commander British Forces will still have a non-voting seat on the executive and Legislative Councils.

Antarctic divorce

The Foreign Office, following a wave of consternation throughout the Islands, has also amended proposals relating to the future administration of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group of islands.

Under the earlier recommendations, the Falklands were to be divorced from the Antarctic dependencies.

Islanders had felt that should any negotiations over the sovereignty ever take place with Argentina, their position would be drastically weakened.

The Foreign Office has now

agreed that there should be a Commissioner for South Georgia and South Sandwich "who shall be the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands."

The Commissioner would have to consult the Executive Council before taking any decision concerning South Georgia and South Sandwich which might affect the Falklands.

MORALE BOOST

Dependencies out of deal

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT writes: Sir Rex Hunt jumped the gun on Whitehall yesterday by disclosing parts of the new Constitution. It is not due to be issued as an Order in Council until March, and draft copies are not available in London.

The Civil Commissioner's decision to announce that the right to self-determination has been entrenched was probably made in the interests of boosting the islanders' morale.

Their always-fragile confidence in the enduring support of British governments was shaken last month by the proposal to sever the Falkland Islands dependencies from the Falklands' administration.

It was seen as a move which would enable Britain one day to do a deal with Argentine on the Falkland Islands while retaining control over South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Argentina denies rearming

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S Defence Ministry has termed as "totally incorrect" a report by Bradford University on Argentine rearmament and said no weapons had been purchased since the elected President Alfonsín took over from a military dictatorship a year ago.

The report made public here on Monday, said Argentina had completely re-equipped its air force and navy, to the extent that it could successfully fight a war of attrition against British forces in the Falklands.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that since President Alfonsín took office 13 months ago the military budget had been slashed by almost half, and half the current budget went on military salaries.

British criticism

The spokesman said the re-equipping of the navy was the result of contracts signed with French and German shipyards 10 years ago which had already been paid. A few submarines and corvettes had been received in 1984 as part of that long-term plan.

Meanwhile a civilian organisation here, the Centre of Defence Research and Studies, charged that the report and the timing of its publication were aimed at combating growing criticism in Britain of the Government's military stance on the Falklands.

The organisation said that Britain's bill to keep forces on the islands was equal to half Argentina's total military spending in one year.

MP refers Murrell case to Thatcher

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, yesterday told the police that he believed that the Prime Minister could help them with their inquiries into the death of Miss Hilda Murrell.

The MP said in a Commons debate on December 19 that Miss Murrell had been killed after she had disturbed members of the intelligence services on March 21, as they were searching her Shrewsbury home for papers relating to the sinking of the General Belgrano during the 1982 Falklands conflict. Miss Murrell, aged 78, was the aunt of Commander Robert Green, a former naval officer who held a key intelligence post during the Falklands campaign.

In a letter to Mr Robert Cozens, Chief Constable of West Mercia, Mr Dalyell said yesterday: "The police should

not be content with bland assurances that intelligence was not involved but should cross-question Sir Robert Armstrong (Secretary to the Cabinet), Mr Peter Marychurch (director of Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham), and some of their subordinates - and, indeed, the head of the security services, the Prime Minister - on how much they have been told, and when they were told it.

Mr Dalyell, who was yesterday questioned for more than three hours at the Commons by senior officers from the West Mercia force also said in his letter: "I do not know the identity of Miss Murrell's killer. All I can do is to point you in the direction of those who, I believe, can help - and this I have done."

During the Commons interview, led by Chief Det Supt David Cole, Mr Dalyell refused to disclose the identity of the

sources who have alleged an intelligence link with the killing, but he did volunteer to take a lie detector test.

Mr Dalyell told Mr Cozens: "In anticipation of top-level ministerial meetings, involving the Prime Minister, intelligence was told to do everything possible to identify the origin of the leaks of information about the Belgrano. Under pressure to come up with information about the leaks, intelligence decided to 'take a look' at the house of the aunt of Commander Robert Green."

The MP told *The Times* last night: "It is a matter of fact that on March 19, I wrote a key letter to the Secretary of State for Defence. It is equally a matter of fact that intelligence intruders went into the house of Hilda Murrell on March 21. People have to draw their own conclusions about the juxtaposition of events."

Argentina says rearmament is impossible

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

Argentina's Defence Ministry has denied that it is rearming for a war of attrition against British forces on the Falkland Islands, saying a Bradford University report on the subject is "totally incorrect".

Press reports of the School of Peace Studies report, which claims that Argentina has rebuilt its armed forces to a higher level than before it invaded the islands in 1982 and is in a position to wage a war of harassment in the South Atlantic, also provoked heated denials from private groups here.

The Defence Ministry spokesman, Señor Pedro Coria, said Argentina had not purchased any new weapons systems since President Alfonsín took office.

"With the current budget, a programme of rearmament would be absolutely impossible," Señor Coria said.

Argentina denies report on military build up

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

THE Argentine Government has refuted British reports that a major re-equipment of its armed forces has taken place since the end of the Falklands war and that some military elements were preparing for a renewed campaign of attrition against the island's garrison.

A strongly worded statement issued late on Monday by the Ministry of Defence described a report prepared by a peace studies group at the University of Bradford as "totally false" and accused the British Government of making a veiled effort to justify its military presence on the island. The statement seems to reiterate the Government's non-belligerent attitude towards the Falklands issue.

The Ministry emphasised that since the swearing-in of President Raul Alfonsin in December 1983, defence spending had been reduced drastically. A limited amount of arms had been delivered since the end of the war, but these had been ordered by the previous outgoing military government and did not represent new purchases as listed in the British report.

The Ministry did not detail the type or number of arms delivered. However, a study prepared by a usually reliable local civilian defence research group estimates that the air force and navy together have only replaced front line aircraft lost during the war — an estimated total of 130 — and has not purchased 30 additional units as suggested by the University of Bradford.

The Argentine research group also questions the accuracy of claims that the air force has developed a new long range missile capable of reaching the Falkland Islands and that a large number of Exocet missiles had been delivered to the navy.

According to diplomatic sources, the Alfonsin Government sees such issues as the Bradford report as extremely negative at a time when it is stepping up its efforts to find a diplomatic settlement to the Falklands dispute.

Police to see MP

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, is to be interviewed by West Mercia police at the House of Commons today over his allegations that British intelligence was involved in the death last March of Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 78, of Shrewsbury.

Bad judgement

When Clive Ponting's solicitors appointed the relatively unknown Bruce Laughland QC to defend their client, I was told it was a clever piece of casting: they did not want the Old Bailey trial, which opens on January 28, to be a stagey drama. Just as well: Laughland would not know one if it hit him. As *Cherwell's* drama critic in the early 1950s, the young Laughland slated a visiting theatrical company for its diabolical production, pathetic casting and lousy performance — "this company has absolutely no commercial future," he wrote. It was the original production *The Mousetrap*.

Not their field

Whitchall intelligence seems to be as sharp as ever. Following his articles on the Falklands in *The Times*, Rod Tyler was tracked down and asked if he knew when the airfield would be completed at Mount Pleasant. Reasonable enough, except the request came from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Ponting fights vetting

MR CLIVE Ponting, the Ministry of Defence official accused of leaking secrets of the Belgrano sinking, asked a judge yesterday to ensure that the jury for his trial was not vetted on security grounds.

A 30-minute hearing at the Old Bailey before Mr Justice McCowan was held in chambers and afterwards neither Mr Ponting nor his legal advisers would comment on the judge's decision.

Mr Ponting, aged 35, of North London, is accused of passing a photocopy of a memorandum on the Government's position on the sinking of the Argentinian cruiser during the Falklands war, to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow. Mr Ponting's trial is set for January 28 at the Old Bailey.

GENERAL HAIG may yet give evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee's Belgrano investigations. Nothing had been heard from the general in response to an invitation to help the committee's inquiry, and it was presumed he was fighting shy. But, no, the letter simply went to the wrong address and has spent the months chasing him around the USA. Now that it has caught up with him he thinks he might give written answers to questions.

Argentina's 'military capacity improved'

By Robert Graham,
Latin American Editor

ARGENTINA'S armed forces have replaced their losses caused by the 1982 Falklands conflict and have built up a capacity which would enable it to wage a war of attrition against the British on the Falkland Islands, according to a report released today by the University of Bradford.

The report discounts any attempt by the democratic government of President Raul Alfonsin to invade the island. However, it says Argentina is overcoming all the deficiencies shown up by the war and has acquired a capacity enabling it to engage in low intensity military operations.

The report concludes that this could make defence of the Falklands immensely more costly.

Among the principal improvements in Argentina's armaments is a "complete refurbishment" of the air force and naval air force.

The number of front line aircraft has risen from 70 at the end of the conflict to 160—considerably higher than the 130 at the start of the war. There has also been rapid expansion of air-launched shipping missiles with up to 28 exocet missiles and a number of Israeli-made Gabriel missiles deployed.

The report also claims that up to 80 front line aircraft have provision for aerial re-fuelling which would substantially increase strike and interceptor aircraft's capacity to operate over the Falklands. The air force has also acquired sophisticated French-made anti-runway Durandal bombs which could be used against the Mount Pleasant air base being built on the Falklands.

Argentina has also made improvements in its maritime reconnaissance and early warning capability in tracking submarines, surface ships and aircraft.

Yesterday the Foreign Office said the Government was aware of the report but made no comment. In private, officials in Whitehall say they are carefully monitoring the Argentine military build-up and say distinctions must be made between discussions to purchase weapons and equipment, orders and delivery.

For example, the report says 28 Skyhawks have been delivered to the air force and naval airforce. Apparently these have been negotiated in a deal with the Israeli Government but are apparently not yet in Argentina as their transfer would require U.S. Government approval.

The report also misses out some of the Argentine purchases, for example, of 45 Xavante jet fighters from Brazil.

However, Whitehall officials do not challenge the broad conclusions of the report.

Falklands cost cut in doubt

THE British garrison in the Falklands may have to be strengthened to survive a costly war of attrition once Argentina's extensive rearmament programme is complete, the Bradford University School of Peace Studies says in a report published today.

Service chiefs had hoped to reduce the size and cost of the garrison once the new airfield is opened to accept rapid reinforcements. But the Bradford study points out that the Argentinian forces will soon be re-equipped with modern weapons.

These include a French runway cratering bomb, German submarines, Israeli air-launched missiles, and perhaps even an indigenous Argentinian ballistic missile, with which they could maintain effective low-intensity operations against the British defenders.

The report, written by Dr Paul Rogers, does not suggest that the present Argentinian government plans to reopen hostilities, nor that a second invasion of the is-

David Fairhall reports that Argentina's new weapons could force a big increase in defences

lands is feasible provided Britain maintains its garrison, whose costs will be running at around £500 million a year until 1986-87.

But the return to power in Buenos Aires of an aggressive military regime could pose problems requiring what Dr Rogers calls "a massive increase in the United Kingdom commitment to the defence of the islands," and creating an equally great incentive to reach a permanent political solution.

Among the most significant features of the Argentinian rearmament programme, the report lists:

Acquisition of additional air-launched anti-shiping missiles plus the aircraft to carry them (sea-skinning French Exocet missiles, like the one which destroyed HMS Sheffield, and Israeli Gabriels);

Provision of aerial refuelling for interceptors

and light bombers (which in 1982 were desperately short of range to reach the Falklands and could therefore either be ignored or easily picked off by British Harriers);

Purchase and later construction of six long-range German Type 1700 diesel submarines to add to a pair of smaller Type 209s (even one of which gave the Royal Navy's task force a lot of anxious moments);

Purchase of the French Durandal anti-runway/shelter bomb;

Expansion of a maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft force;

"Probable" development of a surface-to-surface missile capable of reaching the Falklands from the Argentinian mainland.

When the Falklands war broke out in 1982 the Argentinians were believed to have only five Exocet missiles and four French-built Super

Etendard planes to launch them. But they made at least two of them count.

Now, according to the Bradford University study, they have 28 missiles, and 14 Super Etendards.

The Argentinian navy is also standardising on the Exocet ship-launched missile for its new Meko-class escorts, some of which will be equipped with the advanced MM-40 missile, outranging British warships carrying the older MM-38.

The prospect of Argentina acquiring a ballistic missile capability, on which the Bradford study quotes unconfirmed press reports, is more speculative.

It is based on rocket development and testing, apparently aimed at launching a satellite in the 1990.

This indicates that an equivalent military missile, equipped with appropriate sub-munitions for attacking runways, radar, and aircraft shelters, may also be available in a few years.

An Assessment of Argentine Rearmament — Peace Studies Briefings, No. 19.

Belgrano questions remain, say MPs

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Labour MPs on the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee will this week strongly resist attempts by some Tory members — including the chairman, Sir Anthony Kershaw — to end their inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the General Belgrano during the Falklands campaign in 1982.

Sir Anthony believes that the committee's report should now be drafted, since there is no need to call any more witnesses.

But Labour members — who include Mr Ian Mikardo, Mr Nigel Spearing and Mr Dennis Canavan — will argue at a private meeting of the committee on Wednesday that many questions remain unanswered.

They believe that the committee has not yet been given an adequate explanation about why fleet headquarters at Northwood did not give details of the Argentinian cruiser's movements to ministers.

They want to ask questions about reports that Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham decoded Argentine signals to recall its fleet before the Belgrano was sunk, and that these signals were quickly passed to the war cabinet.

Their concern is compounded — with the sympathy of some Tory committee members — by what they regard as the cavalier attitude adopted by the Ministry of Defence.

The committee reopened its inquiry in September after receiving internal ministry documents from the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell.

The documents, which showed how the ministry planned to mislead the committee about changes in the rules of engagement during the Falklands conflict, were allegedly sent to Mr Dalyell by Mr Cive Ponting, the senior Minister of Defence official facing charges under the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Ponting's trial begins at the Old Bailey on January 28. Labour committee members believe that its report should not be drafted until it hears what evidence is produced.

Argentines 'able to raid Falklands'

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Argentina is now in a position to stage hit-and-run raids into the Falkland Islands, according to a survey by Dr Paul Rogers of the Bradford University school of peace studies.

He says Argentina probably has 160 front line aircraft, compared with 70 at the end of the 1982 conflict, and 28 Exocet missiles, compared with five at the outbreak of the conflict.

Argentina, which is also building up its fleets of submarines and surface ships, has modern weapons which could be used for attacking the new airfield at Mount Pleasant, and may be developing a surface-to-surface to missile which could threaten the Falklands from the mainland.

Dr Rogers does not suggest that the Argentine government intends to step up military confrontation, but says it is acquiring the means to do so.

Although the study does not deal with them, the defences of the Falklands have also been strengthened, with new radar systems, Rapier air defence missiles, intended to enable Britain to reinforce the islands rapidly should tension rise, will be capable of limited operations from this spring, and will be completed a year later.

It will then be possible to reduce the British garrison from its present strength of about 4,000. The Government will have to decide whether to reduce it to about 2,800, enough to provide a good general defence or to reduce the garrison to below the size of the civilian population of 1,800.

The latter is politically attractive, but would leave only enough troops to defend the airfield and a few key installations, not to keep out all minor incursions.

Peace Studies Briefings No 19: An Assessment of Argentine Rearmament. (School of Peace Studies, Bradford).

Instant replay

The Clive Ponting trial will be nothing if not dramatic: Channel 4, I learn, is planning a night-by-night reenactment of the events at the Old Bailey. The idea, dreamt up by former *Crown Court* producer Dennis Woolf, is for teams of shorthand writers to provide running transcripts of the proceedings which actors will mug up in time to perform that evening. A dummy run has just been completed using another Old Bailey trial, and actors are being hired who of necessity bear no resemblance to any lawyer in the Ponting case. On the night of the verdict Ponting himself will be interviewed on Channel 4 News. The interviewer: Alexandra Moore, an ITN producer and daughter of the British ambassador in Washington at the time of the Belgrano sinking, Sir Nicholas Henderson.

ARGENTINA IN BUILD-UP OF ARMED FORCES

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

ARGENTINA is engaged in a major build-up of its air force and navy and it may be developing a long-range missile capable of reaching the Falklands, the Bradford University School of Peace Studies concludes in a study published today.

The number of its front-line aircraft has risen to 160, 50 more than at the beginning of the 1982 conflict, and by 1987 the number of its modern submarines will have risen from two to eight, and modern escort vessels from five to 15.

The authors of the study do not believe that the Argentines intend to increase the level of confrontation with Britain or to attempt the occupation of the islands.

But, they point out, it would be possible for Argentina to engage in a "low intensity war of attrition" which would be costly for Britain to counter.

"Although Britain was the victor in the 1982 conflict, it would be more accurate to see that conflict as the opening stage of what could be a prolonged war of attrition," concludes the report. "It is certainly the case that Argentina is becoming well equipped to engage in such a process."

Air refuelling

The study lists four areas in which Argentina has overcome military deficiencies which affected it in the 1982 conflict.

1—In addition to the two West German Type 209 submarines which it had during the conflict, it now has two West German Type 1700 submarines, with another four being built.

2—Lack of an air refuelling capability handicapped the air force during the fighting, as its aircraft had limited endurance over the Falklands. All the air force's Mirages and Daggers, numbering nearly 80 aircraft, are being equipped with aerial refuelling probes.

3—At the time of the conflict Argentina was believed to have had five aircraft-launched Exocet missiles. It is now thought to have 28, enough for two sorties from each of the navy's 14 Super Etendard aircraft (of which the navy had four during the conflict). The Mirage 5P aircraft operated by the air force may also be able to carry Exocets.

4—The air force and navy's lack of an adequate maritime and airborne early warning capability is being overcome. The naval air force has bought seven Lockheed L-189 Electra aircraft of which three are being modified for maritime reconnaissance and

anti-submarine warfare roles. Another function is to provide strike direction for Skyhawks armed with Gabriel anti-shiping missiles.

Another development has been the provision of the air force with French-made Durandal anti-runway bombs which could be used in an attack on the new Mount Pleasant airfield.

The study says there has not been "complete confirmation" of Press reports that Argentina is developing a surface-to-surface missile with a range sufficient to reach the Falkland Islands. But it notes that Fabrica Militar de Aviones employs at least 400 people on rocket construction and has tested a rocket capable of carrying a 110lb payload for 520 miles.

In addition, it is planning a satellite launcher for use in the 1990s.

A medium-range missile could pose a "serious threat" to military installations in the Falklands. Effective counter-measures would require attacks on the launch-sites in Argentina.

Heavy spending

What the report describes as an "unusual feature" of the situation is the involvement of British firms as major sub-contractors to some of the re-equipment projects. Rolls-Royce and David Brown (U.K.) are providing engines and transmission systems for frigates being built in West Germany. Decca is providing the navigation and surface search radar for new corvettes.

The report bears out recent British Government claims that Argentina is spending heavily on arms despite its grave economic problems. The study says that recent reports of cut-backs in defence spending are hard to reconcile with the projects which it lists.

It suggests that one explanation may be that heavy spending on sophisticated equipment may be at the expense of the army. Another possibility is that the armed forces still have independent financial resources, a legacy of military rule.

"An Assessment of Argentine Re-armament" by Dr Paul Brown, Bradford University School of Peace Studies.

NAVY BANS NYLON PANTS AT SEA

The Navy has ordered sailors to wear only cotton underpants at sea. Lessons learnt in the Falklands have concerned Service chiefs who fear polyester and nylon clothing will melt on to the body if a ship is on fire.

Navy planners are even considering a special design of vest and underpants for use in wartime.

Polyester socks are also on the way out in the Navy because of their potential to melt. They will be replaced later this year by a wool and nylon sock.

Falkland pull-out denied

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley, Falklands

LORD TREFGARNE, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, concluding a five-day visit to the Falklands, has refuted suggestions that there will be a major reduction of British troops in the islands once the new £300 million airport is opened in May.

There would be "modest reductions" but this would be dependant on the threat which exists. This policy would also apply to the island of South Georgia, where some experts had predicted heavy withdrawal of British troops.

The morale of the British troops serving in the Falklands "couldn't be better" and many said they were delighted to be in the islands. The men were doing "an excellent job," said Lord Trefgarne.

Construction of the new airport at Mount Pleasant was on schedule and he felt certain it would be opened at the expected time in early May.

⊕ Five wide-bodied RAF Tri-Star airliners with two-thirds of their seats removed to make room for extra fuel will help form a new air link with the Falklands, writes our Diplomatic Correspondent.

Falklands runway on time

The main runway of the £300 million airport at Mount Pleasant on the Falkland Islands will be ready on schedule at the end of April, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary announced in a written Commons answer yesterday.

The statement follows speculation last month that the completion of the runway might be delayed until June or mid-summer at a cost of £500,000 a week.

Progress made on Gibraltar

From Jane Walker
in Madrid

Two days of talks between officials from Spain, Britain and Gibraltar ended on Gibraltar yesterday with all sides declaring themselves satisfied.

The meetings were aimed at resolving practical difficulties which could arise when the border is reopened fully on February 5.

The discussions, led on the British side by the deputy governor, Mr John Broadley, and by Mr Francisco Jose Mayans, a senior official in the Spanish Foreign Ministry, were described as friendly and good humoured. The meeting on Thursday was held in Mr Mayan's office in the Spanish border town of La Linea and yesterday at the Rock Hotel in Gibraltar.

The matters under discussion included the full-time installation of police and customs controls to allow permanent opening of the border for private crossings. It will take some time before sufficient controls exist for the 24-hour transfer of commercial vehicles.

A short delay is also expected in installing a full link-up of direct dial telephones because the local Spanish exchange is not yet equipped to handle them.

Pets have proven problematic. Gibraltar observes British quarantine regulations and the Rock's kennel facilities are too small to handle an influx of incoming pets.

Tourist officials on Gibraltar are preparing for an increase of business in the summer, and new travel agents are already opening up offices in readiness. Airline tickets are expected to be cheaper in Gibraltar than in Spain.

Churchill advised to leave Falklands unguarded

By David Walker
Social Policy Correspondent

Senior naval officers advised the Government 30 years ago to drop the naval defence of the Falkland Islands and "let the Argentines have their go".

At a Foreign Office meeting in May 1954, Admiralty officials led by the vice-chief of the Naval Staff, Sir Guy Grantham, recorded their view that the frigate there was wasting her time.

A note from Mr Philip Newell, head of military intelligence at the Admiralty, asked "whether it would not be to our advantage to drop our guard in

the Falklands and let the Argentines have their go".

Mr Newell, who is retired and living in Surrey, said yesterday that his job then was making people think.

The disclosures from the 1954 archive, declassified on January 1st under the 30-year rule on official documents, were made on Granada Television's programme *What the Papers Say* last night.

Officials in post in 1954 who are alive corroborated the documents. One reported great ignorance on the part of Sir Winston Churchill's Cabinet

about the Falklands' location and significance.

One official described a meeting where Lord Alexander of Tunis, minister for the co-ordination of defence, passed to a fellow minister a note attached to a map of the Atlantic asking where the Falklands were. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr James Thomas, drew a triangle in the region of St Helena, several thousand miles away from the Falklands.

The Admiralty's reluctance to defend the Falklands, because of cost, met with Foreign Office hesitation. It ruled that HMS St

Austell Bay, should stay on station until replaced by another naval vessel.

Mr Enoch Powell is asking the Government to reimpose the rule that Cabinet and other public records should remain secret for 50 years, instead of for 30. (Julian Haviland writes).

He has always opposed the relaxation of the rule, which was promoted in 1967 by Mr Harold Wilson's government after consultation with other political parties.

Under the present rule Cabinet papers for 1954 have been made available for public scrutiny. Next January, minutes

and memoranda will be released by the Public Record Office relating to 1955 - the year Mr Powell joined the Eden Government.

A motion framed by Mr Powell on the Commons order paper says that in the public interest ministers ought not to be inhibited in their duty to offer sincere and candid advice by any apprehension of subsequent disclosure. It observes that the rule will shortly require the release of papers "relating to periods when Right Honourable Members still in active public life in the service of the House" were holding government office.

Gibraltar chief warns Madrid on sovereignty

From Richard Wigg
Gibraltar

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, warned Spain yesterday that he intends to go to Geneva to press his reservations about Madrid's claim to sovereignty over the Rock when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, meets his Spanish counterpart on February 5.

The two Foreign Ministers are to review progress on last November's Brussels agreement on Gibraltar on the same day as Spain is to lift its remaining restrictions and permit movement of foreign tourists, goods and road traffic across the frontier.

Sir Joshua was speaking to journalists immediately after two days of talks here between Britain and Spain on practical aspects of the frontier opening.

Sir Joshua, who will be in the British delegation at Geneva, faces an attack from the Labour oppositin in the House of Assembly here next week when local legislation is to be approved in line with EEC provisions to include Spaniards under the Brussels agreement.

He has reminded Gibraltarians that any change in sovereignty can only come with their democratically expressed approval.

Spanish representatives crossed the frontier yesterday on official business for the first time since Franco imposed the blockade in 1969. British and Gibraltarian officials had gone to La Linea on Thursday.

Señor Francisco Mayans, special adviser to Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said the discussions had ended satisfactorily, although a series of detailed points had to be referred back to the two Governments. An official statement setting out the full position is expected in about a week.

All passport holders, and not merely Spaniards and Gibraltarians as at present, will be able to cross on foot or by private car from next month, provided they show the international green card. Nothing has been decided yet about access by boat across the Bay of Algeciras.

Direct dialling by telephone between Gibraltar and Spain will have to wait until after February 5, officials indicated. Permission for buses and taxis to ply on both sides of the frontier will apparently also have to wait.

Spain is expected to set tariffs as at its other frontiers, although officials said a decision on whether to make an exception under the 1954 New York convention had still to be made. This requires a minimum 24-hour stay out of a country before travellers can bring back a limited quantity of goods duty free.

Daily Mail
14.1.85

Argentina builds up arms—with the help of Britain

ARGENTINA has re-armed so much since the Falklands war that it is now in a better position than ever to take on Britain, according to a report published today.

It has nearly six times as many Exocet missiles; its aircraft, at the limit of their range then, can now refuel in mid-air; it has sophisticated anti-runway bombs which could be used against the new Mount Pleasant airport on the islands.

Argentina now has 160 front-line aircraft, compared with 130 at the start of the war.

The report, by Falklands war expert Dr Paul Rogers, of the Bradford university school peace studies, says: 'Although Britain was the victor in the 1982 conflict, it may well be more accurate to see that conflict as the opening stage of what could be a prolonged war of attrition.'

Dr Rogers says that an 'unusual feature' of the Argentine rearmament has been British involvement as sub-contractors.

Rolls-Royce has supplied Olympus gas turbines for new Argentine frigates being built in West Germany, and the firm of David Brown is supplying their main engine transmission systems, while Argentine corvettes under construction will be fitted with Decca radar.

The report says that Argentina had five Exocet missiles during the 1982 conflict. Now it has at least 28.

Five escort ships are being built for the navy to join one which recently came into service. The six could carry 184 ship-launched Exocets.

Lethal

Six West German-built conventional submarines are on order. These could fire a new Exocet missile.

The air force and naval air force has more than made up for its war losses and now has 14 Super Etendard French attack aircraft, compared with four in 1982, and 24 American Skyhawks, compared with 11 in the war.

Besides Exocet missiles some aircraft now carry the equally lethal Israeli Gabriel 111 anti-shiping missile.

The air force's 80 Mirage and Dagger aircraft have been fitted with aerial refuelling probes and have been equipped with the French-made Durandal anti-runway bomb.

Dr Rogers cannot confirm reports last year that Argentina is developing a huge missile capable of hitting the Falklands from 800 miles away inside Argentina.

But he says the state-run aviation industry currently employs 400 people on what is described as 'rocket construction', and has already tested a rocket capable of firing a 110lb. warhead for 320 miles.

Spanish officials in Gibraltar for talks

By FRANCIS CANTOS in Gibraltar

SPANISH officials are crossing into Gibraltar today to continue talks aimed at a smooth reopening of the frontier 16 years after it was closed by the Franco government.

Two years ago Madrid allowed a pedestrian gate to reopen and a full opening on Feb. 5 has been agreed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and Senor Fernando Moran, his Spanish counterpart.

Today's talks, which follow a session yesterday at La Linea, on the Spanish side, are aimed at ensuring that everything goes smoothly once the frontier is open.

The Gibraltar side is led by the Deputy Governor, Mr John Broadley, and includes a Foreign and Commonwealth Office representative and an official from the Ministry of Transport in London.

Senor Francisco Mayans, a senior assessor for the Spanish Foreign Office, leads the Spanish

team, which includes officials from various ministries. Police and Customs officials from both sides are also taking part.

The practicalities of the opening are under discussion, such as Customs tariffs to be applied, whether passports or identity cards will be needed and the restoration of normal telephone, post and telegraphic links.

Still undecided

The issue which started it all—the long-resisted Spanish claim to sovereignty—is still undecided.

When Sir Geoffrey and Senor Moran next meet in Geneva with Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, on the day the frontier opens, they have agreed to discuss all the differences between them, sovereignty included.

At the same time Britain remains committed to the wishes of the Gibraltarians, whose House of Assembly has only recently reiterated its opposition to any transfer of sovereignty.

Daily Telegraph
11.1.85

WAR VICTIMS

By Our Port Stanley
Correspondent

The bodies of two Argentine soldiers have been discovered on Two Sisters Mountain, five miles west of Port Stanley. They will be buried alongside those of 255 war comrades at Goose Green.

The Guardian 11/1/85

MR HESELTINE has kept his promise to give the Foreign Affairs Committee the crucial list of the changes in the Falklands rules of engagement, but he has surrendered it only on condition that it is kept locked up in the committee office, where committee members can inspect it — but not take a copy away.

Alan Rusbridger

Gibraltar talks open with emphasis on friendliness

From Richard Wigg, La Linea

British and Spanish officials yesterday began two days of talks here to prepare for next month's full opening by Spain of the frontier with Gibraltar.

Mingling at the frontier post with Gibraltarian housewives on their regular shopping expedition to Andalusia, British and Gibraltarian officials crossed punctually at 9.30am without any formalities.

The Spanish, obliged to complete the demolition of the frontier blockade by the time it enters the EEC, yesterday emphasized the friendly atmosphere prevailing.

"The two countries are talking as friends," Señor Fernando Schwartz, the Spanish Foreign Ministry's chief spokesman, said. He explained that only practical problems were being tackled so that the opening went off without a hitch or bad feeling.

Political talks on Gibraltar's future, envisaged under last November's Brussels agreement between Britain and Spain, are due to coincide with the frontier opening, when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish counterpart, meet in Geneva.

Mr John Broadley, Gibraltar's deputy governor, headed the team that crossed from Gibraltar yesterday and Señor Francisco Mayans, special adviser to Señor Morán and a former press councillor in the London embassy, lead the Spanish delegation.

The talks, to be continued today in Gibraltar, deal with such matters as passports, the passage of goods, forbidden entry by the Spanish under the 1982 partial opening, customs, bus and taxi services and car parks.

The import duties to be levied by the Spaniards are of crucial interest for Gibraltar's shopkeepers.

British soldiers of the Gibraltar garrison mounted a smart guard under the Union Flag in bright sunshine but icy winds as the officials came through. The Spanish Army, according to local reports, is already seeking ways of smartening up its own daily flag raising and lowering ceremonies.

The need not to appear the poor relation when the tourists come through also lies behind a demand by Señor Antonio Diaz, mayor of this town, for an immediate injection by the central Government of £2.5 million

The Times 11/1/85

Hong Kong Bill published

The Government last night published the Hong Kong Bill, which provides for the ending of British sovereignty over the territory from July 1, 1997, under the terms of the agreement signed in Peking last month.

The legislation, which is to be given its second reading on January 21, includes wide powers for ministers to prevent people becoming stateless and to deal with other problems of nationality.

ONE question stands out above all others in the strange case of the murder of Hilda Murrell, 78, the world-famous rose grower, in Shrewsbury last March. If the police are right that she was murdered by a chance burglar who happened to drop in for some cash in the middle of the day, why did he *abduct* her from her home?

Furthermore, the objection to the abduction theory applies as much to an agent or a special branch man as it does to a chance burglar. Abduction is an equal mystery in either case.

One explanation might be as follows. Hilda Murrell was a militant and perspicacious woman. There is some evidence that she suspected that she was being watched or followed some weeks before her murder, and that she connected this with her opposition to nuclear power. It is not likely that as she came across a strange man searching through her papers in her home, she would have denounced him as an agent of the nuclear authorities, and let him know that she would make a great row about the matter.

Such a denunciation would present the intruder with a quite different problem to that of the chance burglar. The woman had exposed his true aims, and his true masters. She could, if left alive, bring the wrath of society down, not just on him but on the secret authorities whom he represented.

