

## **BELGRANO MOVE BY DALYELL**

**By Our Political Correspondent**

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, has sent Mr Weatherill, Speaker of the Commons, a document which he says supports his claim that the Government deceived Parliament over the sinking of the Argentinian warship General Belgrano during the Falklands War.

Mr Dalyell said that within the past month he had received a document, which he believed to be genuine, that was "no less than the original draft" of the speech which Sir John Nott, then Defence Secretary, made to the Commons on May 4, 1982.

## Keays 'linked to leaked Belgrano document'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

A Ministry of Defence document has been leaked which shows how the Government made last-minute changes to a crucial Commons statement about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict. The leak is a direct result of the controversy about Mr Cecil Parkinson's treatment of Miss Sara Keays, the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, said last night.

The document, he says, is a draft prepared by civil servants of a statement given to MPs by Sir John Nott, the then Defence Secretary, on May 4, 1982. Mr Dalyell, who has sent it to the Speaker of the Commons, Mr Bernard Weatherill, says that it shows how the Government deceived Parliament.

Mr Dalyell told a Labour Party meeting in Islington, London, that it had come into his hands "for reasons, I believe, of hell hath no fury

such as a woman scorned." He said he believed the document to be genuine and added that Miss Keays was not the source of the leak.

He is not prepared to name his source, but it is believed that the document was passed on by somebody sympathetic to Miss Keays, Mr Parkinson's former mistress. "Had it not been for the fortuitous events surrounding Cecil Parkinson's troubles, Mrs Thatcher might have got away with this document never seeing the light of day," Mr Dalyell said.

The document—one of three draft statements prepared within the Ministry of Defence for Sir John — shows that officials advised him to restrict himself to saying that the Belgrano was attacked at 8pm on May 2, 1982.

This was correct but was not the statement Sir John eventually made. Sir John told the Commons that the cruiser was detected at 8pm on that day and immediately attacked.

The Government has since acknowledged that the cruiser had been detected two days earlier and explained the discrepancy by saying that in the fog of war there was confusion about the details and chronology surrounding the attack.

Mr Dalyell said last night that Sir John had already been told on May 2 by Lord Lewin, then the Chief of Staff, that the submarine HMS Conqueror had been trailing the General Belgrano.

"Why does Nott change the Civil Service draft to 'detect' which he and the Prime Minister knew to be untrue?"

He said that the draft of Sir John's statement was altered on the Prime Minister's initiative.

In extracts from her book published in the Mirror earlier this month Miss Keays said that Mr Parkinson told her about discussions in the war cabinet during the Falklands conflict.

# Dalyell gives new alleged Belgrano paper to

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Mr Tam Dalyell has placed in the hands of the Speaker of the Commons an alleged Ministry of Defence document which he says provides new and conclusive evidence that the Government deliberately deceived Parliament over the sinking of the General Bel-

grano during the Falklands conflict.

The document, which the Labour MP for Linlithgow received earlier this month and part of a copy of which he released last night, is alleged to be the first draft of the statement Sir John Nott, then Secretary of State for Defence, made to the Commons on May 4, 1982, about the sinking of the Argentine cruiser.

In a speech in London last night, Mr Dalyell strongly hinted that the document had come into his hands as a result of the renewed publicity about the affair between Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Cabinet minister and a member of the War Cabinet during the conflict, and Miss Sara Keays, although he made clear that it was not Miss Keays who had given it to him.

The Commons was told by Sir John on May 4, 1982, that the Belgrano had been "detected" two days earlier at 8 pm London time. The alleged original draft which Mr Dalyell has submitted to the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, said that the Belgrano had been "attacked" at that time.

Statements by the Government have since shown that the original draft was accurate in

## o Speaker

that respect and the Belgrano was attacked at that time.

But a majority of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, which reported on its investigation of the sinking in July this year, concluded that the admitted inaccuracies in the statement by Sir John were neither deliberate nor misleading about the true state of affairs over that weekend.

## How siege may aid Alfonsín

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The two-month state of siege imposed last week appears set to enter the history books as the most "democratic" emergency measure in Argentina's long history of political instability and repression.

Most Argentines, with the exception of 12 suspected right wing terrorists whom the Government is seeking to detain without charges, have not had occasion in their daily lives to notice that there is a state of siege on.

Political campaigning for Sunday's congressional elections, which was approaching fever pitch as the state of siege was announced last Friday, has continued at the same pace. Party volunteers continue to hand out leaflets, workers continue to paste up campaign posters on virtually every wall in this city, and the faithful

continue to turn out in droves for political rallies.

If anything, the state of siege could be said to be popular. "I trust (President Raul) Alfonsín. He wouldn't do anything against the people," is a phrase heard repeatedly.

Señor Alfonsín decreed the state of siege in order to arrest the 12 suspected conspirators, but government officials have guaranteed the continued respect of political freedoms. The measure, the Interior Minister Señor Antonio Troccoli, explained, was taken in order to protect Sunday's elections.

Surprisingly, political observers believe the imposition of the state of siege will actually help Señor Alfonsín's Radical Party at the polls on Sunday. "Alfonsín has rallied people around him to defend democracy. When there is a sense of danger, voters who were unde-

cided will support the President," said one Western diplomat.

Señor Felipe Noguera, of the opinion poll organization, Aftalion, Mora y Araujo, Noguera, said the Radical Party might lose votes among highly educated voters who do not see the state of siege as necessary.

At stake in the election are half the seats in the 254-member Chamber of Deputies, where the Radical Party hopes to increase its majority.

Voting for many of the provincial assemblies is also important, because the provincial legislatures control the nomination of national senators. The ruling party is hoping to gain control of at least three provincial assemblies in order to increase its power in the Senate, where it holds fewer seats than the opposition Peronist Party.



TRAVEL TRADE GAZETTE

30 October 1985

## The changing attitude to high latitude

SELLING the attractions of penguins, minefields and sheep is a challenge the most experienced of marketeers might savour.

But when they are 10,000 miles away on rocky outcrops in the storm-tossed South Atlantic even the most optimistic promoter might baulk.

Such is the task facing Sukey Cameron who is representing Falkland Islands Tourism at the convention.

Being born on the islands, which are being economically revived in the wake of the war with Argentina, her heart is in her job.

"We are aiming for small numbers," she admits. "It will appeal to a specialist market such as ornithologists and people who like remote places."

Three lodges are being built on the islands ready to receive guests towards the end of next year.

Prices are expected to start at around £2,000 for a two-week package.

"It is unique," she enthuses. "If you walk a couple of miles you will probably come across a colony of penguins, or seals or an albatross."

## Alfonsin wins a round in court

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires, and agencies.

An appeals court ruled yesterday that a state of siege decree by President Raul Alfonsin empowered him to order the arrest of 12 alleged rightist subversives without presenting evidence.

A three-judge panel reversed the decision of local judges who on Saturday and Sunday set free seven of the suspects, who are accused of involvement in a violent campaign to undermine the Government.

But the court was still waiting yesterday for another court ruling on four other men who were also held on similar allegations.

Legal observers here expect that the constitutional issues involved will have to be decided eventually by Argentina's Supreme Court. The argument basically hinges on whether the Government can still arrest and detain people without producing evidence or following court procedures under state of siege powers, given that the law has been amended since President Alfonsin took office in 1983.

Tension over the crisis, prompted by a presidential order a week ago for the arrests of the 12 men in connection with a series of bomb attacks, has been heightened by those supposedly involved in the plot.

The three men, whose *habeas corpus* orders have already been revoked, included two serving military officers — Colonel Pascual Guerrieri second-in-command at army intelligence, and a colleague Captain Leopoldo Cao. The third detainee is Mr Horacio Rodriguez, who writes a column for a conservative newspaper, *La Prensa*.

Among those still awaiting a ruling yesterday was a retired colonel, Alejandro Arias Duval, head of the police security service, Federal Coordination, during most of the military regime.

The hunt continued yesterday for five other men at large since President Alfonsin signed the original arrest order a week ago. They include four civilians and a cashiered army general, Guillermo Suarez Mason, who has been wanted for alleged human rights crimes and corruption for more than a year.

A bomb blast damaged a clothing store and gymnasium in a wealthy district of central Buenos Aires yesterday, shortly after the court hearing.

No one was injured. As in dozens of similar attacks and threats over the past month, no one claimed responsibility.

Bombings against military officers and senior officials, as well as threats at hundreds of schools, have cast a shadow over the campaign for congressional elections next Sunday and the end of a human rights trial against former military leaders.

Opposition politicians have claimed that the Government is using the issue of violence to divert attention from the economic problems created by a wages and prices freeze. During military rule from 1976 to 1983, thousands were held for long periods without serious opposition from the courts.

The Times Tuesday 29 October 1985

## Alfonsín's powers of detention upheld

From Douglas Tweedale  
Buenos Aires

An Argentine court has upheld a government arrest order against 12 suspects in an alleged right-wing conspiracy, reaffirming President Raúl Alfonsín's powers under a 60-day state of siege declared on Friday.

The ruling, given late on Sunday night, allows the Government to detain again seven alleged conspirators who were released for the second time in six days last weekend when two lower courts ruled that the President's arrest orders were unconstitutional.

The constitutional crisis began on October 21 when the Government uncovered what it said was a plot to upset congressional elections scheduled for next Sunday.

Government officials say the six military officers and six civilians it ordered to be arrested are responsible for a wave of bombings and threats against primary schools, though they admit the evidence they have collected would not stand up in court.

President Alfonsín was forced to declare a state of siege last week after the courts rejected as unconstitutional his attempts to arrest the 12 men by means of a presidential arrest order.

There have been at least 15 explosions since late September, with one person killed. Hundreds of false bomb threats against primary schools in Buenos Aires have caused parents to demand that the Government put an end to political violence.

Opposition political leaders have given conditional support to the state of siege, saying it should be ratified by an emergency session of Congress and used for a thorough investigation of right-wing elements inside and outside the armed forces.



President Alfonsín: Victory in appeal court

# Argentine military to check officers for dissidence

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

**T**HE Argentine military is launching its own inquiry into government allegations that serving officers are involved in a destabilising campaign of bomb attacks and subversion.

The move was announced yesterday shortly after another bomb exploded in central Buenos Aires.

In yet another rebuff to the military's prestige, the government last week named six officers in a list of 12 extreme Right-wingers accused of "conspiring against democracy."

And as a legal wrangle continued yesterday over the government's right to detain the accused despite incomplete evidence, the Military High Command said it was opening its own investigation into dissidence in the officer corps.

The present Army Chief of Staff is Gen. Hector Rios Erenu, a trusted ally of President Alfonsín.

Gen. Rios Erenu is known to be anxious to clean up the military's image as a hot-bed of coup-plotters and his willingness to co-operate with the government has made him unpopular with some middle-ranking Right-wing officers.

## Army 'faithful'

Gen. Mario Jaime Sanchez, deputy Chief of Staff, insisted yesterday that the Army was "faithful to its duty to respect the constitution and the law."

But the difficulties of the authorities in controlling minority extremist elements, both military and civilian, were underlined by the early morning bombing.

A small device that caused limited damage to a boutique, it was the 16th in a wave of similar attacks.

According to government officials, the bombing campaign is the work of Right-wing agitators angered by trials of nine former military junta leaders on human rights charges.

The civilian judges are now considering their verdicts which are expected before the end of the year.

The recent surge of violence and the government's harsh

reaction last week with the imposition of a State of Siege, has inevitably led to speculation about a possible coup d'état.

But few civilian politicians are taking the coup threat seriously, largely because Senor Alfonsín remains broadly popular and the military is still in disgrace.

Meanwhile, the government was yesterday struggling to resolve the embarrassing legal muddle that arose from its efforts to arrest the alleged ringleaders of the bombing campaign.

The case of Col Alejandro Arias Duval, one of the alleged Right-wing plotters, summed up a see-saw week of courtroom wrangling that began to verge on the farcical.

Col Duval was arrested by Presidential decree last Tuesday, and released on Thursday when a judge ruled the decree unconstitutional.

He was arrested again on Friday when President Alfonsín declared a State of Siege and reissued his original order, then released again on Saturday when a second judge ruled there was still no satisfactory evidence to justify holding him.

On Sunday an appeals court confirmed the second judge's ruling and Col Duval remained at large.

# Alfonsín under pressure to explain siege declaration

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

THE CREDIBILITY of Argentine President Raul Alfonsín's Government has been put on the line in the run-up to Sunday's midterm congressional and local elections.

This appears to be the main outcome of the events of the last week which began with the linking of six military officers and six civilians to a "destabilisation campaign."

The week climaxed in an unprecedented tug of war between the democratic authorities and the judiciary following the surprise declaration of a state of siege on Friday.

The order on Tuesday to arrest the 12 initially struck public opinion as a bold and necessary step by a government that was being shown up as impotent in the face of a wave of bomb attacks against military and civilian targets.

But the appearance of purpose and resolution implicit in this first clampdown on serving hard-line military officers since the Government took power in December, 1984 has proved a two-edged sword.

Within hours leading jurists vociferously challenged the

Government's decision, turning the ruling Radical Party's professed respect for human rights, the constitution, and the rule of law on its head.

The presidential decree had no legal precedent in its violation of three articles of the constitution which state quite clearly that no Government, however politically justified, can detain suspects without trial without first declaring a state of siege.

In fairness to the Government, the initial decree was less a conscious re-run of methods practised regularly by former military regimes than the product of legal confusion and political miscalculation made under pressure of events.

Government officials appear to have been initially influenced by recently approved parliamentary law which declared as a crime any attempt to destabilise a democratically elected government.

The arrest of the 12 was ordered only after a careful analysis of the options that were open to the Government. The main consideration appears to have been to thrash out a

formula that would effectively put a stop to the bombs without doing anything that would unduly alarm domestic and international opinion.

The Government was particularly worried about the impact a declaration of a state of siege might have on its image abroad since the success of its foreign policy on issues like the Falkland Islands depends fundamentally on the regime being viewed as democratic.

It was also felt that such a drastic move would be quickly exploited by the opposition which has accused the Government of turning Argentina into an authoritarian controlled democracy, Mexico style.

Last Tuesday night Sr Antonio Troccoli, the Minister of the Interior, declared: "We shall avoid a state of siege and a serious disturbance that this would signify for the electoral campaign."

By Friday the Minister had been forced to eat his words. A state of siege — officially "in defence of democracy" but also as a way of providing a fool-proof legal case — was declared after a judge had ruled the initial arrests unconstitutional

"for lack of evidence."

Yesterday, an appeals court ruled that the state-of-siege decree empowered President Alfonsín to order arrests, although lawyers for one of the six officers responded by asking the Supreme Court to rule on the decree's validity.

While the President is waiting for the embarrassing battle with the judiciary to end, the Government has taken comfort from the fact that Western Governments led by the U.S. have rallied quickly to its support—an indication that any future attempt to topple democracy in Argentina with count on few allies.

On the domestic front most politicians have accepted that the measures will have only a limited scope and will not affect basic civil liberties or the holding of elections.

Nevertheless, there remains a lingering perception of a week during which a government somewhere along the line came dangerously close to losing its hold on things.

The crisis, moreover, has left unresolved the question mark which still hangs over the

real nature of the perceived threat. As a result Sunday's elections remain overshadowed with uncertainties.

Government officials have so far preferred to hint only in private rather than clarify anything in public, throwing an element of potentially dangerous confusion into the already heated election campaign.

The most plausible conspiracy theory is that those arrested had been working closely with sectors of the right-wing Press to exploit current military disquiet with the human rights trial of the former juntas.

Nevertheless, most political observers here discount the possibility that the wave of terrorism can develop into a successful coup. Though clearly unhappy with the trial of the juntas, the bulk of the armed forces are reluctant to assume the responsibility for the social chaos and diplomatic isolation that would almost certainly follow a more widely organised intervention at this stage.

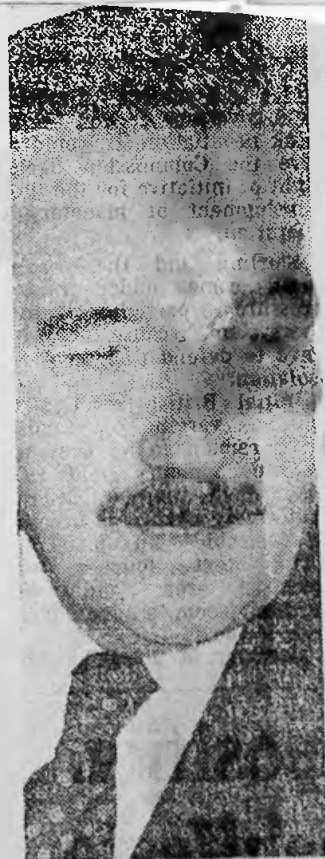
Fresh debate has been fuelled, however, by the fact

that the Government has so far held back from further arrests against the unpredictable lunatic fringe. One theory is that the arrested officers were acting under orders from more senior members of the military hierarchy, whom the Government has preferred to leave untouched for the moment for fear of provoking a wider conflict with the armed forces. This is the result, critics say, of a lack of Government resolve to push ahead with military reform, particularly inside the intelligence forces.

The continuing hesitance suggests that the Government wants to await the outcome of Sunday's vote before deciding how to deal with the armed forces.

The other theory is that the Government has exaggerated the conspiracy to ensure that its civilian population rallies behind President Alfonsín.

Like the boy who cried wolf too many times, the Government is facing increasing pressure from the Opposition to define when a plot is really a plot and not simply a touch of Machiavelli.



Alfonsín . . . concerned about his country's democratic image

## DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE IN ARGENTINA

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

**D**EMOCRACY was in disarray in Argentina yesterday as President Alfonsín clashed embarrassingly with the courts over his crackdown on Right-wing extremism.

The man who fought for more than a decade to replace dictatorship with constitutional rule was himself accused of acting unconstitutionally.

To the President's consternation, Judge Luis Enrique Velazco in Buenos Aires ordered the release of six alleged extremists whom the government accused of "conspiring against democracy."

It was to secure the arrests of the extremist group that Senor Alfonsín resorted on Friday to emergency powers enabling him to suspend routine civil rights.

### Bomb attacks

The imposition of a so-called "State of Siege" followed a destabilising campaign of bomb attacks and threats of violence that the government claims was orchestrated by dissident Right-wingers with close ties to the military.

The authorities identified as the culprits 12 individuals, six of them military officers. Most of the suspects were arrested last week but Judge Velazco ruled on Saturday that the

government had no right to detain six of them.

The government immediately filed an appeal but the fracas was turning into a serious embarrassment for President Alfonsín just seven days before his radical party goes to the polls in Parliamentary elections.

Ironically, the judge's verdict hinged on a clause specifically written into the constitution to prevent presidents from abusing their special powers in a way that became commonplace for generations of military dictators.

Judge Velazco acknowledged that Senor Alfonsín was within his rights to declare a state of siege, but he ruled there was no evidence to justify holding those identified by the Government.

Senor Carlos Aramburu, Justice Minister, promptly accused the judge of "interfering" with presidential powers. It was precisely because the government had not yet produced the necessary evidence that it had invoked emergency powers, he said.

Argentine  
crisis as  
officers  
are freed

## Courts confront Alfonsín

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

A two-month state of siege, imposed on Friday, has caused barely a ripple in Argentine political life in the run-up to congressional elections next Sunday. But it has embroiled President Raúl Alfonsín in a constitutional power struggle with the courts over his order to detain 12 people suspected of involvement in a right-wing bombing campaign. Seven of the 12 were released by judges over the weekend for lack of evidence, dealing a severe political blow to the Government. Government officials said they would appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary to have the detention orders reinstated.



## Argentine crisis as officers are freed

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina has plunged deeper into a constitutional crisis as courts released seven men held under state of siege powers over an alleged bombing conspiracy.

The judge freed four officers, all linked to army intelligence and three still on active service, and two civilians. A fifth officer was released by a second judge.

The rulings were followed by hurried meetings of the Government, and the Minister of Justice, Dr Carlos Alconada Aramburu, accused the courts of interference.

He said the Government would appeal against the decision, and the Federal Appeals Court met yesterday to consider the case.

The freed prisoners, and five other men still at liberty, were named in a presidential decree using state of siege emergency powers to order their arrest.

After court rulings that the decree was unconstitutional, the Government imposed a full state of siege in the country and reissued the arrest order.

But the judge ruled that, while the Government was within its rights to declare a state of siege, there was no connection between it and the renewed arrest order. A state of siege permits arrests without a court order.

The judge said there was no evidence to hold the men, and that the Government had not yet brought charges against them in another court.



The Observer

Sunday 27 October 1985

### THREE GO FREE

The Argentine Government appealed after a judge freed three alleged bomb plotters, held under Friday's state of siege, on constitutional grounds.

## Alfonsin appeals arrest ruling

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA'S main appeals court was yesterday meeting in extraordinary session in an attempt to settle the deepening and politically confusing conflict of powers between the Executive and the judiciary a week away from next Sunday's mid-term Congressional and municipal elections.

Over the weekend two judges squashed a series of arrests ordered by President Raul Alfonsin's Government under a limited state of siege declared on Friday, and ordered the release of five military officers and two civilians allegedly linked to the recent wave of bomb attacks.

The ruling—the second direct challenge to an Executive decision by the judiciary in less than a week—was immediately appealed by the Government on constitutional grounds opening up the prospect of an eventual intervention by the Supreme Court.

The two judges based their decision on a law recently approved by Congress, but apparently overlooked by the Government, empowering the judiciary to review the legitimacy of arrests ordered under a state of siege.

The judges claim there is no evidence justifying the continued detention of the seven,

who include senior army intelligence officers and a journalist working for the conservative La Prensa newspaper.

On Saturday night Sr Carlos Aramburu, the Minister of Justice, accused the judges of "interfering with executive powers" and of "causing social alarm" by allowing the release of individuals accused of "conspiring against democracy." He insisted that the state of siege had been declared precisely with the aim of giving the Government the necessary foolproof constitutional and legal framework with which to act more effectively against suspected terrorists.

# Why Alfonsín had to

WORLD NEWS

## impose a state of siege

OPPOSITION politicians in Argentina reacted sharply yesterday to Friday's declaration by President Raul Alfonsín of a 60-day state of siege, which suspended civil rights. The CGT trade unions and leaders of the opposition Peronist party called for an extraordinary session of congress to review and possibly reverse the state of siege.

Announcing the state of siege on Friday, the minister of the interior, Antonio Troccoli, said that it was needed to put an end to the "internal disorder" generated by a wave of bombings which has shaken Argentina in the past two weeks.

It would not affect freedom of assembly or opinion and would not

interfere with the parliamentary election to be held in eight days, he claimed.

The state of siege was declared merely to legitimise a detention order, issued last Tuesday by presidential decree, against 12 men. The order was issued partly because of the government's concern over rebellious moves within the armed forces, reported in last week's Sunday Times.

Those arrested, six military officers and six civilians, of whom two were prominent journalists – were ordered to be detained for 60 days. They included the second-in-command of army intelligence, and a lawyer; all were accused of fomenting public disorder. But the

arrests were followed by further explosions, including one at the minister of the interior's weekend home.

The two journalists, Jorge Bago and Horacio Rodriguez, specialise in military affairs and several of the military men have extreme-right political connections. One of them edits a self-styled "Nazi" magazine and another, General Suarez Mason, was a key figure in the repression during the dictatorship and has been a fugitive from justice since 1983.

Yesterday Carlos Alconada, the justice minister, announced that the authorities regarded Suarez Mason as the brains behind the plot and would request his extradition from

by Maria Laura Avignolo  
Buenos Aires

the United States, where he is believed to be hiding.

The president accused those arrested of a plot, but a row immediately broke out over the legality of their detention. The president, lawyers argued, could not arrest people at will and certainly could not order them to be detained for 60 days, without first suspending their civil rights by declaring a stage of siege.

As the legal argument grew, the government at first tried to bluster through without taking that drastic

step. "It would be foolish to annul the rights of 28m people just because of a group of 12 men", Troccoli said to The Sunday Times on Thursday. At that stage, the government was unwilling to shake confidence in Argentina's democracy by taking such a dramatic step.

Then on Friday, a Buenos Aires judge declared the detentions illegal and set free one of the military detainees. At the same time, another judge refused to accept the cases sent to her by the presidency, complaining that she was not in possession of any evidence against the men.

The government's credibility was not helped by the discovery of two serious mistakes in the presidential decree. Two men the government

wanted are on the run because of a confusion of identity which led to the initial arrest of the wrong men. After a tense cabinet meeting on Friday, at which Alfonsín did not disguise his distaste for the mess, the government finally opted for the state of siege as the only way out.

But the arrest of the army officers was the last straw for the army chief of staff, General Hector Rios Erenu, already regarded by his officers as an appeaser of the radical government. Many officers are angry that Erenu not only permitted the arrests but also apparently violated army regulations by allowing the intelligence service to spy on his own men. Defence lawyers have claimed that the only evidence presented was

obtained through illegal telephone tapping and would not be admissible in court.

Neither Erenu nor the government has admitted that the information obtained contributed to the decision to arrest the men, but on Friday he tendered his resignation to the president.

Last week, embarrassed government supporters insisted that the state of siege was a result of bungling and was not intended to affect the daily life of the average citizen. But the atmosphere in Buenos Aires was tense as government sources leaked the news that there was a list of 200 further alleged conspirators who would be arrested in the next few days.

## ARGENTINA DECLARES EMERGENCY

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS  
in New York

**P**RESIDENT ALFONSIN yesterday took a risky and controversial first step towards suppression of civil liberties in Argentina when he declared a 60-day "state of siege" to enable him to lock up allegedly dangerous opponents.

For the first time since he took office two years ago, the democratically-elected President has adopted a measure previously favoured by a string of Argentine dictators.

Behind the move was rising Government concern at extreme Right-wing subversion and military unrest—both familiar problems in Latin-American democracies.

Senor Antonio Troccoli, Interior Minister, announcing the state of siege yesterday, said it was in response to the "persistence of a campaign of violence" against democracy.

Recent extremist bomb attacks caused agonising soul-searching for the Argentine President, who trained as a lawyer.

Senor Alfonsin was finally pressured by his advisers earlier this week into ordering the arrest of 12 suspected extremists—six of them military officers.

## Alfonsin orders state of siege

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin yesterday declared a state of siege for a period of 60 days to curb growing violence in the run-up to congressional elections, the Interior Minister, Mr Antonio Troccoli, announced.

Mr Troccoli said in a radio broadcast that the measure would not affect the November 3 elections, but was necessary to detain without trial those the government suspected of responsibility for a recent wave of bombings.

The measure is the Government's harshest response so far to the terrorist revival in which one man has died in 15 bombings since September 17.

Many of the bombs have been aimed at the military or places frequented by soldiers, but the latest explosion went off outside the country retreat of Mr Troccoli after President Alfonsin issued a decree on Monday ordering the arrest of 12 men allegedly linked with the bombing.

The 12 people mentioned in Monday's decree, half of them military officers mainly linked to army intelligence and three of them still on active service, have all been linked to the political right.