But what to do? If the woman was seen to have been murdered, that would hardly quell suspicion. If the intruder was an agent, he would have known of Hilda Murrell's high-powered connections, both in the family and in the neighbourhood. An old lady, and an anti-nuclear campaigner, murdered in her own home might prove most embarrassing to the authorities who had to be shielded.

There was a fight in the house, in which Miss Murrell was certainly engaged. Her injuries included a huge bruise on the side of the head which would probably have made her unconscious. No doubt the angry old woman was "shut up" in this way at once. But the intruder could not leave her unconscious, or even murder her, in her home, without questions being asked about her nuclear campaigning which might suggest political reasons for her death.

Murder, covered up as a car accident, with a car plunging over some cliff top or bursting into flames is a familiar enough plot for the kind of adventure stories which are popular among special agents. If Hilda Murrell, a very old lady, died such a death, and if her house was tidied up to show no sign of intrusion, would many questions be asked?

Such an explanation supplies a reason for the abduction of the old lady, the lumping of her body into her car and the drive in it into the countryside.

But if those were the plans, they went badly wrong.

Miss Murrell, remarkably, retained consciousness. Her driving licence was found in a hedge some distance away from any of her other effects. There are further signs that she was throwing things out of the car, shouting and screaming at her assailant, and perhaps even trying to attack him while he drove.

Anxious now for a quick getaway, and realising that any plan of accidental death was now hopeless since Hilda Murrell had several stab wounds in her body, the man set off fast in a car to which he was not accustomed.

Almost at once, the car skidded and slid off the road onto a rock, from which he could not move it. He got out and ran all the way

back to Shrewsbury.

What was his predicament then? When Hilda Murrell was found, it would be clear that she had been murdered. The tidy house, which would have fitted an accidental death, did not fit a murder. Was it not vital that he return to the house to set a different scene? Did such a return visit explain the most curious features in the whole curious story — the subtly connected telephone (so that it appeared to be ringing if someone rang the number) and the semen stains on a handkerchief? Not to mention the "signs of a thorough and systematic search" which Chief Supt. Cole of West Mercia police said he found in the house.

Is it possible also that the assailant, perhaps assisted by others in the same employment, went back to the body of Hilda Murrell that night or the next one and moved her from the hedge further into the country, to the copse where she was finally found three days after her murder? Would that not explain why her body was not seen in the copse on the day of her murder by at least one witness who visited it (but was not called at the inquest?)

Such behaviour seems possible from an agent, but impossible from a chance burglar who would need to get away from the scene of his crime as soon as possible.

If the murderer was an agent, from whom did he come? Tam Dalyell MP suspects the intelligence services on the lookout for information on the Belgrano. Hilda Murrell's nephew suspects the nuclear police (who have their own special powers and their own special branch). The government's denial to Dalyell, incidentally, only covers the intelligence services. There has been no such denial regarding the nuclear police.

The combination of the old lady's fame as a rose-grower, her prowess and her connection with someone whom the authorities might have seen as a disaffected intelligence man must have interested the nuclear special branch. They, like everyone else, have to do something to justify their existence. A quick visit to Miss Murrell's house while she was out to lunch might well have seemed appropriate.

Alfonsin's economic strategy leads to labour ultimatum

From Jeremy Morgan in Argentina

President Alfonsin of Argentina has unveiled a long-awaited economic strategy, but quickly ran into an ultimatum from labour leaders demanding drastic changes.

In an attempt to avoid an outright confrontation with a union movement dominated by officials who also control key factions in the Opposition Peronist movement, President Alfonsin met labour leaders yesterday to deal with pressure for drastic changes in the Government's increasingly austere economic policy.

Leaders of the Confederation General del Trabajo, Argentina's biggest labour organisation, had earlier boycotted the meeting where the Government produced its economic plans for 1985-9.

The CGT, a bastion of Peronist power among the urban working class, last week pulled out of long running and so far largely fruitless negotiations between Government, business and labour over a national accord on economic policy.

President Alfonsin has pursued the elusive "Concertacion," or policy pact, for most of his first year in power but the CGT made its return to the talks conditional on the Government granting several concessions that would go right against the recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund and 320 foreign banks.

Yesterday's meeting was aimed at averting a battle about economic policy between the Peronist union bosses and foreign creditors with the Government uncomfortably in the middle.

Adding to the Government's difficulties in trying to cajole the union chieftains into accepting or at least tolerating austerity in coming years, the CGT is rent by infighting for control not only of organised labour but also of the equally divided Peronist Party.

The immediate issue is the Government's increasingly austere incomes policy, a direct result of the agreement recently signed with the IMF. Recent figures suggest the value of real wages fell during the final quarter of last year, de-

spite the Government's promise that they would rise by 6.8 per cent over the year as a whole.

The decline in living standards has been grist to the mill for the labour barons, long opposed to any "austerity imposed from outside," meaning the IMF, the detested foreign banks, and multi-national corporations.

Worse still, inflation took another upward leap in December, with shop prices rising 19.7 per cent to take the increase for 1984 to a record 688 per cent.

The Government stressed its five-year economic plan would only succeed if there was a "sizeable" fall in the inflation rate and limited annual wage rises to only 2 per cent from 1986 onwards, implying there would be no improvement this year.

The economic strategy set growth at 4 per cent up to 1989 but even then national output will still be 2.5 per cent lower than in 1974. The growth will be based on an export drive in the farming sector, a shift in emphasis from the State to the private sector, and the opening up of politically sensitive sectors of the economy such as basic industry and oil, to foreign and local enterprise.

The strategy greeted with relief by bankers and businessmen but does not go down well with the union leaders who urge a return to the more traditional Argentine populist policies of free spending.



⊗ President Alfonsin: under pressure for change

Belgrano case jurors face vetting

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Lawyers acting for Mr Clive Ponting, the senior Ministry of Defence civil servant facing Official Secrets Act charges, are to meet the trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, after prosecution suggestions that the jury for the case may be vetted.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, who has had extensive talks with the Ministry of Defence about official information which may be used in evidence, is understood to have raised the prospect during discussions about whether part of the case should be in camera.

Mr Ponting's lawyers do not want the jury to be vetted but the ministry is believed to be anxious to seek assurances about the nature of the evidence the defence will produce.

Mr Brian Raymond, Mr Ponting's solicitor, yesterday confirmed that he is to see Mr Justice McCowan next Monday about directions which have been made to the judge about jury vetting.

He said: "In view of the crown's assertion at the committal hearings that national security is not involved, I am surprised the issue has arisen." The trial is due to open at the Old Bailey on January 28.

Mr Ponting is charged with passing to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, documents relating to the sinking of the General Belgrano during the Falklands conflict in 1982.

Murder hunt 'hindered' by Dalyell

By Paul Keel

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who has claimed that British intelligence was involved in the mysterious death of Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 78, was accused yesterday by a senior police officer of hampering the investigation into her murder.

The accusation was made by Mr Robert Cozens, the chief constable of West Mercia, whose force has been conducting the murder inquiry for the past 10 months.

The body of Miss Murrell, a peace campaigner and anti-nuclear activist, was found in woodland where she had been driven from her home in Shrewsbury last March. She had been stabbed repeatedly and left to die.

In the House of Commons last month Mr Dalyell, the MP for Linlithgow, alleged that she had died after a violent encounter with British intelligence officers she disturbed searching her home for sensitive documents concerning the Belgrano affair.

The connection, Mr Dalyell suggested, was that Miss Murrell's nephew, Mr Rob Green, had been a naval intelligence officer during the Falklands conflict.

But at a press conference yesterday Mr Cozens said his officers still believe that the woman's death was the result of a burglary which went tragically wrong.

The chief constable said the MP's allegations had hindered the murder inquiry because senior officers had had to spend time investigating matters which proved to have no substance.

"We would like to know from where Mr Dalyell's information came so those witnesses can come forward and assist us."

Mr Cozens said that the MP would be questioned at the Commons on Tuesday by Detective Chief Superintendent David Cole, the head of West Mercia CID, and another officer. But, he added yesterday, nothing had come to their notice to support the claim, which Mr Dalyell says has come from a "well-placed source," that an outside agency was involved in the murder.

Mr Cozens also denied that his force had been asked to take part in a cover-up.

He confirmed that Special Branch officers had been involved in the murder inquiry on a "routine" basis because of manpower demands. Asked if MI5, MI6 and the Ministry of Defence had been questioned, Mr Cozens said: "I am satisfied that there is no basis for that on the information given to me from any source at all."

Mr Dalyell also came under attack from Mr Derek Conway, the Conservative MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham, who said in the Commons yesterday that the House should urge Mr Dalyell "to cease impeding the police inquiry."

The Guardian
10.1.85

Fox breaks cover

AT THE launch of his new book 'Antarctica and the South Atlantic' yesterday, Robert Fox who received an MBE for his BBC radio coverage of the Falklands campaign, stressed the similarities between the hardy settlers of the islands and their cousins in Patagonia, Argentina. He suggested controversially that it might be sensible to unite them under one government.

Fox originally wanted to call his book "From Disappointment to Deception" after the two capes on Antarctic islands so named by Captain Cook. But the next book, he joked, will be called "Despair"—"that will be about the BBC."

Fresh attack from Argentina

Argentina is launching a publicity war to sway the British public into recognising its ownership of the Falkland Islands, according to foreign ministry sources in Buenos Aires.

British journalists are to be allowed access to top officials in Buenos Aires for the first time since the conflict, and large advertisements are to be taken in UK newspapers. President Raul Alfonsin hopes that the campaign will shed Argentina's aggressive, militaristic image.

An Argentine official said the aim of the campaign was to force Margaret Thatcher to 'end her intransigence and sit down to negotiate reasonably'. The emphasis will be on Argentina's commitment to a negotiated settlement, with assurances that there is no intention of invading the



Alfonsin: Hoping to shed Argentina's aggressive image

Falklands again. As a gesture of goodwill, the campaign is likely to kick off with the lifting of sanctions on British interests in Argentina, later this month.

'Our priority for 1985 is to have negotiations on the Malvinas,' said foreign minister Dante Caputo. 'We are analysing a strategy that we can use to convey our intentions to the internal British front.'

Argentina is apparently in no hurry to discuss the crucial issue of sovereignty, as long as the British agree to do so within a 'reasonable amount of time'.

President Alfonsin's proposals to the British will include shared running of the Falklands, a phased transfer of possession, or possibly leasing the islands back to the British if sovereignty is handed over.

Dalyell criticized by police chief

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives yesterday rejected suggestions by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, that blundering British intelligence officers killed Miss Hilda Murrell, a rose grower and anti-nuclear campaigner.

Mr Robert Cozens, Chief Constable of West Mercia, criticized Mr Dalyell for failing to help the police.

He said he would expect any member of the public to assist the police but, referring to Mr Dalyell, it was odd it had not happened on this occasion.

Asked if the MP's statement had hindered the nine-month inquiry the chief constable said that senior officers had been distracted from the inquiry by having to deal with the Press and it was possible witnesses may have been put off from coming forward by the confused reports.

The view of the police was that the most likely explanation for the death was "burglary that went tragically wrong." Mr Cozens said there had never been any investigation of Miss Murrell by special branch or any other agency in relation to her campaigning on nuclear issues.

Asked specifically if West Mercia police had contacted and asked M15, M16, the Ministry of Defence or any other intelligence agency if they were involved or what they knew, Mr Cozens said: "I am satisfied that there is no basis for that on the information that has been given to me."

He said Mr Giles Shaw, the Home Office minister who had dealt with Mr Dalyell's allegation, had replied to the MP after talking to West Mercia police.

Letters, page 11

Hilda Murrell case

From Dr P. R. Acland

Sir, I write concerning speculation in certain newspapers about the Hilda Murrell case. Such speculation appears now to cast suspicion on the validity of the post-mortem reports as well as the other allegations of impropriety in the police investigations.

Although I receive a retainer from the Home Office, I am jealous of my independence as a pathologist and I consider myself answerable only to Her Majesty's Coroner and the judiciary.

With respect to my involvement in the case, I carried out the post-mortem examination to the best of my ability. I was given every assistance by the police and was not denied any information which I deemed relevant to help me in my inquiries. I was not approached or influenced by any member of any Secret Service organization. I was not aware of any involvement by such persons in the case. I do not believe either that any of the involved police officers were so influenced.

I read my report at the inquest and was thoroughly cross-examined not only by the Coroner but also by a solicitor instructed by the nephew.

I did not avoid or refuse to answer any questions.

The reason for the second post-mortem was also explained at the inquest - there is nothing sinister in this: it is usual for the defence to be given the opportunity to have an independent pathologist.

When, after several months, no defendant had been "apprehended", the Director of Public Prosecutions thought it prudent to have a second post-mortem which could be available for a potential defendant so that the body could be released for appropriate funeral arrangements. In fact, the second pathologist kindly notified me that he agreed with all my findings and conclusions.

I am not sure what else I can do to satisfy the concern of the family. With the permission of the Coroner I am quite happy to discuss the case with any pathologist nominated by the family.

I don't know who killed Miss Murrell, but I have a strong suspicion that some twopenny halfpenny thief is gloating over a pint of beer in a pub not many miles from Shrewsbury about all this media interest.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. ACLAND,
20 Clarendon Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, W. Midlands.

The Times 9.1.85

Conference on a glacier

Wellington (Reuter) - An international study group left yesterday for a remote polar glacier to discuss the future of the 25-year-old Antarctic Treaty, which demilitarized the continent and established it as a nuclear-free zone.

Scientists, diplomats, lawyers and environmentalists from 28 countries will attend the five-day conference on the Bear-

dmore Glacier, about 400 miles from the South Pole. The 55 delegates include representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

Many non-aligned countries not among the 32 treaty members are pressing to have Antarctica placed under United Nations control. But treaty members prefer to keep it under closer control.

Argentina unveils economic plan

The Argentine government has announced a five-year economic programme which foresees honest economic growth based on a stronger expansion of exports, Douglas Tweedale writes from Buenos Aires.

The plan, which sets a target of 2.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product for 1985 is to be negotiated with union and business groups as part of President Raul Alfonsin's effort

to achieve a "social contract".

The programme appears to fit in with measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for assistance in negotiating Argentina's \$48.4 billion foreign debt, in that it sets out a 1.1 per cent drop in domestic demands for 1985 and would maintain real wages at present levels.

Argentina's powerful unions are expected to object strongly to the programme and to

demand increases in both the wage and economic growth targets.

The programme includes targets of an average 12.6 per cent increase in exports for each of the next five years and boosting Argentina's trade surplus from \$4 billion to \$6 billion by 1989, using an exchange rate for the peso that would make Argentine products competitive on world markets.

Prince goes back to Falklands

Prince Andrew is going back to the Falkland Islands where he served as a helicopter pilot in the 1982 war with Argentina.

On Monday two frigates will sail from Britain to relieve three ships at present patrolling the seas around the Falkland Islands. The Prince will be on board one of the frigates, HMS Brazen.

For most of the period since the conflict there have been four frigates or destroyers and at least one submarine around the Falklands. The number of frigates was reduced by one during the course of last year, and the decision to cut the number to two seems to have been taken just before Christmas.

Daily Mail
10.9.85

The island that missed the boat



Robert Fox 'picks up' a penguin's point of view

WHEN the shooting stopped, a chill calm of official indifference settled again over the Falklands and Britain's slice of the Antarctic.

The only real enterprise has been by the fishing fleets of various nations — including Poland, Russia and Spain — who moved in when the Argentines were forced back into port.

The colony, trying to make a living from wool and postage stamps, is in one of the world's richest fishing grounds. But little is done to cash in on the silver shoals.

Robert Fox, BBC Radio News journalist, went to the Falklands in

ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC by Robert Fox (BBC, £12.95).

May, 1982, to report on the war, and recently returned to look at all our Antarctic outposts.

His report is as cool as the climate. Millions have been poured in by British taxpayers — but, without a thriving farming (or fishing) community, the garrison forms a hollow ring of hardware.

The future of the islands is increasingly blurred.

WILLY NEULANDS

The Standard
8.1.85

Falklands takeover

HAVING bobbed about in gondolas, lurched enough times up and down the Eiffel Tower and ingested reasonable quantities of steak and kidney pudding, the American tourist is looking for something different. The Falkland Islanders are expecting a wave of wealthy Yanks when the new airport opens in May.

Activities that the Islands' Development Corporation are busily attempting to lay on include ornithological expeditions, safaris of various kinds, possibly the odd cruise and, of course, trout fishing. The rivers, I am told, are bursting with fat sea trout desperate for any modestly enticing bait.

There is still some doubt about the British. It remains an important part of the Development Corporation's plan to persuade Britons to holiday in the Falklands and thus support the flagging economy. Enthusiasm among tour operators here seems to be at a low pitch, however, and the Falkland Islands representative in London is not expecting a large market here. "We depend on the birds and the trout to lure people over," he tells me mysteriously.

Subscriptions to Argentine bank loan reach 94%

BY PETER MONTAGNON, EUROMARKETS CORRESPONDENT

SUBSCRIPTIONS to Argentina's new \$4.2bn (£3.6bn) loan from commercial bank creditors have crept up to about 94 per cent of the total required, an increase of about 2 per cent in the past week.

Bankers say that the pace of the incoming subscriptions has, however, slowed since the International Monetary Fund agreed 10 days ago to release its \$1.7bn credit facility to President Raul Alfonsin's government.

Leading creditors are battling to draw in subscriptions from smaller banks who have held out against making fresh loans and remain particularly disappointed by the response from Spanish banks which were expected to contribute about \$85m.

Senior Argentine officials are expected to visit Spain within the next two weeks to drum up additional support. The reluctance of Spanish banks to join the loan is in keeping with their general caution towards rescheduling exercises, but has come as a disappointment because of Spain's close links with the democratic government in Argentina.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for Argentina to present a request to the Paris Club next Tuesday for a rescheduling of about \$1.8bn.

Following its IMF agreement, Argentina is expected to ask its official creditors for an exceptionally long maturity on this rescheduling.



Mount Pleasant Airfield, a staggering feat of construction, is nearly finished. In the last of a series, RODNEY TYLER reports from the South Atlantic on an even more daunting challenge facing the islands – how to create a viable economy where none existed before

Now the fight is for survival

Just over a year ago a bulldozer breasted the rise seven miles inland from East Cove in the Falklands, and the men who were to build Mount Pleasant Airfield (MPA), the hub of the islands' future defence, saw for the first time where they were going to do it. It is now nearly finished.

The scale of the achievement is staggering. Large sections of the main runway – 8,500 feet long and capable of handling the largest international jets – only need the final topcoat of Tarmac. Eight million tons of soil, rock and surfacing material have been removed to create it in just 12 months.

A power station capable of handling the needs of a town of 10,000 people has been built since April; the hangar, large enough to house a Tri-Star, since June. The kitchen, dining, recreational and bar facilities for the 2,000 construction workers took a mere six weeks. Their living accommodation only slightly longer.

A small 1,500-ft runway for the local island-hopper air service took two and a half days to complete, and the road through to Stanley 30 miles away will be open next month.

"If this had been attempted in the UK it would have taken at least five years", says Maurice Chamming, regional director of the Property Services Agency which is managing the project. Contrary to speculation, the development is on schedule for the first plane to land for tests on April 15, and the inaugural Tri-Star flight from the UK will be in May.

What makes the achievement even more remarkable are the logistics of planning and executing it as an entirely self-contained operation at 8,000 miles distance. When the 16,000-ton Merchant Providence tied up at East Cove on October 28, 1983 – seven miles away from the site where the MPA was to be built – the first item it winched over the side was a bulldozer, which first made space for a second one, then together they made a path up the slope from the shore, cleared a space there for the Portakabins which were to be assembled as homes for the first 100 men, then started building the jetty so materials could be unloaded.

"Whatever we did we had to bring in the materials to do it with. There was literally nothing and nobody here," said Chamming. "We had to bring in the men, the machines, the food and the housing – everything."

In seven weeks the road to the site itself was completed and the men and machinery – four

of the former to every one of the latter – could start work. To wander round the site is to be no less than amazed at what has been achieved – a testament as much to the skills of the Laing/Mowlem/Amey consortium as to the men themselves who have worked, as their predecessors yomped, through a Falklands winter – six, often seven days a week.

"We have the equivalent of three army battalions of men here," Chamming adds. "All of them are away from home, with nothing like military discipline behind them and nowhere else to go but the site. It is amazing that we have had so little trouble and got so much willing work out of them. Some days in the winter they worked on in blinding snow with the wind bringing the chill factor down to minus 30 degrees."

If, as is quite possible, Mrs Thatcher decides to open the airport herself – then she will feel justifiably proud of it. For

she will be able to confound her critics who said it could never be done.

To those who said it should never have been done, and that £359 million was too expensive, she can now declare that in three short years the Falklands have gone from being invasion prone, through invasion resistant to invasion proof.

The garrison required to defend them can now be allowed to shrink to a more financially acceptable level of just over 2,000. The runway, with its Tri-Star capacity, is designed with the Army's new 5th Air Portable Brigade in mind. Indeed it is no coincidence that its first brigadier will be Robert Corbett, who is at present Chief-of-Staff in the Falklands.

With arms and supplies pre-stocked on the site and Chinooks waiting, four Tri-Stars will be able to take two battalions from Britain and deploy them in the Falklands in less than 24 hours.

The airfield is by no means the only remarkable achievement in the second battle of the Falklands – the initial, urgent, process of making the place at least temporarily invasion re-

sistant bred two other examples of technological lateral thinking, for each of which there is now predicted to be a world market.

After June, 1982, it became clear that Port Stanley, with its population of only 800, was no place – even in the short term – to have 3,000 men billeted, nor could its jetty handle the quantity of freight required to feed, clothe and supply them, and commence the fortressing of the Falklands.

Using as a base the massive North Sea oil rig barges – each almost the size of a football field – the first development was to build four and five-storey blocks of flats out of containers on three of them. One even has squash courts and a swimming pool in the "basement" and a fully equipped gymnasium in the "roof".

The second development, similarly portable and similarly built on a base of the barges – six of them – was a full size port and storage area capable of handling three ships at a time. By cutting the turnaround time from 21 days to as many hours per ship, the £25 million development is thought to have paid for itself already.

These facilities, on the outskirts of Stanley, will be used less and less as the garrison consolidates in its new home at Mount Pleasant, 30 miles away, from April. The MPA is designed to have two other roles in the long term future of the islands.

The first is to act as a sort of reverse Trojan Horse to prevent any future British government cutting back on its military commitment to the islands in one of those sporadic "necessary" defence cuts without it also abandoning at the same time any political pretence of a desire to hold on to them.

For so well equipped will the fortress be, that should it again fall into an invader's hands, no task force, however determined, would be able to get it back. Mrs Thatcher's legacy in respect of the Falklands is that from now on whoever holds them can do so, with the minimum required garrison no matter who or how vigorous the assault.



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the 8,500-acre site and its facilities for commercial use. Not only is an expansion of trade and tourism expected, but also the exploration of local and Antarctic oil and minerals.

The third battle of the Falklands is to drastically boost the economy. Normal, it will never be again. For normal was a one-item economy (sheep) almost entirely owned by a handful of absentee landlords. Much of the country was owned by the Falkland Islands Company (now owned by Coalite) who had, particularly since the fall in wool prices, earned a reputation for taking more out of the country than they put in. "The whole place had suffered benign neglect for years," says Simon Armstrong of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

By no stretch of the imagination could that be said now. But I fear it may be too late, the economy too far gone, for this most crucial of battles to be won. However, Armstrong, brought in to run the FIDC from the highly successful Highlands and Islands of Scotland prototype, is not short on optimism: "We now have to catch up on every front. It is a massive task and we have only very limited resources - £4 million over the next two and a half years - but I am sure we can do it", he says.

The MPA will be the fulcrum of much he will achieve. He anticipates a reasonable growth in tourism - both for the wildlife of the islands themselves and as a staging post and take-off point for tours of the Antarctic.

But tourism requires hotel space. There is none - apart from the soon-to-be-expanded Upland Goose in Stanley - nor is there the labour to build it. And anyway, will enough people want to pay thousands to see the wildlife of the Falklands to make the necessary development worthwhile?

Similarly with fishing. The islanders have never exploited - hardly even for their own consumption - the plentiful supplies around their coast. A trawler is now researching exactly what fish are where - with a view to developing an industry with markets not only at home but on the restaurant tables of the Northern Hemisphere.

Farther out, Russian and Polish trawlers catch millions of tons of fish a year from within a 200-mile radius of the islands. Some islanders say they should be stopped and an indigenous industry set up to exploit these vast reserves. But who is to enforce the ban? Who is to man the boats? Who is to pay for them? Where are they to live?

It will take a miracle to turn the economy round. Mr Armstrong sees hope in small beginnings - the major land-owning monopolies are slowly giving ground. Smaller farming holdings are springing up.

"We are financing up to 50 per cent of any business we think worthy of either establishment or expansion", he says. "That includes, for example, a taxi business in Stanley, a dairy, an agricultural co-op and a sheepskin processing plant."

It will take a miracle to turn the economy round. There is hope - major landowning monopolies are giving ground



Some parcels of land of a mere 50 acres have been sold off around the MPA. A firm specializing in hydroponics is discussing a project which could feed 2,500 men with a small salad each day. (At present all salad materials come from the UK and you can tell the newcomers by the way they eat their paté and leave the lettuce.) Most important of all, people want to settle in the Falklands.

The population has increased by a net 100 since 1982. Says Sir Rex Hunt: "Thirty-nine of those are islanders returning. The rest are newcomers - some of them have served here in the forces and decided they want to stay here and live."

But the population will have to increase a lot more and with a lot more women of childbearing age if the place is to become viable. Armstrong believes there will have to be about three times more people in the next 10 years. It will have to become sizable enough to support the sort of service industries that even a tiny Scottish village would regard nowadays as commonplace.

Nowhere is this last and, in many ways the real battle of the Falklands, being contested more strongly than at Fox Bay West on West Falkland. The trawler is based there as is the island's first wool processing plant.

A year ago the population was a mere seven. Now it is 30. I spent a day with Richard and Griselda Cockwell, who are setting up the wool mill. They are warm, generous people determined to make a go of their £100,000 project. They have 35 years between them on the islands and are keenly aware - as is their bank manager - of the risks.

But as Richard pointed out, it is folly for a country to be knee

deep in wool, where soldiers buy 5,000 sweaters a year at £10 each with the British Forces Falkland Islands emblem on them - and every one is made in Scotland.

"We have to, we must, turn that round. Or there is no hope", said Richard.

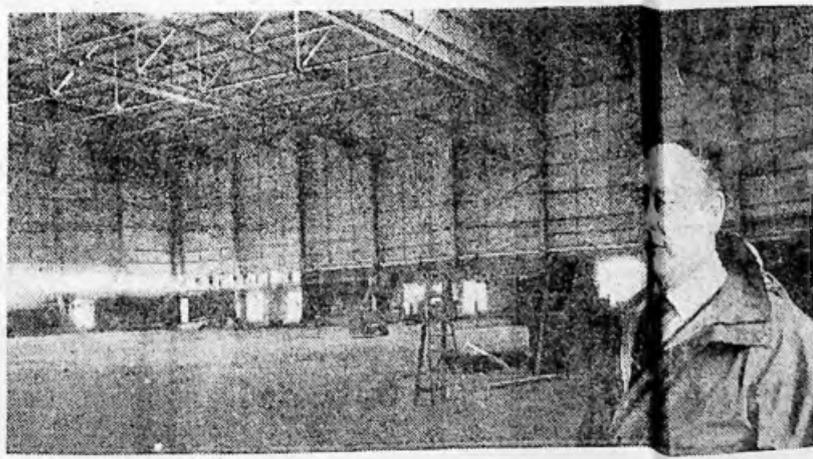
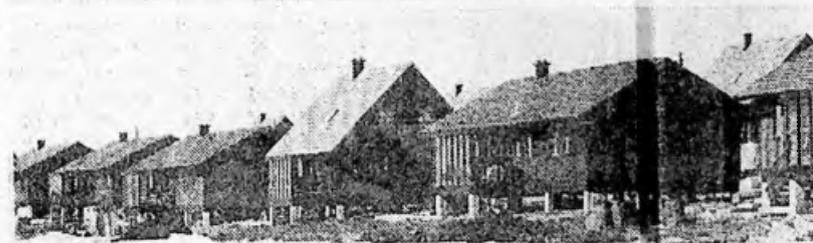
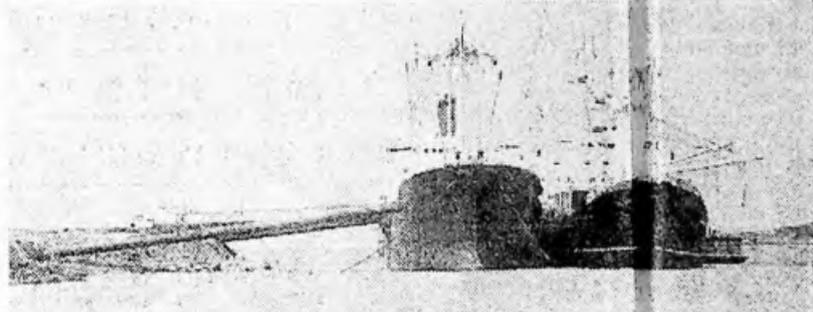
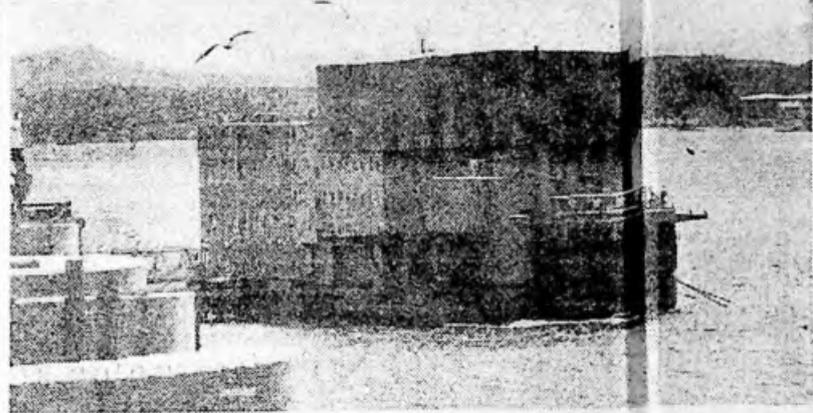
"We have to create the wealth here and the jobs here. This country was financially independent until 1981. We want it to be that way again - except for the military presence which we could never pay for. We can't go on either not exploiting our natural resources properly or exporting the raw materials and letting someone else make the profits out of developing them."

When I returned to Stanley and went to buy a toy penguin for my daughter, I found that they too are all made in the UK. That is what is wrong with the Falklands economy and one can only hope that Simon Armstrong and the rest are not too late to put it right. Because if they are, all the rest of it will have been a total waste.

TOMORROW

Profile of Mark Elder music director of the English National Opera

SPECTRUM



LEFT: Richard and Griselda Cockwell in the mill where they aim to make the first Falklands woollens. RIGHT (top to bottom): Floating homes for the troops; the Merchant Providence at East Cove; Jeremy Moore Avenue; Maurice Channing in the Mount Pleasant Airfield hangar



Trouble is feared when Falkland Islanders and "outsiders" meet for the first time at the traditional sports next month. In part two of a series **RODNEY TYLER** reports from the islands on how such fundamental changes are being welcomed and resented

Facing the chill wind of change

This week two British country policemen, Constables Mark Bullock of Hempsted, Gloucestershire, and Steve Barrett, of Kessingland, Suffolk, will set out from Port Stanley to Fitzroy Settlement some 20 miles away to conduct a reconnaissance unique in the history of the Falkland Islands.

One reason they volunteered for the six-month tour of duty in the South Atlantic was to get away from the violence of the picket lines. It is ironic that they should be visiting the tiny settlement of 30 or so people in order to work out how to prevent what could be the islands' first serious bout of civil disturbance.

The East Falkland Camp Sports is a traditionally peaceful two-day gathering of 200 or 300 islanders who race their horses, hold gymkhanas, gossip, get drunk and allow their children a chance to play together. But what makes this year's event different is the presence and, for the first time, accessibility of anything up to 6,000 outsiders.

The two policemen will work out how to defuse this potentially explosive mix: there are 2,000 cooped-up construction workers from the new airport site 10 miles away, and 4,000 soldiers equally deprived of such civilising influences as wives and families who wish to attend next month what is essentially a domestic occasion for the islanders marking the end of the South Atlantic summer.