The six civilians included

two journalists and four of them are still at liberty. A cashired general, Guillermo Suarez Mason, a figure from the former regime who was already a fugitive from justice wanted on human rights and corruption charges, has not been caught.

Monday's decree, revoking the civil rights of the 12 suspects, had run into opposition in the courts. One arrested military officer was granted a writ of habeas corpus by a judge who ruled the decree unconstitutional and one of the two detained civilians secured the right to leave the country in another court. But other judges supported the measure and the judicial issues have not yet been settled. The new state of seige decree allows the Government to skirt the legal issue.

These apart, the Government is suspected of playing on the public's fear that the Argentine is poised to return to the political violence of the 1970s just as it approaches elections for provincial governments and half the seats in the lower house of the national congress on November 3.

Despite the rising urgency and scope of official security measures, government sources said that no action would be taken against anyone involved in the election until after the vote.

## Argentina declares state of siege

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's democratic Government declared a state of siege for 60 days yesterday to deal with a wave of political bombings and threats which has swept the country in the run up to congressional elections on November 3.

The Interior Minister Señor Antonio Tróccoli, whose own weekend house was damaged by a bomb on Thursday, announced the emergency and promised that it would not interfere with next month's elections or interrupt scheduled campaign rallies. Señor Tróccoli said the Government took the measure "in the view of the persistence and aggravation of the spate of violence".

On Monday night, President Alfonsín had decided "a state of internal commotion" existed to invoke emergency powers and order the arrest of 12 military and civilian suspects accused of being involved in a conspiracy to disturb the peace and the stability of democratic institutions.

However, that decree was

ruled unconstitutional by a judge on Thursday night. He ordered the Government to release one of the 12 alleged conspirators, stating that the president did not have the right to imprison anyone except when there was a state of siege.

Yesterday's decision appears to have been as much an effort to rectify the legal errors in Señor Alfonsín's original decree as anything else. Another decree was issued yesterday reinstating the detention order.

Señor Tróccoli said the measure was taken "in the light of the differing judicial interpretations (of Monday's decree), which could undermine the efficiency of the drive against this terrorist wave." He did not say whether any additional measures would be taken to halt the bombing campaign.

At least 15 explosions have rocked the Buenos Aires area since late September, and there has been a wave of bomb threats against local primary schools.

## Argentina

### Our noble role in the dirty war

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES

In the trial of nine former military rulers in Argentina, the prosecution has maintained that soldiers are never justified in committing atrocities, whatever the circumstances. If they do, they become common criminals and deserve to be punished accordingly. The defence case, which was concluded this week, is that the so-called "dirty war" against communist guerrillas in the 1960s and 1970s, in which many of the alleged crimes were committed, was so ferocious and such a danger to the state that extreme measures by the army were justified. "If we hadn't won the war, none of you would be alive today", Admiral Emilio Mas-



Lami Dozo appeals to history

sera, a former naval chief, has told the court.

The admiral, two other former navy chiefs and six generals, among them three former presidents, Generals Videla, Viola and Galtieri, have pleaded not guilty to murder, torture and other crimes. The prosecution says that although the nine did not carry out these actions themselves, they were to blame because the juntas on which they served gave the orders for them to be carried out.

One weakness of the prosecution's case is that it has not been able to produce written orders for the alleged crimes. The defence also points out that the trial is being held under retrospective legislation. Indeed, the former military regimes took care to issue decrees under which officers could not be prosecuted for human-rights violations.

Although the 20 defence lawyers have made speeches bringing out these points, however, the defendants themselves seem to have shown little interest in legal niceties. The "dirty war", they claim, was no different from any other war. It had to be won by whatever method was available. There may have been excesses, they admit, there may have been some innocent victims, but that happens in war.

#### End of the affair?

Brigadier-General Lami Dozo said on October 21st that the prosecution did not understand the noble role played by the armed forces in Argentine society. His conscience was clear, he said, before history and God. Admiral Massera simply dismissed the concept of human rights "as it has been invoked by the United Nations". Through his lawyer, he said that it was "Marxism dressed up in a euphemism and consecrated by the international press".

While the court has been sitting there has been a wave of bomb attacks. The government believes that some military people who oppose the trial are seeking to upset Argentina's new-found democracy. Six officers and six civilians were arrested this week and accused of planting the bombs. However, President Alfonsín takes the view that the armed services as a whole want justice to be done. He is popular and the country is fairly stable.

Nevertheless, as the six judges consider their verdict, they will be pondering whether the country should close the book on the human-rights issue. In the government it is tacitly accepted that it was necessary to make an example of the juntas. But the 600 or so officers who are alleged to have carried out the Junta's orders will not be prosecuted, in the hope that this will keep Argentina calm.

## Action on lost logs

By Alan Travis

**DISCIPLINARY** action is being considered by the Ministry of Defence against unnamed members of HMS Conqueror, over the loss of the submarine's control room logs between April and September, 1982. They are still missing.

Mr John Stanley, the Armed Forces Minister, said last night in a written Commons reply that the board of inquiry convened by the commander-in-chief of the fleet had shown that the proper procedures for the custody and disposal of confidential control-room logs had not been followed in HMS Conqueror.



### Care for all those who served in Falklands

SIR—I am concerned that your report (Oct. 21) concerning the winding up of the South Atlantic Fund does not present the full picture where the maritime beneficiaries (whether married or single) are concerned.

King George's Fund for Sailors, established and named after HM King George V in 1917, was established then and continues now to look after the interests of all seafarers, whether members of the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, fishing fleets or supporting maritime services.

It is for this precise reason that the interests of all those seafarers who lost their lives, were injured, suffered or may still suffer as a result of the Falklands Operation are best served, as are their dependants, through this Fund which, with its unique centralised knowledge ensures that adequate financial and other support is given where it is needed most.

It should be noted that the 113 vessels which participated in Operation Corporate included warships, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries vessels, ships taken up through trade, hospital and survey ships and these were manned by men of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Royal Mercantile Auxiliary Service and Merchant Navy and ladies from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service—together with many supporting civilians.

The interests of our seafarers, first identified in World War I, continue to require administration by a central "Sailors' Fund" which is precisely within the terms of our Royal Charter.

Our distribution committees, one for the Royal Navy, the other for the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets, will continue, as for the previous 68 years, to look after the special requirements of all seafarers in need—or their dependants—for many more decades.

I am confident that my colleagues at the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund will endorse these views.

KEITH SUTHERLAND, Capt. RN  
Gen. Sec.  
King George's Fund for Sailors,  
London, SW1.

The Times Thursday 24 October 1985

## Falklands proved Kaplan in time for major U.S. contract

*From Mr Peter Tatchell and Mr  
Stuart Holland, MP for Vauxhall  
(Labour)*

Sir, The Prime Minister justifies her continued refusal to support tough economic sanctions against South Africa with the claim that "sanctions don't work".

Yet only two years ago the Prime Minister was a vigorous advocate of sanctions. She readily imposed a total trade embargo against Argentina at the time of the Falklands War.

How is it that sanctions, which two years ago were deemed to be a legitimate and effective method of diplomatic pressure, are now, in the case of South Africa, said to be useless and ineffectual?

Is it that the lives of 1,800 white Falkland islanders are more valued by the Prime Minister than the lives of 24 million black South Africans? Or is it that the profits of British companies investing and trading with South Africa rank higher in her list of priorities than the human rights of the black population of that country?

Yours,

PETER TATCHELL,  
STUART HOLLAND,  
45 Arrol House,  
Rockingham Street, SE1.  
October 21.

## Falklands-proved Rapier in line for major U.S. contract

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

THE American army has given British Aerospace and other possible suppliers of a new air-defence system for its armoured units a dead-line of today to submit rival offers for what could be a lucrative contract.

British Embassy officials said yesterday that the tracked Rapier anti-aircraft missile system, built by British Aerospace, stood a good chance.

The contract is to fill the gap left by the recent cancellation of the American army's \$2 billion (£1,400 million) Divad project.

But neither the embassy nor a British Aerospace spokesman in Washington was aware of any plan for Mrs Thatcher to take up the cudgels for the British system with President Reagan. She was meeting him in New York yesterday.

One British Aerospace source said: "Intervention by Mrs Thatcher at this stage could be counterproductive. Usually a firm will only seek top-level political help as a last resort since it does tend to put people's back up."

Mrs Thatcher wrote to Mr Reagan about two months ago in support of a British bid for another major American defence project, the pending £300 million contract for an army battlefield communications system.

Plesseys of Britain, teamed with an American firm, are competing with France for this order which will be the biggest the Pentagon has ever placed for a foreign-designed system.

### Best bet

Gloomy London reports that America has already rejected Plessey's Ptarmigan system in favour of France's counter-proposal lack confirmation in Washington.

A Pentagon spokesman said the long delayed announcement was still pending while the rival bids underwent further study.

Speculation in British business circles in Washington was that the present delay probably improved Plessey's chances of landing the contract.

By today, British Aerospace and other interested parties were filing details of their proposals. Two other British companies, Marconi and Short, are also believed to be offering their alternative systems, the Marksman air-defence gun and the Javelin shoulder-launched missile respectively.

But the tracked Rapier has already been demonstrated to the American army and it rates as Britain's best yet — partly on its record in the Falklands conflict.

Daily Mail  
24th October 1985

# Firm on Falklands



MR REAGAN : SPEECH

**MAGGIE:  
U.N. VOTE  
WON'T  
MOVE ME**



MRS THATCHER : TALKS

votes for a resolution calling for negotiations between Britain and Argentina on all aspects of the Falklands dispute including the key question of sovereignty.

Mrs Thatcher has made it crystal clear that sovereignty of the Falklands is not negotiable.

She regards it as a slap on the face for the brave islanders who are still trying to get back to normal after the Argentine invasion three years ago.

Even now the Buenos Aires regime still refuses to declare a formal cessation of hostilities.

She served notice that she would not back down on sovereignty no matter how big the vote for negotiations with Argentina.

The Prime Minister was emphatic after forty minutes with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuella: 'I am absolutely firm on that.' When I asked her if there was any shift at all Mrs Thatcher said: 'Good heavens no.'

There is no point even in raising it.'

Behind her back in the UN corridors President Alfonsin's envoys are desperately working on non-aligned countries to whip up support for Argentina.

They make no secret of the fact that their target is 'the ton'—100

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher made it clear in New York that she would stand firm on the Falklands.

The Guardian

Wednesday 23 October 1985

# Officers arrested over bombings

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsín invoked Argentina's state-of-siege laws to order the arrest of 12 men, half of them military officers, in connection with a wave of bomb attacks.

Military sources said five officers, three apparently still on active service and all involved in the army intelligence services, were being held. But the most senior military man, General Guillermo Suarez Mason, a member of the former military regime who is wanted in connection with human rights crimes, corruption and an alleged link with drugs trafficking, seemed still to be at liberty.

Cashiered from the army in April, 1984, five months after Argentina's return to democratic rule, General Suarez Mason has been linked with the extreme right. Several civilians named in the decree are also reported to hold rightwing views. Two collaborated with military regimes and one is a nationalist journalist.

It appeared yesterday that the only civilian being held was Mr Daniel Rodriguez, a journalist on the conservative daily, La Prensa, which has often proved a libertarian thorn in the side of the ruling Radical Party.

One man has died so far in a spate of bomb attacks coinciding with the trial of Argentina's former military rulers for human rights crimes and campaigning for congressional elections early next month.

Another bombing occurred yesterday, hours after the early-morning arrest order was issued. It damaged a guardpost cabs outside the offices of the army chief of staff, but caused no injuries.

Eleven bombings have been reported in Argentina since September 23, most of them in the capital and directed against military homes, offices or cars.

Arguments for the defence at the human rights trial of previous regime leaders ended on Monday with that of Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, Argentina's air force commander during the Falklands war. He said it was unfair that he was on trial, because he had not been appointed head of the air force until two years after the regime declared victory in the "dirty war," a crackdown in which at least 9,000 people disappeared.

## Alfonsin orders arrest of top army general

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

The Argentine Government of President Raul Alfonsin yesterday ordered the arrest of six army officers and six civilians in connection with recent terrorist attacks.

The officers include Col Pascual Guerreiri, the deputy head of the army intelligence service J-2, and General Guillermo Suarez Mason, the former commander of the First Army Corps based in Buenos Aires, who has been a fugitive since being publicly linked to Italy's outlawed P-2 masonic lodge, drugs and arms trafficking, and human rights violations in January 1983.

Yesterday Gen Suarez Mason, who was briefly sighted in a seaside resort earlier this week after having allegedly lived in Spain for over a year, was continuing to elude arrest. The others have all been detained.

The arrests follow a high-level weekend meeting between Sr Alfonsin and the military high command at which the President is understood to have received assurance that the tactics of the accused do not command the support of a wider section of the armed forces.

The Government, invoking a presidential decree used only in exceptional circumstances, accused the 12 of orchestrating a deliberate attempt to undermine the country's democratic institutions.

The arrests follow a growing wave of bomb attacks against military and civilian targets, numerous death threats, and a provocative series of articles in some sectors of the local media claiming that the country is on

the brink of political and social chaos.

The civilians arrested include two journalists who are alleged to have been actively collaborating with hardline members of the armed forces.

Government officials believe the 12 constitute the main core of a small but determined extreme Right group bent on exploiting current military disagreement over the trial of the former junta members and the generally heated political atmosphere in the run-up to the November 2 parliamentary elections.

The political sympathies of those arrested and their activities have been known to the government for months but yesterday's initiative was prompted by the recent bomb attacks.

Relations between President Alfonsin and the military remain strained over the human rights issue. However, most observers here rule out the prospect of a coup because President Alfonsin's popularity remains high and the economic situation is largely under control.

Nevertheless government officials admit that the next few weeks could prove crucial in determining just how successful the government has been in neutralising the last vestiges of the former military regime.

Yesterday's arrests coincided with the final day of the defence's summing up in the six-month long trial of the nine members of the juntas.

The court martial board is expected to spend the next two weeks sifting through the evidence before reaching a verdict in early December.

## Argentina holds 12 for bomb blasts

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina has invoked special powers to arrest six military officers and civilians in connection with a wave of political violence and bomb attacks in the run-up to parliamentary elections on November 3.

A decree issued late Monday night empowered President Alfonsín to arrest the 12 men for 60 days on what the Interior Minister, Señor Antonio Troccoli, said were "vehement indications" that they are behind at least 13 bombings and a rash of death threats.

The 12 whose arrest was ordered include General Carlos Suarez Mason - a former military leader.

The arrests came just hours after the defence rested its case in the human rights trial of nine former military junta members. Air Force Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, the Air Force chief during the 1982 Falklands war, was the last of the accused to speak in the trial.

The six-man tribunal declared a recess to consider its verdict.

## Bomb plot arrests in Argentina

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN ordered the arrest of six army officers and six civilians yesterday in connection with a recent wave of bomb attacks that have been rocking Argentina for the past five weeks.

The latest attack, against the army headquarters in Buenos Aires, took place yesterday morning.

The President ordered the arrest of the 12 men "who are bent on a common aim of violence against democratic institutions."

The decree said that the group "has not hesitated to resort to illegal methods . . . to create fear and insecurity among the population and

erode faith in the state institutions."

The bombings, which have claimed one life, began on Sept. 16 and have been aimed mainly at schools and military institutions "to cause a split between the armed forces and civilians," the decree added.

The attacks coincide with the first Congress elections in 20 years, scheduled for Nov. 3, and the beginning on Monday of the final stage of the trial of nine former military rulers accused of human rights violations.

The Interior Ministry said that the group belonged "to an international organisation for terror and crime."



Soldier Magazine  
21.10.85



**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Major Alistair Craib, 41, of the Royal Engineers who has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his work in dealing with unexploded bombs. Since January of last year he has dealt with eight major bombs in the Falklands, BAOR and the UK.

In February he was called to an unexploded 1,000 kg bomb found on a Sheffield building site when a Sheffield United football match had to be cancelled and 300 people evacuated from their homes.

It was 14 hours before Major Craib was finally able to cut off the fuse cap and, for more than 24 hours, his team worked in atrocious weather conditions, sometimes in temperatures so cold that their equipment froze.

# After 'never again' Cape Horn... ERIC BLUNN SAILS IN FRIENDLY MED.

**A** YEAR after nearly ending his days in the treacherous seas off Cape Horn, Warrant Officer 2 Eric Blunn was back sailing again, only this time in the friendlier waters of the Mediterranean.

And, instead of the fast multi-hulled "Beefeater II" in which he and Chay Blyth came to grief in their attempt to break the sailing record from New York to San Francisco, he was aboard the altogether more secure 55 ft single-hulled "British Soldier."

On the quayside in Gibraltar before setting sail for a 19-day cruise to the Spanish Balearic Islands he recalled the 19 hours he and Chay Blyth had spent in the hull of their capsized yacht, waiting to be rescued.

"We both said to one another," he remembered, "once we get off this thing it wouldn't worry either of us if we never set foot on a boat again."

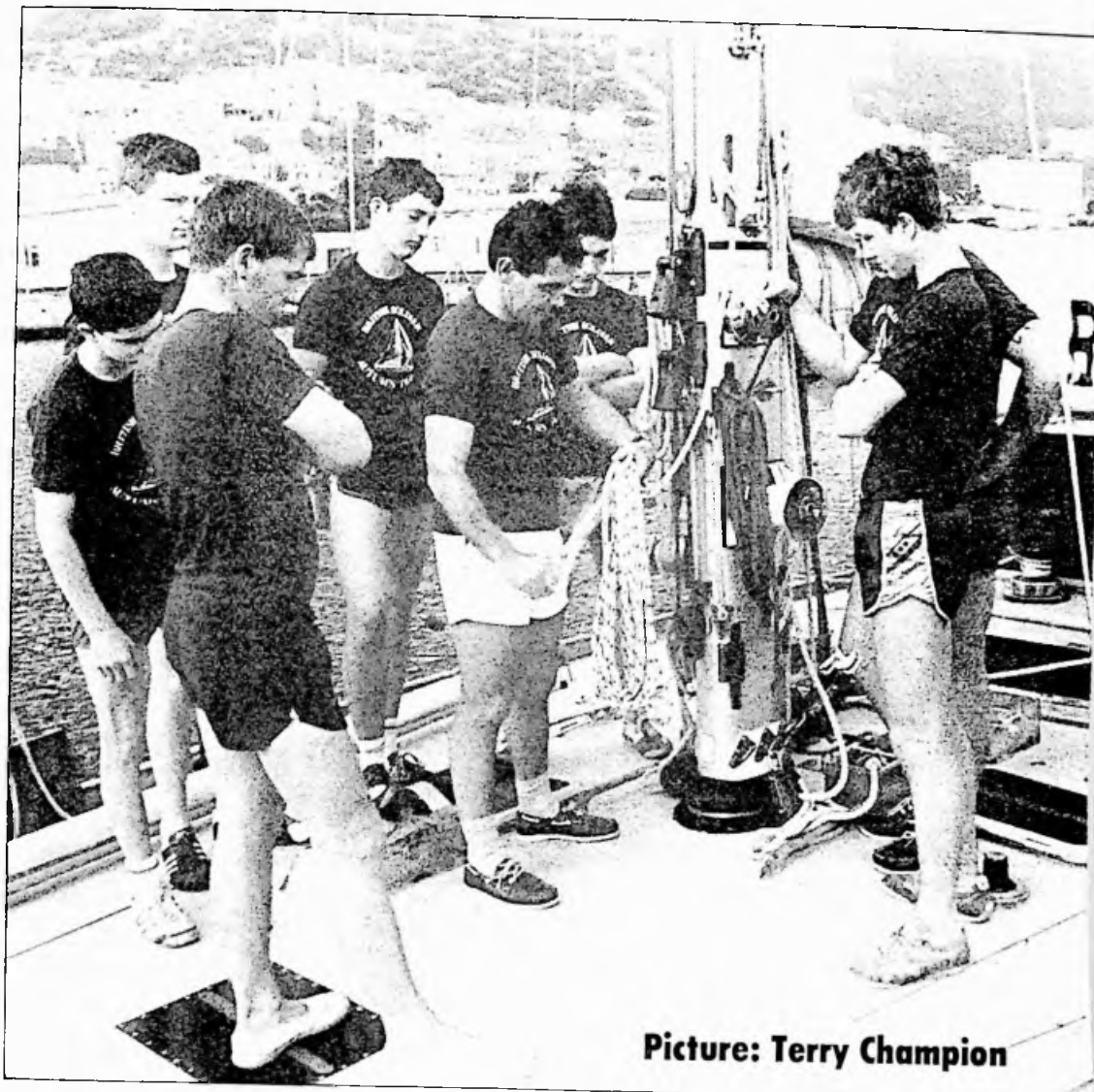
But earlier in this year Mr Blunn was posted to the ROAC Apprentices' College at Deepcut as a Company Sergeant Major, and when it became clear that there was a good chance of booking a stint on "British Soldier" due to a lull in demand caused by commitments to Exercise Brave Defender, he was an obvious choice for the crew.

So there he was in Gibraltar, along with two RAOC officers from Deepcut and six apprentices ready to sail the Mediterranean under the command of WO1 Jim Reid, REME.

"British Soldier" sailed south from the Joint Services Sailing Centre at Gosport on the first leg of Exercise Autumn Trail and had already undertaken the second leg, on behalf of the Army Watermanship Training Centre in Gibraltar, before the RAOC contingent came aboard.

For Mr Blunn it was no doubt a very relaxing experience compared with the voyage of "Beefeater II." Certainly there was, hopefully, little prospect on this voyage of the sort of weather he and Chay Blyth encountered the day they rounded Cape Horn.

"Words cannot describe what the weather was like — what it felt like to be down there," he said. "You are absolutely isolated from the rest of the world and it's a very horrible, lonely feeling."



Picture: Terry Champion

## Story: Robert Higson

Trying to control their spirited craft in 60 to 70 knot winds was becoming increasingly difficult so they decided to head back to Cape Horn and seek some shelter.

"But running down wind in a multi-hull is dodgy — really dodgy," Mr Blunn added. "We were only doing 20 minutes or so on the helm each. He was on the helm and I was down below when all of a sudden he shouted: 'Eric, it's going!' And the next thing I knew it was upside down. It went as quick as it takes to say it."

"He dived below. I got thrown about inside like a handkerchief in a tumble-drier. Then I was under water. I felt something solid under my feet so I pushed and I'm inside the hull. Chay was screaming his head off, calling my name, because he thought I'd been thrown out."

There followed what Chay Blyth

described as dropping into a survival mode. Fortunately they were already wearing their survival suits which saved them from the worst effects of the intensely cold water.

The next 19 hours in the capsized hull will probably not be remembered by Mr Blunn as the happiest time of his life.

They were able to keep out of the water by clambering onto a shelf where they huddled together for much needed warmth — "that's the closest I've ever been to a man." Unfortunately a candle they lit for a bit of comfort burnt down to its plastic holder and started to give off toxic smoke so they were obliged to cut a hole in the hull — a job which took about two hours — to get ventilation.

They owed their eventual survival to the automatic Argos system which relayed distress signals via satellite to Europe. They were rescued with a feeling that they'd had enough sailing ex-

Eric Blunn (centre) has a few hints for RAOC apprentices

perience to last a lifetime.

But within a few months Chay Blyth was back at sea trying to break another record — this time in the ill-fated "Virgin Challenger" which sank on its way across the Atlantic.

And Eric Blunn, the survivor now of two disasters at sea (the first was a sinking in the Bay of Biscay), also seemed prepared for more of the same.

"Not long ago Chay said to me — 'If I got sponsorship do you fancy having another go?' I said: 'Yeah, why not!' And he said: 'Bloody hell, we've got short memories!' And I said: 'Yeah, I think we have.'"

But if the intrepid pair going off record-attempting round Cape Horn again, they'll go armed with experience. For one thing they will get a design which will enable them to live inside a capsized hull with some degree of comfort.

# Argentina tense as junta trial draws to an end

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, the head of Argentina's Air Force during the 1982 Falklands War, takes the stand today in the trial of the country's former military leaders on human rights charges amid new signs of political and military unrest.

As the last of the nine accused junta members, Brigadier Lami Dozo will probably have the last word in the courtroom phase of the trial, unless the former president, General Jorge Videla, who was in hospital when his lawyer presented his closing remarks, chooses to speak in his own defence.

Court sources say the tribunal will offer General Videla the chance to speak tomorrow, but it is not clear if he will be

released from hospital in time or if he will want to speak.

General Videla has refused to accept the right of a civilian court to try him, and lawyers say that an address to the court would imply recognition of the legitimacy of the trial.

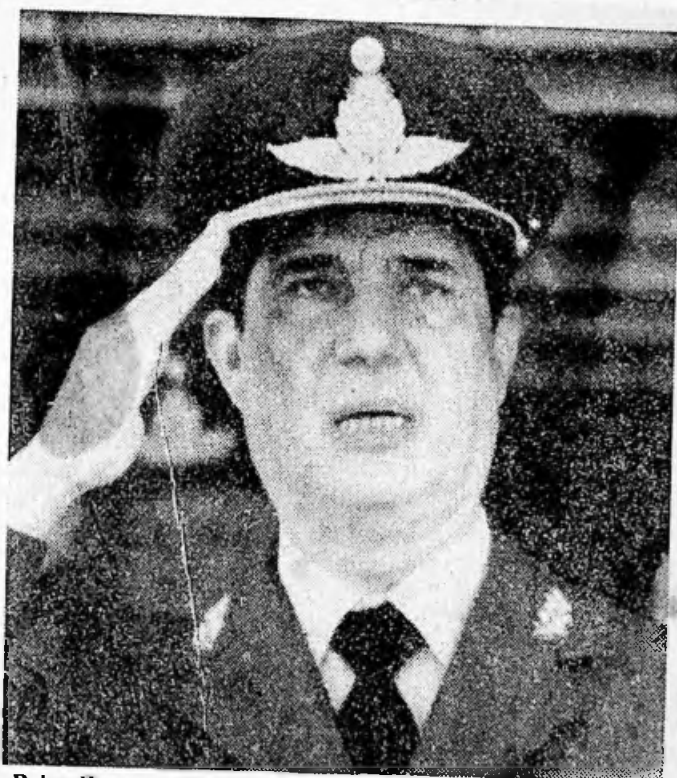
The tribunal will declare an adjournment after hearing either Brigadier Lami Dozo or General Videla and retire to consider evidence presented during six months of public hearings and masses of paperwork accumulated since the trial began more than a year ago.

The Federal Prosecutor, Señor Julio Strassera, has requested life imprisonment for General Videla and four other defendants, and sentences ranging from 15 years for former president General Leopoldo Galtieri to 10 years for Brigadier Lami Dozo.

The growing tension towards the end of this trial has been linked to a recent wave of bombing and political violence.

Six bombs have exploded in Buenos Aires this month, and there has been a resurgence of anti-Semitic violence and vandalism and telephone death threats to public figures.

Lawyers for the nine commanders have all demanded their acquittal on charges of alleged responsibility for hundreds of murders, kidnappings and tortures committed by the armed forces during their "dirty



Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo: Prosecution seeking a 10-year sentence

war" against left-wing subversion in the late 1970s. A total of 9,000 Argentines are still missing after having been abducted in that period.

Though the strategies of the nine defendants differ, the common thread linking them is an unrepentant justification of the military's actions during what they claim was a necessary war to save Argentina from communism.

Señor Eduardo Munilla, one of General Galtieri's lawyers, summed up the defiant attitude when he alleged that the trial itself was part of an "international Marxist confabulation" to discredit the armed forces. The 22 defence lawyers representing the nine junta

members have used three basic strategies. The first is to challenge the constitutional validity of the trial itself, which several claim violates an Argentine guarantee to be tried by one's peers.

A second tack has been to try to discredit the 700 prosecution witnesses by saying that testimony was invalid from members of left-wing guerrilla organizations. Finally, some lawyers have attacked the legal framework of the prosecution's argument. Because the commanders were not formally accused of committing murder or torture with their own hands, the defence lawyers argue, they cannot be held responsible for the "excess" of their subordinates.

## Actor questioned

Norman Brisky, an Argentine actor and director, was detained by police for questioning at the weekend in connection with his past political activities (AP reports from Buenos Aires).

He returned to Argentina last year after having lived in Europe and the United States, and is being questioned about his participation in a newspaper advertisement signed by 400 people eight years ago that demanded liberty in Argentina, the Argentine Actors Association said.

The Daily Telegraph, Monday, October 21, 1985

# Falklands victims' parents angry at transfer of fund

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

**P**ARENTS of many of the 121 single men killed in the Falklands conflict renewed their protests yesterday over the decision to wind up the South Atlantic Fund and transfer nearly £3 million in unspent donations to other Servicemen's charities.

Mr Leslie Stockwell, spokesman for the main group of parents, said last night: "That money was given to the victims of the Falklands and their families without conditions attached by the giving public.

"How can they close the fund with £2,750,00 still undistributed?"

The Association of Parents of Unmarried Sons Killed in the Falklands and the Falklands Families' Association protested two years ago over a Ministry of Defence statement that the transfer of residual money to the Army Benevolent Fund, the R A F Benevolent Fund and the King George V Fund for Sailors was clearly laid down in the deed of trust when the South Atlantic Fund was set up.

## 'We are bitter'

As a charitable trust the fund had to make payments based on need and on the assessment of the amount of loss suffered by, for example, a husband's death, the Ministry said.

The fund has distributed £13 million with money still coming in. More than £35,000 was donated in the past 12 months.

Mr Stockwell, 72 whose son, Geoffrey, 25, was killed aboard the destroyer Coventry, 3,500 tons, said last night: "Nothing has come from our protests. It is an understatement to say that we are bitter.

## £2,500 lump sum

"I can only emphasise what we have been saying all along but to no avail to those who have seen fit to take the public's money for one thing and decide to use a goodly proportion of it for something else.

"The public gave out of compassion for the victims of the Falklands. Of course nothing can replace the loss we have suffered. The fund was cleverly made into a charity so that money could be paid out only when need was established.

"Because it is a charity we are told there is no income tax to pay. But most parents of single Servicemen received only a £2,500 lump sum.

The fund trustees maintain that the Armed Services' benevolent organisation are in a position to look after Falklands victims and relatives in both immediate and future years.

# Argentine Simmering anger in forces

ARGENTINA'S armed forces are growing angry and restless, raising fears that they could become a threat to the stability of President Alfonsín's government, elected two years ago.

Although there is no sign that a coup is imminent, the developing mood of the armed forces is causing concern in a country which has been plagued by military coups.

Officers are bitter about the trials now in progress of their former commanders, who include three former presidents, accused of violations of human rights. Last week, General Galtieri began his defence on charges involving 239 cases. They are also angry about recent cuts in defence spending, which have been so sharp that the navy has had to sell ships. The army claims to be running out of bullets.

Publicly, officers complain most about the cash crisis and about the sharp drop in their living standards after the end of the military dictatorship. But in a climate of growing indiscipline, senior army officers are more concerned that their chief of staff, General Hector Rios Erenu, is too soft in defending their interests. They believe he has failed to push for a "political solution" — a euphemism for an amnesty for those military officers who face trials on human-rights charges.

The worries have increased since the public prosecutor called for life imprisonment for five of the commanders and gave vent to some severe criticism of the methods employed by the armed forces during the years of repression under the dictatorship. The three armed forces, normally bitter

by Maria Laura Avignolo  
Buenos Aires

rivals, have united against what one colonel described as "marxism disguised as liberalism".

With no support in civilian society, some military men have taken direct action. There have been a series of bomb attacks, including one on the home of a naval officer who has the unenviable task of presiding over the trials of some of his fellow officers. "Be good, now!" was the message attached.

Defence cuts have undermined discipline further. The battalions that fought in the Falklands campaign three years ago now say they are short of ammunition to train with. There is not even enough money to feed the junior

officers properly. The government is looking at the possibility of savings by reducing the period of conscription from one year to three months.

"Officers have begun to look at the army as just another job and not somewhere they can develop a career," said one general. "In the afternoons we all take other jobs: working as factory guards or running businesses; some people sell confidential information to multinationals or work in security agencies run by retired military officers. The young ones sell clothes or spare parts and the NCOs do whatever they can."

After years of enjoying the highest salaries in the country, an Argentinian general now earns only \$540 a month; a captain barely tops \$150. They find it particularly irritating that

MPs now earn \$1,500 a month. In spite of the price and salary freeze imposed in a recent economic package, the government tried to give the armed services a 50% rise this month, disguised as a loan. But the move was rejected by the armed forces as "immoral".

The government is confident that it has the support of the majority of the population (who approve of the trials), and that there will not be a *coup d'état*.

But the government cannot afford too much military discontent. "Our revenge will come when they have to call on us to put down the social unrest which is going to break out after price controls come off. The army won't go out on the streets. Let the Radicals [Alfonsín's party] cope with it," one colonel threatened.



Mail on Sunday  
20th October 1985

## **Falklands share-out blocked**

By RUPERT RADCLIFFE-GENGE

**MILLIONS of pounds left in the South Atlantic Fund will not be shared out among Falklands war victims when it is wound up in two years' time.**

The fund trustees' decision to transfer the remaining £2,750,000 to armed services benevolent organisations for general use has outraged the Falklands Families Association.

Association spokeswoman Mrs Christine Robinson-Moltke said: 'It may sound greedy but people all over the world gave it to us, not to anyone else.'

Fund secretary Commander Kenneth Steven said benevolent organisations would be able to look after Falklands victims and relatives in later life when they might need further help.

So far the fund has handed out £13 million and money is still rolling in — £36,500 this year.

## **Bombs cast shadow over Argentine poll**

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

A WAVE of bomb attacks against civilian and military targets reminiscent of the terrorism experienced by Argentina in the mid 1970s has cast a shadow over the campaign for the November 3 mid-term parliamentary elections. It has also been connected to the trial of former junta members for human rights violations.

Early yesterday, a powerful explosion shattered windows of one of the city's most popular cafes and the local "Harrods" department store, in the Calle Flodrida. There were no casualties, but had the bomb exploded a couple of hours earlier, it would have maimed many of the people who regularly congregate along the capital's most famous thoroughfare.

Early this week, military personnel narrowly escaped being killed in separate explosions outside an officers' sleeping quarters, a restaurant, and the home of an intelligence officer.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the six bomb attacks over the last 10 days. The Government has accused former members of the security forces of trying to provoke the armed forces during the final stages of the human rights trial of the nine members of the former military ruling Junta.

## MP must pay barrister to say sorry

An attempt by Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale to be represented by a solicitor instead of a barrister when his apology disposing of a libel action is read in court failed in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Smith, aged 57, objected to paying £150 for a barrister to read out his apology in settlement of the action brought by Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Torfaen. So he asked Mr Justice Leonard to let his solicitor read the statement at a cost of £25.

The judge said that although he had sympathy with Mr Smith he was not in a position to make such an order. "I do not think it is within my power at this stage in history to alter established practice in a general way," he said.

The judge said there was clearly some discretion in the court to allow people who are not barristers to address them. But, he added: "I do not think I am in a position where I can make a general exception by exercising a general discretion in favour of Mr Smith's solicitor, Mr Alistair Brett, being allowed to read a statement in open court."

It was, however, open to Mr Smith to read the statement himself.

Mr Smith's application to the court was paid for by *The Times* legal department. Mr David Pannick, his counsel, told the judge that after being informed it would cost £150 for a barrister, and even £75 for the most junior member of chambers, "Mr Smith took the view there was no good reason

why his solicitor should not himself read out his statement in open court".

He felt that the reading of such a statement required no advocacy skills. Although it was customary for barristers to do the work it only appeared that way because the matter had not been challenged in the High Court since 1867 when similar application was made. But Mr Robert Griffiths, who appeared "as a friend of the court", told the judge the matter was governed by "ancient usage".

He said there were exceptions when it was desirable for people other than barristers to address the court but this was not one of them. The judge said that if there was a general discretion for persons other than barristers to appear this

was the type of case because there appeared to be no possibility of severe complications.

The libel action involved an action brought by 25 Labour MPs over comments made by Mr Smith on Radio Trent in 1982 after they had voted against the Government on the Falklands crisis.

Mr Brett, who is also a solicitor for *The Times* legal department, said after the hearing that they had paid for the action as they felt it was important for Fleet Street and the legal world for the question of solicitors' rights of audience in the High Court to be raised.

Mr Smith's view was that the man in the street should be able to afford litigation which he believed had become "the playground of the wealthy".



## Cyril Smith fails to cut legal costs

**M**R CYRIL SMITH, Liberal MP for Rochdale, took on the might of the law yesterday and lost. He had objected to paying £150 for a barrister to read out his apology in settlement of a libel action.

He asked Mr Justice LEONARD in the High Court to let his solicitor read it for a £25 fee.

The judge said that was not possible. "I don't think it is within my power at this stage in history to alter established practice in a general way."

Mr Smith's application to the court was paid for by the TIMES newspaper. His counsel, Mr DAVID PANNICK, said they had been informed it would cost £150 for a barrister or £75 for the most junior member of chambers. "Mr Smith took the view there was no good reason why his solicitor should not himself read out his statement in open court."

### Ancient usage

Although it was customary for barristers to do the work, it was only because the matter had not been challenged in the High Court since 1867, when a similar application was made.

Mr ROBERT GRIFFITHS, who appeared as "a friend of the court," told the judge the matter was governed by "ancient usage." He said there were exceptions when it was desirable for people other than barristers to address the court, but this was not one of them.

### Falklands crisis

The judge said if there was a general discretion for persons other than barristers to appear, this was the type of case, because there appeared to be no possibility of severe complications.

The libel case involved an action brought by 25 Labour MPs over comments made by Mr Smith on Radio Trent in 1982, after they had voted against the Government on the Falklands crisis.

## **Pilot saved by alert airmen**

A HARRIER GR3 THAT was carrying out a simulated air attack at RAF Stanley in the Falklands last November suffered a major bird-strike by a Southern Giant Petrel.

The pilot was forced to eject at extremely low level, and although the ejection seat functioned normally, there was insufficient time for the parachute to decelerate the pilot before he hit the sea. He sustained a broken leg, broken arm and dislocated shoulder.

He was unable to operate his survival equipment and, states an MoD Accident Summary, "would probably have drowned had it not been for the timely

assistance provided by two airmen in a Gemini dinghy who had been working nearby, seen the ejection, and came to the pilot's rescue."

The collision with the bird caused severe airframe damage, denying the pilot both visual and instrument references and thereby forcing him to eject.

As a result of the accident, steps have been taken to counter bird activity in the vicinity

of Port Stanley Harbour. Automatic inflation for safety equipment is already being developed.

The summary adds that the two airmen who rescued the pilot have been awarded the personal commendation of the Commander, BFFI.

**News Round-up**

## **Argentina begins to export arms**

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA  
in Buenos Aires

**A**RGINENTINA has taken the first step to become an arms exporting country with the sale of locally manufactured light tanks to Jordan and Pucara anti-guerrilla aircraft to Morocco for about \$210 million.

The deals will bring Argentina as much money as its total beef export for 1985.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that Argentina had also signed an agreement with Israel jointly to build the tanks, known as TAM (Argentine medium-sized tank).

Argentina also hopes to build Type 1700 diesel submarines for export but the Argentine Navy has denied recent Press reports from Washington that it has put on sale three Type 1700 submarines built under German licence.

Last week the air force said that it would start manufacturing the French and German designed IA-63 jet trainer at its Cordoba plant.

## Stolen parts 'ended up with Argentine navy'

**H**UNDREDS of thousands of pounds worth of spare parts for gas turbine engines were stolen from the Rolls-Royce factory at Ansty, near Coventry, between 1976 and 1984 and many ended up in the ships of foreign navies, including the Argentine navy, a court was told yesterday.

"The parts were stolen by Timothy Rigley, a Rolls-Royce storeman, and ended up in the hands of a firm which had contracts to supply customers with parts for their warship engines," Mr JEREMY ROBERTS QC, prosecuting, said at Oxford Crown Court.

David Nimer Stott, 56, a director of Skytrade International, denied conspiring with James Moore, Wallace Truslove, Rigley and Skytrade International to receive goods stolen from Rolls-Royce.

Mr Roberts said Skytrade was formed by Stott, of Turners Hill Road, East Grinstead, Mr Moore and Mr Truslove in 1973 to buy and sell parts for gas turbine engines.

### £1m turnover

Following Mr Moore's death in 1978, Stott and Mr Truslove continued the business as partners and by 1983 the turnover was £1 million.

Mr Roberts said that in October 1983 Mr Truslove asked Mr Rigley to get him parts for an engine called the Tyne type RM1A.

For a number of years there had been only one navy using the RM1A, the Argentine navy.

For a year or more after the end of the Falklands War the Argentine navy was anxious to get spares for engines and this was not easy because Rolls-Royce was not about to supply spare parts to the Argentine.

Mr Roberts went on: "There is no suggestion that this company was in direct contact with the Argentine navy, but they were in contact with other firms in a secondary market. They must have known they were supplying parts for that navy."

He told the jury that Mr Truslove had committed suicide before he could be brought to court and Rigley was given a jail sentence by Warwick Crown Court earlier this year for theft.

The trial was adjourned until today.

## NEW GOVERNOR REASSURES FALKLANDERS

By Our Port Stanley Correspondent

The new Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr Gordon Jewkes, has immediately allayed the fears of the islanders that a change of governor may bring a change of policy by the British Government.

During his inaugural address in the Stanley Town Hall, Mr Jewkes, 53, who succeeds Sir Rex Hunt, said that the answer to the question of whether his arrival brings a change of policy was a short and emphatic "no."

He also stressed the need of "partnership between the British Government, and the Falklands Government" in which he must play "a keen linking role." Referring to the presence of British troops on the islands, he spoke of "the partnership between the permanent civilian population and other communities, which will be represented here for as long as may be necessary."

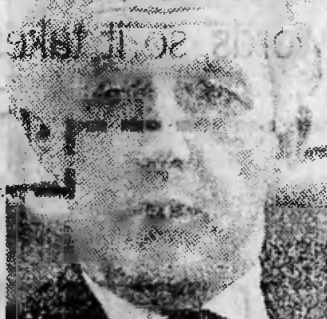
## Falklanders reassured on British policy

Port Stanley (AP). — Britain's new Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr Gordon Jewkes, reassured the 11,800 islanders yesterday that his appointment did not reflect any changes in Britain's attitude to Argentina.

After taking the oath of office in a brief swearing-in ceremony before 150 invited guests and members of the public, Mr Jewkes addressed the question of whether his governorship would bring any shift in Britain's policy toward the islands.

"The short and emphatic answer to that is no," he said.

The swearing-in ceremony, initially planned for Tuesday afternoon, was delayed by a day because Mr Jewkes's plane was several hours late in arriving from Ascension Island. The oath of office was administered by the islands Attorney General Mr Micheal Gaiger.



Mr Jewkes: swearing-in delayed by a day.

Mr Jewkes, a career diplomat, succeeds Sir Rex Hunt, who has retired as Governor after six years and sailed from the islands last Sunday to return to Britain.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

# Falklands site worker killed by dump truck

ANOTHER construction worker has died in the Falkland Islands. Thomas McCafferty was killed instantly last week when he was run over by a dumper truck on the site of the new Mount Pleasant airport.

Mr McCafferty, 52, was a general foreman with the Laing-Mowlem-ARC consortium, which has the main airport contract. He joined the consortium last October and was married with two children.

Ken Greenland, chief police officer in the Falkland Islands, said the machine had hit Mr

McCafferty while it was reversing. "He walked behind a truck and was crushed by it." He said no-one had actually seen the accident, although other men had been working nearby.

The chief also said that the truck was not fitted with an audible reversing alarm. Although Mr McCafferty was partially deaf, the chief said the hearing aid recovered from his body was still working perfectly.

Mr McCafferty is the sixth civilian worker to die on the project. He is the first to be killed while working on site. Two men were lost at sea, presumed drowned, a third was found drowned after he apparently tried

to jump the gap between two accommodation ships, and another died after falling from a roof on the site in July last year. A spokesman for the consortium said, however, that he should not have been where he was at the time.

The most mysterious death was that of Kevin Durrant, 24, who was discovered dead in the back of a bus last July. An inquest held in the Falklands on September 3 returned a verdict of misadventure, but there will be a second inquest in Oxford in the near future.

After the Helen Smith affair in Saudi Arabia, all British subjects who die unnatural deaths overseas get a second inquest in this country. The Oxford coroner handles the Falklands' cases because the bodies are flown to the military air base at Brize Norton.

## 'Shift' on Falklands

By Richard Norton-Taylor

A growing number of Conservative MPs were coming round to the view that the Government should agree to talks with Argentina over the sovereignty of the Falklands, Sir Anthony Meyer, Tory MP for North-west Clwyd, said yesterday.

Sir Anthony, who is a member of the South Atlantic Council—set up to improve relations between Britain and Argentina—was speaking at a press conference organised by the United Nations Association.

He said that the Tory MPs backing open-ended talks with Argentina were still a small minority and would remain so at the next general election. But he added: "If Mrs Thatcher changed her attitude, things could change very fast indeed." He contrasted her approach to problems with what he described as the "flexibility and pragmatism" of the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

British and Argentine mem-



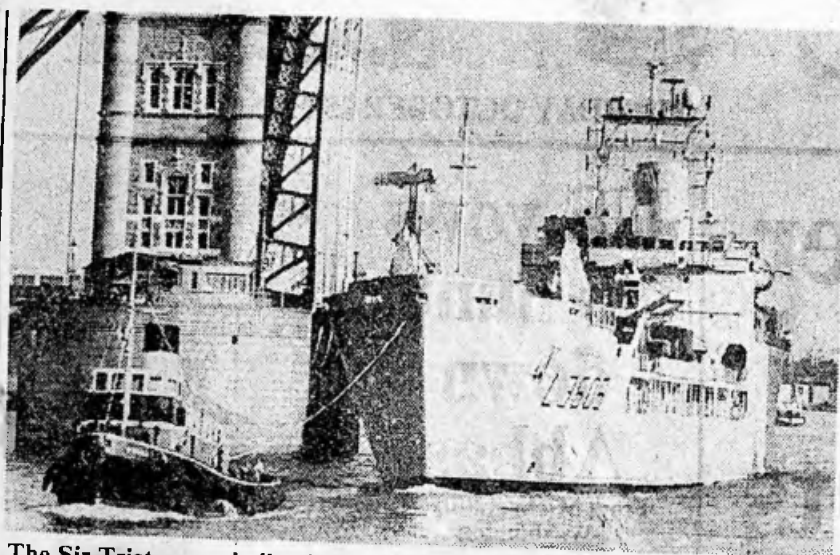
Sir Anthony Meyer  
— praise for Howe

bers of their respective United Nations Associations agreed in Geneva last week to a joint resolution calling for talks with an open agenda on the basis that "the interests of the inhabitants of the islands must be fully understood and taken into account."

Mr Miguel Ponce, an Argentine MP and a member of President Alfonsín's ruling Radical Party, said that the sovereignty issue was a crucial one for every Argentine political group.



Tuesday 15 October 1985



The Sir Tristram, rebuilt after bombing in the Falklands, sailing into the Pool of London yesterday. Captain Robin Green (right) on the bridge.

## Rebuilt Falklands ship visits Pool of London

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Forty months after being almost destroyed with her sister ship, the Sir Galahad, in one of the most horrifying incidents of the Falklands conflict, the rebuilt Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Tristram, sailed yesterday into the Pool of London.

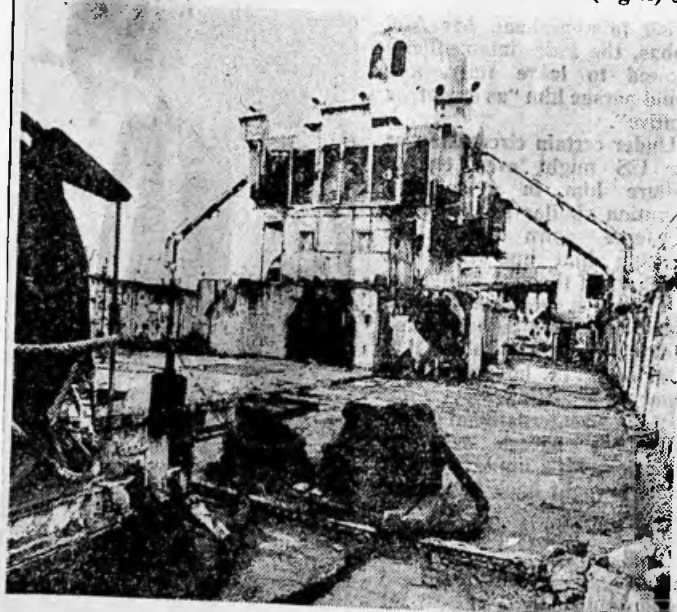
On June 8, 1982, 50 lives were lost although only two of them on board Sir Tristram, when the ships were attacked by Argentine aircraft while lying almost undefended at anchor at Fitzroy off the south coast of the Falkland Islands.

Both ships were severely damaged and abandoned in flames. The Sir Galahad now lies at the bottom of the South Atlantic as a war grave.

Although the stern section of Sir Tristram, a logistics landing ship, was largely destroyed, the forward parts were used for a time as an accommodation unit.

Brought back to Tyneside in a heavy-lift ship, she has been lengthened by 29ft, and aluminium superstructure has been replaced by steel, strengthened to accommodate a landing pad for large Chinook helicopters.

The Tristram is again commanded by Captain Robin Green, aged 50, who also commanded her in the Falklands, and who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



The ship's burnt superstructure in 1982 (Photographs: John Manning).

Daily Mail  
14th October 1985

## Falkland farewell to Hunt

Mail Correspondent  
in Port Stanley

**SIR REX HUNT**, Governor of the Falklands during the Argentine occupation left the islands yesterday in tears.

They came after a farewell party given by 500 islanders, who showered him with gifts and gave him the Freedom of Stanley.

The gritty former RAF pilot, who often upset Whitehall with his outspoken views, left saying: 'I will fight to see you stay British.'

Sir Rex and his wife are sailing back to Britain on the *Sir Geraint*, sister ship of the *Sir Galahad*, which was bombed during the conflict.

## Sir Rex fires his last salvo

By our Correspondent

SIR Rex Hunt yesterday fired off his last official salvo in defence of his beloved Falkland Islands, over which he has presided for six years as governor, governor-in-exile, civil commissioner and, briefly for the last few days, governor again.

"Any British government, of whatever colour, that gives up any bit of real estate in the South Atlantic for the next 50 years, until we know what is exploitable in the Antarctic, will be blamed, and rightfully, by future British generations for being irresponsible and short-sighted," he said.

Sir Rex was speaking at Port Stanley town hall to 500 islanders who had come to bid him a final fond farewell.

They pressed an inscribed silver salvo and a rose bowl on him, presented him with the Freedom of Stanley and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" and "Auld lang Syne" in his honour.

Then Sir Rex stepped aboard RFA Sir Geraint, a sister vessel of the Sir Galahad, which was bombed at Fitzroy during the Falklands war, to begin the long voyage home — his tour of duty over.

"I think successive British governments were to blame for the conflict," he said. "There was certainly a period from 1965 on, when

the policy was quite clear and that was to give the Argentines the maximum opportunity to win over the hearts and minds of the islanders.

"With a mixture of arrogance and incompetence they dismally failed to do that."

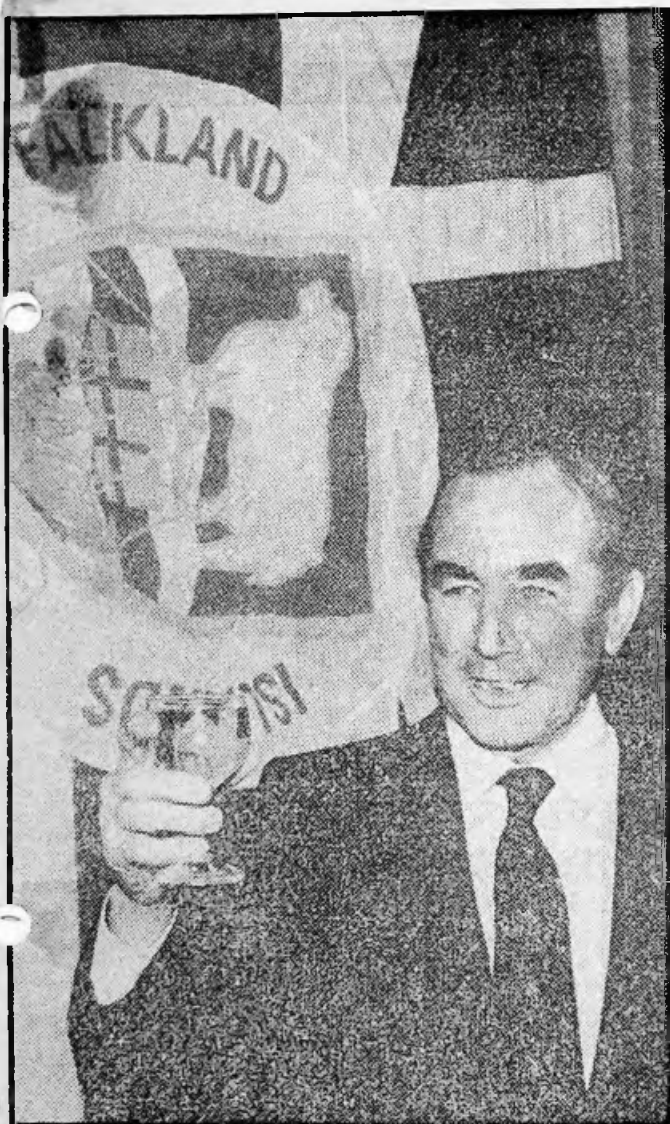
The position now was clear. "I've been to every singly settlement and I've asked the same question to every single person. 'If a future British government decides they can't afford the Falklands and decide to hand them over to the Argies would you stay or go?'"