On the airport site itself the men are "policed", according to the Property Services Agency director Maurice Chamming, by the simple threat that anyone who throws a punch is sent home - losing most, if not all, of the £1,000 or more a month he has earned. "Security guards are told not to stop fights," he says.

"All they have to do is take names." The fear on this occasion, however, is that away from the site the men might be tempted to cut lose.

The police plan is to do it with a mixture of rapidly acquired local knowledge and good humoured common sense. But the need for a reconnaissance such as theirs is happening. The conflict which ended on June 15, 1982, did not so much close a period of violent upheaval as begin a time of profound change in the Falklands.

To some islanders most aspects of that change are unwelcome; to most they are seen as inevitable. A few welcome them wholeheartedly.

Next month's East Falkland Camp Sports at Fitzroy are a perfect example of the many, many ways in which island life will never be the same again - if only for the fact that these sports will need policing because the settlement will by then lie on a newly-completed road linking the islands, nearly completed new airport with the capital Port Stanley.

The fear is that the clash of cultures at this meeting, fuelled by the festive spirit, could well lead to a clash of fists.

"Nobody bothers about a happy drunk", says Chief Superintendent Bill Richardson, who has ordered the reconnaissance after one minor incident last year. "It's the

They believe their only friends are Sir Rex Hunt and Mrs Thatcher

stropy ones that worry you - especially if there are a lot of them and they are all strangers. People feel anxious if the place suddenly fills up with a lot of strangers. Our presence will help put their minds at rest.

"Now that they can get there, soldiers are bound to want to go from Stanley and men from the airport site. It could get out of control, that's why the boys will be going. It's a sign of the times."

Until now there have been no

roads outside Stanley, and no airport other than the unsatisfactory strip on the edge of the town. The islands' whole economy has been locked in an early 20th-century time warp. The half of the population who lived outside Stanley existed on mail order and what they made or did for themselves - as curious to the outsider in their own way as sepia shots of early settlers in the Wild West. Those who lived in the big city (population 800) did indeed have shops and pubs, even an hotel, but no cobbler, dry cleaners, bakers, hairdressers, photography shops or many of the other high street regulars.

What is more, those luxuries were not a day away, or even a week away, as they would be in the Highlands or Islands of Scotland, with which the Falklands are most often compared. They were a month or more distant - and in another hemisphere.

The battle for the Falklands was the physical repossession of the islands. But two more battles have started in the islands since 1982 - each a direct consequence of the political decision to go to war and each just as stirring as that original tussle.

The second battle - the military struggle to establish a secure garrison on the islands - is nearly over. But the third, the economic struggle to save the islands' economy from total collapse, is only just beginning.

These second and third battles have to be won too. It

would have been as little use retaking the islands if they were immediately left open again to Argentinian invasion, as it would be if there was nothing there worth the re-taking in five years' time anyway. And that was precisely the situation found by Lord Shackleton in the aftermath of victory.

His report talked of the "unacceptability" of an island with a population down to 1,000 (which was shrinking steadily) being defended by 3,000 or more soldiers and "depending economically on its income from postage stamps."

But the cost of saving, securing and making sound the islands has already run to more than £1 million per head of the 1,800 population, and it is not just those on the left who have their doubts: many who wholeheartedly supported the original task force now have them too. Did we parry in haste, only to repent at leisure?

The view of the Falklands as a lump of useless rock, not worth fighting for, and the islanders as equally lumpen and worthless in the long term historical context, is one being carefully shepherded as a by-product of the Dalyell anti-Belgrano faction.

It is helped by the natural distortion of any place seen from 8,000 miles away. Few people realize, for example, that the Falklands are the size of Wales, or that parts of them are outstandingly beautiful, or that the people of Stanley are as different in their outlook from the people of Fox Bay on West Falkland, as are the people of Cardiff from those of Anglesey.

They are neither unintelligent, untrusting, ungrateful nor intransigent. They are islanders who live alone or in tiny communities - but they do not feel they should be tossed aside at a political whim.

Their isolation is purely physical. For example Hector "Sue" Binney and his wife live 10 miles away from the Fox Bay settlements - he rarely visits even those tiny enclaves more than once a year. His wife has not been there in 10 years. Yet they know everything that is happening on the islands because they talk, more than would two neighbours over a garden fence in suburban London, with everyone within earshot of their two-metre band radios.

And they keep up to date with the world outside through the radio and a constant supply of videos delivered by anyone, Army or otherwise, who passes their way.

The people have a political awareness, albeit sharpened by events of 1982, which you would be unlikely to find in any other random group of 1,800 largely rural folk: an awareness sufficient, for example, for their three spokesmen - John Check, a communications engineer,

and farmers Tony and Tim Blakely - to distinguish themselves at the United Nations.

To outsiders they may appear as intransigent oddities. For, with all their differing shades of opinion, they are absolutely united in their hatred of Argentina and determination to remain as British as the Isle of Wight. From 8,000 miles away, and to ears already gently bent by the Foreign Office's persistent desire to "tidy up" relationships with Argentina, such strong convictions take on a crankiness, which in turn further undermines our reason for fighting the first - let alone the second or third - battles of the Falklands.

6 The future for us is that we stay as we are: firm and steadfast 9

They seem untrusting because they believe they have only two friends: Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner - who it is gently suggested by sources close to the FCO has "gone native" - and the Prime Minister, who will not last forever. And they seem ungrateful because they regard that first battle of the Falklands - and consequently the second and third - as no more than their right as Britons.

Most islanders, more so outside Stanley than in the town, accept that things will never be the same again but

find, much to their irritation, that too often their sadness at the passing of aspects of the way of life which existed before 1982, is misinterpreted as ingratitude for what has happened since.

Sir Rex puts their case succinctly: "The future for us is that we stay as we are - firm and steadfast - and wait for the Argentinians to grow up and realise that the islands never were theirs and they never wanted them in the first place."

"We are all for normal relations between Britain and Argentina, but not for links between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. There is no need for them now and there was no need for them before 1971. Our links are with the UK and we want it to stay that way. When Argentina talks of negotiations they mean the transfer of sovereignty. Any future British Government that decided that would have to impose it on the islanders."

So what has happened since 1982? The good news is that the second, military, battle for the Falklands is on the point of victory in a style as breathtaking in its own way as was the victory two and a half years ago. More cautionary are the prospects in the battle for the islands' economy. It will be a longer and tougher struggle in its own way than either of its two predecessors.

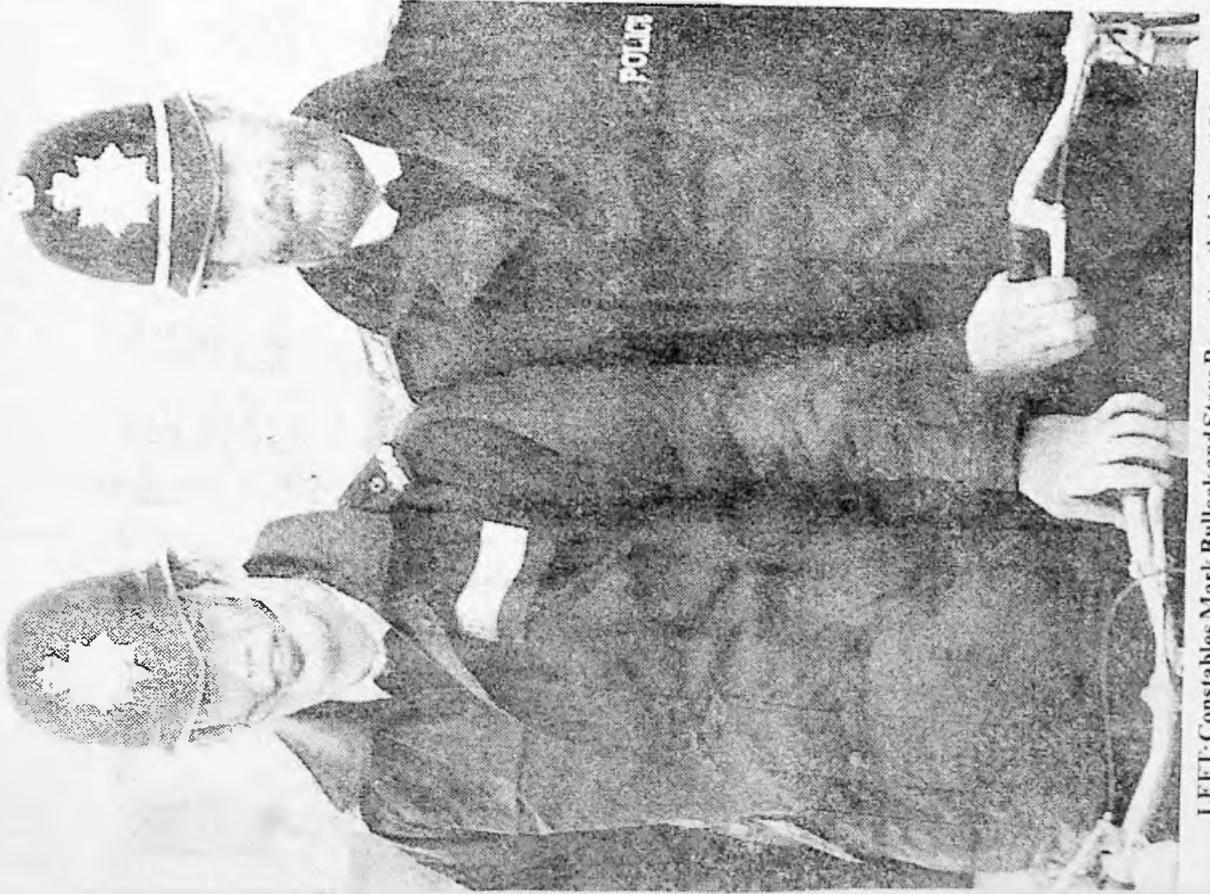
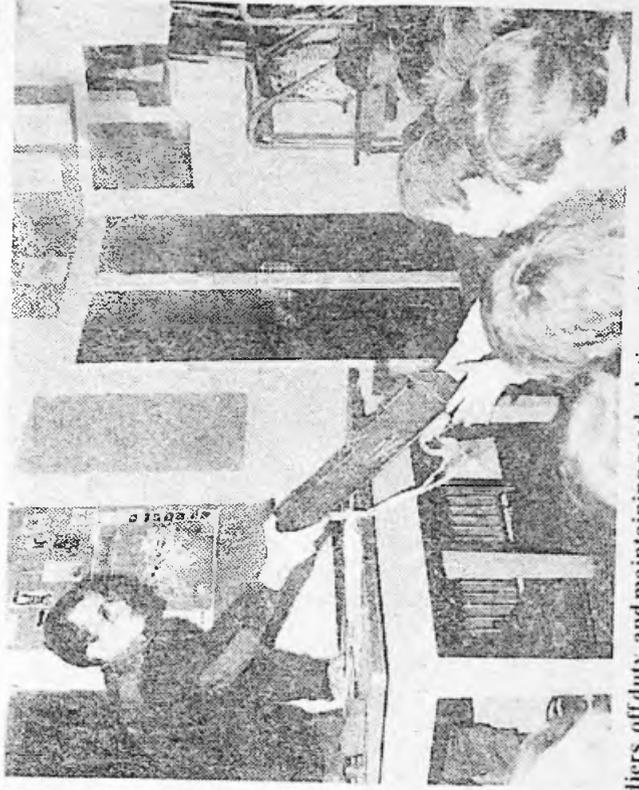
TOMORROW

The triumphs and the economic battle that must be won



The sheep are virtually the only element of traditional Falklands life to remain unaffected by change.

THE TIMES 8/11/85



LEFT: Constables Mark Bullock and Steve Barretton on their beat. RIGHT: Soldiers, off duty, and maintaining good relations with young islanders



Since the Argentinian surrender at Port Stanley in June, 1982, two new battles have been fought for the Falklands. The first was to assure the military security of the islands; the second to secure the long-term future for the islanders. New conflicts emerged, not least between the needs and demands of the civilians and the military. At no time was that conflict brought into sharper contrast than in the aftermath of the fire at the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Port Stanley last April. In the first of a three-part series examining the future of the islands, Robert Fox, who reported their recapture for BBC Radio and was in Port Stanley at the time, describes the potentially damaging tensions that still exist.

A tragic blaze that sparked fresh conflict

A hard west wind was blowing that night on April 10, 1984, trying to whip itself into a small gale. At about five o'clock in the morning sirens wailed over Port Stanley and blue lights flashed from jeeps, followed by heavier vehicles, roared through the empty streets.

When I arrived at the King Edward Memorial Hospital most of the roof had fallen in. Blue and orange flames were shooting above the trees, threatening to set fire to the wooden houses behind the hospital. RAF fire-tenders were parked against the part of the hospital still standing, the yellow helmeted crew moving into the wrecked building with professional briskness.

Islanders helped the firemen train hoses on to the flames and wreckage of the old, largely wooden hospital wing. Some of the rescued patients stood on the low wall, shivering in the bright blue blankets wrapped around their shoulders.

Two tugs had moved close to shore to pump water to the fire-tenders. Gen. Keith Spacie, the Military Commissioner, had ordered them to move in as close as possible when he realized the fire was out of control. The general moved quietly among the servicemen while Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, a bustling figure in blue anorak and furry hat, worked with local firemen and hospital staff.

It took most of the morning to establish that eight people had died inside the hospital. All the patients in the military wing had been rescued quickly. Topsy MacPhee, wife of the Fire Superintendent, Pat MacPhee, who was leading the town fire-fighters outside, died in the smoke fumes. Teresa MacGill and her baby daughter Catherine, who had been born a few days before, also died. So too did the civilian nurse on duty, Barbara Chick, from Bristol. Four elderly people - Gladys Fleurut, Mary Smith, Mabel Nielsen and Fred Colman, who was confined to his wheelchair - perished.

Some of their bodies were found close to the doors; they had nearly succeeded in escaping. One of the last to be rescued was Monsignor Daniel Spraggon, the Catholic priest. He had reached a window and could breathe fresh air, and though his body was burnt, his head was midway between the heavy smoke clinging to the ceiling and the poisonous fumes rising from the floor.

As the flames whipped through the outhouses, the old paint shop exploded throwing sparks and a fireball into the dawn sky. Minutes later the wind dropped and the firemen began hosing down the smouldering ruins and putting out the last few flames in the twisted wrecks of beds, furniture and surgical equipment.

Tony Chater, who runs a souvenir and bookshop in

6 The fire was more than a domestic tragedy... it was symbolic of the casual way the islands had been administered for years 9

Stanley, was one of the first to arrive as the fire began to grip the building. He told me: "The military chaps got here very quickly; the civilian fire-fighting force were here very quickly as well, but they had a lot of trouble with their water pumps, and it took a long time before we could really get things rolling.

"Sir Rex Hunt was carrying the dead out on stretchers and hauling hoses. He was leading from the front, and working very hard."

The hospital, much of it wooden and needing repair, had been a topic of debate well before the Argentine occupation in April, 1982. The already creaking structure was put under extra strain as it was shared between civilian and military medical teams for 18 months.

Medical provision for the island community and the garrison had been debated endlessly in the Falklands and in Whitehall since June, 1982. It was a contentious item which

The Times 7.1.85

moved between the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), the Ministry of Defence, the Falklands Command and the Falklands Government like a ball bounced round a tennis court.

This is why the fire must be seen as something more than the terrible domestic tragedy. The way welfare and health care policy has been handled has been a symptom of the disjointed and sometimes casual manner in which much public administration of the islands has been conducted for years.

Many of the fire-fighters must have felt badly let down by their equipment. Two of the fire pumps on the tenders did not work at first, and pressure in one of the hydrants was too low; this was confirmed by the Commission of Inquiry. Inside the hospital a set of fire doors had not been fixed in the old wing, and fire-hose reels had not been connected.

A few days before I had visited the old building, which always had a tired aspect despite valiant efforts to tart it up with the odd lick of paint. Wires trailed from power sockets in the main staff restroom. By chance, on the way out, I noticed labels with red print on the fire hoses, saying they should not be used as they were not connected. Other visitors had noticed the same thing.

In previous months half a dozen electrical fires had broken out in Stanley. The week before the hospital burnt down, a peat fire had raged on Golding Island and civilian and military volunteers had to be flown out from Port Stanley. The weekend before, a cottage had burnt down at Goose Green, killing Henry Smith, a shepherd visiting from Teal Inlet. In 1983 the number of births had exceeded the number of deaths in the islands for the first time in many years; the population had increased by nine. In the 74 days of the Argentine occupation and fighting, three civilians had died; now three times as many lives had been lost in four days.

The old hospital had been designed to take 27 patients. After June, 1982, the military presence had meant more than 40 patients might stay there overnight. At times, relations between the civilian staff and the military medical team had become tense; at best the atmosphere had been coolly cordial, at worst distinctly acid.

Very possibly the military doctors and nurses found the free-wheeling and slightly anarchic ways of Falklands social commerce hard to take, as the senior men at least were used to deference from the juniors in rank and qualifications. Many were brilliant specialists of consultant level and above.

The islands' doctors, on the other hand, felt they were being treated as junior housemen or ordinary GPs with a small role in the specialist work of modern hospital life. The islands' doctors generally have to have a specialist qualification before they are accepted; Dr Alison Bleaney, for example, was first taken on as a generalist and anaesthetist.

Disagreement between civilian and military doctors has led to a curious clash of will by Christmas, 1983. Dr Bleaney's team felt it was necessary to get a supply of a drug known as Anti-D as quickly as possible as a precaution against the "blue baby syndrome". The military argued that it was unnecessary to take such a precaution. The argument was carried to the highest level, with Sir Rex Hunt insisting that Gen. Spacie did something quickly to get the drug to Port Stanley. Shortly before Christmas a Hercules aircraft was dispatched to Ascension to fetch the supplies. The civilian doctors and the local administration were irritated by the implication that the needs of an islander were not as important as those of a serviceman.

The day after the fire, the town was beginning to feel the full impact of the shock. Many were silent and subdued, others angry. In the afternoon we helped Dr Bleaney and her team fetch the bodies for preparation for burial. The islands have no full-time undertaker and this

function is normally carried out by the Public Works Department (PWD). The military medical team were quiet and thorough as they helped prepare the bodies so the doctor and nurse could lay them out for their coffins.

At the end of May, the Commission of Inquiry into the fire held three days of public hearings in Port Stanley, and heard evidence for 47 witnesses. The chairman was a prominent Queen's Counsel, David Calcutt, and the other members were a senior naval officer, Capt. Martin Bird, RN, a local farmer, Eric Goss, who was also the Falklands Islands Company's Manager at North Arm, and Mrs Jan Check, a school-teacher. The report was published last July.

The commission had been asked to look into six aspects of the disaster: the cause of the fire, the way it was fought, fire risk at the hospital and on the islands as a whole, fire precautions at the hospital, and whether there was enough money to pay for such measures and whether they were carried out. The sixth area of investigation was defined as "such other matters as the commission may consider to be relevant".

The report is a 25-page green

booklet with six chapters. It concludes that the fire-fighting was carried out bravely and well, within the constraints of the circumstances. It praises the courage of the town fire-fighters and has particularly warm commendation for the efficiency, speed and skill of the RAF fire-fighters from the airfield at Stanley.

There was a ten-minute delay in sounding the fire sirens because of an antiquated procedure at the telephone exchange, which has now been remedied.

The work of L-Cpl Shorters, on duty in the hospital that night, is given prominence for the way he raised the alarm, sent for help and rescued patients. Other military personnel, however, did not seem to have been made fully aware of the fire drill procedures.

The report severely criticizes the Public Works Department for not ensuring that the fire hoses were connected and for not securing fire doors in the old wing.

After the hearings there was a curious outburst by the head of the military hospital, Colonel Michael Templer, RAMC. The commission had specifically excluded discussion of reports about the construction of a new hospital, but Colonel Templer decided to go public with his views in a BBC radio interview.

If there were to be a new hospital, said the colonel, it should be built where the military garrison would be barracked at Mount Pleasant airfield. "If you build a hospital for 5,000 to 6,000 people, you are then left with the recurrent expenditure which, if the military do leave, the Falkland Islands Government will have great difficulty in meeting. . . . We do not want to leave the citizens of Stanley with a white elephant they cannot afford."

Colonel Templer's views surprised even the local command. David Taylor, chief executive of the Falkland Islands' Council, went on the local radio to say that he had been reassured by the general that Colonel Templer's view was strictly personal, and that it was still intended to go ahead with plans for a joint civilian-military hospital in Stanley. Despite Mr Taylor's reassurances, it had been known that the local command had favoured an entirely separate hospital at Mount Pleasant and that very senior officers had backed the proposal.

Colonel Templer left the island but some of his views appeared to have hung on in the official thinking of the military and civilian administration. During the Falklands winter of 1984 the doctor hired for the Mount Pleasant construction

camp died of a heart attack. A military GP was assigned to cover his responsibilities, and then it was said that he could not be spared. At this time there were only two civilian doctors on the islands. One was ordered to Mount Pleasant, leaving one to look after the hospital in Stanley, the old people, the flying doctor service, the morning consultations by radio with the outlying settlements.

One of the doctors had been told by a very senior military officer that he did not know how the islands' doctors found enough to do all day. At the time, when the civilian doctors were discovering their resources so badly stretched, the Army apparently had four doctors who could undertake general practice work for the garrison - one was on his way by boat to the small garrison at South Georgia.

Unlike the military doctors, who care for physically fit young servicemen, the civilian doctors have to deal with the old and infirm, the sick and pregnant. And besides covering the health needs of the 1,800

“The most damaging effect of all the bickering is that little of the argument seemed to consider... care of the sick and elderly”

islanders, the fishing fleet of up to 5,000 Poles, Russians, Bulgarians and Spaniards, the two doctors in the islands' medical team were looking after a team of possibly 800 to 1,400 construction men doing dangerous work in the Falklands winter. This was part of a project paid for by the MoD and primarily for use by servicemen.

By the time the report into the hospital fire was published last July, it was far from clear what would replace the old hospital, where and when it would be built, or who would pay for it. A temporary ward system had been set up in the accommodation cabins for the workers on the Brewster houses; medical staff say that the fire doors and precautions for the building cost more than £20,000 and the whole safety installation about £200,000 to build.

The fear expressed by senior government and community members in Stanley is that heavy capital expenditure by the islands' administration will take it into such heavy debt that the Falklands will have to be

run on grant-in-aid and so effectively be controlled by ODA and FO officials in Whitehall, and that this would mark the beginnings of the end of the Falklands community.

At the end of October, 1984, Brian Hitchcox, the ODA architect, returned to Stanley with plans for a new hospital to be shared between the military and civilian doctors and nurses, and to be constructed on the site of the old one at a cost of £6.4 million.

Throughout the English summer and autumn the MoD and ODA had wrangled about sharing the cost, and some military opinion favoured continuing the separate facilities either in Stanley or at Mount Pleasant: a further £1 million was already being spent on military operating theatres and other services at the accommodation near RAF Stanley. The initial cost for the civilian side of the new, smaller, 25-bed hospital was to be put up by the British government through the ODA. Islanders continued to be concerned about the prospects of high recurrent annual expenditure which the new hospital complex might involve.

Initial estimates were that the hospital staff would cost the Falklands Treasury £300,000 annually, and it was made clear to London that the islanders' representatives would only agree to what they thought they could afford to maintain.

The new hospital will not include special accommodation for old people and it is believed there will be the minimum expenditure on equipment: the islands' administration has been told that no more funds will be available and therefore what remains of the walls of the old hospital will have to be used for its replacement.

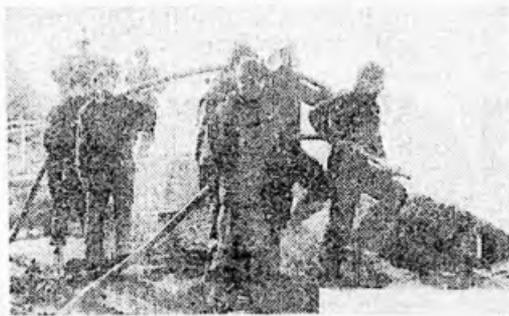
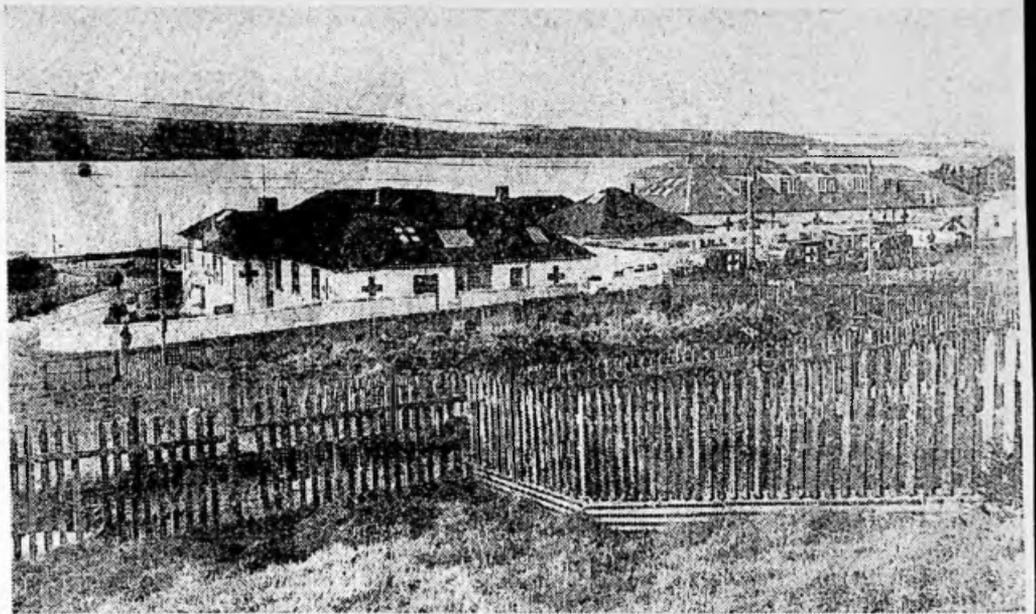
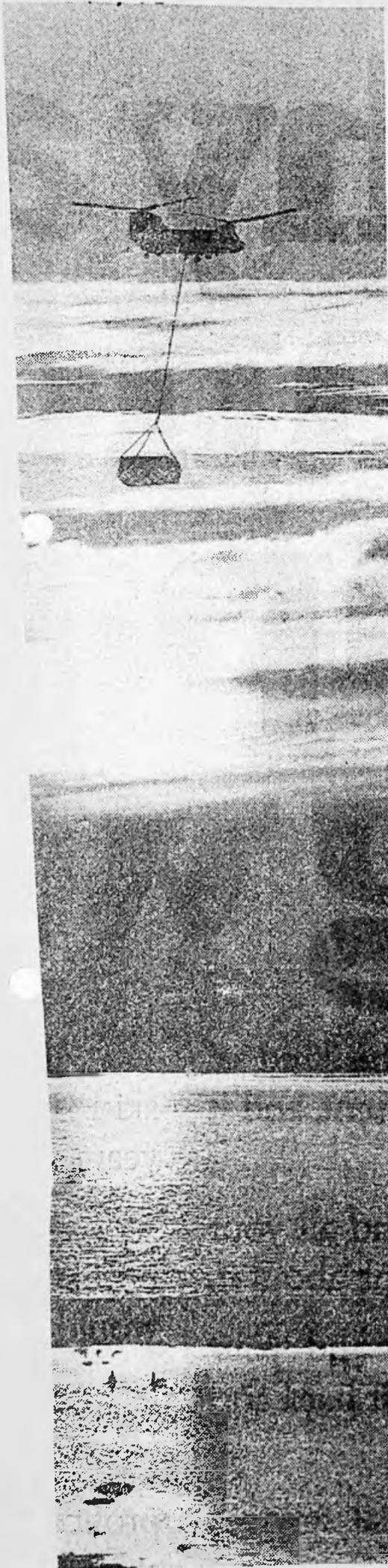
The most damaging effect of the bickering about who was prepared to pay for what in a new hospital in Stanley, and who was prepared to pay for a new full facility at all, was that few of the public and private arguments of the case seemed to consider the provision of adequate care for the elderly and sick as a fundamental of any civilized society.

A society that cannot achieve this, or places a low priority on it, is surely one incapable of supporting itself, and in danger of imploding.

● *Extracted from Antarctica and the South Atlantic by Robert Fox, to be published by the BBC on Thursday at £12.95.*

TOMORROW

Outsiders bring unwelcome change and a clash of cultures



LEFT: A brilliant South Atlantic sunset silhouettes a Chinook helicopter delivering a Portakabin.
ABOVE: The King Edward Memorial Hospital before, during and after the fire devastated it

Airport may lure dollars to Falklands

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley

THE Falklands' £300 million airport, due to be opened in May this year, could bring thousands of rich American tourists flocking to the islands.

Britain, however, will need to persuade the Chilean and Uruguayan Governments to ignore the protests expected from Argentina.

Mr Werner Zehnder, 38, cruise director for Society Expeditions which organises expensive sea cruises to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands, said in Port Stanley that the obvious route for Americans was via Santiago or Montevideo.

Neither country's airlines were "too crazy on the idea, because their so-called 'Big Brother' (Argentina) is close by and watching," he added.

If the political difficulties can be overcome, then the Falklands could look forward to a thriving tourist industry, said Mr Zehnder.

His sea cruises for Americans commence in southern Chilean and Argentine ports, but Ushuaia, the Argentine port is "not very well organised, and is a headache for passengers and tour operators" said the Swiss-born Mr Zehnder.

Information Act needed to improve decision-making

Ministers 'failing to admit error' over Belgrano

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Ministers involved in the Belgrano controversy are accused today, by Dr David Owen, of "a simple failure to admit error, a perverse wish to appear infallible." Dr Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, makes the accusation in an article published in the Freedom of Information Campaign's publication, Secret File.

Civil servants, like any other employee, were not just automatons to do what their political masters wanted, Dr Owen says. "They have the right and indeed the public duty to exercise their conscience on those rare occasions where they are prepared if need be to justify their actions in the wider public interests."

Dr Owen argues that a Freedom of Information Act is essential if Britain's relative economic decline is to be arrested. "The quality of our decision-making at every level of British society simply must improve," he says.

Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, the former Tory Education Secretary, in another article criticises the Government—and by implication Mrs Thatcher above all—for dismissing the growing debate about more access to information as irrelevant. He suggests that section 2 of the Official Secrets Act should be replaced by a statutory right to know.

"The concept of freedom of information is not inconsistent with Conservative philosophy and it should be recognised that it was Conservative ad-

ministrations which introduced freedom of information legislation in such major Commonwealth countries as Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Dr Owen and Mr Carlisle argue that waste, inefficiency and error are more likely to be eradicated by greater openness in central and local government. Greater public understanding of the complexity of decisions would make it easier for people to accept painful choices and harder for "the dogmatists and ideologists to sell their simplistic certainties," according to Dr Owen.

He devotes most of his article to the Official Secrets Act case against Mr Clive Ponting, the senior Ministry of Defence official accused of sending documents about the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell.

The central question in the case, Dr Owen says, relates to the withholding of information by the Government from MPs. Many important details of the sinking of the Belgrano were not corrected, even though they were known to be false. "The amazing feature of the whole affair is, 'why?'"

The Government had a sound military case for authorising the sinking of Argentine vessels, Dr Owen writes. Public opinion even now still supported the case for the sinking, yet the Government had "wrapped themselves up in a tangle of half-truths, evasions and straight lies."

He said that the best explanation was simply the Government's failure to admit error and its desire to appear infallible.

Dr Owen says he did not want to go into detailed aspects of the Ponting case, which will be heard at the Old Bailey on January 28. But he adds that it is hard to see on the available evidence any justification for the decision by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee to hand back to the Ministry of Defence documents about the Belgrano sent to the committee by Mr Dalyell.

That action, Dr Owen says, demonstrates the potential dangers of Parliament being too closely identified with the executive. The first and most important balance to be struck in a democracy was that Parliament was there to control, not buttress, the executive.



Mark Carlisle
— a Tory view

Argentines take firmer line on future of the Falklands

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Government attitudes on the Falklands have hardened as austerity, and the legacy of human rights crimes left behind by the former military regime, threaten trouble on the home front.

After months in which President Raul Alfonsin paid only sporadic, but sometimes harsh, lip-service to Argentina's claim to the islands, the Government has ushered in the new year with two bitter blasts at Britain's reluctance to enter talks.

In a statement marking the 152nd anniversary of Britain's occupation of the islands, the Government complained that Mrs Thatcher was taking actions that would "not lead to the foundations of an understanding."