"With only one exception everybody said they would go."

"Some said that before the 1982 war they may have tried it but now they will not stay here under the Argentine flag. That's the message I shall be taking back with me loud and clear."

The retiring governor was pessimistic about Britain's reluctance to declare a 200-mile fishing zone around the Falklands, to protect stocks being depleted by foreign trawlers.

"The British Government have set their minds on the multi-lateral approach. I just hope that they don't take so long pursuing it and failing, as I believe they will, that by the time they have to revert to a unilateral declaration, it will be too late and the fish all gone."



**FALKLANDS HERO:** Sir Rex Hunt toasts the South Atlantic islanders he has championed for six years. He told them that he and Lady Hunt were looking forward to returning to the islands but this time as tourists.

## Falklanders' farewell to Sir Rex

By PATRICK WATTS  
in Port Stanley

SOME 500 Falkland Islanders gathered in Port Stanley's town hall and later lined the streets to bid an emotional farewell to Sir Rex Hunt, their leader during the past six years.

Many wept as Sir Rex whose title of Governor was restored just a few days ago, received the freedom of Stanley.

The gritty ex-RAF pilot, who led the islanders first as Governor, then, after being deported by invading Argentine forces in April 1982, as Civil Commissioner, promised that he would return with Lady Hunt, in two years "as tourists, to meet the many wonderful friends we are leaving."

He saw no chance of success for any policy aimed at encouraging Argentina to win the hearts and minds of the people. "I've asked the same question of every single person on 50 settlements . . . if a future British Government decides to hand the Falklands over to the Argentines would you stay or go?"

"With only one exception

everybody said they would go. Some said that before the 1982 war they may have tried it but now they will not stay here under the Argentine flag."

During his governorship the number of owner-occupier farms had doubled to 62, which was "most satisfying", he said. "Any British Government of whatever colour that gives up any bit of real estate in the South Atlantic for the next 50 years, until we know what is exploitable in the Antarctic, will be blamed and rightfully by future British generations of being irresponsible and short-sighted."

With the new airport and the ice-free port off Cumberland Bay on South Georgia "we really have got the gateway to the Antarctic."

### Fishing protection

He was pessimistic about the British Government policy of not declaring unilaterally a much-requested 200-mile fishing zone around the islands, whose fish stocks were now being depleted by more than 300 foreign trawlers.

If the multi-lateral approach worked, it was obviously easier to have licenced by mutual consent than by having to enforce it, but he was worried that by the time protection was granted all the fish might have gone.

As he and Lady Hunt left for their voyage on the NFA

Sir Geraint, a sister ship of the Sir Galahad, which was bombed at Fitzroy, the Governor, with tears in his eyes, made his final pledge to an equally tearful gathering below: "You are wonderful people . . . British people, and I will continue with every ounce of my body to fight to see that you stay British."

# Grant deals Thatcher a Falklands factor

## Sir Rex leaves

Sir Rex Hunt, the Falklands Civil Commissioner, left for home yesterday after almost six years in the islands, vowing to go on fighting to keep them British.

COMM  
Ten dollars

# Grant deals Thatcher a Falklands factor

THE Conservative Party has at last found an answer to the mid-term blues that even Mr Norman Tebbit concedes are afflicting the Government two years after its re-election and six and a half years after it first came to office. His name is Bernie Grant, and Tory machine managers believe that with careful handling he could win them the next general election.

By the end of last week at Blackpool Mrs Thatcher's speech writers had at last woken up to their good fortune. Suddenly a new figure, perhaps capable of filling the role played by General Galtieri in 1983, appeared to have stepped onto the political stage. He might only be a Haringey councillor, but the Central Office PR men were not going to be deterred by that.

Had it not been for Councillor Grant, Mrs Thatcher's somewhat lacklustre speech on Friday would have been almost totally bereft of any kind of political content whatever, save for a totally negative rejection of Walkerite reflation as an answer to our economic ills. Indeed, the entire conference would have been an empty shell, exposing the Conservatives as a government which was fresh out of ideas.

Instead, Councillor Grant miraculously restored law and order (ie support for the police) as a central electoral issue, and also per-

formed the more difficult trick of revitalising the Conservative Party's claim to be the only party capable of delivering urban security.

Yet by any normal standards of judgment, the Conservative Party's assertion that it alone is the true party of law and order has for some time been seriously undermined by Mrs Thatcher's performance. The urban disturbances which were widely predicted as a backlash against her ruthless application of free-market economic policies eventually took place in Brixton, Toxteth and other urban areas.

To be sure, all but a handful of blinkered left wing ideologues accepted that unemployment was not the exclusive cause of these disturbances. But almost everyone except a similar handful of blinkered right wing ideologues agreed that the riots would never have taken place if there had not been high unemployment. In other words, it was not just inherent wickedness (Mr Tebbit's word last week) which lay behind the riots; it was social conditions.

But to everyone's enormous relief, the first surge of urban rioting was not repeated. It seemed almost as if the Scarman report had worked, that the police had got the message, and that sensitivity had become the name of the game. The Government contented itself

with increasing police pay at the expense of other public services, while holding its tongue on the impact of unemployment on rising crime figures.

It was the miners' strike which shattered this cosy perception of a nation once more at peace with itself. Mr Scargill rightly came in for most of the blame, since it was his refusal to conduct a ballot of his members which ensured that the picket lines would become a battlefield.

But the Government's heavy handed approach to the pit strike, coupled with their ultimate refusal to deal magnanimously with the defeated miners, did not go down very well either. Above all, the British people suddenly found themselves stuck with something very like a national gendarmerie instead of its traditional local police forces.

The explosions in Handsworth and subsequently in Tottenham could well have put the seal on a general public uneasiness that it was the nature of Thatcherism which precipitated this kind of bloodshed and destruction. Indeed, there was plentiful evidence that the rioters were by no means confined to black youths. Unemployed white youngsters were visibly involved as well.

It was at this stage that Councillor Grant, stepped into the limelight to make his appalling declaration. It

## COMME Ian Aitken

effectively endorsed the "bloody good hiding" which had been given to the police, and carefully ducked anything which might have been interpreted as a condemnation of the hacking to death of a decent, Scarman-style community police officer.

I have no means of knowing whether there was a row inside the Labour group on the Haringey Council over these remarks, since the "open government" which many of its members espouse does not extend to the capitalist press. But the original pronouncements of the group (now withdrawn) showed every sign of backing Mr Grant, even to the point of withholding Haringey's precept towards the upkeep of the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Grant's remarks, and the support he originally got from his colleagues in the council's Labour group, have now been repudiated by Mr Kinnock as well as denounced by his deputy, Roy Hattersley. And that, of course, is only right and proper.

But no amount of denunciation by Labour leaders, not even the repudiation of Mr



## MENTARY



Grant's Parliamentary candidature in Tottenham, is likely to diminish the damage which he has done to Labour's cause all over the country. His remarks will be repeated in every Conservative leaflet, every Alliance election address, every Tory television broadcast from now until polling day in the general election. Future riots will be portrayed as the fault of the Labour Party rather than the failure of the Government.

And what a pity that is. For besides damaging Labour, the episode has seriously undermined the legitimate demand for greater black participation. Mr Grant, after all, was the first black leader of a British local authority. His presenta-

tion of himself as primarily the apologist for black rioters will not encourage white voters to repeat the experiment in a hurry.

This does not imply that Mr Grant really is the central issue in the equation, as the Conservative Party is now trying to make him. But it does mean that Mr Grant encapsulates most of what is wrong with the militant (with a small m) Trotskyist left, and with its total failure (no refusal) to accept the realities of ballot box democracy.

There remains a remote hope that the two Constituency Labour Parties which comprise the London Borough of Haringey will reject Mr Grant and his allies when they come to endorse the party's candidates for the May borough council elections. But it is already probable that, if they do not repudiate the wreckers, the electors of Haringey will simply vote the Labour Party out of the town hall.

That is by no means a distant possibility. It happened a couple of decades ago in nearby Islington, when a corrupt right wing Labour caucus was swept out of power on a tide of public indignation. There is not much doubt that the electors were right on that occasion.

Should the citizens of Haringey decide to do the same thing next May it need not be total disaster for the Labour Party. For the problem

with far too many left-dominated, semi-Trotskyist constituency Labour Parties is that large numbers of radical but by no means Trotskyist people have gone along with the hard left rather than be accused of rocking the boat. A resounding defeat at the hands of the local electorate could jolt them into asserting their real views.

For the first essential fact about the past few months is that Mrs Thatcher's party is facing the possibility of a general election defeat for the first time since the Falklands affair saved its bacon in 1982. It is not only losing the support of thousands of voters who backed it in 1983; it has even begun to undermine the faith of many of its natural allies.

And the second essential fact is that there is virtually nothing that can be done about the horrors of life under Thatcherism — nothing, indeed, that can be done about the perfectly legitimate aspirations of the black communities in Tottenham, Handsworth, Brixton and Toxteth — until Mrs Thatcher herself has been prised out of Downing Street. To coin a phrase, There Is No Alternative to getting her out of office.

It follows that anything which stands in the way of this new version of TINA is not just unhelpful, it is positively counter-productive. And the trouble is that Mr Grant now stands in the way.



## **An offer not to refuse**

The British government's excuse for not talking to President Alfonsín of Argentina about the Falkland Islands has been so severely undermined by the developments of the past three weeks that it is in serious danger of falling down altogether. For the first time since he was democratically elected two years ago he gave an interview to BBC Television this week in which he unequivocally expressed his readiness, even his desire, to talk with Mrs Thatcher, implicitly according the same degree of legitimacy to British concern for the islanders as to Argentine concern with sovereignty. It was precisely this kind of equation by the Spanish government a few short months ago that made it possible for London and Madrid to break the deadlock over Gibraltar.

The 1982 war raised the emotional

stakes involved in the Falklands issue much higher than was ever the case over Gibraltar. British and Argentine blood was spilt and was bound to cloud the vision of both nations for a while. But the Argentine defeat in battle has been followed by a string of compensatory victories in the propaganda campaign which has been going on ever since. Mrs Thatcher began to lose this struggle when she lost sight of her hero Churchill's precept of magnanimity in victory, or more precisely when her warm congratulatory telegram to Mr Alfonsín on his election did not produce a diplomatic surrender to cap the military one. The return of democracy to Buenos Aires, precipitated by the war, was the ideal opportunity for a deal to eradicate future conflict because the fall of the defeated junta changed the ground-rules of the argument. Yet it was missed, and now we have the new millstone of Fortress Falklands.

But now Mr Alfonsín has created another chance, at considerable risk to his domestic position. As Newsnight showed his interview, news came from Argentina that the junta is to be court-martialled for its conduct of the war and also that the Argentine navy is to be drastically cut. Last month, after his European tour, the President offered to end the formal state of hostility against Britain in exchange for unconditional talks. There can be no doubt that the talks he had during his tour with Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr David Steel correctly persuaded him that there is a very large body of opinion in this country in favour of a permanent settlement.

Mr Alfonsín may well therefore believe that a shift in British policy is only a matter of time, and not very much at that. Thanks mainly to Mr Alfonsín's readiness to lead his own public opinion away from confrontation towards conciliation, the way is open to a British victory of a different kind, a moral triumph with no loser. It is seldom given to a leader to win twice on the same issue. All Mrs Thatcher has to do is to follow her own lead on Hong Kong and Gibraltar, on the PLO and South Africa, which show U-turns are not anathema in foreign policy. By doing so she will save money, confound the opposition, delight Britain's friends and please the majority of the people. This would be quite a return for one telephone call.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

---

### **Alfonsin offer on Falklands**

**PRESIDENT** Alfonsin of Argentina has told Britain that it is time to make friends with Argentina after the Falklands war.

In his first British television interview since being elected to power two years ago, he told the BBC News Night programme: "I'd very much like to talk to Mrs Thatcher." He said talks with Britain could lead to a settlement that would suit both countries.

President Alfonsin said that the talks must have an open agenda dealing with every problem. He added that Britain's concern for the islanders "is, I believe, legitimate."

**Leader comment, page 14**

**After the Falklands, navy is  
building up underwater fleet**

# Submarines sales deal denied by Argentina

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

Argentine sources yesterday denied that the navy was trying to sell off some of its submarines, but confirmed that several surface vessels were on offer.

Officials at the Defence Ministry gave an emphatic denial to the suggestion in Washington this week that the navy was seeking buyers for at least two West German-designed submarines.

But they confirmed that the navy had called for bids for three old destroyers, two of British construction and the other built in the United States, the Py, Bouchard, and Piedra Buena.

The navy also hope to sell an old transporter, the Bahia Aguirre, and a petrol tanker, the Punta Medanos, and some ageing aircraft and air war materiel, officials said. It remains unclear what aircraft are on offer.

Defence observers here say that the possibility of selling some of Argentina's newer warships is also under discussion, but that strategic thinking in the navy since the Falklands war is concentrated on building up a submarine fleet.

Iran last year showed interest in buying two relatively modern missile frigates, the Hercules, brought from Britain in the 1970s, and the Santisima Trinidad, built by the its planned fleet of six Mico yards. President Raul Alfonsin ruled against the sale because of Iran's war with Iraq.

Presidential feelings about the Gulf war have not prevented a row this year over a proposal that Argentina should build at least 20 of its Pucara counter-insurgency aircraft for Iraq.

Defence sources conceded yesterday that it was also possible that Argentina might eventually sell some or all of its planned fleet of six Mico 140 missile frigates, only two of which are in operation. Four more similar vessels de-

signed by the West German company, Blohm and Voss, are under construction by Afne.

The navy's emphasis seems focused on a programme to build five submarines. One ship was delivered last month, at an Argentine-West German shipyard in Argentina. These vessels are due for delivery in the next two years, but it appears that they could be sold off to help to finance the submarine programme and other projects reflecting the navy's postwar rethink, defence analysts said.

With the navy budget being cut by a reported 50 per cent since President Alfonsin took power in December, 1983, the sales and new weapons purchases are dictated by economics. The navy is under orders to refurbish its fleet from within existing resources, but salaries and pensions are a big fixed item on the budget.

Suggestions that the sales reflect an attempt by the Government to downgrade the navy after its poor showing during the war three years ago are generally dismissed here.



● President Alfonsin :  
stopped arms sales to Iran

## Symbol of sovereignty a hard act to follow

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

"GORDON JEWKES is a financial man, not a political man like Rex Hunt whom we've got now," one local commented when he heard of the appointment of the new Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Falkland Islands, who leaves today to take up his post.

Mr Jewkes, 53, disagrees. "I'm no less political than Sir Rex," he says, citing his position as British Consul-general in Chicago during the Falklands war. "I was constantly on radio and TV in the States putting forward the British position," he said.

Mr Jewkes will, he knows, be inheriting a difficult task. Sir Rex, his predecessor, was a symbol to the islanders of British sovereignty restored. Governor at the time of the Argentine invasion, he had to surrender to General Galtieri's forces and was bundled off the islands. Later he returned triumphantly in the wake of the task force.

Mr Jewkes will have to make his own legend. Speaking in London before his departure, he acknowledged that with a new constitution in force in the Falklands and an eight-person legislative council elected last week, the post of governor has fewer powers than before.

But the difficult task remains of co-ordinating the roles of the military garrison and the civilians, and finding a way to accommodate those who want to modernise the economy and those who are still attached to the traditional sheep ranches.

Mr Jewkes's early experience should come in useful. He joined the Colonial Office straight from school and during national service was commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Before



Jewkes: experienced

joining the Foreign Office, he worked in the Civil Service Pay Research Unit.

Later he served as Deputy High Commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Jewkes will inherit a more politicised community than before. After last week's elections the Legislative Council chose three of its members to join the Executive Council, the islands' cabinet, which will now have equal numbers of elected and appointed members. The other three members are the Governor himself, the Chief Executive and the Financial Secretary. Under the old constitution elected members were in a minority.

The new Legislative Council is likely to be more active and forthright than its predecessors. On Tuesday it issued a statement slamming the meetings between Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, with the Argentine president. The meetings, the statement said, gave no thought "to the wishes, interests or rights of the Falklanders."

It will be Mr Jewkes's job to interpret these moves to the more nervous of the islanders. He will also have to discuss with them the outcome of the vote in the United Nations General Assembly, due at the end of next month, which, as in previous years, is sure to call for the opening of discussions between Argentina and Britain on the islands.

Now that the new airport is functioning in Port Stanley, Mr Jewkes and his wife will be able to travel out in wide-bodied comfort, rather than make the trip as he did earlier this year in an RAF Hercules, refuelled twice in the air.

The cost of the airport and indeed of the garrison is one of the most contentious aspects of the Government's Falkland Islands policy. Luckily, the islander mentioned earlier was right in one sense—for Mr Jewkes did spend a period as head of the finance department of the Foreign Office in the mid-1970s. His new post is likely to test both his political and financial judgment to the full.

### Falklands protest

Members of the newly-elected legislative council in the Falklands yesterday denounced Britain's Labour and Liberal parties for urging talks with Argentina over the future of the disputed islands, Reuter reports from Port Stanley.

The eight-man council rejected negotiations with Argentina and stressed the islanders' loyalty to London.

## Argentine navy ships up for sale

By David Fairhall,  
Defence Correspondent

A large part of the Argentinian Navy is up for sale, including some of its most modern submarines and frigates, as well as an elderly former US destroyer which was escorting the cruiser General Belgrano when it was sunk, according to military sources in Washington.

The country's elderly aircraft carrier, refitted to launch Exocet-carrying Super Etendards, will apparently be kept. But if customers can be found the new fleet will be only half its planned size, and some of the diesel-powered submarines — one of which gave British sailors some of their most nervous moments in 1982 — will go.

This means that a major component of the threat against which the expensive Falklands garrison is deployed will have been scaled down.

A report in tomorrow's authoritative Washington-based magazine, Navy News and Undersea Technology, lists 13 major warships which Argentina wants to dispose of. Some are still under construction. It is no surprise that the list should include the two British-built Type 42 destroyers, which have been on the market for some time.

But for the Argentine Navy to start selling off new submarines and frigates it has begun building in its own yards to German designs indicates a major budgetary crisis, if not a new naval strategy.

## Argentina gets tough

MEMBERS of the military Junta that led Argentina to defeat in its 1982 conflict with Britain about the Falkland Islands are to be court-martialled for their conduct of the war, a spokesman for the Supreme Military Tribunal said yesterday in Buenos Aires.

In Port Stanley, members of a newly-elected legislative council denounced British opposition parties for urging talks with Argentina about their future.—Reuter.

***Sir Tristram restored***

The Royal Fleet auxiliary landing ship Sir Tristram, 5,500 tons, which was badly damaged in the Falklands conflict, returned to service yesterday after a 15-month refit at Wallsend, Tyneside, in which her aluminium superstructure was replaced with steel.



## **JUNTA TO BE TRIED**

**By Our Buenos Aires  
Correspondent**

Gen. Galtieri and the other two members of the junta that led Argentina to defeat in the 1982 Falklands conflict are to be courtmartialled for their conduct of the war, according to Lt. Col. Edgardo Sembreroiz of the Supreme Military Tribunal.

## **Falklands anger at talks with Alfonsin**

The newly elected Falkland Islands Legislative Council has begun its term of office with a strongly worded statement objecting to recent contacts between President Alfonsin of Argentina and British opposition leaders (Alan Hamilton writes).

Both Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr David Steel had separate talks with the President during his recent tour of the European capitals. In its statement, the Council said the Labour and Liberal leaders "gave no thought to the wishes, interests or rights of the Falkland Islands".

## **Alfonsin calls for open talks**

President Alfonsin of Argentina has told Britain it is time to make friends with Argentina after the Falklands war. In his first British television interview since being elected to power two years ago, he told the BBC's *News Night* programme: "I would very much like to talk to Mrs Thatcher."

Talks with Britain could lead to a settlement that would suit both countries, but they must have an open agenda dealing with every problem. Britain's concern for the islanders "is, I believe, legitimate," he said.

### BRITON RUN OVER

By Our Port Stanley  
Correspondent

Mr Thomas McCafferty, 52, from Herne Bay, Kent, died yesterday when he was run over by a 56-ton lorry at £400 million Mt Pleasant airport site in the Falklands. He leaves a wife and son in England.

## Argentina celebrates Alfonsin's 'coup' on links with Britain

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINE officials are treating the meeting of President Raul Alfonsin with British opposition leaders over the Falklands as potentially their most significant diplomatic coup since their country's peace agreement with Chile over the Beagle Channel last year.

The talks held at the weekend in Madrid between Sr Alfonsin and Mr David Steel, the leader of the Liberal Party, have generated enormous and largely positive media coverage here this week, temporarily overshadowing both the human rights trial of the junta and other aspects of the campaign for the November 3 mid-term parliamentary elections.

On Monday night the state television network Channel 7 ran a special documentary at prime time contrasting the

weekend meeting with Argentina's disastrous military conflict with Britain in 1982. Similar coverage was given to the talks held in Paris two weeks ago with the British Labour leader Mr Neil Kinnock.

For the Argentines, the importance of the meetings lies in having developed and refined alternative formulas as a basis for future negotiations, and reaching a compromise apparently acceptable to a wide body of opinion both in Britain and in Argentina.

Thus while both Mr Kinnock and Mr Steel have accepted sovereignty as part of a future agenda, the statements which emerged in Madrid avoided the historically conflicting words, "interests" and "wishes," in reference to the rights of the

islanders, and instead laid emphasis on implementing tactical guarantees for their future.

Underlying the meetings has been public recognition by the British of Sr Alfonsin's democratic credentials in return for the Argentine leader's re-affirmed support for a diplomatic as opposed to a military solution to the Falklands problem.

The TV and Press photographs beamed widely here of a smiling Sr Alfonsin shaking hands with both Mr Kinnock and Mr Steel appear to confirm that the Argentine leader has not for the first time taken a deliberate gamble on a swing in the national mood here away from belligerence and towards compromise with the British.

## Argentina plays down embarrassing loan delay

BY OUR EUROMARKETS CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA and its leading creditor banks are trying to play down embarrassing disclosures here that the recent \$4.2bn (£3.6bn) loan for Argentina was nearly scuppered at the last minute by a refusal of Bankers Trust, a major U.S. bank, to participate.

There has been no official confirmation, but top officials now freely admit in private that Bankers Trust threatened not to sign the credit because of objections to a plan for foreign bank creditors to inject new

capital into the ailing Banco d'Italia y Rio de la Plata.

A way round the problem had to be found at the last minute resulting in a hitherto unexplained five and a half hour delay in last August's signing ceremony while Bankers Trust was persuaded to change its mind.

No one is yet prepared to talk in detail about this compromise. Instead top bankers say such problems are almost routine in rescheduling exercises and usually get ironed out.

## Spain's aid sought on Falklands

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid

President Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina has appealed for help from the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, to bring Britain to the negotiating table in the Falklands dispute, according to reports published here yesterday.

The Argentine President made his request during a meeting with Señor González in Madrid on Sunday. He also asked for Spain's help to promote a re-negotiation of his country's foreign debt.

At a hurried news conference on Sunday, President Alfonsín denied any plans to visit Señor Isabel Peron, the former president of Argentina and wife, who lives in exile in Spain. He also denied that he is considering an amnesty for those who "only received orders" in connection with the kidnapping, torture and killing of "missing persons."

President Alfonsín arrived in Madrid on Saturday to receive the respected Prince of Asturias prize for Iberian American cooperation, in recognition of his efforts as the first president of Argentina's recently restored democracy. He accepted the prize on Saturday in the northern city of Oviedo, and dedicated Sunday to meetings in Madrid with political figures, including the Liberal Party leader, Mr David Steel.

## Flea riddance

The latest thorn - or, perhaps, thistle - in Mrs Thatcher's side is Scottish Tory Iain Lawson, who has just resigned as chairman of a policy campaign group over the closure of Garicosh steel plant. Mrs Thatcher may well not be aware that the government is currently Lawson's bread and butter. For the past two years the pest control company of which he is managing director has been employed in the Falkands hunting the rodents that infest the old whaling port of Stanley. An early triumph was the extermination of a plague of South American fleas brought over at the time of the conflict. To this day a Scottish front page hangs on the wall of Lawson's Paisley office. It reads: "Gotcha: Scots wipe out Argie invaders".



# Alfonsin moves to isolate Thatcher

BY TOM BURNS IN MADRID

THE ATTEMPT by President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina to isolate Mrs Margaret Thatcher on the Falklands issue by winning the British public over to a negotiating process took a further step forward yesterday when he held talks in Madrid with Liberal leader Mr David Steel.

A joint communique issued after the meeting said that President Alfonsin and Mr Steel had agreed that "as an integral part of the dispute there should be a formal cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the protection zone, the re-establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations and the re-opening of negotiations

on all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands, including sovereignty."

The communique said preparations for the negotiations should be "undertaken simultaneously by the two governments without delay."

Two weeks ago Argentina's President and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, issued a joint communique which also called for negotiations.

The Madrid communique avoided using two key loaded words. It made no mention of the "wishes" of the Falkland islanders—which Mrs Thatcher says are paramount—nor of the "interests" of the islanders which, much to Whitehall's

irritation, was the term agreed in the statement with Mr Kinnock.

Instead yesterday's communique said that Sr Alfonsin and Mr Steel "stressed the importance of guaranteeing effectively for the islanders the preservation of their way of life." This new diplomatic formula was hammered out at a three hour meeting held by Mr Steel with Sr Jorge Sabato, Argentina's Secretary of State for international relations, prior to the talks.

Mr Steel's strong commitment to negotiations appeared to be based on his personal admiration for Sr Alfonsin and his belief that both the consolida-

tion of democracy in Argentina and the long-term future of the islanders could only be assured by what he termed a "retreat from the Fortress Falklands mentality."

The Liberal leader said later that the preservation of the islanders way of life would be guaranteed effectively by an international agency supervising a bilateral agreement.

Mr Steel said that he had found common ground during his "friendly and positive" discussions with Sr Alfonsin. "Democracy would not have come to Argentina without the courage and sacrifice of our forces and without the courage and sacrifice of Sr Alfonsin and his supporters," he said.

Daily Mail  
7th October 1985

## Steel's Falklands 'deal'

MADRID: Liberal leader David Steel and President Alfonsín of Argentina yesterday called for preparations for negotiations 'without delay' on all aspects of the Falklands dispute, including sovereignty.

The two issued a joint statement after a 45-minute meeting at breakfast time. The Argentine leader is in Spain to receive an award for promoting Spanish-

Latin American unity, and Mr Steel was at an international liberal congress.

The two stressed there should be formal ending of hostilities, the lifting of the protection zone plus the re-establishment of commercial and diplomatic relations. Mr Steel said they had also agreed that any treaty should include international guarantees on the preservation of the islanders' way of life.

## Alfonsin and Steel agree on Falklands

By TIM BROWN  
in Madrid

**P**RESIDENT Alfonsin of Argentina and the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, yesterday agreed on the need for negotiations to begin without delay on all aspects of the Falkland Islands dispute "including sovereignty."

A joint communique was issued in Madrid after Mr Steel, in Spain for the annual congress of the Liberal International, met Senor Alfonsin.

They stressed that there should be formal ending of hostilities, the lifting of the protection zone, re-establishment of commercial and diplomatic relations and the re-opening of negotiations on all aspects of the future of the Falklands including sovereignty, as "an integral part of the process to achieve a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute."

The communique said that there was agreement on the importance of effectively guaranteeing for the islanders the preservation of their way of life.

### 'Absolute necessity'

President Alfonsin, in Spain to receive the annual Prince of Asturias award for promoting Spanish-Latin American unity, said earlier: "We want to be friends with the British people on a basis of justice."

"We are not going to create any war-like actions. It is an absolute necessity to sit down at a table to negotiate. We are ready to allow inhabitants of the islands the full exercise of their rights."

Mr Steel said that the opportunity now existed to normalise relations with democratic Argentina.

"If we retreat into a fortress mentality neither long-term interests of Falkland Islanders nor long-term interests of Argentine democracy will be advanced," he said. The best way forward is to use democracy to make secure the freedom of the Falkland Islanders."



Mr Steel and President Alfonsín joking before the start of serious discussions.

## Alfonsín and Steel agree

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

President Alfonsín of Argentina agreed with Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, here yesterday that a formal cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the Protection Zone should be an integral part of negotiations on the future of the Falklands.

A joint communiqué was issued after a brief meeting between the two. Mr Steel and the Argentine Secretary of

State for Foreign Relations, Señor Jorge Sabato, also met for three hours.

Mr Steel and President Alfonsín said it was their "firm desire" that relations should be renewed, and they should be reopened "on the basis of an agenda which includes all matters separating the two countries".

They agreed that such

negotiations should cover all aspects of the future of the Falklands, including sovereignty - one subject which the British Government has been unwilling to discuss.

At a news conference, Mr Steel said he had informed the Foreign Office of his intention to confer with President Alfonsín. He agreed to report back about the meeting.

## Steel and Alfonsin urge Falkland talks

From Jane Walker  
in Madrid

The Liberal Party leader, Mr David Steel, in a joint communique issued in Madrid after his meeting with President Raoul Alfonsin of Argentina, has called for preparations for negotiations on the future of the Falkland Islands to begin without delay. The talks should include the issue of sovereignty, it said.

Mr Steel was attending the International Liberal Congress and Mr Alfonsin was in Madrid to receive the annual Prince of Asturias Award for Spanish-American co-operation.

After their 45-minute meeting at breakfast time, they both stressed the need for a formal cessation of hostilities, the lifting of the protection zone and the re-establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations "as an integral part of the process to achieve a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute."

Both men agreed on the need to guarantee effectively the preservation of the way of life of the islanders.

"It is the responsibility of the British Government to make sure that these guarantees are included in any treaty agreed with the Government of Argentina," Mr Steel said. "It is also the British Government's responsibility to ensure that these guarantees are persuasive to the islanders."

He described his talks with the Argentine President as "friendly and positive." He said that he was confident that the opportunity now existed to

normalise relations with democratic Argentina.

"Democracy would not have come to Argentina without the sacrifice and courage of our forces during the war in the South Atlantic," Mr Steel said. "Nor would have democracy come to Argentina without the sacrifice and courage of liberals and democrats like Raoul Alfonsin."

He added that it was essential that this "joint sacrifice" should be used as an opportunity for talks. "If we retreat into a fortress mentality, neither the long term interests of the islanders nor the long term interests of Argentine democracy, will be adjudged."

"The best way forward would be to use democracy to make secure the freedom of the Falkland islanders."

Mr Steel said that all British people were concerned that the people of the islands should be protected. "It can be done in one of two ways," he said. "Either you do it by spending a lot of money, building up forces, which is a heavy drain. Or you do it by coming to a sensible agreement with the democratic government on the mainland next door."

Mr Steel said that he had informed the Foreign Office in London in advance of his meeting with Mr Alfonsin, and had had briefing from officials.

After the meeting, Mr Alfonsin told reporters that he blamed the "intransigent attitude" of the British Government for the present relations between the two countries.

## Argentine poll violence begins

from Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA is preparing to go to the polls for the first time since the return to elected rule 22 months ago. However, there are fears that the country may also be heading back to the political violence of the 1970s.

Campaigning for votes on November 3 for half the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house in the national Congress, has already been marred by several outbursts of violence.

The 26-year-old economics student, Daniel Rodriguez, was killed when a bomb went off outside the office

of a Peronist opposition candidate in Cordoba, Argentina's second city, last Thursday.

He was the first fatality of political terrorism for some years, but observers are not sure whether he was a victim of the past or a warning about the future.

Only days before, a bomb damaged a Jewish kindergarten in the capital, where police have since been called to several other schools to defuse devices or answer hoaxes. The Government has now ordered police protection for all public buildings and schools.

The election campaign has

also seen several shooting incidents, apparently between members of rival political parties.

President Alfonsín's meeting in Paris with the British Labour Party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, was marked in Buenos Aires by a powerful explosion at the "English tower," a well-known landmark outside a main railway station.

A week ago, the President warned that "enemies of democracy" were trying to disrupt the elections. The question in most minds is whether they include the armed forces.

## **Falklands urge fishing zone**

**By Our Correspondent  
in Port Stanley**

The eight members of the Falklands Legislative Council, elected last week are certain to press the British Government to impose a 200-mile fishing zone around the islands to protect the stocks being depleted by foreign trawlers.

But there is little optimism that the pressure will lead to the speedy action they want.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 6 OCTOBER 1985

### Alfonsin meeting

President Alfonsin of Argentina will continue his attempts to "build bridges" with British political parties at a meeting in Madrid today with Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, writes NORMAN KIRKHAM.

Mr Steel has said his party favours resuming talks on the Falklands at the stage they had reached before the war. Snr Alfonsin also met Mr Kinnock, Labour leader, in Paris two weeks ago.



## Accused junta leader defends 'dirty war'

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentina's former Navy commander, Admiral Emilio Massera, used his day in court on Thursday to defend the military's "dirty war" against subversion in the late 1970s, and to warn his enemies that "the armed forces are capable of defeating them again".

"I am here on trial because we won a just war," he told the court trying him and eight other military leaders on human rights charges. "If we had lost, neither you nor I would be here, because these courts would have been replaced by people's tribunals."

"The enemy is full of fear, a lot of fear, because (they) know

the armed forces of today are as capable of defeating them as were the armed forces of yesterday," he said after claiming that human rights groups were manipulated by Marxist terrorists and that the military "won the war of weapons but lost the psychological war".

Admiral Massera accepted responsibility ("But not guilty," he was careful to add) for the military's sections. "If the court needs to finish us off (the nine former junta members), then go ahead and do so, but do not rob Argentina of its only victory this century".

The admiral said he was not getting a fair trial.

## Philatelist tops Falklands poll

By Our Foreign Staff

MR LEWIS CLIFTON, manager of the Falkland Islands Philatelic Bureau, topped the poll in the territory's elections on Thursday with 379 votes in the four-member Port Stanley constituency.

The four remaining seats in the islands' Legislative Council, those for the "camp" or countryside outside Port Stanley were taken by candidates who stood unopposed.

Of the 655 voters in Port Stanley qualified to vote, 511 or 78 per cent cast a ballot.

The eight Legislative Council members will now elect three of their number to the six-member Executive Council. The other three members of the Executive Council are ex officio, the Governor, the Chief Executive and the Financial Secretary.

## **Argentina's inflation rate drops to 2%**

By Jimmy Burns

ARGENTINA'S inflation rate fell to 2 per cent in September, the lowest monthly figure since August 1974, providing a welcome boost to President Raul Alfonsin's Government in the run up to key mid-term parliamentary elections in November. The figures were confirmed on Thursday by the National Institute of Statistics.

Argentine inflation has slowed significantly since the imposition in June of a prices and wages freeze, a tough monetary and fiscal policy, and sweeping currency reforms.

From a monthly rate of 30 per cent before the anti-inflation package was introduced the rise in consumer prices fell to 6 per cent in July and 3.1 per cent in August. Argentina's inflation rate during the last 12 months has fallen to 640.2 per cent, from an annual rate of more than 1,000 per cent earlier this year. Officials believe they are in line to reach their target of 150 per cent annual inflation by March 1986.

The Government is expected to use the latest figures to reinforce its popularity.

## Anti-terror war 'just' says Argentine admiral

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires

ONE of nine former Argentine military rulers on trial for mass human rights violations has told a Buenos Aires court that the country's armed forces are capable of defeating subversion in the same way they did in the past.

Admiral Emilio Massera said: "Nobody has to defend himself for having won a just war. And our war against terrorism was a just war."

The trial, which Massera described as: "A monstrous falsification," was ordered by President Raul Alfonsin shortly after he took office in December, 1983.

The nine are accused of resorting to State terrorism in the military regime's fight against Left-wing subversion between 1976 and 1982, when at least 9,000 people died.

### Silent tears

Sitting in the first row, Massera's wife shook her head as she cried silently. Her husband faces a life sentence in the trial which frustrated his political ambitions.

The former Navy Commander added that the defeated were now trying the winners.

"The enemy is full of fear because they know that the armed forces of today are as capable of defeating them as the armed forces of yesterday," he said.

The trial has given rise to much unrest within the military, who claim that the hearings have put the whole of the armed forces in the dock.

The armed forces are concerned about the possibility of seeing a great number of its members, who claim that they followed their superiors' orders during the so-called "Dirty War," face similar court action for human rights violations under the same regime.

Defence lawyers are to complete entering not guilty pleas by mid-October and sentences are expected to be handed down in December.

## FALKLANDS POLL SIZE SURPRISE

By PATRICK WATTS  
in Port Stanley

**A**N unexpectedly high turn-out of Stanley voters was the main feature of the Falklands' first general election since the 1982 conflict.

With four candidates already returned unopposed to represent the farming community, interest centred on Stanley where nine candidates disputed the four available seats on the legislature.

The 78 per cent. poll comprised a total vote of 511 from 653 on the electoral role. Only nine ballot papers were declared void.

### Constitutional change

Mr Darwin Lewis Clifton became the first serving civil servant to seek election in the Falklands. Under the new constitution, implemented for the election, certain civil servants were for the first time permitted to stand.

Mr Clifton, manager of the philatelic bureau in Stanley, polled 379 votes. Mr Charles Keenlyside, a technician with Cable and Wireless, polled 275 votes, while Mrs Norma Edwards polled 200.

The fourth seat went to a member of the previous legislature, Mr John Cheek, with 193. Mr Terry Peck, who resigned his seat last year to settle in Scotland, but is returning to the Falklands, polled 131.

Mr Cheek who has represented the Falklands at the United Nations said: "My policy will remain the same . . . no talks whatever with Argentina."

With the new constitution now being fully implemented by the general election the British Government now officially recognises the islanders' right to self determination.

## New Falkland council to reject talks

By John Ezard

The new legislative council recently elected by the Falkland Islanders is certain to remain vehemently opposed to the terms for a settlement yielded by Mr Neil Kinnock's Paris talks with President Alfonsín of Argentina.

The four-yearly poll, the first since before the 1984 conflict, produced a substantially new and younger eight-strong council, with more democratic powers under a reformed constitution. Judging by campaign statements in a radio hustings for the far-flung 1,900 electorate, its members are as ada-

mant as their predecessors in rejecting a discussion of sovereignty by Britain and Argentina.

One of the three survivors from the old council, Mr John Cheek, who speaks for the Falklands at the United Nations, dismissed the safeguards put forward by Mr Kinnock after his meeting with President Alfonsín as worryingly similar to promises made by Argentina before and during the 1982 invasion.

An ex-councillor who supports British sovereignty but believes that islanders should withdraw their objection to

talks decided not to stand. The only major surprise was the defeat of an ex-police chief and vehement critic of the Falklands administration, Mr Terry Peck. He topped the 1981 poll and went on to win an MBE for fighting alongside the British Army during the conflict.

The new council is expected to press Britain for a conservation zone to stop factory-fishing around the islands and to demand that the Coalite-owned Falkland Islands Company make more of its 42 per cent stake in farmland available for resale to islanders.

## **BBC cut Falklands programme 'unfairly'**

By Dennis Barker

The BBC was yesterday accused of interfering with the editorial freedom of one of its Open Space television programmes.

The accusation came after top BBC executives had a private screening of a programme on media coverage of the Falklands war and allegedly ordered parts critical of the BBC to be cut while leaving in those critical of Independent Television News.

Mr Greg Philo, writer of the programme, War and Peace News, due to be broadcast next Monday, said that the makers wanted to dramatise, from minutes they had obtained, meetings of top BBC executives at which Falklands coverage was discussed and, allegedly, the decision taken to depart from BBC objectivity in reporting the war.

But the BBC insisted that no editorial cuts had been made. A spokesman said the assistant director-general, Mr Alan Protheroe, refused to allow the minutes to be used. Then the BBC could not agree to a caption explaining the blank screen lasting some minutes, and proposed it be cut to 30 seconds.

## Falklands votes today

PORT STANLEY: Falkland Islanders vote today confident that their right to remain British is safeguarded, but concerned about the future of their economy.

The Islanders, who have to elect a new legislative council, believe that a new constitution and an explicit reference in it to the right of all peoples to self-determination guarantees them a powerful say in their future.

"We have a safeguard in this stipulation," Mr John Cheek, who is seeking re-election to the law-making body, said.

Many of the 1,900 islanders fear a future Labour Government could consider handing the colony over to Argentina. Candidates for the eight council seats have stressed a need for continued efforts to convince Britain it is in its interest to hold on to the islands, which it has ruled for over 140 years.

But the Falklands economy, with the price of wool, the main export, static, and the cost of maintaining services on the islands rising, also worries many of the 1,040 voters.

Candidates have criticised Britain for not imposing a 200-mile exclusive fishing zone around the islands, saying unregulated fishing could exhaust stocks. — Reuter.



### Oil bids sought

ARGENTINA has started soliciting bids from foreign oil companies as part of a plan to expedite development of its energy resources and help alleviate some of its economic problems, Mr Conrado Storani, the country's Energy Secretary, said.

Argentina earlier this week offered 32 oil and gas exploration prospects and additional acreage will be offered later.

The Times  
2nd October 1985

## MGR DANIEL SPRAGGON

Mgr Daniel Spraggon, OBE, the Apostolic Prefect to the Falkland Islands died suddenly at his home in Port Stanley on September 27 at the age of 72.

Mgr Spraggon had been a member of St Joseph's Society for Foreign Missions (Mill Hill)

He subsequently pursued his missionary work in the Cameroons and in the Gold Coast where he served as Army Chaplain till independence.

In recognition of his service he was appointed MBE in 1957.

After a number of years as chief organizer of fund raising in the United States, Germany and in England, he was appointed by the Vatican in 1971 as Apostolic Prefect to the Falkland Islands.

During the Argentine occupation he played a firm and active role in protecting the welfare and interests of the

islanders, refusing armed soldiers entry to his church and securing the release of detainees. For his service to the islanders he was appointed OBE in 1983.

Having narrowly survived the Falklands military hospital fire he convalesced for a period in his home town of Newcastle upon Tyne, from where he had only returned at the beginning of September.

EUROPE" Wednesday 2 October 1985

-10-

No 4174 (new series)

F I S H E R I E S : MEP PROVAN ANNOUNCES NEW INITIA-  
TIVES AIMED AT DIRECTING SPANISH FISHING FLEET TOWARDS  
THE FALKLANDS

BRUSSELS (EU), Tuesday 1 October 1985 - The references recently made before the UN by the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to the matter of fisheries around the Falkland Islands have provided some support for MEP James Provan in the campaign he has now been waging for two years. Mr. Provan (UK ED) is continually stressing the importance of the waters round the Falklands for Community fishermen and the Spanish fleet in particular. In 1984 the latter caught some 50,000 tonnes of high value fish species, Mr. Provan has indicated, adding that he feels that the large Spanish fishing fleet could be diverted from Community waters to the waters of the South Atlantic, which contain large numbers of fish. The MEP also takes the view that such a development could be of considerable benefit to the local economy, with processing plants being constructed on the islands. Mr. Provan has also pointed out that the prospects for this move would be greatly improved if there were fisheries agreements between the EEC and Argentina, as well as the other countries in the region. Practical progress between the United Kingdom and Argentina on the vital matter of fisheries would have an influence on relations between the EEC as a whole and South America, according to Mr. Provan. In addition, the MEP stated that he has approached the Argentinian Presidency through Buenos Aires' embassy in Brussels, and announced his intention to discuss the matter in the near future with the Spanish Agriculture and Fisheries Minister.

## Argentine leader to meet Steel

By Richard Evans

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, will discuss the future of the Falkland Islands with President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina in Madrid on Sunday.

The talks come less than a month after Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, met Dr Alfonsin in Paris, a move criticized by Mrs Thatcher, who said it would "deeply upset" the people of the Falklands.

Mr Steel, who left London yesterday for Gibraltar, believes there must be a negotiated settlement to the Falklands issue unless Britain plans to keep a task force there permanently.

Mr Steel yesterday met the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Sir Joshua Hassan, for the first of a series of discussions about the Rock. He also met Mr Joe Bossano, leader of the opposition Labour Party, and the acting Governor, Mr John Broadley.

Mr Steel is to travel from Gibraltar to the Liberal International Conference in Madrid, where President Alfonsin is to receive the Liberal International's prize for freedom for his success in restoring democracy in Argentina.

## ARGENTINE TRIAL OF 9 'POLITICAL'

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA  
in Buenos Aires

**T**HE trial in Argentina of nine former military rulers accused of mass human rights violations entered one of its final stages yesterday when the defence opened its argument by claiming the hearings were "arbitrary" and "political."

Señor Juan Carlos Tavares, state-appointed defence lawyer for former President Jorge Videla, said that President Alfonsín's decree for the retired officers to be tried was "unconstitutional."

It showed there was executive branch interference in issues pertaining to the judiciary, he claimed.

Videla was not in court owing to ill-health. He and four other accused face the possibility of life sentences if convicted.

### 'Revolutionary war'

Four others, including Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, face the possibility of sentences of between 10 and 15 years.

Senor Tavares also claimed that Argentina had been in a virtual state of revolutionary war after 1973 and that the Armed Forces had no alternative but to fight against subversion.

The defence lawyers are due to complete their argument by mid-October and the tribunal is expected to announce its decision in December.



Thirty years on : the elderly ice patrol vessel moored beside HMS Belfast, near Tower Bridge. Picture by Garry Weaser

## Endurance reprieved for senior service

HMS Endurance, the naval ice patrol ship whose planned withdrawal from the South Atlantic was one of the ambiguous signals which tempted Argentina into invading the Falklands, has been reprieved for a second time, writes David Fairhall. After completing this next season in the Antarctic she goes into Devonport naval dockyard for a major refit which should extend her operational life for another 10 years.

Enthusiasts among her crew, enjoying what the Royal Navy calls "a run ashore" from their berth alongside HMS Belfast in the Pool of London before heading south, would have liked to see the 30-year-old merchant ship conversion replaced with a purpose-built ship.

But shipboard rumour has it that would have cost perhaps £40 million, whereas the Defence Ministry hopes to pay £15 million for the refit. Apart from hull patching and engine overhaul, this will involve complete rewiring and provision for two twin-engined Lynx helicopters.

In 1982 Endurance was the Falklands guard ship. Hence the political importance attached by the Argentinians to the decision to scrap her in the 1981 Nott defence review—even if in military terms, her handful of Royal Marines could do little physically to defend the South Atlantic islands.

Now her main role is to support the research programme of the British Antarctic Survey, for which her heli-

copters are invaluable because the BAS ships do not have any. But her familiar red hull (red to be easily visible among the ice) is a symbol of Britain's long-standing commitment in the Antarctic and could yet acquire renewed importance if the Falklands' status were renegotiated.

In Paris, meanwhile, a British diplomatic delegation is meeting this week other parties to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, including Argentina, to establish a legal regime under which oil and other minerals might one day be recovered from the Antarctic continent. The talks have been going on since 1982—uninterrupted by the Falklands war—in anticipation of possible revisions to the main treaty in 1991.

# Helo heroes of Brabant

THIS YEAR'S dramatic Brabant Island rescue exploit involving three naval helicopters has gained the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue award.

For what the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators describe as "their splendid efforts" in Antarctica, 826

Squadron (Sea Kings) and the HMS Endurance Wasp Flight receive the award jointly.

They worked in appalling conditions to save Lieut-Cdr. Clive Waghorn and Cpl. Kerry Gill (Royal Signals) who, in temperatures approaching minus 30 degrees C, were sharing a flimsy tent 3,500 feet up a snow-covered glacier.

While on the island with a Joint Services expedition, Lieut-Cdr. Waghorn had broken his leg in a crevasse fall.

## Three days

The rescue took three days and nights to achieve when RFA Olva, with two 826 Sea Kings embarked, joined the Endurance off Brabant.

Despite gales and "white outs" the Sea Kings accumulated more than 14 flying hours in many rescue attempts on the first day. Later, in a temporary break in the weather, the Endurance Wasp hugged a mountainside for 15 minutes to locate the two men on a jagged rock face between large crevasses.

In cloud and fog the Wasp remained on station, despite a minimum of fuel, until the Sea Kings arrived.

Hovering with virtually no visual references and with driven snow making visibility poor, the Sea Kings finally plucked the men from their bleak ledge minutes before the camp site was again enveloped in fog.

## Blizzards

In the alien environment of Brabant all the naval aviators flew up vast featureless glaciated valleys which, with low visibility and blizzards, made aircrew disorientation a constant threat. Several times in their rescue bids the Sea Kings had been forced back as freak downdraughts caught them. On their return to the parent ship the recoveries were made hazardous by high winds and a violently pitching deck.

The award recognises the skill, courage and teamwork of the crews involved. Receiving it were Lieut-Cdr. N. R. Thomson, detachment com-

mander of 826 Squadron, with Lieut-Cdr. J. J. White (flight commander Endurance Wasp Flight) and LACMN J. J. Doyle.

The crews involved in the rescue were:

**Sea King "Rescue 29":** Lieut-Cdr. Nigel Thomson, detachment commander (observer), Lieut. Gurney Hickey and Sub-Lieut. Phillip Reed (pilots), POACMN Kevin Weller, and LMA M. Phillips.

**Sea King "Rescue 37":** Lieut. Andy McKie and Sub-Lieut. Alex Attrill (pilots), Lieut. David Natsmith (observer) and LACMN J. J. Doyle.

**Endurance Wasp:** Lieut-Cdr. J. J. White (pilot), Lieut-Cdr. K. Terrill (observer), Surg. Lieut. J. Miel, and Sgt. C. Henderson, RM.

## ICE SHIP TO GO FURTHER SOUTH

HMS ENDURANCE, now preparing for her return Down South, was playing a prominent part in an Antarctic symposium in London during a visit up the Thames at the end of September.

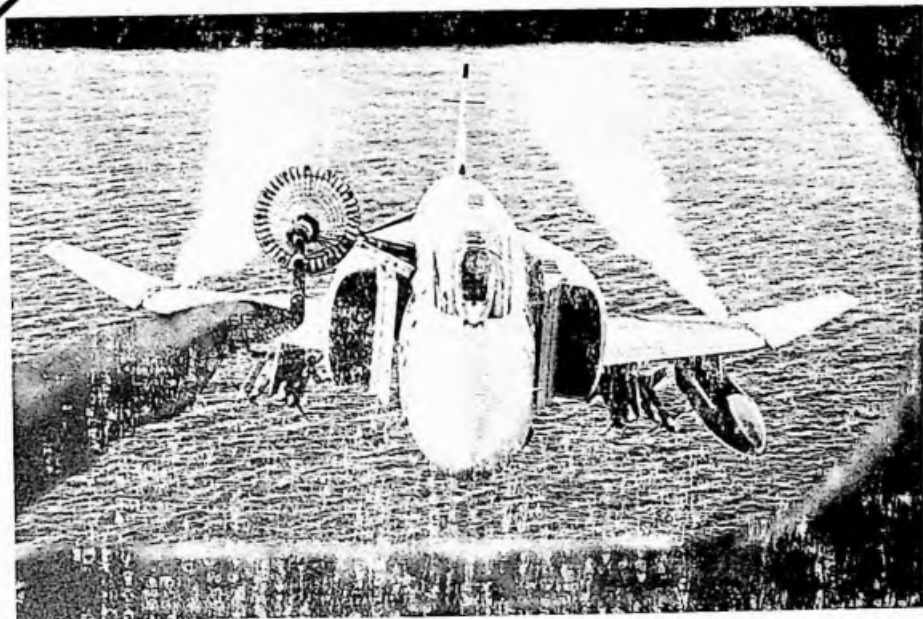
Since returning from Antarctic patrol in June, the Endurance has undergone repairs in Portsmouth, including attention to the ravages of unfriendly icebergs. During her forthcoming season she is due to go further South than ever before. Her programme includes much work for the British Antarctic Survey.

More than half her ship's company has changed since last season. Many of them will have relatives on board for the families day planned for early October.



**RAF in the Falklands (part 1)**  
 In this first of two major articles on the RAF in the Falklands **Brian Goulding** takes a look at RAF Stanley, the RAF Regiment and fast jet units

**Right:**  
 An impressive photograph of a Sidewinder-equipped Phantom of No 23 Squadron, taking on fuel from a Hercules tanker off the Falklands coast. Photo: RAF Stanley



**Below:**  
 Problems at Ascension — groundcrew working on the No 3 engine of XV179 to cure an ignitor problem. Behind is the Hercules C1K tanker which had already taken off 15 minutes before 179's scheduled departure. Photos by the author unless otherwise stated

# Stanley



## Introduction

WHEN the Falklands conflict ended on 14 June 1982, a defence strategy for the islands had to be quickly formulated and implemented. The Argentinian aggressors refused then to concede that a state of peace should exist, and have still failed formally to do so. Consequently the level of defence commitment, particularly that of the RAF, has continued virtually undiminished. As the conflict itself recedes into at least short history, and relations between the two combatant nations gradually return to something approaching normality (influenced by financial and economic forces as much as anything), so the aggressive and defensive postures may become more relaxed. A reasonably sure sign of this was the March 1985 announcement by HM Government that the size of the armed forces in the Falklands was to be reduced. One result has been the withdrawal of the Harriers back to the UK, but how else it will affect

the RAF in the longer term remains to be seen. It could be that the end of a mini era is already upon us.

If nothing else, the Falklands conflict revealed the shortcomings of the RAF's long range transport capability. The new methods and strategies were speedily devised and implemented, and have stood the test extremely well, enabling the RAF to play a most vital part in the defence of the islands; not only in the logistics role — transport of freight, mail, personnel, ordnance, supplies, spares, etc — but also as the main component in FIADGE (Falklands Islands Air Defence Ground Environment). The force is relatively small, but well prepared, well trained, extremely active and alert; also obviously tremendously aware of its responsibilities, and sufficiently potent to be a positive deterrent to any intending aggressor.