With official sources hinting

at a diplomatic "offensive" on the Falklands issue this year, the Government said that "recent events in Britain" were making it impossible to get talks started.

That may have been a tardy response to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas pledge that the islanders' wishes would take priority over Argentina's claims.

The second statement blamed London for failure to renew negotiations, and contained some of the harshest criticism voiced by the Government since it took over

In one of several issues now bearing down on the Government, it appears that the trial of Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, who surrendered on South Georgia in the early stages of the 1982 war and is now accused of the kidnapping and attempted murder of a Swed-

ish teenager in the mid-1970s, will be sent back to military justice after all.

The Government is already faced with disillusion about its failure to avoid economic hardship, after a year in which inflation doubled as negotiations dragged on over refinancing its \$48 billion foreign debt.

More than half the total has now been refinanced under agreements with the International Monetary Fund and 320 foreign banks, and new credits should flow into Argentina during the next few months.

But, in the intervening period, the Government may face a concerted rearguard action by an alliance of erstwhile foes on both sides of industry against the budget cuts, tight monetary policies, and other unpopular austerity measures demanded by creditors.

Dalyell told death claim 'unfounded'

by NICK DAVIES

EVEN before detectives have begun investigating suggestions that the peace activist Hilda Murrell was killed by British intelligence, their inquiries have apparently been anticipated by a Home Office denial.

When Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell first made the claim, Home Office Minister Mr Giles Shaw promised he would give it 'full consideration and a comprehensive reply'. Nine days later he told Mr Dalyell in a letter: 'I am now able to state unreservedly that your allegations about the intelligence services being involved are totally without foundation.'

In Shrewsbury, where West Mercia police are running the murder inquiry, Detective Superintendent Barry Maine said Mr Dalyell's claim was still 'on the file'. 'We have an open mind. We have no evidence to support the allegation and we can't begin to look into it until we have seen Mr Dalyell, which we hope to do soon.'

Mr Dalyell, said yesterday: 'This is just typical of the whole Belgrano saga: claims are dismissed before they have been properly considered and then sooner or later, lo and behold, the claims turn out to be true.'

'I think that Giles Shaw has simply gone through his officials to the security service and asked them, and they've said: "There's nothing in it, old boy."

Miss Murrell, 78, was abducted from her home, soon after noon on Wednesday, 21 March, last year. Three days later her body was found in a copse six miles away. She had been punched and stabbed and left to die of exposure.

Although the police favour the theory she was killed by a burglar who also had a sexual motive, Det Supt Maine agrees 'there are a number of anomalies'. 'It is these, coupled with Mr Dalyell's insistence that he has been tipped off by a well-placed source, which have encouraged speculation about the murder.'

From evidence in her house, it seems likely Miss Murrell entered it that Wednesday morning and went up to her bedroom to change, unaware that an intruder was hiding on the ground floor.

The 'burglar' then acted in an extraordinary way. Rather than run out of the house, he chose to abduct her — which also meant he had to steal her car, since he does not appear to have had one of his own.

The 'burglar' stole nothing — small valuables, ornaments, pictures and jewellery were close to hand — and drove off with Miss Murrell. He did not head for open country, only half a mile away, but went in the opposite direction into the middle of Shrewsbury before eventually emerging into the country on the far side of the town.

It seems the man then lost control of the car, struggled with Miss Murrell in a field, beat her and stabbed her, and then ran off. Eleven witnesses have described a man running along a route back into Shrewsbury.

The most mysterious evidence covers the next two days, while Miss Murrell lay dead and undetected. A local

landowner, Mr Ian Scott, went walking through the copse where her body was found early on Thursday afternoon. He says he is positive there was no body there.

An hour after Mr Scott's walk, a traitor driver working in a nearby field saw a man in a big dark car stop on the road, walk across the field to the copse, then return 15 to 20 minutes later and drive off. Later that night, local people say, there were lights moving around in the copse.

At Miss Murrell's home, rain water was found inside a door supposedly closed throughout this period. When the house was finally investigated on Saturday morning, all of Miss Murrell's handbags, old and new, lay open on the kitchen table. It is suggested that, if they had been there when Miss Murrell entered the house on Wednesday, she would not have gone upstairs and started changing.



Artist's impressions of the suspect in the Murrell murder mystery. Despite the contrast, police believe witnesses are describing the same man.

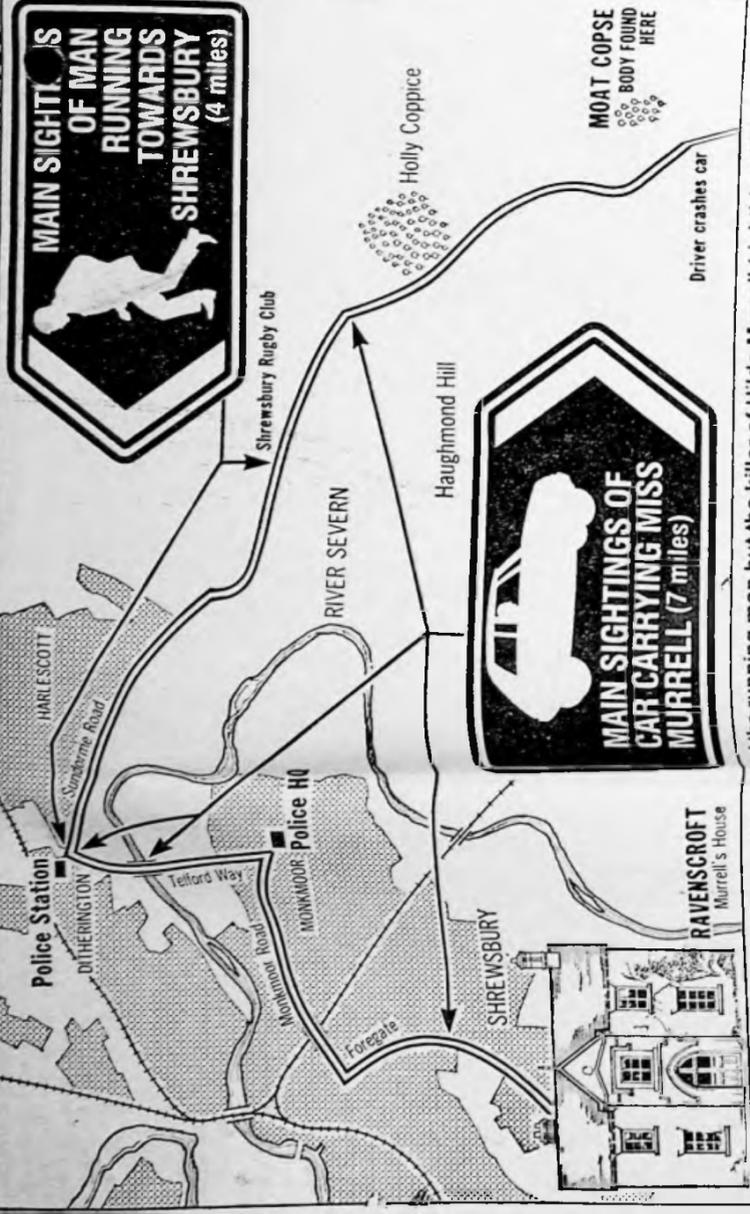


The idea that Miss Murrell might be burgled by British intelligence is not as absurd as some Tory MPs have suggested. She was a 'known associate' of her nephew, Mr Rob Green, whose access to GCHQ signals during the Falklands war had made him one of a number of suspects in an inquiry into leaks ordered by Downing Street.

The security service, MI5, has a sub-section known as AIA, Technical Operations, which specialises in 'clandestine entry'. According to intelligence sources, it is routine for Special Branch officers to conduct such operations in the provinces, although they would usually have colleagues outside a house to warn of the occupier's return.

It is possible, the sources suggest, that the Murrell case was the work of a Special Branch officer who visited the house to make an inquiry, found the door unlocked and went in on his own initiative.

The Conservative MP for Shrewsbury, Mr Derek Conway, hopes to raise the murder in the Commons next week. 'I am concerned that this is undermining confidence in the police and that Mr Dalyell has not produced a shred of evidence,' he said.



More than 100 people saw the car and the running man but the killer of Hilda Murrell (right) is still free

Who killed Hilda Murrell?

ONE REMARKABLE thing about the killer of Hilda Murrell is just how inept he was at covering up his tracks. Even before the attack, the man who remains the chief suspect made himself thoroughly conspicuous by jogging in the early morning through the quiet residential area of Shrewsbury, where she lived, in running shoes and a grey pin-striped suit.

Inside her house he left a catalogue of clues: evidence of a detailed, methodical search, and of a violent struggle on the stairs when, presumably, she disturbed him. He apparently masturbated, and left traces of his semen.

Then, when he abducted her, he left the kitchen light burning and the back door open. In broad daylight he drove her - slumped in the front passenger seat of her own car - through Shrewsbury's heavy lunchtime traffic, and directly past the divisional headquarters of West Mercia police. The car travelled so fast and so erratically that the police were able to trace no fewer than 69 witnesses who remembered seeing it.

Seven miles from her house, on a narrow winding road near the village of Funkington, the car crashed into a ditch, within sight of a farm. Miss Murrell was frog-marched or dragged 400 yards across open fields to a hedge, where she was thrown on her back. Her wide-brimmed hat and her spectacles. She was stabbed repeatedly in the stomach, and, on what was the old March day, left to die of hypothermia. The kitchen knife, which police believe was the murder weapon, was left in the hedgerow for them to find.

Her abandoned car was found by a farmworker within 5 minutes, perhaps while she was still fighting for her life. One hour later, her suspected killer was seen running towards the centre of Shrewsbury. His odd combination of

A huge pit investigation - the biggest in Britain apart from Brighton bomb inquiry - is still going on into the fog nine months ago, of a 78-year-old Shrewsbury sister, Hilda Murrell. Police believe she was the victim of bungled burglary. Others make the sensational claim that she was the victim of a 'state murder', - fixed to either her anti-nuclear activities or to the Brixton affair. This report explains how a killing has become an international cause celebre

Report by **Sue Rosie, Dorothy Wade, Rowena Webster and Nigel Wisler. Research by Sara Walden**

running shocked a suit - with the trousers now wet and stained mud - ensured that at least 48 witnesses said remembered him.

Yet nine months later, despite reconstructions, impressions of public appeals which raised 4,404 lines of inquiry, police have not traced or identified the murderer of Miss Murrell remains unsolved. Why?

HILDA MURRELL was a dedicated anti-nuclear campaigner, a scourge of a freeze on nuclear weapons and vehemently opposed to nuclear power. She died before her death, she applied to give evidence, as a "citizen" to a Sizewell B nuclear power station inquiry, and she was among the final touches to a paper on radioactive waste management which she attacked government policy. Her nephew, 46-year-old Bob Green, sympathised with her views. On March 24, the day her body was found, he telephoned Shrewsbury police from his home in Dorset and said: "I think you should be aware my aunt has been writing a paper against nuclear power, and she may have made enemies."

But his suspicions went much further than that. "Right from the start I suspected a state crime. I thought that thugs

There was also a series of strange acts and contradictory statements by the police. For example, they did not begin the search for Miss Murrell until three days after her abandoned car had been reported. They claimed at first that her house had been ransacked, and that she had been sexually assaulted, neither of which was true.

So, the theory developed that Miss Murrell's killer was no bungling burglar - as the police insisted - but some agent of the state who had been disturbed while searching her house, for documents related to her anti-nuclear work. He had abducted her in panic, and then been forced to kill her when she tried to escape.

Thus, the police investigation was soon seen as a cover-up, designed to protect the security services. This notion of massive conspiracy by the state was further fuelled when the local press failed to publish anything about the "nuclear link" to her murder. Even the fact that an obituary in The Times omitted mention of Miss Murrell's anti-nuclear activities took on a sinister meaning.

Joan Tate saw striking parallels with the plot of a novel she had read called The Waste Remains. "It was based on an industrial accident in a Ministry of Defence establishment; two men died and they tried to cover it up. It was just like here."

Tate got in touch with the author, Judith Cook, in September and she agreed to investigate. In November a two page article appeared in the weekly magazine, the New Statesman under the headline, "The Death of Miss Murrell; Judith Cook asks whether there was a political motive".

The article, which presented the evidence for the supposed nuclear link was confusing and sloppy: dates were wrong and Shrewsbury was called Salisbury. It might have been dismissed as a piece of left-



Two police artist's impressions of the running man



providing information, not giving orders," he said. In fact, he says he was not even on watch until after the Belgrano was torpedoed.

He also refutes Dalyell's suggestion that he left the navy because he was unhappy about certain aspects of the Falklands war. He says he left the service because his career prospects were not good, and therefore a cover-up, it is a cosmetic exercise of considerable proportions. More than a fifth of Shrewsbury's population has been interviewed, as well as 8,000 other people throughout Britain. More than 2,200 statements have been taken, nearly 500 suspects have been interviewed and eliminated, and the search goes on for another 500. Witnesses have been hypnotised to prompt their memories, and the American FBI is called in to provide one of its specialities, a Criminal Personality Profile based on the available evidence.

The FBI's profile predicts that the killer is white, in his 30s, a loner, an habitué of pubs, and probably a local unskilled worker. That fits the police's firmly-held theory that he is not an intelligent officer - an idea they scoff at but a burglar.

Even so the murder of Hilda Murrell remains a strange mystery. As Detective Superintendent Barrie Maynard, who is leading the inquiry, admits: "This doesn't follow the accepted pattern of murder cases; not in my experience as a policeman."

Green: 'state murder'

money or nuclear information, but were checking the house to see if there were any Belgrano-related documents of Commander Green in the home of his aunt. Things went disastrously wrong. They had no intention of injuring, let alone of killing, a 78-year-old ex-rose grower. Yet being the lady she was, and in her home, Hilda Murrell fought and was severely injured. She was then killed or left to die from hypothermia and the cover-up had to begin, because I am informed that the searchers were men of the British intelligence."

At least part of Dalyell's information is certainly not reliable. Green denies that he sent the signal to torpedo the Belgrano, stressing that operations signalling and intelligence are separate jobs. "I was

who resigned his commission from the navy after the Falklands war, had become a suspect in the inquiry into leaks of secret information to Dalyell about the Belgrano, instigated by the prime minister three months before Hilda Murrell's death.

Eventually Dalyell discovered, from what he described as a "reliable source" that the security services had believed Green might have stolen copies of documents and "raw signals" that incriminated Mrs Thatcher, and had passed them on to his aunt for safe-keeping.

As Dalyell told the House: "I am informed that the intruders were not alter



of nuclear information, but were checking the house to see if there were any Belgrano-related documents of Commander Green in the home of his aunt. Things went disastrously wrong. They had no intention of injuring, let alone of killing, a 78-year-old ex-rose grower. Yet being the lady she was, and in her home, Hilda Murrell fought and was severely injured. She was then killed or left to die from hypothermia and the cover-up had to begin, because I am informed that the searchers were men of the British intelligence."

For Dalyell - who has tirelessly campaigned to prove that the Belgrano was sunk while she was returning to port, deliberately to scupper any prospect of peace negotiations - this fact provided a real explanation for the murder. He made more inquiries and discovered that Green,

Belgrano codes cracked

by DAVID LEIGH

FOUR signals intercepted by Cheltenham GCHQ about the movements of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano, support the view that it posed no threat to the British Task Force off the Falklands when the order was given to sink it.

The four Argentine signals, intercepted by airborne monitors in the South Atlantic and relayed to Cheltenham for decoding, were:—

● An order to the Belgrano, late on 29 April 1982, to sail on patrol from the Argentine coast past the Falklands to a set point and then return.

● An order on 1 May at 7.55 p.m. (London time) for two other elements of the Argentine fleet, the northern and central groups, to sail out and attack the British Task Force.

● The countermanding of this order within four hours, at seven minutes past midnight.

● An order confirming that the central and northern groups, were to be recalled to safe waters. This was in GCHQ's hands soon after 5.19 a.m. on 2 May.

These signals show that the Belgrano was not engaged in the Argentine 'pincer movement' about which Navy chiefs claimed to have received intelligence. They also show that even the 'pincer movement,' involving the two northern groups, had been called off by dawn on Sunday, 2 May, the day War Cabinet members met at Chequers and accepted the urgent recommendation of Admiral Lewin, Chief of Defence Staff, that the Belgrano be sunk.

The GCHQ disclosures, reported last week and confirmed by *The Observer*, make clear for the first time why London's order to sink the Belgrano was so puzzling that it had to be sent three times to the British submarine Conqueror.

The first order was sent at approximately 2 p.m., but Captain Wreford-Brown did not acknowledge receipt. The order was repeated automatically two hours later, but Captain Wreford-Brown sent a signal in return, ensuring that London was notified of the exact details of the Belgrano's new course homewards.

It was only on the third automatic repeat of the order, at 6 p.m., that the captain acknowledged it and torpedoed the cruiser, killing 368 men on board.

The intercepted Argentine signals were decoded and telexed at the time directly to Navy HQ at Northwood and to Mrs Thatcher's office at Chequers.

Argentina hardens Falklands stance

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

Argentina's accusation that Britain is aggravating tension in the South Atlantic over the Falkland Islands appears to be in line with a tougher stance adopted by the Argentinians in the wake of Mrs Thatcher's Christmas broadcast to the Falklands.

Mrs Thatcher's promise to the islanders that their wishes would always come before Argentina's claim to sovereignty took Argentine diplomats by surprise and prompted the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, to issue a harshly worded reply accusing her of arrogance.

The Foreign Ministry followed that up on Thursday with a communiqué marking the 152nd anniversary of Britain's seizure of the islands, charging that "recent public developments show that the British Government is responsible for events which are not conducive to . . . the necessary negotiations".

The Argentinian document also expressed concern over what it said was Britain's "maintenance and aggravation of tension in the South Atlantic" and said Argentina "hopes that the United Kingdom will eventually act in accordance with the United Nations Charter . . . so that negotiations to resolve the (Falklands) dispute can begin as soon as possible".

Also indicative of a harsher Argentinian line on the Falklands was the reaction to news of a six-month old oil exploration contract signed between the Falkland Islands Government and the tiny Firstland Oil and Gas Company.

Although that contract was made public in Britain last July, it was only leaked to the Argentinian press for the first time this week.

While Argentinian's nationalist newspapers were charging that Britain was "imposing her will on the Malvinas", Señor Caputo stated that Argentina would not recognize any oil concessions made by Britain.

New battle for the Falklands

A major three-part series on the future for the islands begins in *The Times* on Monday, January 7.

'Ministers wrong' on orders to Belgrano

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Argentinian signals intercepted and decoded by the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham conflict with the official version of events surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands campaign.

In particular, they are understood to contradict claims by ministers that the Argentinian cruiser was part of a pincer movement directed against the British task force.

A signal from the Argentinian fleet headquarters—believed to have been decoded by GCHQ late on April 29, nearly four days before the Belgrano was attacked—ordered the cruiser to patrol to a point south of the total exclusion zone declared by Britain.

A second signal was intercepted by GCHQ at about 8 pm London time on April 30. This revealed that the Argentinian naval commanders ordered a pincer movement consisting of a northern surface group led by the aircraft carrier, the Veinticinco de Mayo, and a central group of French-built corvettes, but not the Belgrano.

On the night of May 1/2, a third signal—also believed to have been intercepted—ordered the two groups to stay put. By that time, the carrier had already changed course having tried—but failed because of lack of wind—to launch aircraft against the task force.

A fourth signal, ordering the two groups to return to Argentinian coastal waters, was sent early on May 2.

Captain Hector Bonzo, of the Belgrano has also insisted that the cruiser's orders were to patrol "a defensive line" to the south.

Although the Government has refused to confirm when and how fast GCHQ intercepted Argentinian signals, that the Cheltenham intelligence-gathering centre did so quickly has never been in doubt.

GCHQ staff were praised for their work after the Falklands conflict and Narendra Sethia, a member of the crew of the submarine Conqueror, which sank the Belgrano on May 2, noted in his diary: "We are evidently able to intercept much, if not all, of the enemy's signal traffic. The boys in Cheltenham knew their stuff."

Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence staff at the time, told the commons Foreign Affairs Committee last month that he had no idea when fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, knew of the Argentinian orders on May 1 to recall the ships. He did not think Northwood was informed until May 3.

But Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said yesterday that, according to his sources, GCHQ intercepted and decoded Argentinian signals in a matter of minutes.

Sir John Nott, Defence Secretary at the time, told the foreign affairs committee that intelligence analysts said that "the Argentine carrier was involved in a pincer movement."

DIARY

ANOTHER issue of Penguin News wings its way from the South Atlantic summer: this one is dated December 10 and contains a Christmas message from that delightful old cove, Sir Rex Hunt, the Falklands Civil Commissioner.

In his message, Sir Rex confirms his image as a doughty fighter for the islands' cause. He does admit that sometimes the Falklands suffer from poor presentation back in England, but the enemy here is "Argentina, which seems to have no trouble in spending money it does not have in spreading its pernicious propaganda around the world." Moreover, the Falklands' own representatives "cannot be expected to chase around the United Kingdom countering Argentine propaganda, whether from the mouths of churchmen or anyone else."

Fortunately, he goes on, "in the present British Government we have the best supporters of the Falkland Islanders that we could possibly have." Sir Rex concedes that there could be difficulties if Mrs Thatcher is turned out of office. However, any British Government prepared to abandon the islands "must have the courage to tell the British public that all the sacrifices of the last three years have been in vain."

For his own part, "I would be ashamed of and disassociate myself from any British Government that made such a decision . . . the Falklands Islanders' case as we all know is solidly founded upon the basic rights that all true Britishers hold dear."

Sir Rex reserves his especial venom for those who make an issue of the sinking of the General Belgrano — "as far as Falkland Islanders are concerned, it is as dead as the dodo." The islanders, says Sir Rex, "are not interested in the domestic political scene in Britain, or in the unedifying spectacle of politicians trying to make cheap political capital out of the Belgrano issue . . . consign it to where it belongs, the depths of the South Atlantic."

Sir Rex Hunt is, of course, a salaried member of Her Majesty's diplomatic corps.

Warning from Argentina over Falklands oil

THE government of Argentina will not recognise any oil drilling rights granted by Britain in the Falkland Islands.

Foreign Minister Mr Dante Caputo made this clear when asked about the concession given to UK-based independent Firstland Oil & Gas to carry out exploratory drilling in East Falkland.

"Argentina does not recognise any concession that is made by an occupying power in national territory," he said.

The British Government announced in October last year that Firstland had been awarded an oil production licence to explore a 220 square mile area between San Carlos and Berkeley Sound, near Port Stanley.

The licence is the first to be granted in the Falkland Islands, which are considered to have potential both onshore and offshore for oil and gas.

No one was available in Firstland's London offices yesterday to comment on the Argentine reaction, but the company has engaged Hunting Geology and Geophysics to undertake a study of the islands' structure.

Falkland oil plan protest

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina yesterday announced plans to protest to the UN if Britain grants exploration rights in the Falkland Islands to a small oil company, Firstland Oil and Gas,

Britain hinted last summer that the company might be allowed to develop the Falklands' oil reserves, but only now has the local press reported the matter.

Responding to the news, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, warned that any authorisation of oil exploration by Britain would "notably prejudice the possibilities of talks being renewed" on the future of the Falklands.

Mr Caputo said that Argentina had taken no action up to now because Britain had not awarded the concession. He also complained of London's "permanent negation of accepting negotiations which in fact it had allowed before 1982," when the Falklands war broke out.

The belated news comes at a sensitive time for President Alfonsín's elected Government. An oil development contract off the Patagonian coast with the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, was approved several months ago.

SEVERAL months after applying, Mrs Sally Ponting has at last been granted a transfer from her job as Principal in the Ministry of Defence to the Department of Employment. Her position at the MOD had, of course, become distinctly irksome following her husband Clive's Official Secrets Act charges for allegedly leaking Belgrano documents to Mr Tam Dalyell.

It may be some measure of the Government's current state in this matter that the go-ahead was eventually given by the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King: Ministerial involvement in an appointment at this level is highly unusual.

The MOD official responsible for Mrs Ponting's application is Mr Richard Hastie-Smith, the MOD Deputy Under Secretary in charge of personnel management. Mr Hastie-Smith is also expected to be a key prosecution witness in the case against Mr P.

THE Falklands crime wave, it is sad to report, continues unabated. Hot from the South Atlantic, the latest Penguin News bears the grim tidings.

The worst case involves a construction worker from the new airport site, who was imprisoned for four months in December for brawling in a pub. The defendant, Mr John McFadyen, apologised in court to all concerned and told the stony-faced magistrates that he wanted to leave the islands as soon as possible because his wife was ill back in England.

UK expatriates are also responsible for the other serious crime this month, a break-in at the town hall. The origin of the vandals who smashed a helicopter windscreen is unknown.

Falklands memorial confounds hard facts

By John Ezard

THE Royal Navy is to do its best to help a Cornish quarryman to ship a 3-ton chunk of granite 8,000 miles from the Falklands so that he can use it as a war memorial in his garden.

Mr Edward Prynns's request was made at a consultation with Mr Gerry Neale, MP for north Cornwall, who hastily passed it to the Ministry of Defence.

The senior service's positive reaction may have been influenced by the fact that Mr Prynns has also been writing eloquently to Mrs Thatcher and the Falklands Civil Commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt.

Mr Prynns, aged 48, has a quarter-acre garden behind his bungalow at St Merryn. It already contains a circle of seven monoliths which draws several thousand visitors into the garden every year, but he feels it is incomplete without a Falklands stone to point the moral of the 1982 conflict: "that it is possible to achieve something against all odds."

Mr Prynns believes his success so far owes something to a letter of support to Sir Rex written by St Merryn's vicar, the Rev Michael Boulthec.

It said: "Stone occupies a very special place in the affections and in the very being of a Cornishman." The Falklands stone villages on television had struck a deeply responsive chord.

The Navy, however hopes to be able to pass the job on. "You can get a piece of rock that size on a battleship but it would be difficult to know where to put it," a spokesman said last night. "It would have to be lashed down. We do have bigger Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels but they don't come back so often.

Sir Rex is trying to enlist the contractors building the Falklands airport.

The problem now appears to have narrowed to choosing a piece of granite, getting it to the quayside and humping it from a British dock to St Merryn. With the Navy standing by in reserve, Mr Prynns has a fair chance of taking delivery of his rock some time this year or next.

"I wasn't at all surprised when people agreed to help," he said. "Stones do have a sort of magic in them."

ARGENTINA'S REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS

Argentina's invasion of the Falklands in 1982 finds an echo in Cabinet papers for 1954. This time, however, the Cabinet shows itself wary of Argentine intentions towards British possessions in the Antarctic.

A request from Argentina and Chile for the supply of British helicopters was effectively cleared by the Defence Minister, Earl Alexander of Tunis, who said they had no strategic significance. But the question was raised in Cabinet whether the helicopters could be used by Argentina for hostile action against British forces or possessions in the Antarctic.

It was suggested that a guarantee should be sought that Argentina would not commit any acts of violence against British Antarctic possessions. But it was felt that Argentina was unlikely to give such a general guarantee in return for a few helicopters. Eventually, Argentina was allowed to buy 10 crop-spraying helicopters.

The Times 3/1/85

Falklands oil rights hint

Buenos Aires (AP) - The Argentine Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, said yesterday his Government will not recognize oil-drilling rights granted to a US company in the Falkland Islands.

Argentine "does not recognize any concession made by an occupying power in national territory," he said.

The local news agency, Noticias Argentinas, had reported a drilling concession granted to the American based Firstland Oil and Gas Company

Argentine ambition warranted a frigate

FALKLANDS

OFFICIAL papers released yesterday reflect much later and now familiar arguments within Whitehall about how Argentina could be deterred from invading the Falklands. A dispute in 1954 between the Foreign Office and the Admiralty centred on whether Britain should station a frigate permanently at Port Stanley.

A secret Admiralty paper noted that the chiefs of staff had pointed out that "The Argentines had the means to invade the Falklands if they wanted to." The chiefs of staff added: "They were not, however, likely to risk a war by occupying the Falklands proper, but might very well try some minor action such as to occupy an uninhabited island."

But relations with Argentina were improving. Mr Jim Thomas, First Lord of the Admiralty, told Eden in April: "The permanent maintenance of a frigate in these remote waters constitutes a most disproportionate drain on naval resources." Anyway, the Admiralty argued, a frigate was unlikely to deter Argentina if it wanted to commit an act of aggression.

But the Foreign Office disagreed. The presence of a frigate would, it said, be "a deterrent to any contemplated Argentine move to raise a flag on some uninhabited island in the Falklands group."

Eden wrote to Thomas a few days later saying: "We cannot run the risk of some provocative action against the Falkland Islands if they are left undefended." The Argentines, he added, might well regard the withdrawal of a frigate as a sign of weakness.

A compromise was finally reached. A Royal Marines platoon was stationed on the Falklands and a frigate—initially HMS Bigbury Bay—would cruise around the area, calling in at Port Stanley at least once every three weeks. In the meantime, it would in the Admiralty's words, make flag-showing visits to South American (but not Argentine) ports.

Richard Norton-Taylor

Dalyell in FBI claim

Labour MP Tam Dalyell said the U.S. FBI was involved in the case of anti-nuclear campaigner Hilda Murrell, who he says was killed by British Intelligence officers hunting for documents about the sinking of the *Belgrano*.

Argentine move sparks disquiet

ARGENTINA'S invasion of the Falklands in 1982 finds an echo in the 1954 Cabinet papers.

The Cabinet was wary of Argentine intentions towards Britain's Antarctic possessions. A request from Argentina and Chile for the supply of British helicopters was effectively cleared by Earl Alexander of Tunis, the Defence Minister.

The question was raised whether the helicopters could be used by Argentina for hostile action against British forces.

Mr Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, recommended that Argentina should be allowed to buy 10 helicopters for crop spraying and any bigger order should come before the Cabinet again. The recommendation was accepted.

Helping Spain, via the Falklands

by Lord Douro

EEC foreign ministers meet in Brussels today to try to resolve the remaining difficulties about the terms of Spanish and Portuguese membership. Only if the negotiations are concluded in the next four weeks is there any hope of adhering to the accession date of January 1, 1986. That they should succeed is of the highest importance, not only for the EEC but also for Nato.

Spain's moderate socialist government regards EEC membership as its first priority. When in opposition, it criticized the previous government's hasty accession to Nato (though Spain is not yet part of its military structure). The deputy prime minister has said unambiguously that the government will not be able to recommend a "yes" vote in the referendum next February on Spain's continued Nato membership if Spain is not by then a member of the EEC.

The opinion polls show a majority of Spaniards wishing their country to leave Nato. This has not been helped by the recent expulsion of two US diplomats who had tried to photograph the communications equipment at the prime minister's office. Spaniards are also unhappy over the disclosure that the US Defence Department, without consulting the Spanish government, has plans for storing nuclear depth charges in Spain.

Some members of the government who have supported EEC membership wholeheartedly in the past are now having serious doubts because they consider the terms proposed too tough. Many ordinary people realize that for some years membership will

be painful, and they are beginning to wonder whether it is worth it.

Both Spain and Portugal applied to join the EEC in 1977 soon after the restoration of democratic government in each country. Spain was isolated by the rest of western Europe after the Second World War because of the Franco dictatorship. Most Spaniards thought that a return to democracy would be welcomed by speedy entry into the EEC. They cannot understand why it has taken so long to negotiate, and why almost every existing member is raising difficulties.

If Europeans are keen to have Spain in the military club, why not in the economic and political club? A large cross-section of Spaniards are not prepared to be in one and not the other.

Britain, because of its position on fishing, has a key role to play. We are insisting on the right to exclude Spanish fishermen, except for the present number of licences, from EEC waters for 15 years. We are also seeking a reduction in the size of the Spanish fishing fleet. The Spaniards argue, not unreasonably, that their own consumption of fish per head is already three times greater than in the EEC, and still rising, and that a reduction in their fleet would simply provide greater access to their market for French fishermen. They say the question of Spanish access to EEC waters should be tied to EEC access to the Spanish market. Spain already imports \$500m of fish each year, mainly from EEC nations.

It is possible that the waters around the Falklands could be a substitute for the EEC fishing grounds which are being denied to the Spaniards. Britain has not yet declared a 200-mile economic zone around the Falklands, and fishing there is free for all. My MEP colleague James Provan has proposed that fishing near the Falklands should be controlled by licences.