## The Air Bridge

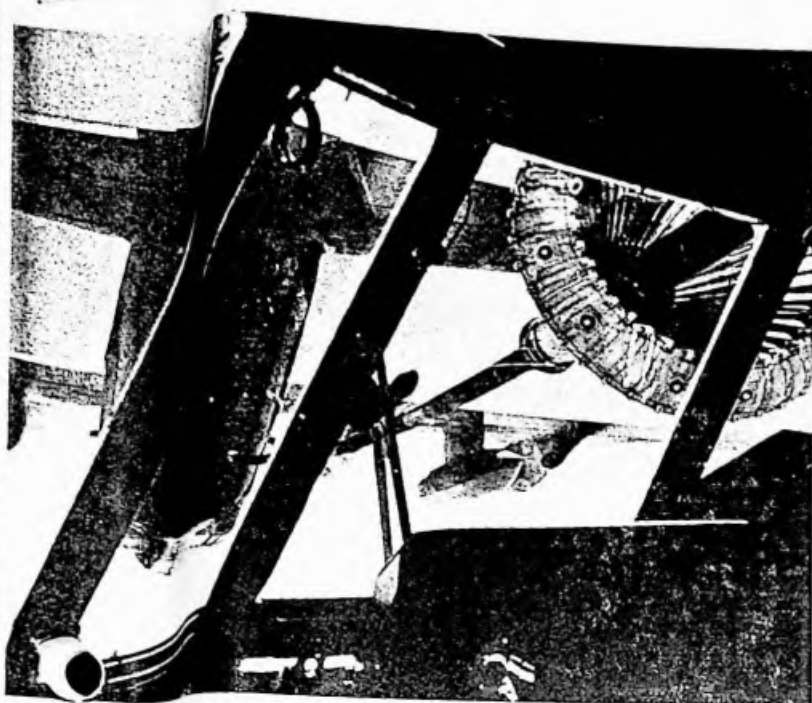
The opening of the new Mount Pleasant Airfield (MPA) on 12 May this year has

itself immediately revolutionised the logistical support of the islands and signalled the end of the famous Air Bridge (infamous if you have ridden the southern sector) in its original form after three years of highly efficient operation by the VC10s and Hercules, supported by the Victor tankers. Somewhat surprisingly the Hercules are, at the time of writing, still operating into Stanley with freight, but in the passenger role have been superseded by TriStars and Boeing 747s. RAF TriStars of No 216 Squadron were to have taken over both passenger and freight roles entirely, but in the event made the proving flight which resulted in the inaugural landing at MPA on 1 May, and the VIP flight for the official opening of the new airfield, then gave way to British Airways. No 216 helped out with a few flights in the first month, but is not due to take over the route from BA until late November 1985, assuming that by then, its TriStars will be available in the right configuration — mixed freight/tanker/passenger.

AIRCRAFT ILLUSTRATED

November 1985





# Swansong



The author's visit took place earlier this year; it was of two weeks' duration, of which four days were taken up by the 8,100-miles-each-way return journey: VC10 to Ascension, with a refuelling stop at Dakar (Senegal, West Africa), during which the passengers had to disembark and stand to one side of the apron while refuelling took place. 'No cameras' was the strict order because of Dakar's military airport status. Pity, with inviting subjects all round, such as Transalls, Atlantiques of L'Aeronavale, C-130s of various nationalities, an Ivory Coast F28, Air Afrique DC-8, Air Senegal 748, etc. The temptations were hard to resist.

On the second leg of the flight I was invited to the cockpit of the VC10, and spent some time with the navigator, Flt Lt Paul Snook, watching him take what would be his last available VOR/NDB cross bearings for some two hours as the aircraft headed south from Dakar. It was surprising to learn that few of the RAF's VC10s or Hercules have INS, though more

are being filtered in slowly. Those used in the South Atlantic do, however, have OMEGA, which is obviously highly regarded by the 'navs'. On the assumption that in the event of war the availability of ground beacons would be strictly limited, basic navigation skills are still practised. The periscope sextant was used to confirm our crossing of the equator, with a close watch being kept on the radar scanning ahead for equatorial 'cu-nims' which can tower above 60,000ft. It surprised me to learn there was no approach radar at Ascension; just a DME and NDB, and a man with a radio in a primitive little tower on stilts beside the runway.

I was also able to witness the landing at Ascension from the flightdeck, and in the early stages of the final approach, had to wonder: could our Captain, Flt Lt Mike O'Donovan, really squeeze us down between the steep hills rising directly from each side of a seemingly much too narrow runway? No problem. The VC10 greased down with ample room to spare, and was

*Top left:*  
**'The sight of all sights in 30 years of flying' is how the author describes the Herc-to-Herc refuelling.**

*Top:*  
**The air bridge tanker itself was refuelled some two hours before the Herc-to-Herc refuelling operation by a Victor K2 — on this occasion XL231 of No 57 Squadron flown by Flt Lt Brian Russell and crew. The last Victor returned from Ascension to its home base of Marham in mid-June 1985, exactly three years after the end of the conflict.**

*Above:*  
**Mid-way to Stanley — Hercules C1K, XV204, obligingly comes alongside XV179 for photographs after topping-up the aircraft.**

soon taxiing on to the huge new concrete apron (the first VC10 to do so), to park beside the Victors and Hercules in a bright pink tropical sunset. After snow-covered Brize Norton only 10 hours previously, the heat of Ascension (25°C) and sight of RAF



and US Air Force groundcrew in shorts came as quite a surprise. Those novices amongst the travellers who had been lulled by the near airline standards of the VC10 might were to be quickly brought to earth by the transit building at Ascension, where passengers for the VC10's return trip were already gathering. It was hot, noisy, crowded, and confusing, with messages and instructions being shouted and Tannoyed too fast to comprehend. I was rescued from the chaos by Flt Lt Brian Russell of No 57 Squadron, who had been deputed to host me for the evening. It transpired that he and his crew were to fly the Victor tanker which would be topping-up the C-130 tanker, which — in turn — was to refuel the Air Bridge Hercules on which I was scheduled to be a passenger.

The night at Ascension was spent in the officers' transit quarters — relatively comfortable Portakabins sleeping seven, though hardly seeming to justify such illustrious names as *Harris*, *Portal*. (The CAS would surely have shuddered.) The next morning, the rude awakening, true service style: 05.00hrs call in the pitch dark; 05.30hrs breakfast in the bright neon lights of the transit shed which was teeming with people, as the VC10 had not yet departed. It was already three hours late owing to delayed arrival of the Hercules from Stanley. From the start of the trip stories about delays, turn-backs, diversions, had been legion.

At 06.30hrs, in a strange, magenta coloured dawn with a sliver of moon, the 60 passengers for Stanley were herded into the dark bowels of Hercules XV179, a mixed bag of servicemen and civilians: officers (including a rear admiral and general); colonels and corporals, squadron leaders and aircraftmen; Greenjackets on their way to South Georgia; two men and a lady of the BBC's British Forces Broadcasting Service going out for their four-month stint; executives and technicians of the various contracting firms involved with the new airfield, roads, etc. There were several Bristow personnel, both air and groundcrew, one of whom was going for a holiday! No special comforts for anyone of whatever rank, except that senior officers had the most forward seats. The seating comprised of suspended webbing straps with hard cushions, facing inwards or outwards, occupants squeezed knee-to-knee between piles of mail bags and freight, silently contemplating how on earth anyone could endure the 12/13-hour ordeal which lay ahead.

The Hercules tanker taxied out at 07.00hrs and five minutes later, XV179's engines are started. No 3 refuses, and the horror stories about delays suddenly become reality. We all offload and reflect on the prospect of a four-hour wait if the freight has to be transferred to the reserve aircraft. Fortunately the groundcrew eventually clear the igniter problem, and No 3 starts. We re-embark and eventually get airborne after a 2½-hour delay, soon thankful for the ear plugs which have been handed out. The seasoned veterans of the Air Bridge were wearing their own well-padded ear defenders, and many had cassette players plugged in to help while away the hours. After a couple of hours airborne, the engines sound like a bank of ships' diesels from my position right in line with them. Conversation is impossible, and movement well nigh so.

The No 70 Squadron crew were excellent. Loadmaster Bob Jones did his best over our modest comforts and victuals within obvious limitations. Perhaps his recent tour on the Ethiopian food lift had

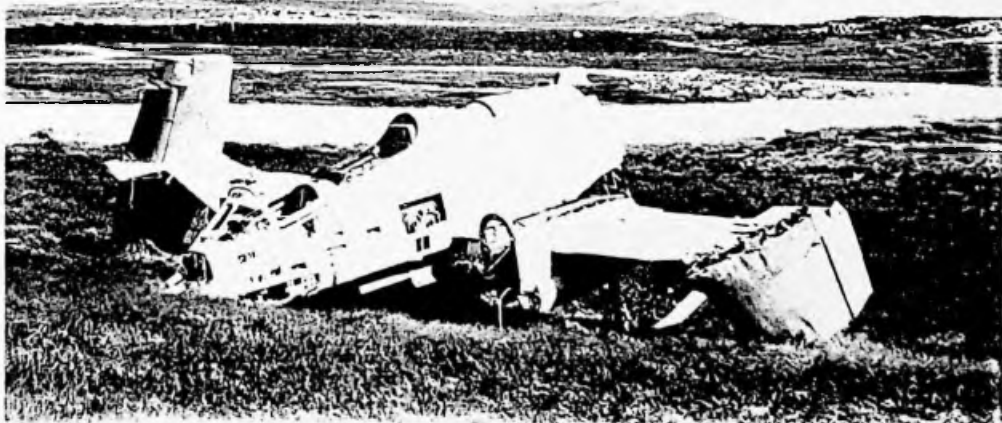


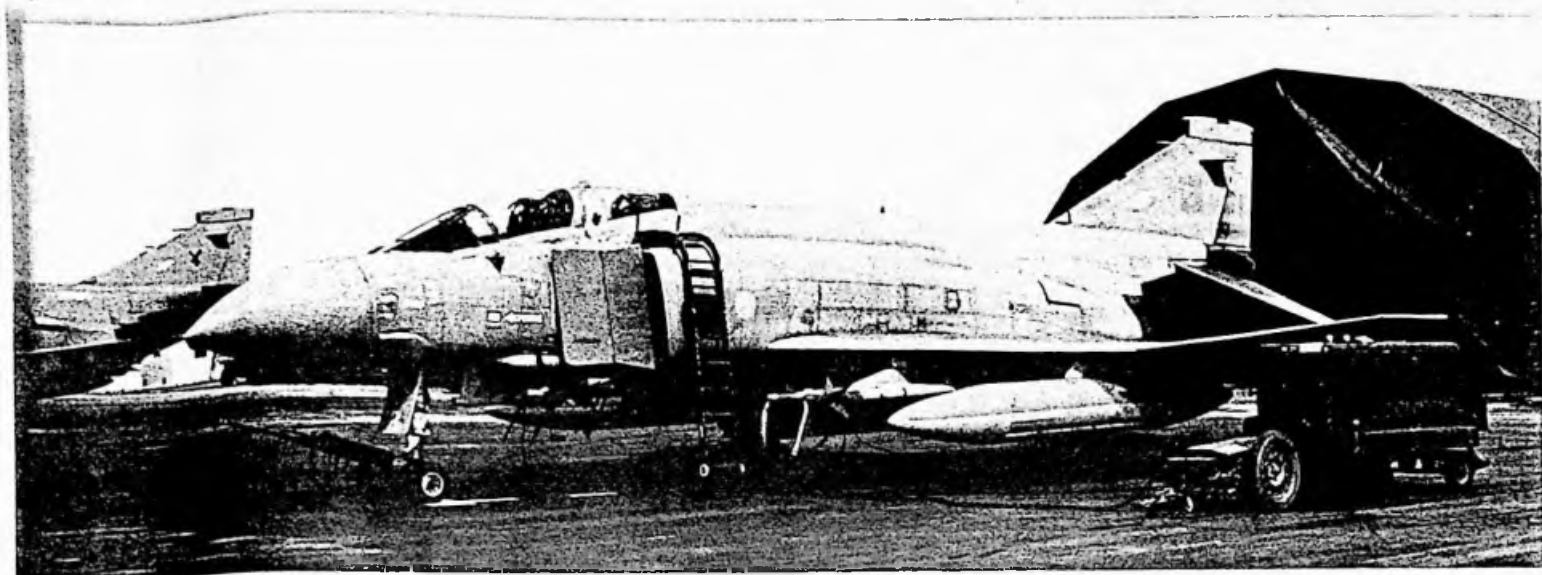
**Top:**  
RAF Stanley — the khaki control tower and terminal building look not unlike a WW2 'watch' office.

**Top right:**  
The author is shown a Rapier site at Stanley by his son, a member of No 63 Squadron, RAF Regiment.

**Above right:**  
In late-1984, this Nimrod (XV228) visited Stanley briefly and thus probably became the largest aircraft ever to land there. However, its arrival was not without problems as it slightly scraped its underside on touchdown. Photo: A. J. Goulding

**Right:**  
One of the wrecked Argentine Pucarás at RAF Stanley. Just visible in the background is Stanley, its harbour and the Two Sisters mountains.





Above.  
RAF Phantom FGR2, XV420, of No 23 Squadron on the dispersal at Stanley. One of the 'rubs' is seen on the right.

given him an added sense of compassion for human sufferers. I was fortunate also to enjoy two longish spells on the flightdeck, which had to be reached from my mid-fuselage position by an assault course type scramble over the freight restraining nets. On the first visit I was to see Brian Russell bring his Victor K2 alongside with drogue streamed after topping up the C-130 tanker some miles ahead of us, and with which XV179 would rendezvous later; then on the second visit up front to witness what will always remain to me the sight of all sights in 30 years of flying — the Herc-to-Herc refuelling. It was awesome to see the tanker so close as we nosed in slowly from below; to see the basket spin away on the first attempt to prod, and the shower of anti-icing fluid spatter the windscreen; then the solid clunk as the probe engaged at the next attempt. Later, a breakaway as the aircraft entered cloud, and the equally tense moments of the re-engagement. It left me sweating and shaking — and I was only watching, crouched behind the Captain, fellow Nottinghamian Flt Lt Brian Taylor. The tanker dispensed some 31,000lb of fuel to XV179 in 18min — enough for the aircraft to reach Stanley and divert back to Ascension if necessary. Before returning to Ascension itself, the tanker, flown by a No 24 Squadron crew, obligingly came alongside for some air-to-air pictures. The Hercules crews spent three weeks on the Air Bridge detachment, during which they flew four return trips, working as a crew during that period, though not when back on the squadrons at Lyneham.

After the top-up, there were six hours to go to Stanley; only half way, and we seemed to have been airborne all day. There was nothing to do but negotiate the hurdles back to my seat, have a bite and a drink from the ration box, and write up my notes; then try to nap, which proved impossible after the excitement of the past couple of hours. The rest of the flight seemed interminable, with the interior of the Hercules getting progressively hotter and more uncomfortable. The aircraft touched down at Stanley 12hr 35min after leaving Ascension. It was early evening, bright with a brisk breeze which soon cleared our muzzy heads.

The arrivees gathered in the spartan

terminal building beneath the control tower, which was reminiscent of a WW2 watch office. The baggage arrived, and we were then briefed by a tough-looking, no-nonsense, long service Flt Lt on the minefield, ordnance, and general safety rules, illustrated with posters and colour pictures of horrific accidents. We were introduced to the minefield map, without reference to which no one should stray off road or track.

The airfield and its surrounds were a hive of activity: military vehicles of all types, helicopters, a pair of Phantoms roaring off, clouds of white dust everywhere. My MoD host, Keith Ansell, took me into the large corrugated iron shed which passes as a dining hall, known as the 'Packaway Palace'. The roof and sides rattled alarmingly in the wind. So this was the Falklands. It was not to prove typical.

Keith had the use of a 'CV' (Captured Vehicle), a four-wheel drive Mercedes left behind by the Argentinians. There are dozens of them in use by the services, and they are considered far superior to the Land Rover. The story goes that the 'Argies' hadn't paid for the Mercs, so there would be no spares made available until the vehicles were paid for. The British thus had to acquire spares through an ally. The three-mile journey into Stanley town was a salutary introduction to the sort of roads which transport has to endure — mainly hardcore only, with some concrete surfaces in Stanley itself. My refuge was the Upland Goose Hotel, the only one of any sort of standard on the whole islands, owned and run by a former RAF air gunner, Desmond King and his family. The hotel had been used by the Argentinians as an officers' mess during the conflict. It is pleasantly situated on the harbour waterfront, giving a good view of the almost continuous air activity. It has become a favourite haunt of the Hercules crews.

During the author's 10-day stay on the islands, the weather was to be mainly sunny, at times brilliantly so. It was still summer in the South Atlantic, of course, and though the winds were strong at times, gusting up to 45kt, there was no rain, which meant I was to be 'biting' the white dust kicked up by the constant movement of vehicles and aircraft in the vicinity of Stanley airport.

### The RAF Regiment

First visit was to No 63 Squadron RAF Regiment, the resident Rapier unit at Stanley. My younger son, a SAC on the squadron, was able to show me round and give a good insight into life on the Falklands. Like most servicemen and women he was on the standard four-month detachment, as was my MoD host. No 63 Squadron was coming to the end of its tour and was due to return to its home base at Gutersloh en masse by the Air Bridge during the following week. They say you can tell how long people have been on the islands by their expression and manner, and how long they still have to do. The No 63 Squadron boys were decidedly 'demob happy', busy preparing for the handover of every item of equipment and stores to their reliefs, who were to be another Germany-based Rapier squadron. No 63 had been in action during the actual conflict, and the unit's large black eagle motif still stands on the hill behind the camp, where it was erected and consecrated shortly after the capture of Stanley airport. Black Eagle Camp as it has become known is a complex of wooden huts and Portakabins on a slight rise overlooking the main apron. It is where the Rapier squadron lives, eats, sleeps, and operates from. The camp is laid on a white quartzite hardcore base, as is almost everything else round Stanley airport, and this makes walking a real trial, even in the sturdiest of military footwear.

There are also duty detachments to dispersed Rapier sites, which have their own living quarters, best described as developed dug-outs, which were just open holes in the ground in the early days. A great deal of initiative has gone into making them more tenable. The one I visited was named 'Sea View', and was virtually invisible from 10 yards away. Inside it had many comforts: a well-equipped kitchen with fridge and freezer (from who knows where); a tea bar with mock Tudor style front, beams and all; beds,



video room, and — to add a final touch of domesticity — a family of cats.

I was given a tour of the Squadron's domain, including a look at some of the dispersed sites, by 'Duck', a one-ton forward control Land Rover derivative. The going was rough to say the least, over what passed for tracks. I saw at close hand some of the most beautiful white, sunlit, inviting beaches — wired off with ominous red skull and crossbones 'mined' signs; walked among penguins — the most delightful and amusing creatures; inspected at close quarters some of the craters made by the thousand pounders dropped by the Vulcans; saw enemy dug-outs still full of their old clothes, open sandals, ammo boxes, even toothpaste tubes labelled 'Argentine Navy Issue'. I gingerly walked through rough tussock grass in an area I was assured was 'safe', once getting my foot entangled in a length of thin wire which was traced to a night flare — inert, and one of ours it turned out when my heart had resumed beating. It's a strange feeling to know that although an area may be declared as clear, one never knows, and the words of the briefing officer the previous evening were never far from mind.

The Royal Engineers' Bomb Disposal Unit at Stanley quoted some statistics of items dealt with since the end of the war: 5,200 grenades, 20,000 mortars, 5,000 rockets, 1,500 heat rounds, 12,800 shells, 300 missiles, 1,000 flares, 95 unexploded bombs and 2½ million rounds of small arms 'ammo'. The fine for stealing a 'mined' notice was said to be £500. There are areas of the island, particularly beaches, which may never be cleared owing to difficulties in detecting some types of mines.

No 63 Squadron, like most other service units, had worked long hours during its four-month tour, much of the time on watch with long periods of unrelieved boredom at radio and radar readiness. They had, however, experienced two full-scale air raid alerts it was claimed. There had been little to do off-duty. A few had managed trips in Hercules, including a supply drop to South Georgia (800 miles away); others a visit to Sea Lion Island courtesy of Bristows in an S61. But by-and-large, it had been a long four months, and without exception all were ready for home.

#### The flying units

The following day, a briefing by the Station Commander of RAF Stanley, Gp Cpt Mike Gibson, who, earlier that morning had welcomed Prince Andrew landing in his Lynx from HMS *Brazen* — all part of the day's work. The Gp Capt was on the standard four-month tour, during which he was playing his part in fostering relations with the local community as acting organist and choirmaster at Stanley Cathedral. In his choir was the station's Senior Admin Officer, Wg Cdr Roger Smith, and several other servicemen. It is the only way they knew it was Sunday, because days of the week just cease to exist in the work cycles.

Gp Capt Gibson had flown with every unit on the islands in a variety of roles, including acting as crewman on helicopters, typifying the senior officers in today's RAF, who lead by example. He spoke of the spirit of the servicemen on the islands. The hard work and long hours leave little time for people to become too homesick or downhearted, and the camaraderie is there for anyone to see.

#### Phantoms — No 23 Squadron

For the visit to 'Phandet' it was a warm, brilliantly clear morning with only the gentlest of breezes, which is unusual because the winds at Stanley average 18kt. It was shirt sleeve order, though with one's anorak handy, as those winds can spring up from nowhere. I was hosted by Flt Lt Ted Liston (navigator) and his pilot Flg Off Neil Adams (a Canadian in the RAF). They were on detachment to No 23 from No 43 Squadron (Leuchars), the other crews being drawn from all the Phantom units, UK and Germany. With Phantom FGR2s, '23' is the largest fixed-wing component in the Falklands, and the only one to have full squadron status under a wing commander. Its aircraft, too, were drawn from various units about 2½ years previously, and some were soon due for major servicing, which presumably would be by rotation back to the UK.

*Above right:*  
Basking in the sunshine at Stanley is FGR2, XV495. The Falklands crest (a Sheep) is incorporated into No 23 Squadron's nose emblem.



*Right:*  
Three Harrier GR3s of the now disbanded 1453 Flt on the dispersal at RAF Stanley and about to depart for a training sortie. The Flight's badge on the nose incorporates a plan of the islands and was designed by one of the pilots, being an adaptation of No 1 Squadron's motif.



*Below:*  
Trailed by a Hercules of 1312 Flt, XV402 of No 23 Squadron taxis back to dispersal after a morning CAP sortie.





**Left:**  
Sidewinder-equipped Harrier GR3 of 1453 Flt  
over Stanley harbour. Photo: RAF Stanley

the 'beefy' Phantom and its experienced, determined crews, must be a very real deterrent to any nation with acquisitive intentions.

#### **Harriers — 1453 Flight (since disbanded and returned to the UK)**

The Harrier's name is now linked irrevocably with that of the Falklands, having played a truly major part in the air war, in which it proved itself as quickly and completely as any type of combat aircraft in history. The Harrier seemed very much at home there, and was still an integral part of the intermediate and inner defences of the islands as a second line to the Phantoms.

1453 Flight's pilots were drawn from all three Harrier squadrons, Nos 1, 3 and 4, on four-month detachment, and its aircraft (GR3s) rotated back to the UK annually or thereabouts for 'majors', transported by Hercules. The Flight was known as 'Hardet' (short for Harrier Detachment) and its aircraft as 'beans' (jumping variety). One has to get used to the nomenclature of the Falklands: Phantoms are 'geese' (from their appearance in flight), Hercules are 'Alberts' (after the fat one), Bristow's S61s 'Eric's' (world darts champion — did he know, I wonder?), and Chinooks are 'Wockers' (owing to the noise they make in flight — woc, woc, woc). These names are used quite commonly on the air by crews and ATC.

The Flight seemed a particularly close-knit unit, commanded by a squadron leader. Whereas most of the detached air and groundcrew based at Stanley were living in the three 'Coastels' (large accommodation modules built on floating platforms, very similar in appearance and construction to oil and gas rig living quarters), 1453's personnel were living in huts adjoining its dispersal and 'rub'. The aircrew lived in a Portakabin named 'The Swamp'. They ate in their crew room, and appeared to be in a permanent state of readiness.

Like most aircrew serving in the Falklands, 1453's pilots were flying several times a day during their intensive working cycle, and in some cases getting in as many hours during tours as they would in a whole year in the UK. Aircrew and groundcrew accept that they will work long hours. If nothing else, it helps keep boredom at bay, as off-duty pursuits are somewhat limited: a game of squash on the Coastel, watching videos, an occasional shopping trip into Stanley or to the NAAFI; and, of course, the letters to-and-from home — the 'blueys'. Many write home daily.

Like the Phantoms, the Harriers were flown fully-armed by determined, dedicated pilots who, understandably, were not too forthcoming about roles and tactics.

**Next month the author looks at the Hercules detachment, RAF Mount Pleasant and helicopter operations in the Falklands.**

The range of the Phantom effectively extends the ground radar capability, and makes them the first line of defence within the 150-mile radius Falkland Islands Protection Zone. There are two aircraft and crews permanently on QRA, loaded, live, and cocked, on a five-minutes-to-airborne status. The squadron is split into two flights working to a completely rigid, well-designed programme on a wartime basis of half the crews on, half off, flying throughout the whole four-month detachment to a strict timetable. Each crew was flying six times in a 10-day cycle, clocking up 60-80 hours per tour depending on weather. The islands are an excellent training ground — good flying country, with plenty of scope for low-level, though the hilliest areas are avoided to minimise airframe stress and accidents (there has been a 'fatal' collision with a mountain top in low cloud). Navigation is very much an eyeball job, by houses rather than towns. Red lines on maps are not A roads, merely tracks or 'noticeable paths'. Experience levels are important, minimum requirement being near-to-end-of first tourists. Sorties include the usual CAP work, escorts, exercises against ground radar and Rapier sites, and ships, practice interceptions, and combats with Harriers. They refuel from a Hercules on most trips — twice on some — and carry a standard war load of missiles (Sidewinder/Sparrow), gun and fuel. Each crew will get to fire one live missile per tour. Flying out of Stanley at an AUW of 5,500lb is marginal, especially landing back on at 150kt-plus in strong crosswinds, with the interlocking metal surface of the runway slippery from ice or rain. Use of arresters is standard

procedure. The Phantom squadron was obviously an early candidate for a move to Mount Pleasant on completion, as prior to its opening there were positively no diversions available to the aircraft. If the weather clamped, and you were airborne, you just had to sit up there and wait, hopefully with a Hercules tanker around to top you up.

For line servicing and QRA dispersal at Stanley, the Phantoms enjoy the relative luxury of rubber hangers (known as 'rubs'), though one of these had been stripped bare of its covering by a fierce gale, leaving only the frame standing. The squadron's 'ops' room, admin centre and duty quarters comprised the usual collection of Portakabins and huts, interlinked by wooden porches in an effort to keep out the winds. They brought to mind some of the motley shelters which groundcrew used to erect on bomber dispersals. A succession of tenants had made them reasonably comfortable, though goodness knows what the earliest days at Stanley must have been like, when tents were the most solid form of protection. The cartoonery and graffiti was an education in itself as to how mankind can survive for longish periods away from home comforts. It takes one by surprise to see large aircraft recognition posters on the crew room walls depicting types which hitherto had always been considered 'allied' — Mirage, Etendard, even the faithful Canberra. The Canberra an enemy!

The Phantom's head-on capability is considered specially important against the Mirage, and any aggressor could expect a long, hard fight to get into the target area, even at low-level. There is no doubt that

# **fishing news international**

NOVEMBER 1985 Vol. 25 No. 10

£1.50 Monthly

## **£50 MILLION BONANZA OFF FALKLANDS**

***Huge fleet now fishing without  
control, reports Harry Barrett***

**THE STAND-OFF situation between Britain and Argentina over fishing waters around the Falkland Islands has brought a big bonanza to fishing fleets from all over the world.**

There is no 200-mile economic zone around the islands and foreign owners can hardly believe their luck as the British stand by and let them lift squid and blue whiting (poutassou) worth around £50 million a year.

As it has become clear that the British government has no immediate plans for extending the island limits, the foreign fishing effort has been escalating. In addition to 16 Spanish and 20 Polish ships, there are also more and more ships from East Germany, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Japan and Portugal.

Taiwan is reported to be increasing her fishing from 30 to 80 vessels. And two of the three factory ships which China has bought from West Germany are expected to venture into this fishery.

Last month a shipment of 3000 metric tons of squid with a quayside value of £2.4 million was landed at Vigo, Spain. Large amount of "gambas" or giant prawns (another Falklands resource) were reported to be in this landing.

Spain is believed to be aiming for a haul of 30,000 tons from the Falklands area in the last quarter of this year.

A big freezer transport operation has been mounted in the Falkland Islands to get the catches away to markets. With Port Stanley

closed to foreign vessels, the reefer transports have been gathering in a sheltered cove called Berkely Sound. There, the squid and fish are transhipped from the catchers.

According to the spokesman for one reefer company, freezer vessels had taken 30,000 tons of squid to Japan in 1984; and this amount would be exceeded in 1985. Most of the squid is taken by Japanese squid jiggers.

In volume, catches this year from Falklands waters will total about 250,000 tons

# Falklands hold the 'key'

**BRITISH Euro-MP James Provan is to press the EEC Commission for agreement in principle to the provision of aid to fisheries projects in the Falklands.**

He believes the Islands provide the key to reducing the "threat" of the

Spanish fishing fleet to the Common Fisheries Policy to the minimum.

Welcoming the British government's commitment to the future of the Falklands fisheries industry, Mr. Provan pointed out that last year the Spanish distant water fleet alone took some 50,000 metric tons of high value fish species from the Falklands

waters — worth at least £50 million.

"This fishery has been the salvation of the Spanish distant water fleet," he added. "Can you imagine the threat Spain would have posed to the CFP if it had been looking to the EEC for this sort of extra revenue? That is why the fishery is so vital to Europe as a whole."



# Banff couple head back to Falklands

FAMILY ties are drawing Terry and Eleanor Peck back to the Falkland Islands from their home in Banff.

Terry Peck, now 47, was the only civilian decorated for his part in the Falklands War. He was made an MBE.

His Buckie-born wife was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery earlier this year for her part in rescuing two patients from the Stanley Hospital fire.

Their three teenage children by previous marriages have said they want to stay in the Falklands rather than live in Scotland and the couple are returning to be with them.

Had it not been for the sight of Argentina's President Raoul Alfonsín being courted by British politicians on his recent visit to Britain (Argentina has never officially ceased hostilities) the Pecks might have slipped back to the islands as quietly as they arrived in Scotland seven months ago.

## PLUMBERS

But it was a sight too much for Terry Peck, the former Falklands police chief who fought with 3 Para on Mount Longdon and who latterly has been working unremarked for a firm of Aberchirder plumbers.

Now he has broken cover to fight one last campaign in this country to persuade public and politicians that the islanders must be allowed to determine their now future and not "sold off" for political expediency in this country.

"I haven't forgotten, and neither have the people of the Falklands, what Argentina did to us and our servicemen in 1982."

He believes that the British public is being quietly softened up by politicians with arguments over the cost of maintaining troops in the islands, as a prelude to an unacceptable (to the islanders) accommodation with Argentina.

He remains dismayed at the Government's failure to establish a 200-mile limit in Falklands waters while foreign fishing boats work freely in the rich waters.

"One South-east Asian country is well on the way to exterminating the squid. They use lights which attract only the male and I am told more than £30 million worth was taken in just a few weeks and this year the trawler fleets will treble in size.

"There is no reason why Britain could not catch the fish and sell it to foreign markets but we are just footling about with trial trips.

"The future wealth in minerals and fish from the area would make policing the waters an economic exercise."

## REFUSED

Terry Peck's views may not endear him to the Foreign Office, but it will not be the first time he has run foul of authority.

A police chief, he once refused to hand over his authority to the military garrison commander when there were fears that an island demonstration over identity cards would turn violent. It didn't.



Eleanor and Terry Peck

After the war, he tipped off the Observer newspaper about massive waste of building materials by the Overseas Development Board. It was denied but he still has photographs of tons of rock hard cement left uncovered in the post war redevelopment rush.

Neither, he admits has he always made himself popular with his fellow islanders whom he has criticised for "failing to get of their arses." He is also aware that being a war hero in a small community can arouse jealousies.

Like it or not he is stuck with the "war hero" tag. Terry Peck's war was the stuff of little and even big, boys' dreams. Called up on the day of the invasion to rejoin the police force he had left several years earlier he was immediately demobbed by the Argentines and set about noting and photographing their installations and movements.

Five days later, with arrest imminent, he took to the hills on a "borrowed" motorbike. (After the war its owner threatened to take him to court and he had to buy it for £200).

For eight weeks he made intelligence gathering sorties finding his way about with a "Christmas cracker" compass.

Finally he made contact with British paratroopers, became their "native guide" throughout the campaign and fought alongside 3 Para on Mount Longdon.

After the war he married Eleanor the only comment she will make on the action which won her a Queen's Commendation for Bravery is: "Anyone would do the same."

With the postwar upheavals, it seemed a good moment to leave for Scotland where Eleanor's father lived in Portsoy and make a new life.

But in spite of visits to Scotland the children prefer to live in the Falklands. It is a decision Eleanor, who initially hated island life after Scotland, can understand and even applaud. "It's a marvellous place, particularly for the young."

Between making waves over the island's future and their departure on December 12 by RAF Hercules (a subsidised fare to islanders of £500 each one way) Terry Peck is looking for a container to ship out the entire contents from sofas to washing machines, for the house he will build on their return.

"The silly thing is that there are hundreds of empty containers doing nothing in the Falklands and they cost a fortune here," a situation which just about sums up his attitude to political thinking about the islands — lopsided survey.



# Thatcher shrugs off UN vote on Falklands

BY KEVIN BROWN

MRS MARGARET THATCHER, the Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed with scorn the overwhelming vote by the General Assembly of the UN in favour of talks between Argentina and the UK on the future of the Falkland Islands.

The UN voted by 107 to four for a neutral motion drafted by Argentina calling for talks with-  
out mentioning sovereignty, which Britain has refused to discuss.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs at Question Time: "Anyone who thinks that a motion that contains the phrase 'negotiations on all aspects of the future of the Falklands' does not contain sovereignty must be absolutely bonkers."

She noted the General Assembly had turned down a British amendment guarantee-

ing the right of self-determination for the Falklanders. She said the Government had tried to negotiate on other matters and to restore normal commercial relations, but Argentina had refused.

"There is nothing to criticise this Government for," she said.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, also drew attention in a statement to the failure of the UN to uphold the islanders' right to self-determination.

He said the vote would not affect the British Government's determination to respect the wishes of the islanders and to work for better relations with Argentina.

The Government's dismissal of the UN vote failed to dampen widespread criticism from Labour and Alliance leaders.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, reminded Mrs Thatcher that she had embraced the UN Charter during the Falklands war because of its commitment to the rights of peoples to self-determination.

He pointed out that the Charter also imposed an obligation on governments to try to settle their differences in negotiations. As Tory MPs contemptuously shouted "Surrender!" he said it was perfectly possible for the Government to enter talks while reserving its position on sovereignty.

"It is high time the Government and Prime Minister recognised the democratic government in Argentina and accepted that we now have a democratic president who has himself criticised the Argentine aggression," he said.

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, reminded the Government that Britain's closest EEC partners and Commonwealth friends had supported the UN resolution because Argentina had made an important concession by dropping demands for specific talks on sovereignty.

In a statement issued later, Mr Foulkes accused the Government of contempt for world opinion: "It simply is not a credible or sustainable policy to keep on pumping £2m a day into the Falklands and hoping that the problem will go away. It will not, as all those countries who voted for negotiations understand," he said.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said in a statement that the UN vote was the result of a serious diplomatic failure.

## Argentina hails 'victory'

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has predictably heralded the result of the UN General Assembly debate on the Falklands as a major diplomatic victory.

However, it appears to be still resigned to accepting that Wednesday's vote may not, at least in the short term, lead to a major breakthrough in the impasse with the British Government.

This emerged yesterday as officials in Buenos Aires analysed what they already consider an important change in the degree of international support for their position on the Falklands issue.

"This is a triumph for flexibility, reason and good sense in the resolution of conflicts," said Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Buenos Aires has been particularly encouraged by confirmation of a split within the EEC—Argentina was supported by France, Greece and Italy—and within the Commonwealth, and by the support of countries such as Austria, Sweden and Japan.

Argentine officials have attached equal importance to the defeat of two British amendments designed to invoke the principle of self-determination on behalf of the 1,800 Falkland Islanders.

The Alfonsín Government remains willing to guarantee

the way of life of the "kelpers" as part of any future agreement with Britain. But it welcomes Wednesday's vote as international endorsement for its argument that the universal right of self-determination should not be made a determining element in future talks.

Argentine officials yesterday drew on Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Ulster as recent examples of Mrs Thatcher's willingness to be flexible and pragmatic. However, officials privately concede that she still draws the line when it comes to the Falklands.

Argentina still wants talks based around an open agenda but believes the main sticking point is still Mrs Thatcher's determination not to discuss sovereignty.

In the short term, Argentine diplomacy is expected to focus on getting Mr Xavier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, EEC countries and the British Parliament to exert pressure on Whitehall.

Sir, — Any comparisons between the British Government's policies on Ulster and those on the Falklands (Leader, November 27) are more superficial than real.

The Republic of Ireland has never used her armed forces to invade and occupy British territory. Argentina did, was defeated in a war she began, and still maintains a state of hostility against the United Kingdom.

The Republic would claim sovereignty and jurisdiction over Ulster — but has affirmed and reaffirmed that this would not be possible without the free consent of the majority of the people of Ulster. Argentina claims sovereignty of the Falklands, and insists this must be given against the determination of the Falkland Islanders.

The Republic has a strong democratic tradition; Argentina only a fragile democratic foundation. The Republic and Ulster have a common land boundary; Stanley is as far from Buc-

nos Aires as London is from Prague.

The Republic, Ulster, and the United Kingdom, have a common language, a common European history and culture. The Falklands and Argentina have no common language, customs or tradition.

The Republic does not claim any territory outside the mainland of Ireland. Argentina claims not only the Falklands, but also South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, and British Antarctic Territories.

The Republic will talk to the UK about anything with no conditions. Argentina insists on no talks without talks about the transfer of sovereignty. It has yet to accept that it lost the war it started, and that the future sovereignty of the Falklands has been decided once and for all.

To abandon the Falkland Islanders would be to abandon the British gateway to Antarctica. The British Government is absolutely right to refuse to commit such an act of betrayal and folly.

Eric Ogden.  
The United Kingdom  
Falkland Islands Committee,  
London SW 1.

## Thatcher rounds on Falklands critics

By Colin Brown,  
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister turned on the critics of the Government's Falkland Islands policy yesterday after the UN General Assembly vote in favour of talks covering all aspects of the future of the islands.

She told the shadow foreign minister, Mr George Foulkes, during Prime Minister's questions in the Commons that his suggestion that the UN motion did not contain the issue of sovereignty was "absolutely bonkers."

But Mrs Thatcher faced criticism from the leaders of the opposition parties over Britain's stand in the UN against resuming wide-ranging talks with the Argentine government about the future of the Falklands.

The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, said last night: "The UN vote was serious because it demonstrates the failing support for the Government and the isolation of the Government in an area where it will need all the diplomatic allies it can possibly get."

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, told a Cambridge University dinner that the vote was the result of a serious diplomatic failure.

It was odd for Britain to have normal diplomatic relations with the "monstrous regime of General Pinochet in Chile and none with the reputable democracy which has established itself in the face of adversity next door," said Mr Steel.

Britain's starting point should be to recognise the weight of international opprobrium and to accept the good officers of the UN Secretary-General in finding a solution, he added.

The SDP leader, Dr David Owen, told Mrs Thatcher that Britain had used the UN charter as the reason for resisting Argentine aggression during the Falklands war, and it also imposed an obligation on Britain to try to settle their disputes by negotiation.

With Tory MPs shouting "Surrender," Dr Owen said: "Negotiation does not mean surrender, and it's perfectly possible to enter into negotiations on all aspects while reserving our position on sovereignty."

Mrs Thatcher said: "We have tried to restore normal commercial relations — they refused. We have still permitted imports into this country from the Argentine, so there is nothing in fact to criticise this country for."

## French vote in UN linked to fate of jailed agents

Paris - France might have been prepared to support Britain against Argentina in this week's United Nations vote on the Falklands if Britain had been willing to intervene with the New Zealand Government to help to secure the release of the French agents jailed in connection with the Greenpeace affair, *Le Monde* has suggested in a front-page article (Diana Geddes writes).

Although the article quoted no official sources, it is clear that M Jacques Amalric, the paper's respected chief diplomatic correspondent, was well briefed as to the range of possible options being considered by the French Government in an attempt to secure

the release of its two secret agents, recently sentenced in New Zealand to 10 years' imprisonment for manslaughter in connection with the sinking of the Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior.

The French are horrified by the recent comments by Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, indicating that there was no chance that the agents would be released within the lifetime of his government, which runs until 1987.

But *Le Monde* suggested there remained the possibility of discreet intervention by a friendly third country, such as the United States or Britain. However Mrs Thatcher was thought unlikely to intervene.

## PM pours scorn on UN vote

### THE FALKLANDS

Anyone who thought the United Nations resolution supporting negotiations between Britain and Argentina on "all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands" did not concern sovereignty must be "absolutely bonkers", Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared during question time.

She was replying to Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Lab) who pointed out that Britain's closest EEC partners and friends in the Commonwealth had supported the UN resolution calling for negotiations on the future of the Falklands.

This was because (he said) Argentina made a major concession by dropping its insistence on discussions on sovereignty and instead substituted "all aspects of the future of the Falklands".

Why does the Prime Minister not respond to this (he asked) and agree to restore diplomatic relations with Argentina and enter into discussions about the future of those islands?

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP:



Foulkes: Why does Prime Minister not respond?

During the war against Argentina, he used the UN charter as the reason why we resisted aggression in the Falklands. That same UN charter imposes an obligation on this country, as on all other countries, to try to settle disputes by negotiation.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C): Surrender, surrender!

Dr Owen: Negotiation does not mean surrender. It is perfectly possible to enter into negotiations on all aspects while reserving our position on sovereignty.

It is high time the Prime Minister and the Government recognised the democratic government in Argentina and accepted the difference that we now have a democratically elected president who himself criticised the Argentine junta.

Mrs Thatcher: We have tried negotiating on other matters with Argentina and to restore normal commercial relations. They refused. Nevertheless we have still permitted imports into this country from Argentina. So there is nothing to criticise this Government for.

He referred to the UN charter. We put up an amendment to the motion before the General Council which upheld the right of self-determination for the people of the Falkland Islands. The UN turned down that amendment.

AS MENTIONED IN HANSARD

## Thatcher anger over UN defeat

Continued from page 1

Government will have to respond positively and attempt to negotiate a peaceful settlement acceptable to us, to the Argentinians and to the Islanders."

Much of the anger in Whitehall was directed at the French who ignored an appeal from Mrs Thatcher.

It was said that Mrs Thatcher was sad and disappointed that, as the European Council was preparing next week to discuss greater political co-operation, Britain had been denied support by its European allies.

It was said firmly that the votes of the EEC countries would not change the Prime Minister's approach at next week's summit although it was admitted that the atmosphere would have been better had it not happened.

Anglo-French relations, already uneasy after controversy over the tactics used in the competition for the sale of the new tactics used in the competition for the sale of the new battlefield communications system to the Americans, have clearly taken another jolt.

●The voting: France, Italy and Greece were among the 107 countries which voted in favour of the UN resolution (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). Only Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands joined Britain in voting against it, while 41 countries abstained.

Hand overplayed, page 7

## Thatcher anger over UN defeat

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary reacted sharply yesterday to their defeat at the United Nations over the Falklands, which has soured relations between Britain and her European allies in the run-up to next week's summit of European heads of government.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher, not attempting to conceal her displeasure at the UN vote in which all Britain's EEC partners failed to support her in opposing an Argentine resolution calling for talks about the future of the Falklands, said that anyone who thought the motion was not about sovereignty of the islands must be "absolutely bonkers".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs that because the United States and other countries had voted against Britain "that does not mean our position is wrong". The Government had tried consistently to seek better relations with Argentina while upholding its commitment to the people of the Falklands.

But the other political parties were swift to criticize the Government's stance over the Falklands and blamed it for bringing the 107-to-4 defeat upon itself by its attitude.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said at Westminster last night that the vote demonstrated dwindling support for the policy of the Government and its isolation in an area where it would need all the diplomatic alliances it could get.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said the vote resulted from a serious diplomatic failure by the Government which had left Britain looking increasingly obdurate in the conduct of foreign policy.

And the all-party South Atlantic Council, which is chaired by the Conservative MP Mr Cyril Townsend, described it as an unnecessary crushing defeat. Britain should have voted for the resolution rather than against it.

"Sooner or later the British  
Continued on back page, col 7

### Falklands debate

## Britain seen to have overplayed hand

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Britain grossly miscalculated the mood and attitude of the United Nations General Assembly, and its tactics in the Falklands debate and the lobbying behind the scenes combined to give Argentina not just one qualified win but two resounding victories, according to many UN diplomats.

They quietly expressed the view that the British argument for their amendments reaffirming self-determination as a sacred principle of the UN charter underestimated the intelligence of assembly members. British diplomats thought that many former colonies would be unable to vote against self-determination simply because it was through that principle that they had won their freedom.

But it was felt that self-determination did not apply in the Falklands case. Publicly most countries who either voted against the amendments or abstained said they did so

because Britain was doing what it had accused Argentina of doing in years past when it had focused on the sovereignty dispute: trying to pre-ordain the outcome of Falklands negotiations.

Britain's European partners privately accused it of employing heavy-handed tactics to prevent the break-up of European solidarity, and by and large found unconvincing the British arguments against the Argentine-inspired resolution calling for a far-reaching Anglo-Argentine dialogue.

Many thought there was no reason why Britain should not have abstained on a resolution that took into account many of its arguments.

Diplomats also said Mrs Margaret Thatcher's negotiating tactics at the Commonwealth summit in Nassau on economic sanctions against South Africa did not put Britain in a position to seek favours from the assembly.

## Buenos Aires jubilant over UN support

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

News of the 107 to four United Nations vote in favour of the resolution on the Falklands dispute was greeted jubilantly in Buenos Aires as a important, though somewhat unexpected, diplomatic victory.

Senior Adolfo Gass, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, and one of several Argentine Congressmen who will be visiting London in January, said: I never expected we would get 107 votes in favour.

Argentine newspapers gave the vote banner headlines, calling it "an overwhelming victory for Argentina" and announcing "Argentina wins easily at the UN". Although the UN resolution was drafted formally and presented by a group of friendly nations, the best-selling daily *Clarín* ran a

headline reading "Broad support for the Argentine project at the UN".

The Conservative *La Nación* said the vote "showed how (Britain's) extreme intransigence can end up alienating even the closest allies".

The Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, speaking to reports in New York, said the defeat of two British amendments to the resolution "means that the UN General Assembly has ruled that the issue of self-determination (for the islanders) is not a pre-condition for beginning talks."

For Señor Caputo, the vote will prove to be an important domestic political victory as well. He had been criticized by nationalists for allowing explicit mention of the word "sovereignty" to be omitted

# Falklands setback for Britain in U.N. vote

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH  
at the United Nations in New York

**B**ITAIN suffered its most embarrassing setback during the Falklands debate in the United Nations General Assembly when, for the first time, European support eroded after a defection led by France.

In the past, Britain's E.E.C. partners adopted a position of a common abstention.

The resolution, comparatively milder than in previous years, called on London and Buenos Aires to "initiate negotiations" to resolve all aspects on the future of the islands, in accordance with the U.N. charter.

The resolution avoided mention of self-determination or sovereignty.

With a milder resolution from Argentina, France announced beforehand it would break ranks, and was followed by Italy and Greece.

In addition, Canada and Australia, which abstained last year, also supported the Argentine text, which received a total of 107 votes, four against, with 41 abstentions.

Only three small nations

sided with Britain — Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands. New Zealand abstained, having voted against last year.

Ireland backed the British amendments and abstained on the Argentine resolution.

The two British amendments called for the inclusion of the controversial issue of self-determination.

After both amendments were defeated—one with 60 votes against, the other with 57 against—the Assembly ended its two-day debate by approving the Argentine draft with an overwhelming vote.

The following countries voted in favour of the Argentine text this year, having abstained last year: Australia, Antigua and Bermuda, Canada, Chad, France, Greece, Kuwait, Italy, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi.

From no vote to an abstention: Malta, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.

## Policy unchanged

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

**T**HE Government remained unmoved yesterday by Argentina's victory in the U.N. General Assembly voting on the Falklands.

There were expressions of "regret" and "disappointment" from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, that allies and fellow members of the E.E.C. had voted for the resolution, but no indication of any shift in policy.

Sir Geoffrey said in a radio interview that Britain would continue on the same twin-track approach to the Falkland Islands issue: it would uphold the Falklanders' right to self-determination while continuing attempts to restore normal relations with Argentina.

The UN vote is nevertheless a stinging defeat for Britain, demonstrating as it does declining international support. Despite the official position that the UN vote does not matter very much and will have no impact on policy, there is a tacit acknowledgement that matters could change with time.

The Falklands war, with its more than 200 British dead, is still too close. Even though Argentina's resolution avoided

the word "sovereignty" in its wording, Argentine statements made it clear that the talks being proposed would have that in view on the agenda.

### ARGENTINE VIEW 'Significant defeat'

CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires writes: The Argentine Press yesterday hailed as "an overwhelming victory" the Argentine-backed United Nations resolution calling on Buenos Aires and London to resume talks on the future of the Falkland Islands.

The conservative daily LA NACION said yesterday: "Great Britain suffered its most significant defeat on the Malvinas issue at the U.N."

### Resigned acceptance

PATRICK WATTS in Port Stanley writes: The response in the Falklands to the vote is anger at the United Nations tinged with resigned acceptance to a situation which the islanders feel they can do little about. Councillor Norma Edwards said: "The policy of the British Government towards the islands is far more important than what the UN said."

Commons questions—P16  
Editorial Comment—P22

## BEYOND THE VOTE

**AFTER BRITAIN'S DEFEAT** in the United Nations on the issue of the Falklands, some faint hearts may be alarmed. The fact that we were in a minority of four, supported only by those international heavyweights the Solomon Islands, Belize and Oman, will be adduced by some in this country as proof of the need for immediate negotiations with the Argentines. And it will no doubt be argued that the existence of a democratic government in Argentina somehow makes such negotiations more pressing as well as more legitimate. But the political tincture of the Argentine Government does not affect in the slightest degree the cause for which the Falklands War was fought, and which Britain defended at the United Nations on Wednesday, which is the right of self-determination for the Falklanders.

There are, it is true, limits beyond which even the British Government could not be expected to go to defend this right. But to be defeated by 107-4 at the United Nations is not a particularly upsetting experience. In the first place, the vote has no practical consequences. Moreover, it was naturally arrived at on the basis of each country's notional self-interest rather than a weighing up of the real issues involved. There is no need to be disappointed by our friends. America, as before, feels obliged to support Argentina as her invaluable ally in Latin America. Italy and Spain feel bound by ancient ties of blood. The support which Greece and France gave to Argentina may be more perplexing, save that no recent French Government has prized loyalty to an old ally very highly.

But even if this vote carried greater significance there would be very little which the British Government could do at the moment. All other considerations aside, it is plainly not politically astute to sell out a cause for which blood has so recently been split. If the cause were a bad one, the Government could, of course, be accused of mere expediency. As it is, the cause—the Falklanders' right to self-determination—is the best, and the Government has absolutely nothing to be



DAILY MAIL/WORLD WIDE

# You're bonkers!

By JOHN DICKIE  
Diplomatic Correspondent

MRS Thatcher found a new word for her Falklands critics yesterday: **BONKERS.**

Behind her Commons retort was all the fury of a Prime Minister let down by her partners at the United Nations.

Among the 107 countries who, against only four, supported Argentina on Wednesday by calling for fresh negotiations were three in the Common Market—France, Italy and Greece—and eight in the Commonwealth, including Canada and Australia.

To her annoyance yesterday



Mrs Thatcher: Anger

## Maggie hits at UN vote on Falklands

Labour spokesman George Foulkes suggested that 'Argentina made a major concession by dropping its insistence on discussions on sovereignty'.

Mrs Thatcher was scathing: 'Anyone who thought that a motion seeking 'negotiations' on all as-

pects of the future of the Falklands' did not involve sovereignty 'must be absolutely bonkers.'

Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat leader, joined the chorus of criticism by saying that the UN Charter which Mrs Thatcher used to justify fighting the Argentine

invaders also required disputes to be settled by negotiation. 'Surrender?' Dr Owen declared: 'Negotiation does not mean surrender. It's perfectly possible to enter negotiations on all aspects while reserving our position on sovereignty.'

Mrs Thatcher replied: 'We have tried to restore normal commercial relations. They refused. Nevertheless, we have still permitted imports into this country from the Argentine so there is nothing in fact to criticise this country for.'

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said in a radio interview that the defeat of a British amendment on 'self-determination' represented a 'sad day for the United Nations'.

He went on: 'The right of the people of the Falkland Islands to choose their way of government, to choose their way of life, has not been upheld by the UN.'

France accused of 'ratting' on Britain at UN

# Maggie's fury at Falklands snub

RELATIONS between Britain and France plunged to a new low today after a direct personal snub from President Mitterrand to Mrs Thatcher.

The French President ignored an appeal from Mrs Thatcher to back Britain over the Falklands in the UN.

Instead France joined the majority in voting for an Argentine demand for Britain to start prompt talks over the future of the Islands—including sovereignty. France's "ratting" as it was described in Whitehall today has left Mrs Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe angry.