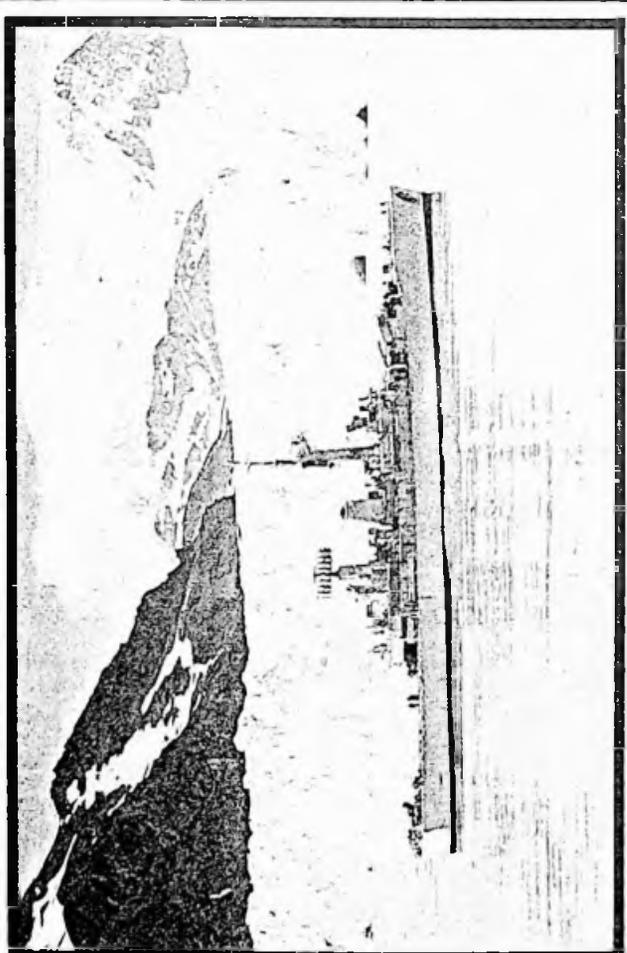
Shore facilities could be established and a majority of the licences could go to Spain. The idea is supported by Spanish fishermen.

The position of Portugal is somewhat different. Portugal was a founder member of Nato and the European Free Trade Association. The EEC can absorb Portugal without too much indigestion, but there is a certain tension in Portuguese politics at the moment and there is no doubt that a speedy conclusion to the EEC negotiations is important for them too.

The recent opening of the Gibraltar frontier and the talks in Geneva between Sir Geoffrey Howe and Fernando Moran, the Spanish foreign minister, have created a new beginning in Anglo-Spanish relations. An Anglo-Spanish axis in the EEC could be a powerful counterweight to the present Franco-German dominance. Continued Spanish membership of Nato is an essential ingredient of western strategy. For these reasons we must hope that the EEC Council of Ministers will agree on terms acceptable to Spain and thus secure the alliance with a natural ally.

The author, MEP for Surrey West, is vice-chairman of the political committee of the European Parliament.

GLACIERS GREET MINERVA IN THE SOUTH GEORGIAN SUMMER



AS a break from normal patrol routine in the South Atlantic, HMS Minerva visited South Georgia with RFA Tidespring — an experience few will forget.

The severe, snow-covered mountains and splendid glaciers were in sharp contrast to the brown-green moorland appearance of the Falklands. The deep-water fjords allowed close encounters with the glaciers, such as the Nordenskiöld In East Cumberland Bay, and glorious summer weather only enhanced the beautiful scenery.

Later the ship visited the old whaling station at Leith, out of use for 20 years and now left to the seals and penguins.

The visit was particularly appropriate because the ship is striking up a liaison with the Minerva public house in Hull, which by coincidence has a whaling theme.

After leaving Leith, the ship took a

short scenic tour before berthing alongside the Tidespring, anchored off King Edward's Point, the home of South Georgia's small Army detachment.

Grytviken, another disused whaling station, was close by and many visited Shackleton's grave there.

The ship's football team beat the Army at soccer while many others worked on the restoration of the Peterel, an old whaling tug which has become a continuing project for visiting RN ships.

Eventually the time came for the Minerva to leave South Georgia and for the ship's company to rest their cameras and send their films away to be developed.

● The picture of HMS Minerva against the background of Nordenskiöld Glacier is by Lieut. Andy Edney.

'Battle' dress

SIR Rex Hunt, Falkland Islands Civil Commissioner, inspects a party from HMS Southampton to mark the 70th anniversary of 'Battle Day.' This commemorates the Royal Navy victory over the German fleet just off Stanley during the First World War.



Falkland airfield's success story

By Maj-Gen. Edward Fursdon
Defence Correspondent

A NEW ERA in the South Atlantic will open when, late this spring, the first wide-bodied RAF Tri-star aircraft lands on the Falkland Islands' new permanent airfield at Mount Pleasant.

Political and strategic considerations apart, the construction task alone has been a historic one of the greatest magnitude. Whereas the technical design aspects of the project were not difficult—so far it has involved 22,500 separate drawings with some 300 more to come—it was in overcoming the gigantic logistic problems associated with the sheer remoteness of the site where the secret of success has lain.

One very important aim throughout, by both planners and constructors, has been to minimise wherever possible the damage done to the environment and to the unique Falkland Islands' wild life.

Mr John Parr-Burman, a director of Mowlem International and Project Director for the Laing-Mowlem-ARC Joint Venture company which won the contract, recently highlighted the scale of the project and the speed at which it has developed.

Key elements

The Government's decision to build a new Falklands airfield was taken in July 1982, and, after the initial joint military/Property Services Agency (PSA) reconnaissances on the ground had found a suitable site, the PSA started planning work on the project in September.

In February, 1983, interested contractors were brought in, priced documents were due in by early May, and at the end of June the Government accepted the Joint Venture's tender for a contract initially worth about £200 million.

There are six key elements of the new airfield complex: 1—a 8,500 foot flexible construction main runway with hardened ends; 2—a 5,000 foot cross runway, also with hardened ends; 3—a circulating road system; 4—the support buildings which include two power stations, the air traffic control tower and fuel installations; a major sewerage plant; and a double storey RAF camp and



a single storey Army camp—all with full accommodation and recreational facilities.

5—a 30-mile, all-weather road connecting the new airfield, which is situated halfway between Stanley and Goose Green, with Stanley; 6—a six-mile permanent road connecting the airfield with, in the long-term, a new port handling facility at East Cove/Mare Harbour, which is being built by another contracting Joint Venture company.

The total 30-month long project of two runways and 100,000 square metres of buildings are to be handed over to the PSA in two phases.

Phase I, due for handing over on April 15 this year, comprises an operating airfield with a main runway, together with the power station, air traffic control tower, main hangar and lights; half the aircraft apron area; and a usable road into Stanley.

A temporary jetty at East Cove, together with a temporary road connecting it to the site, are both already completed—they had to be built early on in order for construction of the airfield to start and subsequently develop.

Phase II, comprising the remainder of the work, is due to be handed over to the PSA early in 1986.

Virgin site

Mr Parr-Burman stressed that the Mount Pleasant task was different in that as far as he knew, it was the first fully operational airport constructed overseas by a totally UK-based work force, on a totally virgin site, where everything had had to be set up from scratch.

Everyone working on it had had to be brought in from 8,000 miles away in Britain. Similarly, all the engineer plant (£25 millions worth of it), the equipment and the materials

had had to be brought in also from Britain—with the exception of water and rock both of which were available plenty in the Falklands. To-date, more than 1½ million tons of rock has been quarried locally and used on site.

It had also been a condition of the contract that the Joint Venture company had had to establish its own lines of communications to the site, without using or even impinging on the existing Service communication links between Britain and the Falklands.

The first requirement of the construction task had been to build the jetty for unloading the shipping carrying all the early stores and engineer plant. This problem was solved by buying the 15,000-ton vessel *Artico* in Cadiz, altering her structurally and re-registering her as a British ship the *Merchant Providence*; securing her to the mainland at East Cove in the Falklands, and connecting her up with a Bailey Bridge over which everything could be unloaded.

A temporary base camp for the men had then to be built, and a working road carved out leading up to the airfield site.

The jetty was fully operational by Dec. 7, 1985, and, with the road done, full work started at Mount Pleasant on Jan. 1, 1984—only six months after the contract had been awarded.

Staff contracts

The workforce—which has peaked to about 2,000 on site, with a monthly movement to and fro to Britain of some 300—sign on for a 14-month "package," are on individual staff contracts, and are paid in Britain.

They fly out to South Africa, and from thence sail in the Joint Venture's chartered Cunard vessel, the ex-Danish ferry *MV England*, on the 10-day voyage to the jetty.

To date, of those who have completed their contract, some 50 per cent. have renewed them. "There have never been any shortage of volunteers," Mr Parr-Burman said.

The stores and freight—some 30,000 tons worth per month—are first carefully packaged at Dudley, Worcestershire, and then sent by road for loading at Avonmouth into the Joint Venture's four 25,000-ton vessels on charter from Cenargo Ltd for the three-week voyage down to East Cove.

Daily Mail
28.2.85

Andrew crash lands on war island

By STEPHEN DOUBLE

PRINCE ANDREW was forced to ground his Lynx helicopter after a dramatic mid-air incident over the Falkland islands.

The helicopter developed control problems when its hydraulic system began failing during a routine patrol.

Prince Andrew was flying over East Island in the Falklands from his frigate HMS Brazen.

He downed the machine, which carries a crew of three on the windswept island.

The Navy sent out a repair team and after emergency work Andrew flew back safely to the 3,800-ton frigate.

Last night the Ministry of Defence heaped praise on the 25-year-old prince for his ex-



Andrew . . . praised

pertise. A spokesman said: 'He's one hell of a pilot—better than our average helicopter pilot.'

The Queen was later notified of the incident and told that her son was safe.

Andrew had to make a split-second decision whether to head back for ship or make an emergency landing on the remote island as his controls went haywire.

The incident took place in the last few days, but news of the prince's flying feat reached Whitehall only last night.

He flew Sea King helicopters during the Falklands War and at one time—like other pilots—used his aircraft as an Exocet decoy to prevent ships being hit by the missiles.

Andrew, who was promoted to Lieutenant last year, carries out anti-submarine reconnaissance for the type-22 frigate.

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Argentina alters Falkland stance in informal talks

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent.

Proposals drawn up by British and Argentine parliamentarians for informal Falklands discussions have raised hopes of better progress towards the return of normal relations.

A confidential document submitted to both governments suggests that enough common ground was agreed to encourage "the gradual build-up of confidence among the parties concerned." Meetings at ministerial level are ruled out for the moment.

The proposals were drawn up last week in Washington by three Argentine parliamentarians — two of them close associates of President Alfonsín — and three MPs who are members of the South Atlantic council.

They were Mr Robert Harvey, Conservative for Clywd South-west, Mr Bruce George, Labour Walsall South, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley.

Mr Alastair Cameron, the Falklands government representative in London, acted as an observer but still put across the islanders' views to the Argentine representatives.

His presence is regarded as being of considerable significance. It was the first formal contact between Argentina and a Falkland islander since the conflict.

The document does not suggest any breakthrough on the stumbling block of sovereignty but the Argentine representatives agreed to phrases which suggest conciliation. The document says: "There was agreement on the importance of the preservation of the way of life and respect for the wishes of the islanders." That goes further than previous Argentine statements.

The tone also emphasises the need for a gradual approach to

build trust between London and Buenos Aires and with the islanders in discussing "all matters relating to the return to peaceful relations."

The Foreign Office emphasised last night that the Government refuses to discuss the question of a transfer of sovereignty.

The meeting discussed possible solutions such as shared sovereignty, the transfer of sovereignty with treaty guarantees and forms of lease back.

Given Mrs Thatcher's position, the more important element is the agreement of the Argentines to a gentle resumption of normal relations.

It says: "In respect to these ultimate goals it was understood that the process would be step by step 'natural,' conscious and voluntary, with the islanders influencing the pace in response to developing relationships with Argentina."

Whitehall is cautious as previously friendly encounters with Argentine parliamentarians have not been matched by President Alfonsín.

The contacts made in Washington to back page, col 4

Falklands stance altered

Continued from page one

ington were informal, though the Argentinians were frequently in touch with their embassy during the discussions.

The paper says: "The participants expressed the view that in a complex matter of this kind official discussions should not be attempted unless and until there is established a set of agreed principles and propositions that create a relevant context for negotiation and that this might best be achieved by informal discussion between persons with access to, but not part of, government."

It is claimed that the goodwill suggested that more similar encounters could help build links although sovereignty is still the obstacle to full-scale official talks.

The document says: "It was noted that there could not be progress on transition to peaceful relations until there was agreement in principle to discuss all aspects of the future of the islands."

This appears to rule out for the present any new round of talks between the governments.

Joint proposals on Falklands future

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

British and Argentine parliamentarians have put forward proposals which they believe could lead to an improvement in relations between the two countries and ultimately to the resumption of talks, which broke down last July on the issue of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

After a three-day conference at the University of Maryland last week, three British MPs and members of the United Kingdom based South Atlantic Council and three high-ranking members of the Argentine Congress agreed on a joint communique in which both sides agreed "on the importance of the preservation of the way of life and respect for the wishes of the islanders."

The MPs agreed on a delicate form of words by which they suggested the deadlock between the two countries could be

broken. They suggested that there should be a prior informal understanding that the ending of hostilities, removing of restrictions in protection zones and reestablishing diplomatic relations implied good faith in starting two sets of talks, the first on all matters relating to the return of peaceful relations, and the second on "all aspects of the future" of the islands.

The British MPs were Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Mr Robert Harvey, Conservative MP for Clywd South West, and Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South.

The options for the future of the islands mentioned in the communique included shared sovereignty, forms of leaseback and the transfer of sovereignty with guarantees for the islanders enshrined in a treaty.

FALKLANDS TROOPS TO GET TV

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
Political Staff

BBRITISH troops in the Falkland Islands will soon be able to watch their favourite BBC and ITV television programmes, shown within a few days of the original broadcasts.

The scheme, to cost £325,000, is due to begin next year and will operate from the Mount Pleasant airfield site.

It is hoped that some 90 per cent. of the 5,000 Servicemen in the islands will benefit.

Mr Stanley, Minister for the Armed Services, announced details of the new service in a Commons written reply.

He said it would be provided by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation, which already sends out a service to British troops in West Germany, and that it would include a mixture of both BBC and ITV videoed programmes.

"I am sure that this will be a very welcome addition to the recreational facilities available to those members of the armed forces serving in the islands."

Possible programmes to be broadcast include episodes of "Dallas," sporting events, current affairs programmes, and light entertainment shows such as "You'll Fix It" and "The Bob Monkhouse Show."

It is expected that the broadcast will be able to reach as far as Port Stanley, and also possibly to be picked up by some Falkland islanders who live within the garrison area. But it is unlikely to reach islanders or Servicemen based in remote corners of the islands.

Daily Mail
26.2.85

Down their way

DALLAS and Coronation Street will be among the shows transmitted in the Falklands when British troops get their own TV service next year. Programmes will be taped in Britain and flown out.

The Times 26/2/85

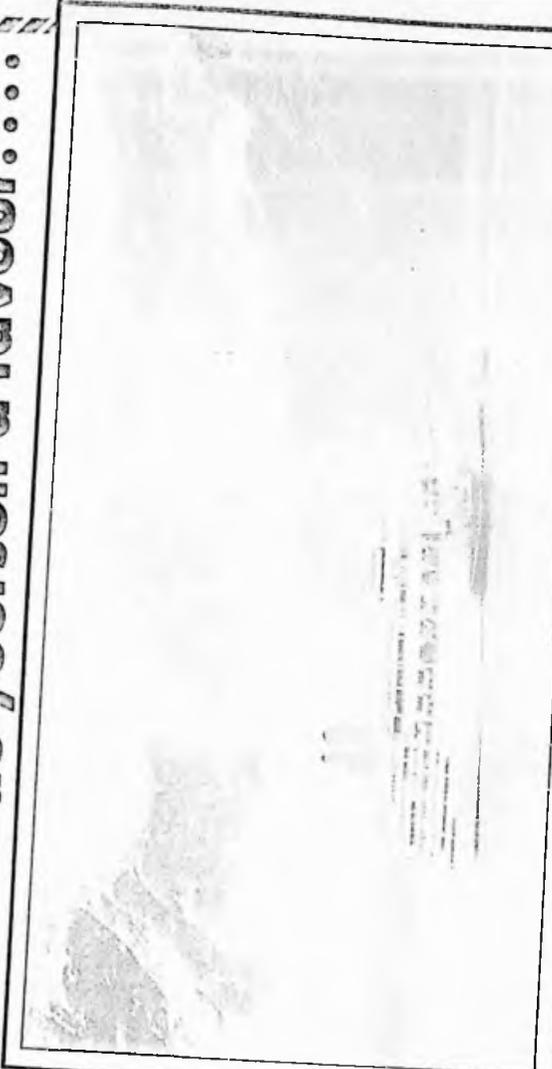
Falklands TV

The Ministry of Defence is to spend up to £325,000 to provide the Falklands garrison with a television service, to include a mixed blend of programmes such as *Coronation Street*, *Dallas*, *3,2,1*, *Match of the Day*, *Minder*, and *Wish You Were Here*.

LOOKING AT BOOKS

HEADING FOR SOUTH GEORGIA?

do yourself a favour....



Canbera in Grytviken harbour 1982. Picture: Paul Haley

ANY Army units with South Georgia on their posting schedules could do themselves a favour by making sure they purchase a copy of a new book on the island little known until the dramatic events of 1982.

'The Island of South Georgia', by Robert Headland is the first really detailed work on the island since Dr L. Harrison Matthews's 'South Georgia, The British Empire's Sub Antarctic Outpost' published in 1931 and out of print for many years.

Headland — Bob to his pals — acknowledges his debt to Matthews, but his own long experience has proved invaluable in bringing the story of South Georgia up to date.

This is particularly true of the Argentine invasion, dealt with at the tail end of the work in a most matter-of-fact manner and not used as a 'gimmick' to perhaps make the book more saleable.

Headland was with the British Antarctic Survey on South Georgia during those eventful days and surrendered the civilian population, being taken prisoner by the Argentines.

In true scientific fashion, Bob Headland deals with the history, geography, geology, biology and

all the time — there is no commercial bed and breakfast ashore!

As a work of reference, Headland's book will prove invaluable. It is well illustrated, with some beautiful photographs of plant and wildlife, and though some readers might have welcomed more colour (confined to the dust jacket), the beauty of South Georgia loses nothing in black and white.

Headland feels that after recent events the potential changes for

the island may well be great... "but, it is to be hoped, not uncontrolled".

It is good to read praise for the British forces currently there. The author says they "have come to appreciate it as a potentially excellent place for Polar training and exercises. They have demonstrated high regard for the wildlife in the operations so far conducted."

Cambridge University Press
Cambridge University Press £14.95.
PMH

SOLDIER readers — particularly those with an interest in Rapiers or the Falklands — will be interested to know there is another source of attractive prints.

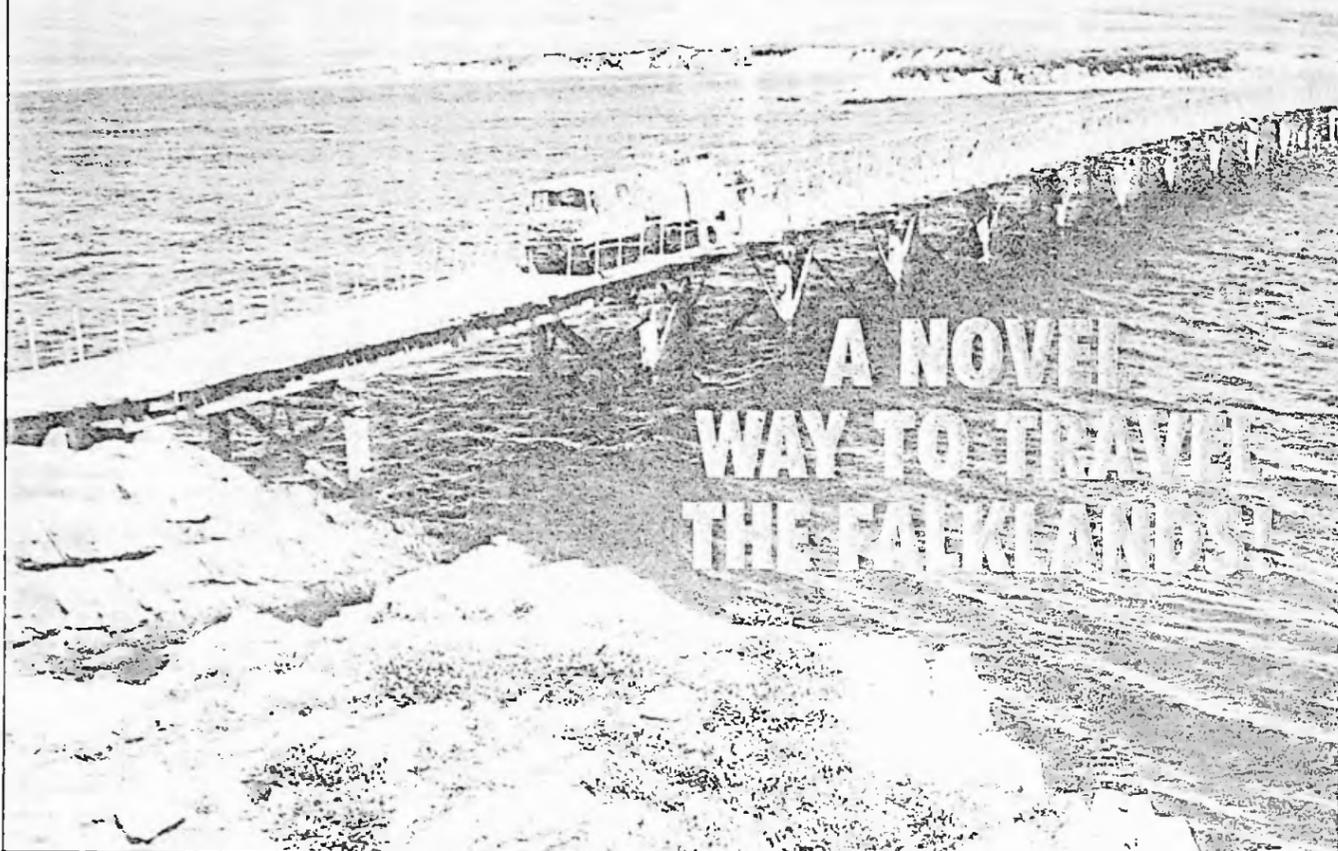
37 Squadron RAF Regiment, normally based at RAF Bruggen in Germany, are one of four RAF Regiment Squadrons on roulement to provide Rapiers cover for RAF Stanley.

On their second tour there in May '84, they decided to commission David Bell, a visiting MoD-sponsored artist to paint Rapiers in a Falklands setting.

Detachment call-sign 31 Delta was chosen as his subject because of its excellent views over Port Stanley, its harbour with a backdrop of hills made famous during the Falklands campaign; Sapper Hill, Mount Longdon, Tumbledown and the Two Sisters.

There will probably be many soldiers who would like a souvenir of their tour, as well. Further details from Adjt, 37 Squadron RAF Regt, RAF Bruggen, BFPO 25. ★ ★ ★

Exercise Lafonia Express, or ...



A NOVEL WAY TO TRAVEL THE FALKLANDS!

BV crossing Fitzroy Bridge

Sergeant Mike Nottage checks the route



TWELVE adventurous spirits of the British Forces on the Falkland Islands have just returned from an exciting trip travelling to the end of East Falkland by BV — a tracked vehicle similar to a snow cat.

The trip from Stanley and across Lafonia to Bull Point, the most southerly point of the Falklands, was the idea of 30-year-old Sergeant Jon Mills of the Royal Corps of Transport, who wanted to combine three jobs into one — just to prove it could be done ... and prove it he did with a team that included four WRAC, an RN photographer and a local school-teacher.

As chief clerk of FIPASS — Falklands Intermediate Port And Storage System at Port Stanley, he wanted to plan and carry out a resupply and support programme so that a vehicle and its crew could get to Bull Point and back using land, sea and air supply agencies.

He intended to use the journey to update existing maps and to present gifts to the children of the settlements visited on the way.

After the first stop at Port Harriet the Camp telegraph was obviously in action for the BV was met everywhere by eager, expectant children.

At North Arm the BV was met by an assortment of motor bikes and Land Rovers that led the way into the settlement in a triumphant convoy.

The BV is an ideal vehicle for this type of journey across flat plains, for the rolling grassland of Lafonia has few rocks to mar the way. However, one temporary bar to progress was Bodie Creek, a swiftly flowing stream, which was crossed as an underslung load of a Chinook helicopter.

But the careful pre-positioning

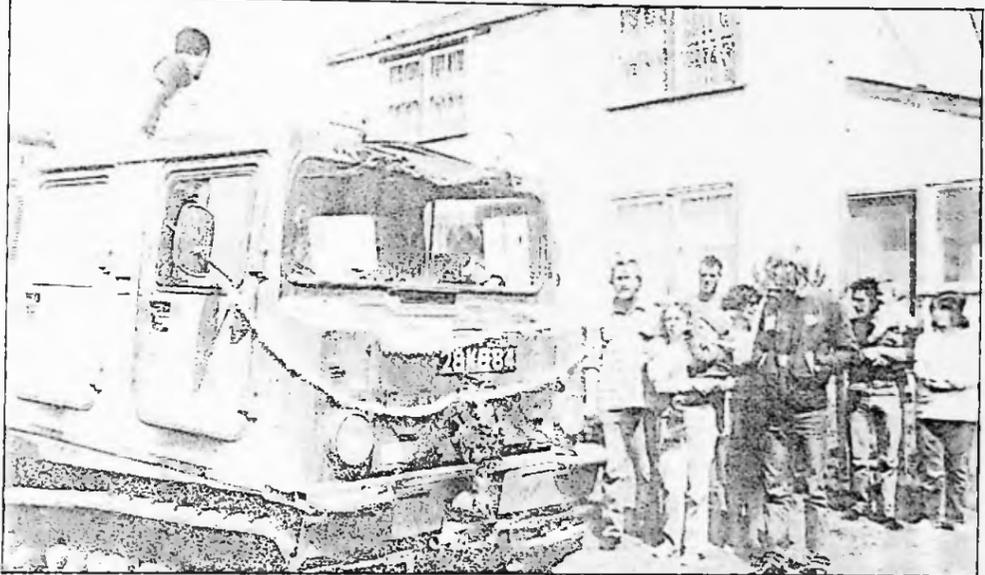


Lieutenant Helen Booth polishes up on her navigation skills

THE TEAM MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Leader | Sgt Jon Mills RCT, 73 Port San |
| 2 i/c | Lt Helen Booth WRAC/RAEC |
| Nav/Cartographer | Sgt Mike Nottage RE |
| Mechanic | S/Sgt Geoff Phillips REME |
| Radio Op | L/Cpl Sue Dicks WRAC HQ BFFI |
| Medic | Rfn Paul Alsop RGJ |
| Asst Nav | Pte Carol Rowland 77 Stores Coy RAOC |
| BV driver | Pte Phil Nertney RAOC |
| Asst Mech | Dvr David Gosling RCT |
| Asst Medic | Pte June Bowie WRAC 77 Stores Coy RAOC |
| Teacher | Mr Don Naylor Camp Education Scheme |
| Photos | LA (PHOT) Bernie Petterson BFFI photographer |

Warm greeting from settlement inhabitants for the unusual visitors



of fuel and spares by land, sea and air proved successful and kept the vehicle on the move.

At all the settlements the travellers were made welcome and all spare beds were put to good use by the tired explorers.

Every traveller had the experience of being awakened by young hosts who insisted on playing with their new friends ... sometimes at five o'clock in the morning!

Although 11 wheels and two differentials were replaced on the

trek, the week long journey that covered more than 500 kilometres of desolate countryside was completed without mishap, and the Dirty Dozen, as they began to call themselves, were ready for a well earned bath!

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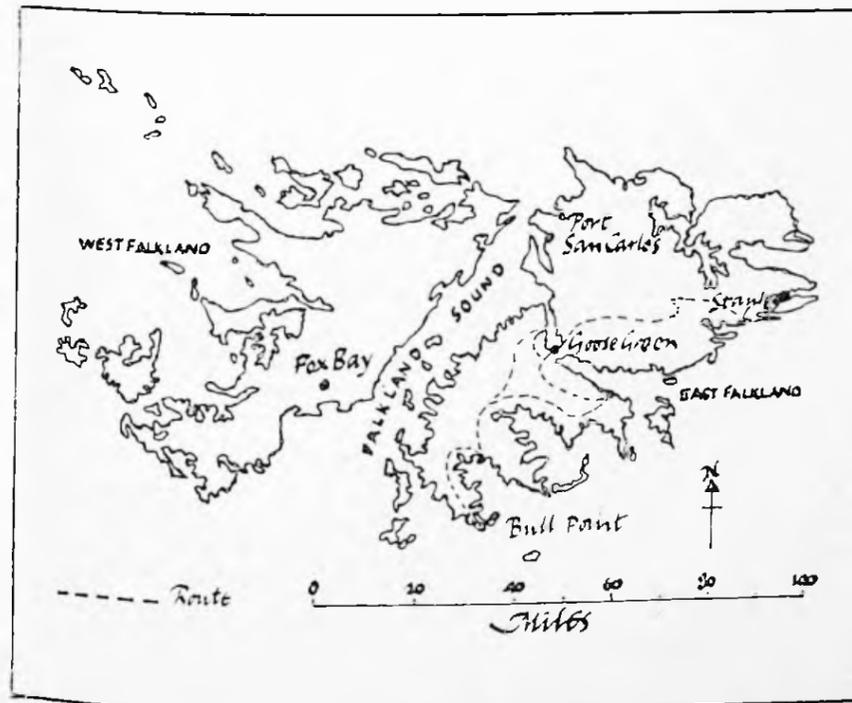
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- BREAK OPEN TICKETS
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FALKLAND FISH DEAL SOUGHT

By Our Agriculture
Correspondent

A SPECIAL deal to give Spanish deep sea trawlers long-term access to the fish-rich waters around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia is being sought by the Spanish fishing lobby which wants Britain to declare a 200-mile fishing zone in the South Atlantic.

The Spanish plan was put to members of the House of Commons select committee on agriculture during a visit to Spain and Portugal, which ended at the weekend, to investigate the effects on Britain of the two countries joining the Common Market. As reported in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday, the Spanish plan has the blessing of the Madrid Government.

The Spanish fishing lobby wants to negotiate a bilateral deal with either British companies or the Falklands Islanders. The fish they catch would be processed in the Falklands.

A 200-mile fishing zone would be popular among the islanders, British fishing experts said last night. But the British Government has so far been lukewarm to the suggestion, because of the difficulties and cost of patrolling such a large zone so far away.

Blind eye

Instead, the experts said, Britain was effectively turning a blind eye to the often large-scale fishing taking place in waters off the Falklands, where Spanish vessels, as well as those from Poland, Japan, Russia and other Eastern bloc countries, are already operating.

Indeed, at one stage, the Spanish fleet caught so much squid in Falkland waters that they glutted the Spanish market and had to stop the fishing. It also stopped Britain's exports of squid to Spain.

What the Spaniards would gain from a special long-term deal inside a 200-mile limit around the Falklands and South Georgia would be the opportunity for a fuelling base and processing facilities on the Falklands, the experts said. The processed fish could then be shipped to Spain by refrigerated cargo boat rather than brought back at higher cost by trawlers.

The Government has rejected a request by the British fishing industry to make £1 million available to set up a fish processing factory on the Falklands and finance an exploratory voyage there, the experts

Overcrowded waters

But there is one Grimsby boat in the Falklands at present, and a Hull-based company has just struck a deal with a Japanese firm to send six British six British trawlers to the South Atlantic in a joint venture in which the Japanese will handle the catches.

The Common Market is very keen to keep Spain fishing in the South Atlantic. The Spanish fishing fleet is bigger than that of the whole of the EEC put together, and its entry into the already overcrowded Common Market waters is a cause of great concern to EEC fishermen. It is also a major reason for the continuing deadlock in the negotiations for Spain and Portugal's entry into the EEC.

But Mr John Spence, Conservative MP for Ryedale and chairman of the select committee, said the threat of the Spanish fleet in EEC waters had been exaggerated.

By and large, he said, the committee accepted that the Spaniards were more interested in developing long distance fishing enterprises than exploiting the already overstretched resources controlled by the EEC.

RAF FLIES MAN 8,000 MILES TO HOSPITAL

By Our Madrid Correspondent

An RAF VC10 arrived in Madrid yesterday with a critically injured Spanish fisherman who had been flown nearly 8,000 miles from the Falklands. The plane made a detour to the Spanish capital on its way to Brize Norton, Oxon, to take Jose Martinez Vasques, 46, a trawlerman from Vigo, to hospital.

He had been lifted by helicopter from a Spanish trawler in the South Atlantic and taken to Port Stanley. From there he was flown in a Hercules transport to Ascension Island and transferred to the VC10, and looked after by a full RAF medical team which was aboard.

The fisherman was reported to have had his skull split open by an axe during a fight aboard the trawler.

Daily Mail 25.2.85

8,000-MILE MERCY TRIP BY THE RAF

THE RAF yesterday completed the longest-ever unofficial mercy flight.

One of its VC10s brought critically injured Spanish fisherman Jose Vasquez nearly 8,000 miles from the Falklands to Madrid.

The plane made a detour to the Spanish capital on its way to RAF, Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

Vasquez, who had a severe skull injury, had been taken to Port Stanley by helicopter from a Spanish deep sea trawler in the South Atlantic.

Spain seeks Falklands fishing deal with UK

BY IVO DAWNAY IN BRUSSELS

SPANISH FISHING companies are seeking an agreement with the UK to allow them special access to the waters around the Falkland Islands.

Proposals for a bilateral deal were put last week to a delegation of British MPs, visiting Spain and Portugal to gauge the impact of the two countries' membership of the EEC on UK farmers and fishermen.

The original idea for the fishing scheme was mooted last year by Mr James Provan, a Conservative MEP, as a means of increasing the Falkland Islanders' revenue while compensating Spain's fishing interests for limits on their access to EEC waters.

Fisheries Ministers of the ten are still divided over what terms should be offered to

Spain when it joins the Community, Britain, Ireland, France, West Germany and Denmark are demanding the strictest possible curbs to prevent over-fishing of limited Community stocks.

It is understood that the Spanish proposal on Falklands waters would involve the UK establishing a 200-mile limit

around the islands and neighbouring South Georgia, within which access and quotas of stock would be regulated.

Farm ministers meeting in Brussels today will attempt yet again to iron out longstanding differences over how to reign in wine production—another crucial issue still to be discussed with Spain.

Falklands fish deal sought by Spain

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

A SPECIAL deal to give Spanish deep sea trawlers long-term access to the fish-rich waters around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, is being sought by Spanish fishing interests, who want Britain to declare a 200-mile fishing zone in the South Atlantic.

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A 200-mile fishing zone would be popular among the Falklanders, British fishing experts said last night. But the British Government has been lukewarm so far to the suggestion because of the difficulties and cost of patrolling such a large zone so far away.

Instead, the experts maintained, Britain was effectively turning a blind eye to the often large-scale fishing taking place in the waters off the Falklands, where Spanish vessels, as well as those from Poland, Japan, Russia and other East bloc countries already operate.

Squid glut

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The Government has rejected an approach by British fishing interests to make £1 million available to set up a fish processing factory on the Falklands and finance an exploratory voyage there, the experts said.

Falklands hospital under way

By Charles Knevitt
Architecture Correspondent

Construction work is about to start on a new £6.5 million hospital at Port Stanley in the Falklands to replace the one severely damaged by fire last April with the loss of eight lives

The hospital will serve both the civilian and military populations of the islands, as well as the large and expanding South Atlantic fishing fleets.

The hospital will provide a local group practice, as well as surgery facilities to cope with the kind of severe injuries incurred on fishing trawlers.

The Churchill Wing of the hospital, which survived the fire, will be refurbished and converted as an outpatient clinic. There will also be a community day centre.

Alfonsin sacks minister after brawl in casino

by Maria Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires

THE SACKING of Argentina's two chief economic advisers by President Alfonsin has added a bizarre twist to the country's delicate negotiations with foreign creditors.

At first sight the timing seems odd. Argentina is trying to borrow \$4.2 billion from foreign banks to begin paying off \$43.6 billion owed to many of the same financial institutions. Alfonsin's government is also attempting to agree an austerity programme with the International Monetary Fund that will enable it to tap new IMF loans. The sacking of the central bank president, Enrique Garcia Vazquez, and the economic minister, Bernardo Grinspun, might seem to complicate both negotiations.

Argentina's creditors, however, are relieved to see Grinspun go. During the past few weeks he had been involved in a brawl at a casino, had a shouting match over money with a provincial governor at Buenos Aires airport and insulted the chief envoy of the IMF.

Though an old friend of Alfonsin, he was one of the most unpopular economics ministers Argentina has ever had. He did succeed in bringing inflation down to "only" 800%,

but in so doing offended nearly everybody, from bankers, both local and foreign, and manufacturer's associations to journalists and trade union leaders.

Apart from that, his spending habits gave Argentinitians the impression that the government austerity plan applied to everybody but Grinspun. When he appeared recently at the seaside resort of Mar del Plata to play roulette, a gambler whispered to his companion, "Look who's playing - it's Don Corleone [the Mafia boss of The Godfather]." Grinspun offered to rearrange the man's face and was attempting to do so when his bodyguards intervened.

Last Monday Grinspun met the IMF negotiator, Josquin Ferran, who told him the chances of Argentina's receiving the stand-by loan it wanted were slim. Grinspun threatened to telephone the IMF's managing director, Jacques de Larosiere, and have Ferran sacked. Garcia Vazquez, the central bank president who was at the meeting, threatened to resign.

Alfonsin's response was to sack both men.

Grinspun's replacement, Juan Vital Sourrouille, could hardly be more different. He is a rather timid, Harvard-educated economist.

Foreign bankers expect Sourrouille to do a better job of sticking to the IMF's strict guidelines.

PEN-PAL SPIES WOO OUR BOYS

INVESTIGATION by ADRIAN NEEDLESTONE

THE KGB are using beautiful girl spies as pen-pals to lure secrets from lonely British servicemen in the Falklands.

Marine commandos and the crew of the ice patrol ship *Endurance* have been targeted as prime catches by the Red spymasters.

The Kremlin is well aware that our troops, away from loved ones for months on end, could fall prey to pen-pals from behind the Iron Curtain.

Agents in Soviet satellites are used.

A girl encloses a snapshot and asks whether someone would like to write to her.

The letters then ask for details of movements of ships and the names of scientists in Polar expeditions.

LETTER

One such letter was sent to a crew member of the ice patrol ship *Endurance*.

The sender was 23-year-old "librarian" Elena Gibalova, from Bratislava.

The crewman involved said: "They must be mad if they think we'd answer letters like that."

He revealed that Royal Marines were receiving the letters too.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We are aware of these pen-pal letters."

"Our troops are actively discouraged from relationships with girls from Communist countries."

A way out of the Falklands jam

IN A WORLD where Colonel Gadaffi and Ayatollah Khomeini flourish, the role played by reason in international affairs might seem pretty limited. All the same, there can be few more improbable impasses than the one which has applied in the South Atlantic for the two and a half years since the Falklands war. A major western democracy has had to divert a large slice of its defence spending and manpower to the defence of a community the size of a large village from the claims of another western democracy. The two sides cannot even agree to talk. The only attempt at negotiations, in Berne last July, broke up the first day amid mutual name-calling about whether the issue of sovereignty was to be on the agenda.

Although the Argentines were the ones who walked out, their air of injured innocence is attracting some sympathy at international gatherings. President Alfonsin has made it clear that, although he wants to discuss sovereignty over the islands at some time, it need not be straight away, and that a considerable period could elapse before his country took possession of the islands, Britain.

The Argentines complain that Britain appears unable to distinguish between the present government, which is bringing to justice the men responsible for the invasion of the islands in 1982, and the previous military regime. The Argentines seem genuinely unable to understand why the islanders do not want to embrace Argentina, now that it is a democracy.

NEVERTHELESS, there remain three Argentine blind spots. First, the Argentine invasion of the Falklands has changed the equation. The occupation has steered the islanders' earlier suspicions of the Argentine into a deep-seated hostility that will take generations to overcome. The islanders, quite correctly, wonder why the present democracy in Argentina should last any longer than previous democratic interludes. The chilling tales of how Argentina's rulers treated their own people before Alfonsin took office, which have emerged from his inquiries into the fate of the "disappeared", are hardly calculated to reassure them.

Second, men have died in a war in defence of the principle that force should not be used to resolve territorial disputes. Britain cannot compromise that principle by giving Argentina more than it would have gained if it had not used force. China and Spain have the right to be treated in a civilised way over Hong Kong and Gibraltar because, for the most part, they have not behaved uncivilly.

But the main flaw in the Argentine argument, up to now, has been the failure to address the issue of what sovereignty means. Every Argentine child grows up with the notion that the Falklands are stolen Argentine property, so it is natural for them to assume that the British have the same sort of craving for ownership over the territory. Far from it: Britain would be quite happy to give up the land, but not against the wishes of the local people. This is what Mrs Thatcher means by sovereignty, and in her view, it is non-negotiable.

● By ROBERT HARVEY, Tory MP for SW Clwyd, who last week took part in the latest in a series of discussions between British and Argentine parliamentarians on the future of the Falklands

The Argentine refusal, up to now, to give the slightest weight to the wishes of the Falklanders has got in the way of any attempt to start bargaining.

The fact that the British see sovereignty as vested in the people, not the land, offers a way out. The British objection to having sovereignty on the agenda at all can be bypassed by a sensible form of words: for example both sides might agree that the "future of the islands" could be discussed. The British could point out that their view of the future is under a British flag, while the Argentine could claim that the future includes the possibility of their sovereignty.

Both sides accept that this could not be discussed in formal negotiations for a long time to come. The more immediate questions of Argentina's declaring a formal end of hostilities, Britain's ending of the 50-mile protection zone around the islands, a visit to war graves by Argentine relatives and the resumption of diplomatic and trading links must first be sorted out.

AGREEMENT on these issues would create a climate in which the trickiest question might be approached. Yet what happens when the irresistible force of Argentina's claim to the islands comes up against the Falklanders' immovable determination to stay British? It is just possible that if Argentina dangles the prospect of investment and closer links with the outside world, islanders' perceptions of their interests will change. More probably, Argentina can

only hope to change their attitudes if it offers an autonomy package so attractive that they can hardly refuse. This would have to include guarantees of their right to self-government, their own legal and financial system, their language and compensation to settle in Britain for those who wanted it.

After all, the islanders - or at least some of them - know they face an uncertain future. The present British government's commitment to the islands is not in doubt. But many fear that considerations of cost, of defence priorities, and of the need to mend Britain's fences with the Americans will weigh with any future government, Conservative or Labour. Better to hammer out a long-term guarantee now than continue to enjoy short-term security and long-term butterflies.

The Argentines may be ready to provide such guarantees under the three possible options they regard as starters: joint sovereignty, leaseback, or the transfer of sovereignty with guarantees. The two-flag solution has the advantage of giving Britain a permanent and Argentine-recognised constitutional role on the islands. The other solutions would require guarantees by a third party with the credibility to allay islanders' fears that Argentina could get away one day with flouting the treaty. The United Nations, the Organisation of American States and the Commonwealth all have rubber teeth. Only the United States fits the bill.

President Alfonsin is seeking an achievement as he wrestles with his country's hydra-headed economic problems. Mrs Thatcher is concerned that Britain's courage in fighting the Falklands should not be marred by any appearance of ungraciousness afterwards. The islanders may never get such a chance again to secure their own future. They should all start talking.

Spanish move to fish off Falklands

By DAVID BROWN
in Lisbon

SPAIN is seeking a special deal with Britain to allow deep-sea Spanish trawlers to fish on a long-term basis off the Falklands Islands and South Georgia. The fish would be processed in the Falklands.

Spanish fishing companies, with the blessing of their government in Madrid, want Britain to set up a formal 200-mile limit around the Falklands and South Georgia. The area has already attracted some trawlers from Japan, Spain, Russia and other Eastern bloc countries.

The Spaniards want to negotiate a bilateral agreement either with British companies or the Falkland islanders, and feel they are ideally placed to establish a thriving fishing industry in the South Atlantic.

The Spanish plan was put to eight British MPs, all members of the House of Commons' Select Committee for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during a week-long fact-finding mission to Spain and Portugal which ended yesterday.

The MPs were investigating the potential impact on Britain of the entry of Spain and Portugal to the Common Market next year. The Committee is expected to recommend that the Government goes ahead and sets up the 200-mile limit in waters which are still claimed by Argentina.

Members of the Select Committee visited the major Spanish fishing port of Vigo and met

Senor Miguel Oliver, the Spanish Government's Secretary-General for Fishing. The talks were aimed at establishing the magnitude of the threat which the Spanish fishing fleet of between 15,000 and 17,000 vessels will pose to British and other EEC fishermen when Spain joins the EEC.

Spain has as many fishing-boats as the whole of the Common Market countries put together. Negotiations between Spain and the EEC on fishing rights are still deadlocked and threaten to delay Spain's entry to the Community.

Britain, Denmark, France, Ireland and West Germany all want strict terms on the Spanish fleet but Spain wants free access to EEC waters for 300 trawlers at any time. At present, the EEC allows 100 Spanish trawlers to fish under licence at any one time.

The Spaniards have emphasised their interest in long-distance fishing operations by proposing a deal based on the Falklands and South Georgia. The Falkland Islanders have been pressing for development by Britain of the South Atlantic fishing grounds for some time, but only one British coastal vessel designed to operate up to three miles offshore, is working there.

The Spaniards, who have

fished for squid in the South Atlantic, have also been carrying out trials for other species off the Falklands and South Georgia.

Britain now has very few long-distance trawlers. Most have either been scrapped, sold abroad or laid up in harbour since Iceland banned them from the rich Arctic fishing grounds. British fishermen have also been reluctant to spend many months away from home on trips to the South Atlantic.

Mr John Spence, chairman of the Select Committee and Conservative MP for Ryedale, said: "The threat of the Spanish fleet in EEC waters has been exaggerated and we would welcome a bilateral agreement with Spain to fish in waters off the Falklands."

By and large, the Committee accepted that the Spaniards were more interested in developing the long-distance fishing enterprises rather than exploiting the already over-stretched resources of the North Sea and the Atlantic waters, controlled by the EEC.

A formal 200-mile limit around the Falkland Islands would create new political difficulties for Argentina and lead to policing problems for the Royal Navy. Although the Spanish Government is unlikely to risk souring its relations with Argentina by openly calling for the new limit, the Select Committee was left in no doubt that Madrid would support Britain in the interests of its fishermen.

Perón quits as party leader in Argentina

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - Señora Mariá Martínez de Perón has resigned as president of Argentina's opposition Peronist Party, a post she held since the death of her husband and party founder, Juan Perón, in 1974. She resigned in a letter dated February 4, just after the party split in a leadership dispute. Both branches of the party had confirmed her as president in separate national congresses at the beginning of February.

Señora Perón, who served as Argentina's President from 1974 until she was ousted in a 1976 military coup, has been living in self-imposed exile in Spain since 1982.

Britain rules out talks on Falklands sovereignty

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

THE British Government yesterday delivered a robust rejection of Argentine claims to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Commenting on the report on the Islands published by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in December, the Government said it was seeking better relations with a democratic Argentina but added: "We are not prepared to resume discussion of the future of the Islands with Argentina. The question of sovereignty must be set aside. . . ."

In its comments the Government echoes the words of Mr Michael Stewart, Labour Foreign Secretary in 1968, to the effect that "Her Majesty's Government have insisted on the paramountcy of the Islanders' wishes."

The Government added that Argentine actions in 1982 have ruled out any discussions about sovereignty over the Falklands.

In the document published yesterday, the Government blamed Argentina for the lack of progress towards a normalisation of bilateral relations and specifically rejected as "wholly wrong" allegations reported by the Foreign Affairs Committee that British officials were responsible for the breakdown of the Anglo-Argentine talks held in July in Berne.

At the same time the Government explicitly reserved the right to reach an eventual deal with Argentina by commenting: "It is right to avoid conjecture about the long term."

The Government claimed it was perusing vigorously the economic and social advancement of the Falklands and rejected the committee's criticism of the Falklands Islands Development Corporation.

The FIDC and the Overseas Development Administration had been characterised as "funereal" and "sluggish"

At the same time it held out little hope that Falklanders' demands for the proclamation of an Exclusive Fisheries Zone around the Islands would be met.

The Falklands question is expected to be discussed by Mr George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, when they meet in Washington today.

H.M.S.O. Cmmd 9447 £2.25).

Argentina stands by IMF accord, says minister

BY PETER MONTAGNON, EUROMARKETS CORRESPONDENT

SR JUAN SOURROUILLE, Argentina's new Economy Minister, yesterday stood by the rescheduling agreements with commercial banks and with the International Monetary Fund worked out by his predecessor, Sr Bernardo Grinspun.

"Argentina is striving to fulfil the economic programme designed to eliminate all problems, particularly interest arrearages," he said in a telex.

The telex, released by Citibank in New York last night, was clearly designed to reassure the international banking community following the abrupt dismissal of Sr Grinspun and Sr Enrique Garcia Vazquez, the

central bank president.

"We look forward to working with the bank credit committee and with the IMF in a positive and constructive manner," the telex said.

The minister, in his message which was also signed by Sr Alfredo Concepcion, the new president of the central bank, urged bank creditors to make a final effort to complete subscriptions to the \$4.2bn (£3.8bn) credit that is to accompany Argentina's new \$14bn debt rescheduling.

Commitments totalling \$4.077bn have been received for this loan from 327 creditor banks, the minister revealed.

NO GIVING WAY TO ARGENTINA

By DAVID ADAMSON
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Commons Foreign Affairs Committee's suggestion in its December report on the Falklands that now might be the time to offer olive branches to Argentina has been slapped down.

The Government response in a White Paper published yesterday rejects recommendations that Britain should unilaterally announce an end to fortification of the islands and lifting of the maritime Protection Zone as soon as Argentina formally declares hostilities ended.

"As has been made clear on many occasions, the Government intend that our defensive positions in the Falkland Islands will be maintained at the level necessary to ensure that there is no repetition of the events of 1982," the White Paper says.

As for the Protection Zone, a decision to lift it will be taken in "the light of our assessment of all the relevant considerations."

'Not sole trigger'

The White Paper adds that a formal declaration by Argentina of an end to hostilities would have a positive impact on relations with Britain but could not be the sole trigger for action over the Protection Zone.

Short shrift is given to the Foreign Affairs Committee's recommendation that the Government should consider inviting the United Nations Decolonisation Committee to the Islands.

"We would need to be persuaded . . . that such a visit would permit an impartial consideration of the situation in the islands, especially the central question of self-determination," the White Paper says.

"Since the conflict the majority of the Committee of 24 (on decolonisation) have proved to be strong supporters of the Argentine position."

Sovereignty claim

The Government is equally firm in dealing with the Foreign Affairs Committee's reluctance to come to a categorical decision on the legal validity of Britain's claim to sovereignty.

The committee's argument that assertions of confidence in Britain's title to the islands are belied by the fact of the 1967 and 1982 negotiations with Argentina is described as "surprising."

The willingness of successive British Governments to seek a negotiated resolution of differences should not be taken as a reflection of doubts about British title.

However, the committee's support for the Government's refusal to discuss sovereignty in the present situation is welcomed.

(Observations by Her Majesty's Government on the Fifth Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee: Falkland Islands, HMSO, £2.25).

South Atlantic relics

STEPS ARE being taken by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation to give the colony a museum after two abortive attempts over the years.

The original museum in Port Stanley's old wooden town hall was burnt down in 1944 by what locals insist was a servicemen's cigarette. A valuable collection of wreck memorabilia and stuffed birds was lost.

A second collection was put into storage after the Argentine invasion and its premises are now used as an oil store. A search is now on for a building to house a permanent museum highlighting the islands' bird-life, agriculture, wrecks — and of course the experience of war.

MPs chided for doubts on claim to Falklands

By Paul Keel

An all-party Commons committee was taken to task by the Government yesterday for expressing doubts about Britain's historical claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

In a response published by the Foreign Office the Government said that it regretted the reluctance of the foreign affairs committee to reach "a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of Britain's title to the islands."

The committee said in December last year that the historical and legal evidence relating to Britain's right to sovereignty involved areas of such uncertainty that its members were disinclined to pronounce judgement on the conflicting claims with Argentina.

The Government demonstrated yesterday however that it was in no such doubt. "The Government's position on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has been made clear on numerous occasions. The Islands are British territory," the Foreign Office paper stated unequivocally.

It continued: "Britain's title is derived from early settlement, reinforced by formal claims in the name of the Crown and completed by open, continuous, effective and peaceful possession, occupation and administration of the islands since 1833 (save for the 10 weeks of forcible Argentine occupation in 1982).

"The exercise of sovereignty by the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands has, furthermore, consistently been shown to accord with the wishes of the islanders, expressed through their democratically elected representatives."

The Government said it also found surprising the committee's argument that confidence in the British title was belied by the fact that these were negotiations with Argentina between 1967 and 1982, and by doubts expressed by officials during the first half of this century.

"That successive British governments were prepared to seek a negotiated resolution of our differences with the government of Argentina over the islands should not be taken as a reflection of any doubts about British title.

"And it is hardly surprising that with a subject as complicated as the history of the Falkland Islands, differing, and in some cases conflicting views on the question of sovereignty should in the past have been expressed from time to time by officials."

The Government took the opportunity to reiterate its desire to persevere with "constructive and realistic policies comprising resolute fulfilment of our commitments to the Falkland islanders coupled with patient efforts to promote better relations between Britain and Argentina."

But it declined to accept the committee's recommendation that Britain should lift the present protection zone around the islands if and when Argentina formally announced the end of hostilities over the Falklands.

"A formal declaration by Argentina of a definite cessation of hostilities would have a positive impact on our relations, but could not be the sole trigger for action over the protective zone," the government statement said.

MPs doubt on claim to Falklands criticized

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government yesterday admonished the Conservative-dominated Foreign Affairs Committee for casting doubt on Britain's legal claim to the Falkland Islands and underlined more firmly than ever its refusal to countenance discussions with Argentina over sovereignty.

After a two-year investigation into the Falklands, the committee said in December of the rival claims to sovereignty: "The historical and legal evidence demonstrates such areas of uncertainty that we are unable to reach a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of the historical claims of either country."

But in its response to the committee yesterday, the Government reflected the irritation of ministers at its finding by stating: "The Government regret the committee's reluctance to reach a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of Britain's title to the islands. The Government's position has been made clear on numerous occasions. The islands are British territory."

It went on: "Britain's title is derived from early settlement, reinforced by formal claims in the name of the Crown and completed by open, continuous, effective and peaceful possession, occupation and administration of the islands since 1833 (save for the 10 weeks of forcible Argentine occupation in 1982). The exercise of sovereignty by the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands has, furthermore, consistently been shown to accord with the wishes of the islanders."

The Government took the committee to task for arguing that ministerial assertions of confidence in the strength of the British title were belied by the fact that negotiations took place with Argentina between 1967 and 1982, and by doubts expressed by officials during the first half of this century.

That successive British governments were prepared to seek a negotiated resolution of differences with Argentina "should not be taken as a reflection of any doubts about British title."

The Government said that it would continue to pursue the objective of improving relations with Argentina.

Fifth report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 1983-84: Falkland Islands: Observations by Her Majesty's Government (Stationery Office, £2.25).

GOLD RUSH . . .

to The Last Place On Earth

DIAMONDS, oil, uranium, coal and gold. They nestle below a glittering 7,000ft. thick cap of ice—the last great treasure trove of the planet Earth.

For more than 25 years, the world's scientists have worked in perfect harmony on the last unexploited continent, probing, analysing and assessing the mineral goldmine.

The results are in—and the era of pristine scientific research is over. The fight for the spoils of Antarctica is on.

Ironically, at the very time that Britain is enthralled by the TV dramatisation of Captain Scott's race to the South Pole, and the intense international competition between him and his rival explorers 73 years ago, another race is going on over The Last Place On Earth.

This month representatives of 16 nations, including Britain, meet in Rio de Janeiro to negotiate the framework for carving up the ice-bound continent, the size of China. They include the 12 original signatories to the Antarctica Treaty and four others who later joined the 'Club'.

They created a twilight zone in terms of international law and ownership that banned military exercises and left the desolate landscape to the scientists. Each government got its own report and each now wants a slice of the Antarctic pie.

Challenge

The basis for joining the Club was straightforward. A country had to show sufficient interest to send in a scientific expedition and adhere to the non-exploitable aspects of the Treaty.

The Third World had neither the cash nor the know-how to make the effort, but suddenly the reality of enormous resources has dawned.

The countries that poured millions into the Antarctic waste are being challenged.

Malaysia has set the ball rolling in the United Nations, and the subject comes up later this year on the official agenda under the title, The Question of Antarctica.

Malaysia is not alone. A string of African countries who would be hard put to launch a boat to reach Antarctica, want a slice of the colossal treasure chest of resources.



Today's treasure hunters . . . a British team survey for the sparkling prizes that lie beneath Antarctica's frozen wilderness.

from George Gordon

IN NEW YORK

Right now they lack the advanced technology needed to drill through ice, ranging in thickness from 7,000 to 15,000 feet simply to reach the surface of the land.

'Neither did the Club when the members first sent expeditions,' they argue.

Britain's stake in this wilderness goes back 200 years to Captain Cook and today our one-sixth segment is potentially priceless — made more so by the close proximity of the Falkland Islands.

If large-scale development of Antarctica's resources becomes a reality, the South Atlantic war may emerge as one of the best investments Britain ever made.

Apart from Britain, the Club includes the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Norway, the Soviet Union, South Africa, Japan, France, Belgium, Poland, Brazil, India and West Germany.

China, Peru, Uruguay and Taiwan are now expressing more than a passing interest.

While the arguments continue, Japan, making no pretences over taking scientific soundings, have sent in the Hakurei Maru, an oil explorer. It is specially strengthened to

cope with the ice and packed with seismic technology.

The West Germans have sent a similar vessel for the same purpose. Poland, despite its desperate fiscal problems, has been spending millions of Zlotys on specially outfitted trawlers to harvest krill, tiny shrimp-like creatures that flourish in the bitter cold waters, and are rich in protein.

There is, of course, nothing to stop them or any other country from simply forging ahead.

Antarctica is a no-man's land without laws and rights. An American legal expert noted: It is an ideal place to murder your mother-in-law. Nobody's jurisdiction extends there.

Heritage

In the exploratory period there have been no such incidents. The terrible climatic conditions and the annual six-months of darkness have resulted in some remarkable incidents of international co-operation with even the Russians welcoming visitors into their stations.

During the Falklands War, Britain's outpost rubbed shoulders, and was on good terms with, the nearest neighbour station, Argentina.

When the Club meets in Rio this month a measure of the intense international interest is that a further 16 nations will be sitting in on the discussions, including four Soviet Bloc countries.

Who will own Antarctica



Drilling into the ice-cap . . . to uncover untold riches.

is the major issue, but the underlying concern is how soon will the commercial exploitation begin?

To a large extent it will depend on cash and technology. America, and to some extent Britain and the Soviet Union, might be the obvious firsts.

The ringsiders, and the Third World in particular, want the legalities hammered out first on the basis that the vast ice chunk is the heritage of all mankind.

Privately, American officials feel the sentiment is fine, but contend that if they sit around and wait for the underdeveloped nations to raise the cash and know-how, the riches of Antarctica will remain untapped for another 100-years.

After the millions that have been poured in to finding what lies beneath the ice, there is a strong feeling within the Club that the last continent will be carved up like all the others — on the principle of first come first served.

Argentina finds a new man to fight inflation

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S Economy Minister, Senor Bernardo Grinspun, has resigned and is being replaced by Senor Juan Sourrouille, a respected young economist concerned with a gradual reduction of the country's high inflation.

President Raul Alfonsin is reported to have asked Senor Grinspun, a close friend, and Senor Enrique Garcia Vazquez, Central Bank chairman, to submit their resignations because serious disagreements between the two were blocking vital economic measures and tax reforms.

Senor Garcia Vazquez is being replaced by the Domestic Trade Secretary, Senor Alfredo Concepcion, 63.

Senor Sourrouille, 44, is leaving his post as Economic Planning Secretary. He is the author of a five-year economic plan presented last month at President Alfonsin's request.

The plan, which drew praise from labour leaders and businessmen alike, lays down guidelines for economic growth based on increased exports and private investment.

The new Economy Minister is not a member of the ruling Radical party. The resignations represent President Alfonsin's second Cabinet crisis since he

took over from the military regime 14 months ago.

The first Minister to resign was Senor Antonio Mucci, who left the Labour Ministry in April, 1984, after a Government-sponsored Bill to re-organise trade unions was defeated in Congress.

During his period as Economy Minister Senor Grinspun successfully led Argentina to the renegotiation of its \$48 billion (£44 billion) debt.

But on the domestic front he became the butt of growing criticism from all sectors in the country, including his own party, as he failed to contain rising interest rates and to curb inflation.

Senor Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, says his country would welcome diplomatic initiatives from any nation to help restore normal relations with Britain.

"Whoever tries to bring both parties together will play a useful role," Senor Caputo said on Monday after Press reports from London that President Reagan of the United States might offer to mediate in the Falklands dispute when President Alfonsin of Argentina visits him in Washington next month.

The Minister said, however, that the United Nations secretary-general, Senor Peres de Cuellar, was the main mediator in the dispute.

Argentine Cabinet reshuffle

Minister bows to economic pressure

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's top economic officials have been replaced in a surprise Cabinet change by President Alfonsín. Government sources said it was aimed at achieving a more coherent economic policy.

A presidential spokesman announced the resignation of the Economy Minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspun, and Cen-

tral Bank president Señor Enrique García Vázquez. Differences between the two over monetary policy and projected reforms to the financial system were public knowledge.

The biggest loser appears to be Señor Grinspun, who has been increasingly criticized for his failure to control the 750 per cent inflation rate and inability to reach a wage policy agreement with the powerful Peronist unions.

His quick temper and frequent outbursts alienated him from the press and all-important foreign bankers who hold the key to renegotiating the country's \$48 billion (£44 billion) foreign debt.

The low point of Señor Grinspun's popularity came last week when his own Radical Party said it would summons him to "explain how he plans to get us out of this mess". - in the words of one party leader.

The resignation of Señor García Vázquez came as more of a surprise because he was respected in financial circles. Party sources said it was his differences with Señor Grinspun which led to his replacement.

Both men can take credit for rescheduling much of the foreign debt in the 13 months they held office and for having obtained a \$1.42 billion standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Señor Sourrouille, aged 44, the new Economy Minister, will have the unenviable task of convincing the IMF and private banks to continue disbursing fresh credit in spite of spiralling inflation.

New economics chief, page 17

Reagan mediation welcomed

Argentina might welcome efforts by the United States to mediate in the Falkland Islands dispute, the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, has hinted (Douglas Tweedale writes).

"All nations interested in peace should be concerned about this conflict," Señor Caputo said when asked about reports that President Reagan would raise the Falklands issue with Mrs Thatcher in Washington.

"Any country that tries to bring the two sides together would perform a useful function," Señor Caputo said. But the principal figure in this mediation was still UN Secretary General Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

Central Bank president Señor Enrique García Vázquez. They are replaced by the Planning Secretary, Señor Juan Sourrouille, as Economy Minister and the Interior Trade Secretary, Señor Alfredo Concepción, as Central Bank president.

No reason was given for the change but sources in Señor Alfonsín's Radical Party said he wanted to put an end to policy squabbles between Señor

Argentine's new man fights 750% inflation

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The cabinet reshuffle which replaced Argentina's temperamental economy minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspun, appears aimed as much at a change in the government's economic style as at profound policy shifts.

In a surprise move, President Raul Alfonsín named Señor Juan Sourrouille, the planning secretary, to replace Señor Grinspun and Señor Alfredo Concepción to replace Señor Enrique García Vázquez as central bank president.

The immediate reason appears to have been to end policy squabbles between the two. But sources close to Señor Alfonsín have said the government is also shifting its priorities slightly, from the huge foreign debt (which Señor Grinspun renegotiated last year) to more pressing domestic problems. Señor Sourrouille will be focusing primarily on Argentina's incredible 750 per cent inflation rate and on stimulating private investment.

It appears unlikely there will be major changes in Argentina's policy towards the International Monetary Fund or towards its private creditors, since Señor Sourrouille played an active role in last year's debt negotiations. If anything, it is expected the relationship between Argentina and its creditors will improve without Señor Grinspun's vitriolic temper. (One of the incidents cited as a possible reason for Señor Grinspun's sacking is that he reportedly yelled at and insulted an IMF representative during a meeting on Monday).

The 44-year-old Señor Sourrouille is widely respected for his scholarly knowledge and calm style. He is the author of a new five-year economic plan which recommended reducing inflation, boosting exports and promoting investment as the only way to pay back the foreign debt without causing a recession.

In the short term, the new economy minister is expected to carry out two major reform programmes stalled under Señor Grinspun and Señor García Vázquez - a tax reform and an overhaul of the financial system.

Argentina reshuffle, page 9

The Standard
19.2.85



"A most interesting case.
The first person to die of
boredom reading about the
Belgrano."

Falklands constitution plan upsets Argentina

By Jimmy Burns
and Hugh O'Shaughnessy

ARGENTINA has expressed concern to Britain over plans to draw up a new constitution for the Falkland Islands which would contain a firm commitment to the principle of self-determination for the islanders.

In a statement at the weekend the Argentine Foreign Ministry said the proposed constitution violated resolutions by the United Nations urging both sides to abstain from decisions which could unilaterally change the status quo of the islands.

The Ministry statement added that British attitudes were blocking hope of an early resumption of Anglo-Argentine diplomatic relations.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the draft constitution, which has been discussed in the Falkland Islands Legislative Council, contained a self-determination commitment based on the UN Human Rights Declaration of 1966. This was ratified by Britain in 1976, but not by Argentina.

Reiterating Argentina's traditional claim to sovereignty over the islands, the Argentine statement said that the original inhabitants of the islands were expelled by the British in 1833. "The principle of self-determination would only serve to confirm an illegitimate occupation," it said.

The Alfonsín Government has issued a series of communiques in recent weeks in response to what is seen as a hardening British position on the Falklands issue.

The latest statement reaffirmed Argentina's intention to solve the Falklands dispute by peaceful means, and to offer the inhabitants full guarantees protecting "their interests.

Continued on Back Page

Continued from Page 1

Falklands plan

style of life, traditions and properties."

Argentine Foreign Ministry officials claim privately that the generally doveish tone of the Argentine position reflects hopes of an early resumption of talks on the future of the islands that would dispel any danger of a new conflict.

The protest comes at a weekend when British and Argentine politicians seeking a rapprochement between the two countries are holding their second round of discussions on the Falklands at the University of Maryland in the U.S.

According to political observers the new statement seemed aimed at placating nationalistic feeling by reaffirming Argentina's traditional legal arguments, and labelling the Thatcher Government as intransigent.

The Argentine Foreign Min-

istry has recently been accused by hard-line members of the ruling Radical Party and the Opposition Peronists of "going soft" on the Falklands issue.

This has coincided with Press reports accusing Britain of trying to "sabotage" Argentina's peace agreement with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

The Ministry has indicated privately that it regards recent British press reports of an Anglo-Chilean military pact during the Falklands war as part of a deliberate campaign to embarrass the Alfonsín Government.

A parliamentary debate on the Chilean peace treaty is fixed for the end of this month.

Nationalists in the Argentine Senate say they will vote against the treaty because of Chile's alleged alliance with Britain.

Argentina vents anger at Falklands constitution

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina has criticized a British plan for a new constitution in the Falkland Islands, saying it would give the islanders veto power over parliamentary decision and that it blocks efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty.

A communiqué issued on Saturday by the Foreign Ministry states that the proposed new constitution implies a disregard for United Nations resolutions, in particular Resolution 31/49, "which calls on both sides to abstain from taking unilateral decisions which modify the existing situation".

Argentina also accused Britain of "twisting the principle of self-determination" by granting the islanders what it claims is a veto power over Parliament.

"This reform tries to give the inhabitants of the Malvinas a way of extending the colonial status of the islands indefinitely, forgetting among other things that they are now full British citizens", the communiqué says.

Argentina accuses Britain of ignoring offers to negotiate the islanders' status, saying Argentina has always been ready to offer them full autonomy within its system of government.

But Britain's refusal to negotiate and the proposed new constitution "are in contrast to Argentina's previous position to find a negotiated solution to the dispute, and makes impossible the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries".

EXCLUSIVE: DRAMATIC EVIDENCE ABOUT A FATALITY-FLAWED HERO

Scott: New clues from a black box

I HAVE discovered dramatic new evidence which should settle the bitter arguments surrounding the reputation of Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

The existence of startling notes and papers was unknown when Central Television embarked on its dramatisation of the Antarctic explorer's life.

The series is controversial enough, for it is based on a book by Roland Huntford, who believes that Scott was a bungler and incompetent leader. But when the first episode of *The Last Place on Earth* is shown on television tomorrow night, most people will be uncertain what to believe. Scott's son, Sir Peter, and his half-brother, Lord Kennet, are in no doubt that the portrayal is not just unpatriotic but also untrue.

But the documents I saw last week in the vaults below Christie's saleroom in London prove that Captain Scott was a fatally flawed hero. Indeed, the television version may be more of a kindness than an insult.

This incontrovertible new evidence has been delivered by an anonymous member of the family of the great Captain Laurence Oates. The box of fading notes is now in the hands



STARTLING: The box (inset) and the evidence inside compiled by Oates's mother

lunch with Dr Atkinson, the Naval surgeon on the expedition, and struck gold. I asked Dr Atkinson point blank if he thought Laurie had ever regretted going on the expedition, she wrote. 'He hesitated before answering and said that there were times when Laurie did.'

'Dr Atkinson said Captain Scott would be very rude and not behave well, then be very friendly and try to make it up. Laurie was a good deal worried about the way things were done.'

Mrs Oates's next lunch guest was Cecil Meares, the mysterious Army intelligence man who played a major role in equipping the expedition. Mr Meares said there used to be great trouble and unhappiness, wrote Mrs Oates. 'Captain Scott would

BY JONATHAN MARGOLIS

And Oates Huntford said, is on the record' for his dislike and contempt for Scott, his belief that the expedition leader was an ill-tempered, irresponsible, incompetent blunderer. But evidence of this from other members of the expedition has always been crucially missing.

Mrs Oates's investigations started when she contacted Commander Edward Evans, a leading member of the Antarctic team. I asked him if he had ever heard Laurie say that he was in a mind to come back with the ship and not to go on the southern journey, and Evans's reply was: 'Yes, very decidedly', she wrote.

The next evening she called on the Captain's widow, Lady Kathleen Scott. The frosty interview was not to yield much.

'Little Peter was brought down, a fine looking child of about three or four years, very scantily clad in bright blue sateen' she observed. 'Lady Scott was not at her ease and evidently embarrassed throughout the visit. Perhaps quite natural.'

I asked Lady Scott whether she had realised the risks and dangers, which indeed I had not, and she said she knew they were considerable. I ventured to ask her what she considered was the cause of the whole disaster and she said everything had gone against the expedition from first to last and there were difficulties on every hand and condition of weather, which it was absolutely impossible to battle against.

'Lady Scott said even if the party had lived, they could have done nothing finer in their lives.' The next day, Mrs Oates had



BOURGEOIS: Scott

of Christie's documents expert Kate Hedworth.

The story begins in April, 1913, a year after the deaths of Scott and his team. Mrs Caroline Oates, a formidable middle-aged lady of an aristocratic family, had one mission in life: to destroy the good name of Scott, whom she was convinced had effectively murdered her son, 32-year-old Laurence.

That April Mrs Oates gently interrogated every survivor of the disastrous Scott expedition. At night she would sit and write out her private notes and file them in a large black deedbox, marked L.E.G.O. — Laurence Edward Grace Oates.

It was these notes that Huntford hailed this week as 'sensational'. An historical breakthrough.

Captain Oates was an attractive figure, with his insouciant, aristocratic humour — so different, says Huntford, from Scott's bourgeois seriousness.



ARISTOCRATIC: Oates

swear all day at Commander Evans and the others. He said it was shocking.'

The yellowing notes were enough to thrill Huntford last week. 'They confirm what I have felt and written,' he said. 'I was morally certain that there was always rowing and tension.'

There was one myth Huntford attempted to crack that Central TV was too nervous to portray — he asserted that Kathleen Scott had a love affair with the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, a rival of her husband.

Huntford has been vilified by Sir Peter and Lord Kennet for his comments based, he said, on letters from Nansen to Kathleen now at the University Library in Cambridge.

'You have to have Lord Kennet's permission to see them, and I had it once,' said Huntford.

Central TV says that *The Last Place on Earth* is 'fiction based on fact'. Perhaps, as the dusty notes in Christie's vaults and the Cambridge library suggest, it is more than that.



TV VERSION: Martin Shaw and Susan Woolridge as the Scotts

US may mediate over Falklands

by Maria Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires

THE United States is expected to offer its services in an attempt to restore diplomatic links between Britain and Argentina when the Argentinian president, Raul Alfonsin, meets President Reagan next month, according to a highly placed Argentinian official. Argentina's insistence on discussing sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has so far kept Britain away from the negotiating table.

The US ambassador in Buenos Aires, Frank Ortiz, who has excellent contacts with the Argentinian government and military, is said to have lobbied with some success to make the Reagan administration take a more active role.

Argentina wants Reagan to nudge Britain into agreeing to a negotiating session in Brazil in May or June, hoping that will lead to renewal of diplomatic relations.

The Argentinian minister for the economy, Bernardo Grinspun, told The Sunday Times while he would not lift sanctions against British interests in Argentina unless Mrs Thatcher agreed to talk, he was prepared to end the ban on buying British goods in "exceptional cases".

One exception Argentina has in mind is the purchase of spare parts for British-built frigates acquired by the Argentinian navy in the 1970s. The lack of replacement parts has prevented the ships from carrying out their patrol duties.

Some ministers in Buenos Aires are urging Alfonsin to end the economic sanctions as a goodwill gesture, but Grinspun, who is considered to be a hardliner over the Falklands, said: "Argentina will not lift economic restrictions imposed on Great Britain during the war unless it is through a complete negotiation and dialogue without conditions."

At present Brazil looks after Argentinian interests in Britain and Switzerland represents the British in Buenos Aires. Talks organised last year in Berne by the Swiss collapsed over the sovereignty issue.

Diplomatic sources in London say the British government has yet to be informed of the Reagan administration's intent to mediate. "For the moment, Mrs Thatcher seems to be in no hurry to patch things up with the Argentinians," one informant said.

Despite official stand-offishness, though, other contacts are thriving and the big British banks, to whom Argentina owes \$2.8 billion, have made no attempt to tie the renegotiation of Argentina's debt to the unfreezing of British economic interests in Argentina.

A delegation of British Labour and Tory MPs will meet Argentinian parliamentarians next week at a seminar in the US at John Hopkins University. The Argentinians are counting on the seminar to give an extra push to the negotiations they hope will be sponsored by the Reagan administration.

Told it by a Marine

WHAT with all this unending bashing on about the Belgrano, it is all too easy to forget that the Falkland Islands were eventually regained in a campaign fought on (relatively) dry land. "No Picnic" (Secker £12.95) tells how.

My colleague R. H. Greenfield, *Sunday Telegraph* Defence Correspondent, went down to the Royal Marine Barracks at Eastney, near Portsmouth, to meet the author, Major-General Julian Thompson. Described afterwards as "the man of the match," he was the 3 Commando Brigade commander who spearheaded the battle from the day of the landings to the Argentine surrender.

A small, boyish figure, he radiates the charm required to get his men to "yomp" the breadth of East Falkland—though his staff assert that he can be "quite fierce when cross." All military leaders seem to have a trademark, and

Thompson's massive briar pipe was as much in evidence last week as it was the day he marched behind it into Stanley.

Was it really such a close-run thing as his book seems to imply? "Well, yes. I do sometimes find myself wondering how on earth we did it. If the Argentines had bombed our transports on Day One—or if that one Chinook helicopter had not escaped the sinking of Atlantic Conveyor. . . . We won because our people, right down to the most junior levels, were bloody good at their jobs, and because the Argentines weren't more aggressive. I'd rather like to ask them why."

In his present job, in an imposing barracks set about with ancient artillery pieces behind the candy-floss stalls of Southsea, he is in charge of Royal Marine training. Applying all the lessons learnt in the Falklands. What were the lessons?

One he hopes has been learnt is the importance of maintaining specially-trained forces for amphibious operations. He thinks the Royal Marines are in less danger now of falling victim in the next round of defence cuts. One he hopes has not been learnt is that Britain can hope to get away in future with another such string-and-sealing wax expedition—"I trust no one still believes that merchant ships alone can do the job. They can't."

What else? Well, the British Army is now learning to get in and out of landing-craft in rough weather, just like Royal Marines. "And some of the exercises we run now last about twice as long as they did. It gives time for people to get really tired, and for things to go wrong."

But perhaps Thompson's most enduring achievement may prove to be as a peacemaker. After he had had two battalions of the Parachute Regiment in his brigade for most of the campaign, the traditional hosti-

lity between Paras and Boot-necks (Royal Marines) seems to have disappeared. "The rivalry is still there, but there is now respect as well. Each side learnt that the other wouldn't let them down."

Has he ever been back to the scene of his brigade's triumph? "No, but I suppose I could be tempted. I never really had the time to meet the islanders, and I'd like to take a look at the wild-life and do some shooting." Shooting? No, not Argentines this time. Just ducks.

£6.5m hospital for Falklands

By Our
Architecture Correspondent

Work on a £6.5 million hospital for the Falkland Islands, incorporating modern diagnostic and treatment facilities and housing for the elderly, will begin shortly.

The hospital, designed by Brian Hitchcox, a Department of Health and Social Security architect, will be built on the site at Port Stanley where the old hospital was badly damaged by fire last April when eight people died.

It will serve all the South Atlantic and Antarctica, as well as the Falkland Islands, and be able to cope with military emergencies.

£110m jump in Falklands cost

by VICTOR SMART, Air Correspondent

THE COST of setting up the direct air link to the Falklands, due to begin regularly ferrying troops and supplies in April, has risen by a further £110 million to £350 million.

To cope with the twice-weekly flights, a £50 million expansion has become necessary on Ascension Island. This is to be the staging post for the 16,000-mile return flights from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, using wide-bodied TriStar jets.

The project at Ascension includes a new airport apron, hangars and accommodation for 400 servicemen.

In addition the Ministry of Defence has awarded British Airways a three-year contract to operate the flights, estimated to be worth at least £60 million.

Another £240 million is being spent on the new 8,500ft runway at Mount Pleasant in the Falklands and £119 million for new army facilities.

At the moment, the Falklands garrison is supplied from Ascension Island by sea and by flights of up to 13 hours in RAF Hercules transport aircraft.

The Property Service Agency, directing the Falklands projects, claims the new direct link will save the taxpayer £500,000 a week—mostly by eliminating in-flight refuelling of Hercules. However, this will be offset by the project's huge borrowing costs.

Social Democrat leader David Owen commented last week: 'The need to expand the airfields underlines the horrendous cost of Fortress Falklands. The fact that this spending becomes inescapable emphasises the folly of the post-Falklands strategy.'

Mail on Sunday
17.2.85

Stanley's double trouble

THE long term future of hapless Defence Minister John Stanley looks somewhat shaky after the disclosure that he called for two draft statements to Parliament on the Belgrano affair — one saying one thing and the other saying another.

Today I bring you two more Stanley stories. On his way to Port

Stanley one evening, the ship's captain told him: 'We dine at seven.'

But Stanley insisted: 'I always eat at 8 p.m.'

To which the captain replied: 'You can eat in your room when you like. We're all eating at 7 p.m.' And they did.

On arrival, the Falklands military commander, Major General Peter de la Billiere,

briefed Stanley on the island defences, which were regarded as about as tight as they could be.

At the end, Stanley declared he was not satisfied with the precautions being taken to keep out Argentine 'special forces' — their equivalent of our SAS.

There was a long silence. Billiere is a former head of the SAS.

Daily Mail
18.2.85

Argentine hockey trip defended

HOCKEY chiefs yesterday defended the decision to send a Welsh Women's team to Argentina.

A party of 18 players will be among 12 countries competing in an international tournament next month.

The trip has been criticised by relatives of servicemen killed in the Falklands War — particularly Welsh Guards, who suffered Britain's biggest losses

But Mrs Ceri O'Donnell, president of the Welsh

Women's Hockey Association, said a great deal of 'heart searching and careful deliberation' had gone into the decision to send a team.

'We have spent many months discussing the situation and have not come to this decision without considering the personal feelings of relatives of servicemen.

Mr Keith Raffan, Tory MP for Delyn, Clywd, said: 'Since Argentina has not officially ended the hostilities that it started, I find it extraordinary that this visit should go ahead.'

Daily Mail
18.2.85

The Falklands' crime invasion

THE Falkland Islands have been hit by a mini-crime wave of violence, drug-taking and theft.

Magistrates at Port Stanley are working harder than ever to deal with the culprits, most of whom are illegal immigrants from Britain working on the £350 million airport. Magistrates chairman Mrs Jessie Booth said many had already served lengthy prison sentences.

Why Amundsen got the cold shoulder

by HENRIETTA KNIGHT



The winner . . . explorer Amundsen

THE controversial £7½ million series on one of history's great races — between Scott and Amundsen to the South Pole—finally gets underway on ITV tonight.



It was a race that captured the imagination of the world. Scott, and Britain, confidently expected to win. But the Norwegian reached the Pole first. Scott found his country's flag there to signal his triumph when he arrived a month later.

Both men won honour as national heroes—and both have faced critical questioning of their reputations.

The series, *The Last Place On Earth*, is based on a book by Roland Huntford which has been attacked by the Scott family as a slur on the explorer.

The victor, too, has come under fire in his own country. In his book, *The Race*, in 1974, Norwegian author Kåre Holt described Amundsen as a moral pygmy with homosexual tendencies, who ate his own dogs. The explorer's family protested strongly.

One of the family, Carl Henrik Amundsen, a 32-year-old art director from Oslo, whose grandfather was the explorer's brother, appears as an extra in the ITV series.

That came about when he saw an advertisement in an Oslo newspaper. 'I thought it would be fitting for an Amundsen to actually appear in the film of his rival,' he said.

'But I was surprised to see that Captain Scott is seen as a fool in the programme. I always thought he was one of Britain's great heroes, as Roald Amundsen is in Norway.



'My family never took legal action against the author of *The Race* because my grandfather, Gustav, said it would only be advertising for it.' The book claimed that



Ancestral link . . . TV role for Carl Henrik Amundsen

Amundsen's ambition was so fanatical he was prepared to put his men's lives at risk. The fact that his party ate their own dogs made him a villain in Britain, and in Norway, too, after *The Race* was published.

But, said Carl Henrik, the decision was logical bearing in mind the conditions. 'The dogs were walking food. It was a sensible way of feeding his men and the other dogs.'

'It is certainly true that he wanted to win the race. He wanted the best for his country, but he always had the interests of his men at heart. Roland Huntford, who criticised Scott, is a champion of Amundsen. 'He was an amazing leader—the stuff that great generals are made of. He was wasting his time on polar exploration.'

Norwegian Sverre Anker Ousdal's portrayal of Amundsen in the series is described as 'realistic' by Carl Henrik. 'How strange that a British television series shows my ancestor in a true light, while in Norway his reputation has been tarnished.'

Argy-bargy

MAJOR GENERAL Julian Thompson, who led 3 Commando Brigade in the Falklands war, recalls in his book "No Picnic," out on Monday, a story of a meeting between a British officer and an Argentinian prisoner.

The two men discovered a shared enthusiasm for polo and it became apparent that the Argentinian had served under an officer trained only the year before at Sandhurst.

Amazed that the Argentinians should have put up such a poor defence with staff college officers to lead them, the Briton asked his prisoner for an explanation. The Argentinian replied: "He must have been asleep during the lectures."

Falklands free post goes on

SERVICEMEN on the Falklands are to retain the right to send letters home free, a concession which costs the Government £200,000 a year. However, Mr John Stanley, the minister for the armed forces, said that the position will be reviewed in the future.

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HOW THE TRUTH EMERGED ABOUT THE BELGRANO



*What actually happened
(all times GMT)*

1. *Government's version, 1982**
2. *Government's correction*

April 30

Rules of Engagement changed to allow attack on Argentine carrier 25 de Mayo outside 12-mile exclusion zone

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed in Clive Ponting talk) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes MP, Sept 19, 1984

HMS Conqueror detects oiler south of Falklands and follows

1. Not mentioned
2. Revealed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies, shadow defence spokesman, April 4, 1984

May 1

1pm. Conqueror sights Belgrano

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Conqueror's captain in 1983); confirmed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies, April 4, 1984

May 2

8am. Belgrano reverses course to head west

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting), confirmed by PM in letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

9.15am.+ Admiral Woodward asks for change in rules of engagement to allow attack on Belgrano

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Woodward, Oct 82) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

11am to noon. Rules changed to allow attack on all Argentine ships outside territorial waters

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

12.30. Radio transmission to task force changing rules

1. Not mentioned
2. Confirmed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies, April 4, 1984

2pm. Conqueror gets message, but garbling delays decoding

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

2pm. Conqueror reports position of Belgrano and course (west) and at 2.40pm Navy headquarters at Northwood revealed report; senior officers and MoD told of course. Ministers not informed

1. No details given
2. PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

4pm. Conqueror acknowledges rule change and says about to attack

1. No details given
2. PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

7pm. Attacks Belgrano, which is sailing west at 11 knots, 368 lives lost

1. Attack contained in official version. No time given
2. True course stated Nov 29, 1982

May 7

Britain announces the rule change under which attack was made

1. Same

* White Paper on Falklands War (Cmd 8758p. and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse's Official Dispatch, London Gazette, December 14, 1982.

A crack in the iceberg

Britain freezes; but the political ice may be beginning to break for the first time since the Falklands war. Two opinion polls this week show significant cracks in support for the Conservatives since 1982. On Sunday, Mori had the Tories and Labour level pegging at 37 per cent, with the Alliance on 24 per cent (compared with Tories 42, Labour 34 and Alliance 21 a month previously). Mrs Thatcher's personal popularity was at a new low. Then yesterday, Gallup produced an even more fascinating set of findings, with the Conservatives 35, Labour 32 and the Alliance 31.5. Conservative support is down 9.5 points since November, and Mrs Thatcher's rating has plunged 11 points. It is not the first time since the June 1983 election that the Government has slipped badly. For a brief period last summer, Labour actually nudged ahead in the polls before slumping back in the autumn. Nevertheless, the sterling crisis, the rise in interest rates and the failure to settle the coal strike now hint at a more conclusive turn in the tide.

It is, of course, much too soon to say that the Thatcher bubble has burst. Nevertheless, in polling terms, there have been long-term areas of vulnerability in both the Government's and the Prime Minister's own ratings. In spite of the remarkable strong party showing which the Tories have sustained since the election, voters' views on the country's economic prospects have remained deeply pessimistic. Gallup this week provides another helping of gloom and doom. Only 6 per cent expect across the board tax cuts in the next six months; unemployment is expected to remain high; a third of the electorate expect no economic upturn in the next five years. In the past, the Tories have prospered amid such dependency. But the sterling crisis seems to mark a break in popular tolerance of ungreat expectations. Mrs Thatcher's personality, too, now looks a more dubious asset. She has always been widely seen as out of touch with ordinary people, but has compensated by her skill in a crisis. Again, however, the pound and interest rates appears to have dented that mystique. The qualities that served her so well during the Falklands and after Brighton don't look so attractive when your mortgage payments rise yet again. And the polls have also long shown that the public wants the miners' strike over.

Who benefits? Here the polls tell a conflicting tale. The Mori poll looks at first sight like good news for Labour. The long night of the miners' strike is ending

and Labour's rating is back almost to where it was in those long-distant pre-strike days. But Mr Kinnock's personal standing has not made a similar recovery, as both Mori and Gallup confirm. And Gallup points to an even greater threat to Labour, and to the Tories, in the 8 per cent rise in support for the Alliance since November. It has always seemed likely that the Alliance could be the ultimate beneficiary of the miners' strike, coming through the middle as voters deliver a plague on both Tory and Labour houses. Both of this week's polls offer clear evidence of an Alliance surge which, at least on the Gallup figures, comes mainly from defecting Tories. As ever, it is hard to tell whether this is a protest vote or a positive switch of allegiance. Only a byelection or two in the Tory heartlands will tell. Nevertheless, politics seem to have reached a watershed point in this Parliament. A general election could be little more than two years away and there is a new fluidity in the party battle. After two years in which loyalties have seemed strangely impervious to events, the voters are on the move once more. If the latest polls are right, all three parties have everything to play for. Politics is suddenly interesting again.

FALKLAND LESSONS HELP U.S.

By **DESMOND WETTERN**
Naval Correspondent

LESSONS learnt by the Navy in the Falklands and as a consequence of operations in the Lebanon and Grenada are to be reflected in new equipment for American warships.

The anti-aircraft and anti-missile armament of warships serving in the Middle East is being augmented with the fitting of Phalanx rapid-fire close-in weapon systems "as a result of lessons learned from the Falklands," according to Mr John Lehman, the American Secretary of the Navy.

In a report to Congress he said that following the Grenada operations communications equipment was being improved while eight "Mastiff" remotely piloted vehicles, presumably for aerial reconnaissance in dangerous areas, had been bought from Israel by the American Navy in the light of experience gained in operations in the Lebanon.

Russians' fleet

He also said that last year the Russians, for the first time, deployed a long-range submarine-launched cruise missile comparable to the American Tomahawk now entering service in both its conventional and nuclear versions in American warships.

In the Pacific the Russians had now established a 500-ship fleet which included 130 submarines and two aircraft carriers.

They had three new classes of nuclear-powered attack submarines under construction, including one type, the Akula, not previously mentioned publicly in the West, and were also building more strategic nuclear missile submarines of the Typhoon and Delta IV classes.

Falklands airfield cost rises by £45m

COST of the airfield works in the Falkland Islands awarded to the Laing/Mowlem/ARC consortium under a £215 million contract in 1983 have now risen to £260 million.

Giving the figures in the House of Commons Sir George Young, under secretary at the Department of the Environment, said that the cost had been increased last year to £250 million with the addition of buildings and other works. The most recent cost estimate, said Sir George, was £260 million for the airfield plus an additional £116 million for harbour construction, accommodation buildings and other jobs.

In the Falklands itself a further three men working on the airport site have appeared in court in Port Stanley to face charges ranging from burglary to the possession of drugs.

This brings the total of workers involved in the airport who have appeared in court to 12. There are more than 1,700 working on site.

The offenders are being fined and sent home. The magistrates argued that several of the men

who have appeared in court have a criminal record.

They pointed out that under normal Falklands immigration law it is policy not to admit people with a criminal record and has warned the consortium about this.

Alastair Cameron, Falklands Government representative in London, commented that the Islanders did appreciate the difficulties involved in taking on a large body of men for the airfield work. Because of this, full scale immigration rules had not been implemented and a form of mass work permit had been issued to LMA and its subcontractors. He was also softer on his approach to the past record of workers than the magistrates.

Work on the airfield continues at a fast pace. Currently it is summer and the workforce are on an 11 hour six-day week.

Completion of phase one work is due later this year. This will involve the main, hangar and runway, the control tower, the main power station and bulk fuel installations.



Two Leyland and Landtrains are being used with Blaw Knox pavers on the main runway for the Mount Pleasant airfield in the Falklands

The Times 14/2/85

Exchange on Falklands

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentine and British legislators and academics are to meet in the United States this week for two seminars on the Falkland Islands conflict which participants hope will break the current deadlock in negotiations between their countries.

The first encounter is a two-day academic seminar sponsored by the School for Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, which begins today. It will gather academics from both countries who favour negotiations as

a means of resolving the sovereignty conflict.

The second seminar which begins on Saturday at the University of Maryland's Centre for International Development, promises to be the more interesting. British and Argentine legislators, and a Falklands representative, will have four days of talks.

The British MPs, Mr George Foulkes (Lab, Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley), and Mr Bruce George (Lab, Walsall S) and Mr Robert Harvey (C, Clwyd) will attend.

Daily Mail 12.2.85

'FORGIVE me for taking my clothes off as soon as you arrive,' said Sir Peter Scott, 'but I've only just got back from Birmingham.'

He loosened his tie and rolled up his sleeves, standing in the study where he spends much of his working life. The room is lined with books and a giant window looks out over the water that laps against the walls of the house where the Bewick swans glide imperiously past.

'I decided very early on that I'd go off on my own and make my own way in life,' said the man whose explorer-father, Captain Scott of the Antarctic was a national hero. 'I used to get terribly silent in the days when old ladies would bend down and say: "Well my little man what are you going to do when you grow up? I'm sure you'll follow in your father's footsteps and become an explorer."

'This absolutely infuriated me. It curled me up. People still curl me up from time to time. I curl up very easily. I'm afraid. I like a rather gentle approach.'

Today Sir Peter is a man of diverse and formidable talents. He is artist, writer, director of the Wildfowl Trust, bronze medallist as a yachtsman in the 1938 Olympics, scuba diver and champion glider pilot.

His first wife was the novelist Elizabeth Jane Howard, who is the mother of his eldest daughter. He later married his secretary by whom he has a son and a second daughter.

SIR PETER was two when his father died having reached the Pole on foot in terrible weather only to find that the Norwegian explorer Amundsen had got there before him.

He wrote: 'I do not regret this journey, which has shown that Englishmen can endure hardship, help one another and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past.'

These stirring words, written by a dying man, ensured Scott's reputation as one of the great heroes of our century.

But now the debunkers are trying to destroy his reputation, belittle his courage, deride his competence and show that his wife Kathleen was having an affair with the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen while her husband was battling in the Antarctic.

A series of films made by Central television, based on a biography of Captain Scott by Roland Huntford, purports to prove that Scott was a bungler, unfit for command, who destroyed the lives of his men and chose to die in martyrdom rather than live as the failure who came second in the race to the Pole.

'Scott proved to be a mediocrity,' says Roland Huntford, and the

The love lies about my mother

Sir Peter Scott hits back at a slur on his family name

film makers have swallowed every innuendo, lasciviously capitalised on every slur to make a film of a book that disgusted Sir Peter and his half brother, Lord Kennet, when it was published in 1979.

Lord Kennet was so angered when he saw a preview of the series last week that he immediately wrote to Central Television in condemnation of an interpretation which he believes totally distorts the character of Captain Scott.

Roland Huntford's only response has been to sneer: 'Scott is portrayed as a loser, but then he was a loser.'

But Huntford has consistently ignored the truth that mediocre men do not inspire courageous companions to share a hazardous journey to unknown and fearsome terrain; that mediocre men do not write with the pride and passion with which Scott wrote as he faced death in the knowledge that he would never see his young son or wife again.

The six-part series begins this month and has been made, believes Sir Peter, because we live in an age which wishes to belittle and sneer at achievement.

'Of course my father and the people with him did make mistakes. If they had known more they may have got out of the Antarctic without dying, but nothing can take away the courage with which those men

faced disaster. Even the nasty debunkers can't do that.'

'I don't have a very high opinion of Huntford. I don't think he does his research very well. I don't think he's a very good writer. He puts forth a contentious point of view.'

The television series, called *The Last Place On Earth*, is reported to have filmed a scene where Kathleen, played by Susan Wooldridge, is shown standing naked in front of a fire in a hotel room in Germany while her Norwegian lover tells her that Scott has been beaten to the South Pole.

Talking of the alleged scandal Sir Peter says: 'It's all come up again because the film company bought the rights of the book. My brother and I approached them: they've been perfectly civil and I hope we've managed to get a few things changed.'

THE early scripts had some extraordinary and totally inaccurate elements. There was all this business of my mother having an affair with Nansen while my father

was in the Antarctic. 'They were very friendly but I don't believe for one instant that she had an affair with him. It just isn't possible, she wasn't that kind of woman. But I shouldn't have said that to you. I should just have said "No comment". I don't want it all blown up into a huge sensation.'

Kathleen Scott was an eminent sculptor who later married Lord Kennet. She did everything, however, to fulfil her first husband's last entreaty written during the final blizzard that destroyed him. 'Make the boy interested in natural history,' he wrote. 'It's better than games. Above all he must guard, and you must guard, against indolence. Make him a strenuous man.'

She totally succeeded in fulfilling both these entreaties. As a naturalist her son is a famous television face.

He'll watch the TV series on his father, probably with sadness and suppressed anger. But rather than carry on a public harangue, he will prefer to concentrate on ensuring that his grandchildren know the truth.



Above: Captain Scott and Kathleen on their wedding day in 1908.

The Guardian
11.2.85

Conqueror log trail fades in Caribbean

By John Ezard

Two Scotland Yard detectives were understood last night to have drawn an expensive blank in a fresh investigation into the missing control room logbook of the nuclear submarine, Conqueror, which sank the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict.

The officers conducted a four-hour interview in the Caribbean on Friday with ex-Lieutenant Narendra Sethia, who left the Royal Navy after being in charge of supplies and secretarial work aboard Conqueror during the conflict. The interview was the latest in a series which Mr Sethia has given to police and the Ministry of Defence. The others were held in London.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ronald Hardy of the Yard's serious crimes squad, flew with a colleague to the island of St Lucia on instructions which were issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions several weeks ago. Mr Sethia, aged 28, is understood to have handed them ordinary charts which he said he was given by a Conqueror crew member after the conflict.

In a 25-page statement, he maintained his consistent denial of any responsibility for the missing log. After the interview his solicitor, Mr Philip Lucas, said in Britain last night that Mr Sethia had absolutely no knowledge of the log.

Mr Sethia works as a yacht skipper and office manager in the fashionable Rodney Bay harbour on St Lucia. He spent his day off yesterday sunbathing on a beach. A colleague told the Guardian yesterday:



Narendra Sethia —
four-hour interview

"He looked into the office briefly this morning. He was his usual, happy self."

The Ministry of Defence discovered the log's absence from files while researching answers to questions from Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman. The Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, ordered the police investigation.

Outline reports of the Caribbean investigation appeared in two Sunday newspapers yesterday. These leaks are understood to have come from "a low level" inside Scotland Yard, not from the two detectives.

The Yard yesterday declined to confirm one report claiming that the log was among "navigational books" which had been recovered and were due to be brought back to London.

Lloyds List 11/2/85

Far-flung beacons refurbished by UK

WORK is to start shortly on refitting the Cape Pembroke Lighthouse on the Falkland Islands which was damaged in the Argentine invasion of 1982.

A team of experts from the Trinity House Engineers Department has recently returned from a visit to the Falklands where it carried out a survey to establish the technical requirements of an automation scheme for the station.

The lighthouse was built by the Admiralty and handed over to the Board of Trade in 1856. In 1907 it was entirely reconstructed and until the Second World War the principal keeper and one assistant were provided by Trinity House.

From then it was managed by the Board of Trade and its successors for the Falkland Islands' Government, and Trinity House frequently shipped stores and equipment on their behalf.

The light had a 20 miles range before it was damaged.

A spokesman for Trinity House said its refitting to automatic status will be completed during the 1985/86 financial year.

Trinity House took over the operation of Cape Pembroke and the Sombrero Lighthouse near Anguilla in the West Indies on Jan 1, 1984.

Trinity House staff have also visited the Sombrero Lighthouse since the takeover and a three-phase modernisation programme has been put in hand.

Work on the first phase — the installation of two Lister engine sets in a nearby structure — was completed recently.

The light source is at present a paraffin vapour burner unit, the last working in the Trinity House Service.

The second phase will involve the installation of a Centigrad six-metre diameter vertical axis wind generator linked to a battery bank. The wind generator is currently on trial with the manufacturers near Winchester. The Lister generators will be used to top up the batteries during periods of little wind and also to provide an automatic supply.

The final phase is for the PVB equipment to be replaced by an electric light source.

Sombrero Lighthouse was established in 1867; a replacement tower was destroyed by hurricane in 1960 and the present tower dates from 1962, when it was completed as a lattice structure 126 ft high with four main legs and a central rectangular core containing a stairway. The tower is surmounted by an 8 ft 6 in diameter lantern room.

The station is currently manned by three keepers and a cook.

The only other Trinity House lighthouse operated outside the UK is Europa Point, Gibraltar. The foundation stone was laid in 1838 and the lighthouse has been improved a number of times over the years.



Cape Pembroke Lighthouse on the Falkland Islands, which is to be refitted to automatic status following the damage it received in the Argentine invasion.



The Sombrero Lighthouse near Anguilla, in the West Indies, which is undergoing a three-phase modernisation.

The Guardian 11/2/85

Falklands warns firms employing ex-prisoners

By a Correspondent.

British firms undertaking huge construction projects in the Falklands have been publicly warned not to contravene the islands' immigration laws by employing people who have served prison sentences of six months or more.

The warning, from a justice of the peace, Mrs Jessie Booth, who is acting chairman in the Port Stanley courts, followed a series of court appearances by British workers employed by the consortium of Laing, Mowlem and Amy Roadstone at the £250 million airport site at Mount Pleasant.

Three of six workers convicted recently in Port Stanley on larceny and drugs charges were found to have served lengthy prison sentences in Britain. One man, a 28-year-old Londoner who now lives in the Shetland Islands and who was convicted of possessing cannabis, had been given six years in 1981 for manslaughter by a judge in Leeds.

Another man, a labourer from Kent, also employed on the airport site and convicted of larceny, had nine previous convictions, including one for possessing explosives. Investigations by the Falklands police to the CID in London revealed that the man served a five-year sentence in 1972. As the Falklands does not have adequate prison facilities, both men were heavily fined and will be sent back to Britain.

A senior magistrate, Mr John Barrington-Jones, warned employers two months ago that they faced prosecution for breaching the Falklands immigration laws. After two further convictions last week, Mrs Booth has reiterated the warning.

The local police chief, Mr William Richards, has frequently pressed overseas employers to vet their recruits in view of the local laws. There are now over 2,000 contractors employed at the international airport site which is 30 miles from Port Stanley.

Daily Express
8.2.85

Hero's family fail to stop TV film

A TV series about Captain Scott's epic journey to the South Pole is to be screened despite protests by the polar hero's family.

Criticism of the £5 million series made by Central Television for ITV, has come from Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, and his half-brother Lord Kennet, son of Kathleen Lord's second marriage after her husband died on his way back from the South Pole.

Central says the series does not touch on the bravery of Captain Scott and his expedition members but shows that the captain was not a good organiser.

The seven-part series starts on February 18.

WEST BIRMINGHAM



Pole...

WORKER GRAND SIGHT CHAPS

[Faded text columns, likely part of an advertisement or another article, mostly illegible.]

[Faded text columns, likely part of an advertisement or another article, mostly illegible.]

RAF News 8th - 21st February

RETURNING home after ten months in the Antarctic is RAF corporal, Ted Atkins, a member of the highly successful Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island.

Ted (right) was a member of the first summer party to land on the Island, which lies some 1000 miles to the south of Cape Horn. When that team returned he stayed on to join the overwintering party — the first to spend a winter in tents, by choice, anywhere in the Antarctic.

Previously there have been only three recorded landings and it's easy to see why. The tiny lump of rock and ice is very inhospitable — the climate is invariably cold and wet with temperatures dropping to -40 degrees C. In winter and winds of up to 40 knots.

The aim of the project which continues until late Spring, is to carry out a comprehensive scientific programme — everything from the effects of long-term exposure to cold on man, to the eating habits of the Crabbeater Seal.

HOMeward BOUND



Poles Apart

IN THE literal sense the Cohu brothers — both serving officers in the RAF — are simply poles apart!

Through a strange quirk of fate Wg Cdr Tim Cohu has been spending a year at Goose Bay in Labrador, Canada our most northerly RAF station while his brother Gp Capt Jeremy Cohu has been serving as Air Commander in the RAF's most southerly command — the Falkland Islands.

WOKKA GRAND SIGHT CHAPS

AND WHILE on the subject of the Falklands perhaps this would be the best time to offer congratulations to the pilot of the Chinook helicopter who successfully managed to make several fleeting appearances in a recent documentary about the islands, while the rest of the RAF went apparently unnoticed.

The film, produced by the BBC Pebble Mill at One team, took a look at the Falklands and what fate has befallen the isles since the Argentine invasion and the subsequent battle to regain them, through the eyes of a number of islanders.

Obviously there was some military involvement in the television programme — several soliders serving there were interviewed — but one might have been forgiven for thinking that the RAF no longer had personnel down there. Except that is for the Chinook which single handed flew the flag.

It was truly wonderful to see the Wokka Wokka sneak across the screen at every opportunity it could — at one point just its wheels passed neatly across the top of the frame. WELL DONE SIR!

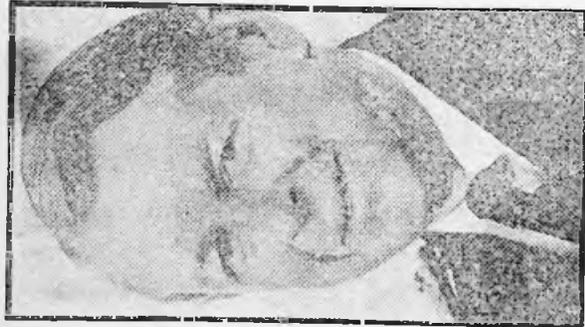
Daily Mail 14.2.85

WHITEST WEDDING

IT WAS the whitest of white weddings.

Americans Patricia Manuel and Randall Chambers said 'I do' in a 5 a.m., outdoor ceremony at the South Pole in a temperature of minus 45c. (minus 81f.).

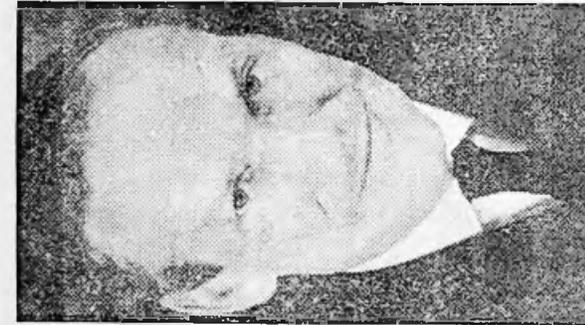
A Hercules transport plane equipped with skis flew the couple and a Navy chaplain 1,500 miles from the American 'Operation Deep Freeze' base at McMurdo Sound where they work.



Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse



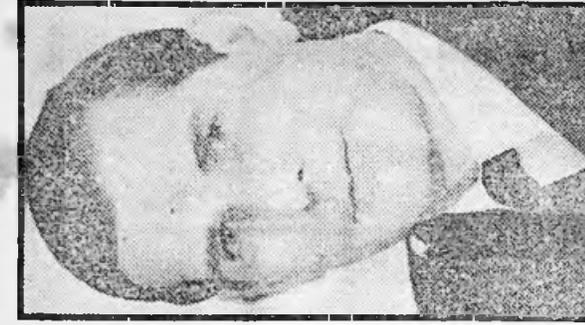
Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine



Admiral Sir William Staveley



Major-General Derek Boorman



Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig

Falklands war leader named defence chief

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

The man who ran the Falklands operation, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, is to take over as Chief of the Defence Staff on November 1.

His appointment announced yesterday along with 11 other command and staff changes, confirms that the principle of "Buggins's turn" has been abandoned in the higher echelons of the military hierarchy — in this instance Buggins would have been an air marshal.

But the principle of maintaining a rough balance between the three service uniforms has been maintained to the extent that Admiral Fieldhouse's immediate deputy will be Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, who is at present commanding R.A.F. Germany.

Air Marshal Hine's post of vice-chief of the Defence Staff is a new and extremely important one, a product of the more centralised Ministry of Defence staff structure which came into effect at the beginning of the year.

As head of Britain's armed forces, Admiral Fieldhouse will

spend much of his time at formal and ceremonial occasions. The air marshal will not only deputise but also be responsible for the day-to-day management of the new central defence staff.

Admiral Fieldhouse takes over from Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, one of the architects of the new organisation, who later this year will accompany the three service chiefs to a meeting with Mrs Thatcher to reassure her that it can be made to work from a single service point of view.

The admiral will be succeeded as First Sea Lord by

Admiral Sir William Staveley, whose post of commander-in-chief, fleet, goes to Vice-Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt.

The Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Sianier, also hands over this summer to General Sir Nigel Bagnall, the Commander-in-Chief of Rhine Army, who will be succeeded in that post by the corps commander, General Sir Martin Farndale. He in turn will hand over to Major-General B. L. G. Kenny.

The new Chief of Defence Intelligence is Major-General Derek Boorman, who will return from Hong Kong to

take up the job in October. General Sir Frank Kitson will hand over command of the UK land forces to Lieutenant-General Sir James Glover before retiring.

On the RAF side, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig moves from Strike Command to become Chief of the Air Staff in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, and will be replaced there by Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, the interim vice-chief of Defence Staff.

The new Commander-in-Chief of RAF Germany is Air Vice-Marshal D. Parry-Evans.

ETW

Newspaper of the Departments of the Environment and Transport

7 February 1985

FALKLANDS AIRPORT RUNWAY ON SCHEDULE FOR SPRING OPENING

The first phase of the new Falkland Islands airport at Mount Pleasant - the 8,500 feet long runway - is on schedule for completion in April, the latest issue of the Departments of the Environment and Transport's staff newspaper, Environment and Transport World, reports today.

The £240 million airport scheme, together with a £119 million contract for extra facilities for the army, is the largest single project ever undertaken by the Property Services Agency (PSA), the part of the DOE that looks after the nation's civil and military 'estates'. In a little more than a year the runway and much of the other work at Mount Pleasant will have been completed, ready for use by the first wide-bodied jet aeroplanes. It is expected to save the taxpayer about £500,000 a week, mostly in in-flight refuelling costs for RAF transport planes plying between Ascension Island and Stanley.

The newspaper also describes the myriad other works the PSA is overseeing on the islands.

In the same issue Sir George Moseley, who retired yesterday as Permanent Secretary at the DOE, looks back over 35 years in the Civil Service. The modern civil servant enjoys much less formality than his post-war counterpart, and can move more easily from job to job, grade to grade and class to class, Sir George says.

And the newspaper describes a unique new helicopter recently made available to HM Coastguard under a £1 million-a-year contract with DTp. The aircraft has the automatic capability of descending from search height and hovering over a survivor in the water without the need for the pilot to fly the machine.

Press Enquiries: 01-212 7734 or 8395
(out of hours: 01-212 7132)

Public Enquiries: 01-212 3434
(ask for Public Enquiries Unit)

Combined operation

WHEN THE Duke of Kent unveiled a new painting of the Falklands War commissioned by the Army and Navy Club this week he pointed out that the "Rag" is the only London club that truly reflects all three services.

This is fully represented in the painting, by the artist David Cobb, which gives an aerial view of San Carlos Water and shows the crucial hours of the landings with the fighting in the air, at sea and on land.

Cobb went to the Falklands almost immediately after the Argentine surrender with a series of military commissions and, he tells me, he will be returning later this year charged with undertaking more paintings of that brief and bitter war.

Judge threatens MP with jail over Belgrano speech

Mr Tam Dalyell was summoned before the Central Criminal Court judge conducting the Belgrano secrets trial yesterday and warned that he might be jailed if he made public statements about the affair outside court.

"If you cannot control yourself for another week, even after this warning, I may be driven to put you where you will have no option", Mr Justice McCowan said.

Mr Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, told the judge he had been a "respector of courts" throughout his 22 years as a member of Parliament. He gave an undertaking to refrain from any more public comments until the trial ended.

Mr Dalyell was called before the judge at the end of yesterday's hearing after prosecution and defence complaints about newspaper reports of a speech he made at the weekend.

The speech touched on evidence in the trial.

During sometimes loud exchanges the judge told the MP he took a serious view of what he was alleged to have said about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano during the Falklands conflict.

When Mr Justice McCowan said he would prefer that Mr Dalyell be represented by counsel the MP replied: "With respect to this court, what I said yesterday was said in Scotland".

He added if it was a matter for the courts it should be a matter for a Scottish court, and if he were to contact a lawyer it would be a Scottish lawyer.

The judge replied tersely: "In my court I hear English barristers, not Scottish, and all I am concerned about is what has been going on in this court".

The judge said if Mr

is likely to be prejudicial to the administration of justice."

Counsel for the defence, Mr Bruce Laughland, QC, took a stronger view than the prosecution and had expressed "extreme anger" at the judge said.

Mr Dalyell retorted: "He would".

When Mr Dalyell argued: "We are in a very grey area", the judge raised his voice and told him: "You have missed the point".

Mr Dalyell: "As a member of one high court to a member of another I follow quite clearly what you are saying."

The judge: "The point is you must not discuss any public matters which are sub judice. They may be read by the jury and may affect the jury's mind, and may prejudice a fair trial for this man."

Mr Dalyell, who has spent long periods in court watching the progress of the trial, said:

"As a member of the high court of Parliament be assured I would wish to accord to the high court of justice all possible help."

The MP added: "If it is at all helpful, I voluntarily will refrain from any more public comment." Mr Justice McCowan said he was grateful. "The defence have deplored any statement by anybody outside on matters which are the subject of this trial and which might affect the trial. Such statements must stop.... I accept what I think is the implication of what you have said: That what you did was done through ignorance."

The judge said he was aware of Mr Dalyell's strongly held and no doubt sincere views. But he had to ask him to contain them, as far as they touched upon the trial, until it was over.

"It is no sense an attempt to impose any general gag on you."

Trial-hearing page 2



Mr Dalyell yesterday undertaking to judge.

Dalyell's speech was a comment on what had been said in court it was "wholly inaccurate". If the MP was not seeking to reproduce what was said in court, he was seeking to put forward a different version.

"That is something that you ought not to be doing during the course of the case because it

A commanding view of the Falklands

WHILE the debate about the sinking of the Belgrano and the conduct of the Falklands campaign continues, it is quite remarkable that the normally sensitive Ministry of Defence has authorised publication of a new book about the fighting by Maj-Gen. Julian Thompson, formerly Commander Land Forces on the islands.

Published next week, "No Picnic" is the first account of the campaign to be written by a serving member of the Forces and draws on hitherto unpublished photographs to illustrate the narrative. Thompson has resolutely refused to touch on the politics behind the strategy.

Thompson is, I am told, also engagingly modest about his own considerable achievement. Publishers Leo Cooper and Secker wanted the book to be called "Man of the Match" after Maj-Gen Sir Jeremy Moore's description of him, but Thompson would not accept the title as it would detract attention from the bravery of his men.

Mail on Sunday
3.2.85

Yes, we have no spectators

ARGENTINA

ROCK group Yes last night became the first British musicians to play in Argentina since the Falklands War.

The five-man band appeared in Buenos Aires before a disappointingly small audience amid tight security.

Fewer than 14,000 spectators attended the concert at a soccer stadium where Queen played to a 60,000 full house three years ago.

Many fans are thought to have been put off by threats from protest groups to blow up the stadium.

The players were kept away from journalists by the hundreds of police and security guards at the stadium.

Last night Yes were returning to Uruguay where they are scheduled to give a number of concerts.

But they are expected to be back in Argentina on Wednesday.

Daily Express
5.2.85

FANCY

EIGHT baby turtles seized by customs after being illegally imported into Britain are being flown 4,000 miles home to Ascension Island in an RAF Hercules. The turtles, a protected species, were intended for soup.

THAT

Franks denies Falklands inquiry whitewash

By Our Political Editor

Lord Franks, whose report into the origins of the Falklands war in 1982 concluded that the invasion by Argentina could not have been foreseen, has denied that his committee covered up mistakes by ministers or officials.

In an interview to be broadcast on BBC radio tonight, he replies for the first time to the charge made by Mr James Callaghan, and echoed by others, that he and his colleagues "chucked a bucket of whitewash" over the picture they painted.

Lord Franks says that his committee of six, which included two former Conservative and two former Labour Cabinet ministers, the latter nominated by Mr Michael Foot, who was then Labour leader, did not begin their work thinking about how they might save anyone's reputation. They did not think about that from start to finish.

"I was very impressed with the way in which party considerations did not enter into the deliberations", he said. "I do not think a single member of my committee would have signed a report which they thought was fudging the issue."

The arguments on the committee had at times been fierce, but the report was unanimous.

Lord Franks's report, published in January 1983, made some implied criticism of two senior ministers, Lord Carrington and Sir John Nott, and was critical of ways in which the machinery of government was used, but made no direct criticism of the Prime Minister.

The interview with Lord Franks, who will be 80 on February 16, can be heard in "The good and the great", on BBC Radio 3 at 7pm.

'Cover-up ordered'

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Defence, ordered an official account of the sinking of the General Belgrano to be altered as part of a cover-up operation, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, alleged last night (our Political Correspondent writes).

He said: "Mr Stanley is the Ministry of Defence link man with 10 Downing Street, and he knows precisely what No 10 wants covered up. Stanley is

a former parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister.

Last Thursday the jury at the trial at the Central Criminal Court of Mr Clive Ponting was told that Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of Naval Staff during the Falklands campaign, had complained that his account of the sinking had been changed.

Mr Ponting is charged under the Official Secrets Act with leaking documents.

Labour demands Falklands answer

by DAVID LEIGH

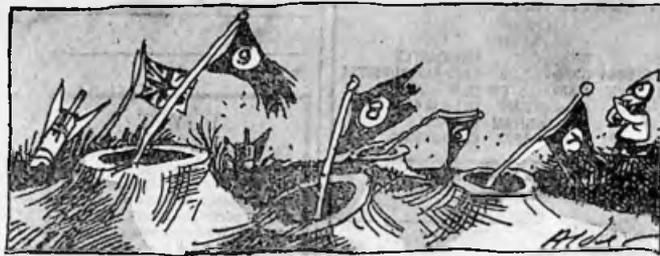
LABOUR'S shadow cabinet is to write to Mrs Thatcher, demanding an explanation of the disclosure that Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of Naval Staff during the Falklands War, accused Defence Ministry officials of falsifying his official dispatch on the Belgrano.

Mr Richard Mottram, private secretary to the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, told the Old Bailey last week during the Clive Ponting trial that Sir John made the allegation during a meeting with Mr Heseltine last March. He said officials blamed

Sir John's staff for the untrue statements.

Mr Heseltine is due to answer a series of parliamentary questions tomorrow from Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow. He will be asked why the former Chief of Defence Staff, Lord Lewin, has not been prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for publishing classified information about submarine sonars.

'What's sauce for the Ponting goose should be sauce for the Lewin gander,' said Mr Dalyell.



Plan that suits Stanley to a tee

By Rob McBride
Port Stanley

ENTHUSIASTIC members of Port Stanley's golf club proudly boast that they drive and putt their way around not only the most southerly nine-hole course in the world, but probably one of the most primitive. There is no need for cunningly designed sand bunkers: shell craters provide all the hazards necessary. It was at the course, next to the abattoir, that the Argentinian artillery made its last stand in 1982. Perhaps the most attractive feature of the course is the Portakabin club house.

However, all this may be about to change. Stanley may have a first-class, re-turfed and professionally designed course on a new site in time to offer amusement to the wealthy tourists who many expect will turn up when Mount Pleasant airport is opened to commercial traffic. That is if the governor, Sir Rex Hunt, and a British consultant, Bryan Griffiths, have their way.

Griffith's company, Golfconsult, has designed courses all over the world to attract well-heeled golfers and he has been impressed by the potential of the Falklands.

"I arrived in a sceptical mood, but I am going to leave feeling far more optimistic," he said last week. The rugged terrain would not be a problem, he said. In fact, it could result in an attractive course similar to

traditional Scottish links. Work would be extensive - "What is there at the moment will all have to go" - but the Falklands had the resources and "we have the technology to do it."

Few materials would have to be imported, he added. The machinery is already there and the Agricultural Research Centre in Stanley has developed a blend of grass seed that is ideal for a golf course.

And the project should not cost the British or Falklands tax payer a penny. Golfconsult is not charging for Griffiths's services, and travel expenses have been settled by an anonymous benefactor. Development of the course, which will cost tens of thousands of pounds, will be financed by other altruistic parties.

The absence of big-time backers will not compromise standards, however. Griffiths says the course must be excellent if it is to have a chance of attracting travelling amateur golfers. "It has to be in the first division from day one," he said. "A fourth-division course in the Falklands would be doomed to failure."

This weekend he returned by RAF Hercules to the Golfconsult HQ in Epping. He will discuss the options for the Falklands with colleagues whose specialist fields include tourism, marketing and turf agronomy. Later this month Griffiths leaves for an assignment in perhaps the last great territory to be exposed to the big business of golf: China.

ISLANDS WELCOME TRAWLERS

By PATRICK WATTS
in Port Stanley

NEARLY 50 foreign fishing trawlers from Poland, Spain and Taiwan have obtained permission from the Falklands government to fish legally inside the protection zone which exists around the islands.

Another 50 ships from Japan and the Eastern Bloc countries such as Russia, East Germany and Bulgaria, do not officially fish inside the zone and only call into Port Stanley when injured or ill crewmen require medical attention.

RAF Hercules aircraft regularly check the zone. The most prominent users of Falklands waters are the Poles with more than 30 trawlers, transport and other ships. Last year they paid nearly £500,000 to the Falklands Government in harbour dues, entry, clearance, customs and service fees.

Tax on catches

Local councillors are quick to point out that, although this revenue is welcomed, it would be more beneficial if the British Government imposed a much-requested 200-mile fishing zone around the islands, and taxed the fishing catches. It is estimated that the hard pressed Falklands economy would then benefit by several million pounds annually.

The Protection Zone which surrounds the islands extends for 150 miles. It was introduced in mid-1982 and replaced the 200-mile Total Exclusion Zone introduced during the conflict.

Stewart Tendler at the Ponting trial

Falklands refought with ink and paper

The dock in court number two at the Central Criminal Court has been empty much of this week. The glass-panelled box, which in its time has restrained terrorists and gold bullion robbers, has often held nothing except a large book left by a prison officer.

The book is *Weapons and Warfare in the late 20th Century*, a volume of some relevance to Regina v Clive Ponting, which this week has heard the sometimes secret details behind the sinking of the Belgrano and the Ministry of Defence's battle against disclosure.

The officer's charge is Mr Ponting, seated since the second day behind his counsel to give instant advice, not least on any trespassing into secret areas.

Although Mr Ponting is being tried under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act for passing two papers on the Belgrano to an MP his is not a case involving national security or espionage. When his counsel, Mr Bruce Laughland, QC, strays into dangerous waters Mr Ponting leans forward to halt him.

From the first day, Mr Ponting has admitted passing the papers, which were his draft to questions posed by Mr Tam Dalyell and another MP on the limits of information for a Commons select committee.

His case, as his counsel has told the court, is not about the fact of passing the information but whether he was right to do so, acting within the law, to a person recognized by the Act to receive them.

No one is saying he did not know what he was doing. Mr Laughland remarked to a ministry official the other day: "Ignorance of the law is no defence and amnesia forms no part of our case".

Mr Laughland occasionally delivers such barbs. The "Crown Jewels", the classified account of the sinking written by Mr Ponting last year, were, he told the court, now little more than "paste".

His opponent is Mr Roy Amlot, senior Treasury counsel. For much of the past week his client, Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has sat behind him.

Much of the ground between prosecution and defence lies in the bundle of minutes, memoranda, drafts and manuscripts which sometimes seem to suggest ink is the life blood of Whitehall.

The jury of four women and eight men have so far been given more than 30 documents charting events inside the Ministry of Defence during five months last year when Mr Dalyell and a shadow minister were pressing for details on the Belgrano.

By the fourth day of the trial there was growing confusion about what was a minute and what was a memorandum. Finally a civil servant said there was no difference.

He was following in the wake of two and a half days of evidence given by Mr Richard Mottram, private secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence. It was he who told the court: "In political matters one person's ambiguity will be another's truth".

Asked to give the four classifications for sensitive documents he agreed they were "restricted", then "confidential", followed by "secret" and "top secret". He added that there were in fact five classifications, because he included those papers not covered by the four grades.

Mr Dalyell, the man who caused so much discussion and documentation for Mr Mottram's master last year in Whitehall, has sat each day somewhere in the back of the court. Every so often his head of white hair bobs up as he listens more closely to the evidence. His pen flies across the sheets of paper before him.

Opposite him in the well of the court, a team of stenographers come and go, taking a verbatim account of the day for Channel 4's report each night.

They record a world of initials and jargon which describe the fate of the Belgrano.

But to date, on one has mentioned the ship went down with 368 lives.

Mr Ponting, once personally invited to No 10 by the Prime Minister to address part of the Cabinet on his work in making economics, will not know his fate until well into next week.

Daily Telegraph 2/2/85

ALFONSIN IN TALKS WITH TORY MP

By Our Political Staff

Dr Alfonsin, the Argentine President, has agreed with Mr Keith Best, Conservative MP for Anglesey, that there should be contacts between British and Argentine politicians to foster understanding. But he will still not accept formal talks unless sovereignty over the Falklands is on the agenda.

Mr Best met Dr Alfonsin at a conference of parliamentarians in Athens earlier this week. He is thought to be the first MP to meet the president since Anglo-Argentine talks broke down in Berne last July.

Mr Best suggested that some initial deal for an end to hostilities in return for an end to the increase of Britain's military capability on the Falklands might be struck. Dr Alfonsin did not dismiss the idea.

The Guardian

Dalyell raises report

By David McKie

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, yesterday raised with the Speaker of the House of Commons Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Guardian's report that Ministry of Defence officials had changed an account by the Chief of Naval Staff about the first sighting of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano. Civil servants denied this.

Mr Dalyell said he had tried

to table a question about the report. He accepted it was "a grey and difficult area" because of the sub-judice rule, since the Guardian's report rose directly from the trial of Mr Clive Ponting, the civil servant accused of passing information to an unauthorised person (Mr Dalyell).

The Speaker interrupted to say he had not yet seen the Guardian report and would look into the matter and write to Mr Dalyell.

HOWE PLEDGE ON GIBRALTAR SOVEREIGNTY

By DAVID ADAMSON *Diplomatic Correspondent*

SHARPLY differing formulae for dealing with talks on the sovereignty of Gibraltar are likely to be presented when Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and his Spanish counterpart, Senor Moran, meet in Geneva tomorrow.

Interviewed on ITV's Weekend World yesterday Sir Geoffrey dismissed the idea of a committee dealing with the Spanish claim to the colony and said discussions on sovereignty must be reserved for the

"main relationship" between himself and Senor Moran.

The chief factor constraining Sir Geoffrey's approach is a passage in the preamble to the 1969 Gibraltar Constitution.

This states that Britain "will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their freely and democratically expressed wishes."

Senor Moran, evidently unimpressed by this, has proposed that there should be a political committee or some special mechanism for dealing with Spain's claim to sovereignty.

Among other ideas he has put forward are that there should be a condominium shared by Britain and Spain or a lease-back of the colony to Britain once sovereignty has been transferred to Spain.

'Mutual benefit'

The Brussels agreement on Gibraltar signed by Sir Geoffrey and Senor Moran on Nov. 27 established that the border would be fully reopened but left diplomatically vague the question of how sovereignty would be discussed.

The fourth paragraph of the agreement sets out their task tomorrow, Tuesday, as establishing "a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting co-operation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters."

That in the British view, is a

mandate to set up working parties to deal with the specifically named matters, such as tourism and aviation but not sovereignty.

The rest of the same paragraph says: "Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 constitution."

Senor Moran has stressed that Spain's approach to regaining the Sovereignty ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 will be peaceful and the strategy long-term.

Sir Geoffrey was confident yesterday that Spain would adhere to that approach. He quoted Senor Moran as telling him during their discussions: "If Britain were to hand Gibraltar to me on a plate against the wishes of the people of Gibraltar, that would not be a good deal for Spain."

The need to re-open the border to comply with the terms for Spain's accession to the European Community has meant for some time that the border restrictions were a card of decreasing value to Spain.

Perhaps because of that, it's significance as a Spanish gesture aimed at winning the goodwill of Gibraltarians seems to have been discounted.

The colony's Chief Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, who will be part of the British team at tomorrow's meeting, does not see opinions on Spain changing within the space of a generation. He is opposed to any "mechanism" to deal with sovereignty on the lines proposed by Senor Moran.

Daily Mail

1.2.85

Master Quiz

1. The traditional red telephone kiosks (soon to be phased out) were introduced in (a) 1927, (b) 1932, (c) 1940?
2. When do vespers take place?



3. What job is Sir Rex Hunt leaving later this year?
4. What is a carnivorous plant?
5. Name the three retired union leaders shown in a new National Gallery painting.

ANSWERS AT FOOT
OF COLUMN ONE

MASTER QUIZ ANSWERS
1. (a) 1927. 2. In the evening.
3. Civil Commissioner in the Falklands. 4. One which traps and eats small insects and larvae. 5. Lord Gormley, Sidney Weighell and Tom Jackson.

Last detail?

Top officials at the MoD and the Royal Navy are said to be shocked at Lord Lewin's disclosure, reported here, of apparently classified details about towed arrays on Britain's submarines. The astonishment of the MoD and Navy officials was shared yesterday by Paul Rodgers, senior lecturer at Bradford University and academic "Belgranot". "It was not even known during the Falklands among academic defence experts that British submarines were equipped with hydrophonic towed arrays, never mind the details of them. It is known that the Russians have towed arrays but only on their Victor Class III submarines. I have never seen anything which approaches the details given by Lord Lewin. I understand such information would have been subject to a 'D' Notice." The Attorney General is being asked if he plans to prosecute Lord Lewin under the Official Secrets Act.