It comes only a week before the Common Market 10 are due to sign a treaty pledging

by Charles Reiss

political co-operation. Italy, Greece and Spain joined the French in voting for Britain and Argentina to begin talks. It is the first time the Common Market have broken ranks over the issue. But it is the French "desertion" (another charge being flung in private today) that rankles.

## Vote

Italy and Spain have historic links with Argentina and the Spanish in any case are not due to join the EEC until next year. Mrs Thatcher, however, went out of her way to seek support from France when M. Mitterrand came to Downing Street for top-level



MITTERRAND:  
ignored appeal

talks earlier this month. She made the same appeal to Chancellor Kohl of Germany when he came to London yesterday.

The Germans agreed to stay on the sidelines and abstain, the line taken by most of the Common Market countries in last year's UN vote on the Falklands. At their joint Downing Street Press conference yesterday Mrs Thatcher went out of her way to thank him. But President Mitterrand refused to play ball.

Sir Geoffrey, in public, would only say today that Britain felt "regret and disappointment" at the way the Community allies had split. BUT the diplomatic language masks far stronger annoyance.

Sir Geoffrey stressed that there is no question of Britain giving in to the UN pressure to start negotiating with Argentina, particularly over sovereignty. The Government's line remains that there can be no bargaining over that in the wake of the 1982 Falklands war.

As happened last year Britain was heavily out voted. A record 107 countries voted in favour of the Argentine-backed resolution. The only four against were Britain, Belize, Oman, and the Solomon Islands. America, as happened last year, voted with the majority.

## Upturn in Argentine manufacturing

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

A MODEST industrial recovery could be under way in Argentina following the tough austerity package introduced by the Government in June. The number of workers laid off in manufacturing industry has dropped significantly, according to a report released this week by the reliable independent economic think-tank Fiel.

The report, based on the performance of 300 manufacturing companies responsible for 80 per cent of domestic in-

dustrial production, should provide President Raul Alfonsín with useful ammunition prior to next week's planned mini-summit with Mr Saul Ubaldini, the recently-elected president of the main trade union organisation, the General Confederation of Labour (CGT).

Preparatory talks between Mr Juan Sourrouille, the Economy Minister, and labour leaders on Tuesday ended in apparent deadlock with the Government refusing to lift the wages freeze.

The CGT claimed that real salaries since June have fallen by 22 per cent.

According to Fiel, only 1.3 per cent of the labour force in the companies surveyed was laid off in October. This compares with 8 per cent in September and 10.1 per cent in August when the problems of manufacturers—already critical because of inflation—were further compounded by credit curbs and cutbacks in government spending.



# First maid of the mountain

NEWLYWED JANE KIMBLE, 23, is leaving her husband behind to spend four months protecting Britain on a remote mountain top — the only woman in the otherwise all-male unit.

Home for Jane will become a 20-foot by 8-foot steel box at a bleak military outpost on Mount Kent in the Falkland Islands. And she is delighted!

For until now the base, with its harsh climate and primitive conditions, has been strictly for men only. Jane, an attractive green-eyed brunette, volunteered to be the first woman there, blazing the trail for other officers of the WRAF.

As a WRAF flying officer she is joining the staff of an installation that is part of Britain's vital air defence system.

## LAUNCH

Jane is a fighter control officer, highly trained to interpret the minutest dots on the radar screen and guide warplanes to intercept any intruders into British airspace.

In time of hostilities she could also order the launch of air-to-air missiles.

She said goodbye to husband Sam, 22, a fellow flying officer and fighter controller, and their dalmatian dog, Domino, on November 7.

"I'm tremendously excited about being the first woman there," said Jane, on leave at her parents' home in Camberley, Surrey. "It's a marvellous challenge and I'm determined to show the men we are just as capable as them of doing the job in the harshest conditions."

"Of course I'm sorry to be parted from Sam but at the same time it's a thrilling opportunity. He has already served on the

Falkland Islands so has been able to tell me about the way of life there."

Jane is normally based with her husband at Buchan in Aberdeenshire where home is an old fisherman's cottage, on the harbour front at nearby Peterhead, that they are refurbishing.

BY  
GORDON  
DUCKER

The couple met during training at West Drayton, and have been married for only four months.

"I'll miss her terribly but I fully understand why she wants to go. I know she'll do a more than efficient job there and I'm very proud of her," said Sam.

It will take Jane two days to reach her destination and a helicopter — the only way on or off the mountain top — will take her on the final leg of her journey to the metal village.

The steel containers, simply furnished with bunk beds, a wardrobe, desk and chair, have proved the most practical accommodation against the rigours of the climate.

● Although Fg Off Kimble is the first member of the WRAF to serve on the unit at Mount Kent, other members of the WRAF have been serving in the Falklands for some time.



Some last-minute tips from husband Sam, as Fg Off Kimble prepares for her four-months posting to the Falkland Islands. The duo are both fighter control officers, and Sam, who has already completed a tour "down south," has been able to fill Jane in on what to expect.

Royal Air Force News  
15th - 28th November 1985

## RAF Guard

On the occasion of Sir Rex Hunt's departure from the Falkland Islands and the arrival of the new Governor Mr Gordon Jewkes, a Joint Service Honour Guard, consisting of 100 officers and men from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Gurkhas, RAF and 1 Battalion The Light Infantry, was commanded by Sqn Ldr Warwick Woodhouse, OC 37 Sqn RAF Regt. An RAF Guard (pictured) consisting of 1 Officer and 32 men was commanded by Flt Lt Steve Batcheler, OC GD Flt RAF Stanley.



A ten man team from Supply and Movements Sqn at Stanley recently took part in an 18 Km "March and Shoot" competition against resident Army units on the Falkland Islands. The RAF Regiment had up to now been the only RAF representatives in the competition. Ten men "volunteered" to give it a go, and with 15 Kg packs and rifles all finished the course. Nine of the ten team members are seen here being congratulated by Sqn Ldr Buchan. They are left to right: Back row — SAC Marriott, Cpl's Spence and Crout, SAC's Rosser and Chaplin. Front row — SAC's Rogers and Hale, Fg Off Farnsworth, SAC Penman and Sqn Ldr Buchan. The missing member was SAC Owen.

## Defiant Galtieri blames Britain

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

In an impassioned courtroom defence of his decision to invade the Falkland Islands, the former Argentine President, General Leopoldo Galtieri, blamed Britain for the war and said he was at peace with his conscience.

Speaking on Tuesday in his own defence at the trial of 16 officers accused of responsibility for Argentina's defeat, he said: "The detailed examination of my conduct" led to "the inexorable conclusion that what was done was well done".

The former Navy commander, Admiral Jorge Anaya, the former air force leader, Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, and 11 of the other officers on trial also made use of their right under Argentine military law to speak in their own defence on the last day of hearings in the Falklands War trial.

The military prosecutor has requested 12 years' imprisonment for General Galtieri and Admiral Anaya on charges of military negligence and poor planning in their decision to invade the islands. But, observers said the prosecution was unexpectedly lenient with all 16 of the defendants, asking for 10 to be acquitted and requesting lighter sentences than those recommended by a military investigating commission for the rest.

Although the hearings are secret, most of the statements of the accused officers were made available to the press on Tuesday night, effectively turning the trial into a showcase for a patriotic harangue by General Galtieri.

"History," he said, "will put things in their place and will salvage the glorious gesture" of the April 2, 1982, seizure of the islands. He rejected charges of negligence and said the three-man military junta which ruled Argentina at the time "was forced to respond to a massive British aggression".

He claimed that the invasion of the Falklands was "a necessary act of self-defence by the Argentine Government and not an act of aggression".

"The facts show that it was Britain that sought to provoke an armed conflict from the very beginning."

April 2, 1982, was the start of "a long march that will end with the recovery of those islands that are so much ours", he said.

"That is when the dead of the General Belgrano, the heroic pilots, my men who fell at Pradera del Ganso (Goose Green), at Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) and at dozens of other sites will rise up and lift their heads, above the loneliness and darkness in which they are now submerged, and will demand their rightful place at the head of the Argentine nation," General Galtieri said. "And they will no longer be alone. I, for one, will be with them."

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, the military court trying the case, will go into recess to consider the evidence presented during the course of the two-year trial. Military sources said it would probably hand down a verdict in mid-January.

The Daily Telegraph  
Thursday 28 Nov 1985

## BRITAIN WAS AGGRESSOR, SAYS GALTIERI

By Our Buenos Aires  
Correspondent

Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, who led Argentina into defeat in the Falklands, has told a court martial trying him for "negligence," that history would prove him right. He also accused Britain of seeking to unleash the 1982 armed conflict.

"What was done was done well," he said in 30-minute defence speech. The regime's invasion "was a necessary act of defence by the Argentine government, and not an act of aggression," he declared.

The Guardian Thursday 28 November 1985

## Britain forced invasion of islands, Galtieri says

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

An unrepentant General Leopoldo Galtieri has told his court martial that history would finally recognise the glorious gesture of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands three years ago.

Speaking in his own defence during the closing stages of the trial here of 16 officers for their part in the war, the former Argentine president

claimed that the occupation had been forced by the British.

Although the trial before Argentina's highest military tribunal, the Armed Forces Supreme Council, is still being held in secret, this did not stop General Galtieri's statement — in which he rewrote recent history — from swiftly reaching waiting journalists.

In his 30-minute statement, he claimed that Argentina had

been forced to confront a massive British aggression. He insisted that the invasion was a "necessary act of defence by the Argentine Government and not an act of aggression," and claimed that Britain's plan to create a heavily fortified Fortress Falklands dated back to 1976-77.

General Galtieri told the court trying him for negligence in the Falklands war that the brief occupation was

an act of defence which would "culminate in the definitive recovery of the islands, which are so clearly ours."

General Galtieri recalled the fervour of the crowds who massed to applaud the invasion, and to hurl abuse at Britain, the US and foreigners in general.

These were "people who stood up and with a serene but firm voice and said no, no to aggression."

Financial Times

# UN snubs Britain on Falklands

BY OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN SUFFERED a severe diplomatic setback last night when the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by 107 votes to four with 41 abstentions, a resolution on the Falklands drafted by Argentina and sponsored by a group of non-aligned states.

The motion requested the British and Argentine Governments "to initiate negotiations with a view to finding the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the problems pending between both countries, including all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands."

Britain interpreted the words — "all aspects" — as including sovereignty, which Mrs Thatcher has insisted is not negotiable. Only Oman, Belize, and the Solomon Islands joined Britain in opposing the resolution.

The assembly earlier rejected a motion by Sir John Thomson, Britain's chief UN delegate, to amend the resolution to reaffirm the Falkland islanders' right to self-determination — a condition which Mrs Thatcher has demanded before any change of sovereignty.

Both sets of votes split the European Community members, some of which have become increasingly impatient with Britain's refusal to negotiate with Argentina or to accept the good offices of Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General. The General Assembly requested him to continue his efforts.

In the vote on the main resolution EEC members, France, Greece and Italy, and Spain, which will become a member next year, supported the Argentine text. Belgium, Denmark,

West Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal abstained. Australia, Canada and the US were among those voting for the resolution.

The main British amendment on self-determination was rejected by 60 votes to 38, with 43 abstentions.

Before the vote Mr Dante Caputo, Argentina's Foreign Minister, said: "Once negotiations have been started everything can be discussed. The views of both sides are to be the purpose of the dialogue between the parties. Nothing will be excluded from these discussions."

Jimmy Burns writes from Buenos Aires: The trial of 16 Argentine officers accused of negligence in the planning and conduct of the Falklands conflict has entered its final phase with a military court martial board adjourning to analyse evidence.

The Guardian

## Britain defeated in UN votes on the Falklands

From Jane Rosen  
in New York

Britain suffered a series of defeats on its Falklands policy in the UN General Assembly last night.

A majority rejected two British amendments which would have reaffirmed the principle of self-determination for the Falkland Islanders, and adopted an Argentine resolution calling for negotiations over the future of the islands.

The adoption of the resolution had been expected. The assembly majority has always supported Argentina, and this resolution is relatively moderate. It calls on London and Buenos Aires to initiate negotiations on "all aspects" of the future of the Falklands, and does not mention the sovereignty issue, although that is clearly implied.

"The resolution leaves ample room," the Italian delegate said last night, "for the two parties to start an open and constructive dialogue."

In the vote, 107 delegations, including France, Italy, and the US, supported the Argentine resolution. Only three delegations joined Britain in opposition — Oman, Belize, and the Solomon Islands. Forty-one delegations, including many of Britain's other allies abstained.

Another blow to Britain was the rejection of its amendments. The British delegate, Sir John

Thomson, pleaded with the assembly to give the resolution "some balance" by reaffirming that "all peoples have the right to self-determination (and can) freely determine their political status."

The delegates rejected the key amendment by a vote of 60 to 38, with 43 abstentions. A second amendment was defeated by 57 to 36, with 47 abstentions. Even Britain's close allies, France and the US, abstained.

While virtually all the delegates defended self-determination as a general principle, many said it would be unfair to impose any preconditions to the negotiations with Argentina over the Falklands.

The first informal government reaction in London was that the number of abstentions was higher than had at worst been expected in the main vote.

# U.N. blow to Britain on Falklands

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH  
at the United Nations  
in New York

BRITAIN suffered a diplomatic defeat over the Falklands last night when the United Nations General Assembly voted 107-4 in favour of an Argentine resolution.

Only Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands voted with Britain. Forty-one countries abstained.

France, Italy and Greece voted for the Argentine resolution. Britain's six other E.E.C. partners abstained. The United States and Canada also supported Buenos Aires, but Australia and New Zealand were amongst the absentees.

The General Assembly defeated two British amendments calling for the right of self-determination for the 1,800 Falklanders.

The Argentine resolution called on both parties to "initiate negotiations" to resolve all aspects on the future of the islands. The resolution made no reference to self-determination or sovereignty.

But Sir John Thomson, Britain's ambassador to the UN, argued that the Argentine text was intended to "include sovereignty and to exclude self-determination."

## Islanders wishes

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said in London: "The vote on the Argentine resolution will not affect the British Government's determination to fulfil its commitment to respect the wishes of the Falkland islanders and to work for better relations with Argentina."

# UN urges talks on Falkland dispute

From Zoriana Pysariwsky  
New York

The UN General Assembly yesterday adopted an Argentine-backed resolution calling for talks between Argentina and Britain to resolve the Falklands dispute.

Earlier, two British amendments designed to invoke the principle of self-determination on behalf of the islanders, were defeated.

The defeat was a blow for British diplomacy, particularly as some of its European partners, including France, Greece and Italy, not only supported the draft, but abstained on the amendments.

A record 107 countries voted in favour of the draft resolution, with four against, and 41 abstained. Britain was joined in opposing the draft by Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands.

The two British amendments asking the Assembly to re-affirm the principle of self-determination were defeated by 60 votes to 38, with 43 abstentions and by 57 to 36 votes, with 47 abstentions.

Before the vote Britain made a last-minute appeal to the Assembly to support the amendments in order to make the resolution more balanced. But most countries held to the view that the right of self-determination does not apply to the Falkland islanders. The Falklands is seen largely as a territorial dispute.

The resolution calls on Britain and Argentina to enter into an open-ended dialogue on all bilateral issues, including the Falklands. It does not make any reference to the sovereignty dispute, but calls on the two sides to discuss all aspects of the future of the islands.

During the debate Argentina made it clear that it was not relinquishing its claim to sovereignty, but that it was ready to agree to any open agenda for negotiations with Britain.

Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said before yesterday's vote that self-determination did not have to be excluded from any future Falklands agenda, but that voting in favour of it now would prejudice the outcome of negotiations.

Nevertheless, Britain insisted that Argentina had taken the path of expediency in order to gain more votes in the Assembly and that it was still looking for a transfer of sovereignty.

The British representative at the UN, Sir John Thomson, said the current text did not represent any substantive change since sovereignty was one of the matters implied in the call for talks.

Galtieri defiant, page 8



Sir John: 'Argentina still wants sovereignty'

Daily Mail  
28.11.85

## Shock for Britain on Falklands

By JOHN DICKIE

BRITAIN was humiliated in the United Nations last night over the Falklands.

More than 100 countries voted with Argentina for new negotiations with Britain.

The non-aligned resolution urging talks between Britain and Argentina on 'all aspects of the future of the Falklands' was carried by 107 votes to four with 41 abstentions. Last year the vote was 89 for nine against and 51 abstentions.

Britain's support dwindled to three small countries — Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands. Four of Britain's Common Market partners voted for the first time with Argentina — France, Italy, Spain and Greece.

Sir Geoffrey added: 'The vote will not affect the British Government's determination to fulfil its commitment to the Falkland Islanders.'



## The goose and the gander

Logic and consistency are not, of course, the warp and woof of everyday politics; but sometimes the absence of both takes your breath away. Consider, for instance, two debates involving the British government last night, conducted at venues some thousands of miles apart. One, in the Mother of Parliaments, finds HMG insisting that the Anglo-Irish accord will go ahead no matter what a majority of almost a million Unionists say or threaten. The other, at the United Nations, finds the same HMG insisting that the views and wishes of 1,500 or so indigenous Falkland islanders are paramount and prohibit any negotiations whatsoever towards an Anglo-Argentinian accord. In Westminster, unless we miss our guess, the spirit of Hillsborough will be thumpingly endorsed. In New York — as so often before — the General Assembly will pass overwhelmingly a motion calling upon London and Buenos Aires to stop snarling and start talking. Plenty of sauce for the goose; in short, but a curious lack of trimmings for the gander.

We believe Mrs Thatcher is right and

brave about Northern Ireland. There is an all-Britain dimension to the travails of Ulster, and its cost in blood and money. The English, Welsh and Scots, through their elected representatives, have a say in what happens next. Now of course the constitutional position of the Falklands is somewhat different. The islanders have no direct representative in the Commons (though plenty of indirect ones). Legally, they are the inhabitants of a tiny, distant colony. But does that make the problem better or worse? Does it make the role of the British government and British Parliament more or less influential? If there are inescapable rights over Northern Ireland, why do they escape so easily at the merest mention of Port Stanley?

The details of such questions are bemusing, alas, because they fight shy of broad political reality. In that reality, Mrs Thatcher has become convinced of the need gradually to alter Ulster perspectives, whilst remaining utterly impaled on the islanders' supposedly sovereign right to decide their futures. So one item is on the agenda; and one most vigorously off it whilst she remains in office. Parliament must decide for Ulster; but Parliament is not asked to decide about the Falklands. But the British taxpayer and voter still pays. That ordinary citizen will note the promise, long ago, to consult the Falklanders about their future, and the fact that Parliament years on hasn't even been allowed to discuss what the form of consultation should be. He or she may have read the lecture the other day by the last British military commander on the islands, dismissing Argentina's "parlous" Navy, "dispirited" Army and "deteriorating" Air Force as a nil threat. But there won't be a chance to say what the size of our garrison on the Falklands henceforth should be, or what lessons our diplomats may draw. The rest of the world (unless the UN goes topsy-turvy) thinks we're pretty potty to go on spending the millions and declining to construct a secure, geographically natural future for the islanders; and potty to allow them to believe that their wishes are the only factor in the account. But that is what we were saying again last night in New York; and no happening closer to home contrives, over the dragging years, and the lavishly bestowed billions to make it seem any more sensible.

## Falklands fight opens in the UN

From Jane Rosen  
in New York

The UN General Assembly began its annual debate on the Falklands yesterday, with Britain and Argentina exchanging angry charges of duplicity and each appealing for international support.

The issue was a new "neutral" resolution supposedly drafted by a group of non-aligned countries. The resolution calls on both sides to begin negotiations on "all aspects" of the Falklands dispute. In contrast to resolutions of previous years it does not mention Falklands sovereignty.

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Dante Caputo, reaffirmed Argentina's claim to the islands and denounced Britain. He said that Argentina had decided to vote for the resolution as a "gesture of goodwill" and to help to open talks.

The British delegate, Sir John Thomson, retorted: "It would be strange if the Argentine Government did not vote in favour of its own resolution... the text was drafted in Buenos Aires," and the sponsors "acted at Argentina's request."

Sir John said Buenos Aires decided that the resolution should omit reference to the sovereignty to gain more UN support, but Argentina would later introduce the issue.

Sir John added: "My government takes the clear position that sovereignty is not for negotiation."

Sir John has introduced a series of amendments to the resolution which would reaffirm the Falkland islanders' right to self-determination. They are due to come up for a crucial vote today. Although Britain is lobbying hard for them, the outcome is still in doubt.

Many delegates believe that the British line is too tough. Leader comment, page 12

## Argentina warned on Falklands sovereignty

From Zoriana Psyariwsky, New York

In the opening address of the annual Falklands debate at the United Nations, Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, dashed hopes that his country's decision to support a draft resolution which did not refer to sovereignty meant that Argentina was willing to enter into negotiations with Britain ignoring the issue.

He said that, despite Argentine good will, dialogue between London and Buenos Aires had been forestalled by British intransigence.

The draft resolution, which urges Britain and Argentina to discuss all aspects of the future of the Falklands, prompted

speculation that Buenos Aires was willing to shelve the sovereignty issue and begin discussions on normalizing relations. Señor Caputo's statements put paid to any such hopes.

He also gave warning that failure to solve the Falklands dispute could have untold consequences for the entire region. Argentina was watching British militarization of the area with apprehension.

Señor Caputo also made scornful reference to the proposed British amendment to the draft resolution dealing with the principle of self-determination

Leading article, page 15

## DEBATING THE FALKLANDS

Voting takes place today in the UN debate on the Falkland Islands after a diplomatic war of nerves between British and Argentine officials during the last 48 hours in New York. Last year the Argentines failed to increase their support despite a personal plea to the General Assembly by President Raul Alfonsín - but still managed to win the annual contest by 89 votes to nine with 54 abstentions. This year the Argentine-inspired motion is couched in more anodyne form, urging discussion on "all aspects" of the islands' future. Intense lobbying by Buenos Aires has already persuaded France and Italy to vote in favour, while Greece, Denmark, West Germany and Holland might also succumb.

The official British position is that the motion, whatever it may say (or not say), remains a thinly-disguised attempt to introduce sovereignty over the islands as a subject for negotiation. So Britain will still vote against it - unless the UN accepts two British amendments. These acknowledge the islanders' right to self-determination under the UN Charter. If the amendments are accepted, Britain will abstain instead of voting against. Argentina has meanwhile responded by letting it be known that it would regard a vote for the British amendments as "an unfriendly act".

Behind the diplomatic language, what is going on? Support for the British position has eroded - as has been predicted for some time. The defection of two, and maybe more, European

partners suggests that they now consider us more intransigent than the Argentines. Moreover President Alfonsín's position in Argentina is much stronger than it was a year ago, and arguments based on the fragility of Argentina democracy look that much weaker.

In fact, however, while Buenos Aires has clearly seen the advantage of a blander resolution at the UN, it has not proved any blander in bilateral exchanges. It has continued to press its case in its favourite UN arena with unabashed vigour. While Alfonsín's increased confidence is apparent in his government's more relaxed manner on Anglo-Argentine matters, this is unmatched by any noticeable relaxation in content. There has been more willingness to recognize the importance of the islanders in declarations from Buenos Aires - but no practical confidence-building measures.

How should the two governments move forward? Sir Geoffrey Howe's manner well suits Falkland Islands matters at this time: low-key, pedantic, precise, realistic, well-informed on fish, he has the safest pair of hands in the South Atlantic. He has done his best to restore normal relations with Argentina but he has been unable to offer what the Argentines deem essential: discussions that include the issue of sovereignty. The Argentine government does not consider that partial discussions would at this point favour their cause, and therefore Britain's cautious official feelers have so far been rebuffed.

President Alfonsín has, how-

ever, met Mr Kinnock, Mr Healey, and Mr Steele. The first two agreed with him that negotiations should be started on "outstanding problems", and the third agreed that reopening of relations should be on "an agenda which includes all matters separating the two countries". He has thus made some progress in quarters which he must hope will have influence in years to come. He is certainly right to take a long view. No solution to the Falklands issue is likely to be quick.

The British amendment to the Argentine UN resolution should serve as a general reminder that such negotiations would involve principles of the greatest weight. They cannot ever be and ought never to be easy negotiations. Self-determination is not a negligible matter. However, the notion of self-determination cannot bring this particular territorial conflict to an end, if only because in unrefined form it is an argument that no Argentine government can conceivably be expected to accept.

Familiar arguments will be rehearsed in New York. Repeating arguments does not make them better, though some hearers on the sidelines may be wearied into changing their vote one way or the other. Nor does wooing indifferent votes in the UN bring a solution to this essentially bilateral and Anglo-Argentine problem much closer. It will be a small advance if the argument this year is a shade less strident than last. At least that will less impede the direct but genuinely open discussions that some day must occur.



## UK condemns Falkland motion

BY OUR UN CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN YESTERDAY condemned a motion on the Falkland Islands being debated by the United Nations General Assembly.

The proposal, offered by a group of non-aligned states, requests the Argentine and British Governments to begin negotiations on the Falklands dispute, "including all aspects on the future of" the islands.

Sir John Thomson, Britain's permanent representative to the UN, questioned the authorship of the text. Not one word, he asserted, was composed by its avowed sponsors, that includes Algeria, Ghana, India and Yugoslavia.

"This is not a neutral text," Sir John said. "This is not a text put forward by people who have moved equally between the two sides. It is a text which is 100 per cent made in Argentina. There is no British input."

Announcing that he would

vote against the resolution, he said there was a need to introduce balance in the debate on the Falklands question, which began earlier in the day with a strong denunciation by Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, of Britain's amendments to the draft. The amendments were designed to assure self-determination for the Falkland Islanders, a point omitted from the resolution.

In a speech delivered in tones of heavy sarcasm, Sir John accused Argentina of trying to serve as both judge and jury in the case. He acknowledged that the draft was an improvement on a resolution adopted by the general assembly last year, which called for negotiations on sovereignty, he said these were minor compared with crucial words which showed that Argentina's position was unchanged in substance.

People not closely involved in the Falklands problem might

not recognise the real meaning of some of the phrases used, Sir John said, citing in particular a phrase about "all aspects" of the Falklands problem. "It sounds OK, but actually it conceals a trap," the British delegate said.

"All aspects" includes sovereignty and not only sovereignty. They mean they will not discuss any question of normalisation with us unless we agree to discuss sovereignty with them."

Sir John reaffirmed Britain's refusal to negotiate on sovereignty and its insistence that the islanders must have the right to self-determination.

The question is expected to go to a vote today, with all the signs pointing to a substantial majority for the Argentine side and a split in European Community ranks, with France, Italy, Greece and Denmark probably voting for the resolution,

## Argentina to receive \$800m loan tranche

By Peter Montagnon, Euromarkets Correspondent

ARGENTINA WAS last night due to receive a further \$800m (£551m) instalment from the \$4.2bn loan agreed with commercial bank creditors earlier this year as part of its rescheduling package.

About \$300m of the latest payment is earmarked for back interest payments to bank creditors, bringing service on the country's \$48bn foreign debt up to date for the first time in more than two years.

Bankers said the latest payment will also allow Argentina to pay penalty interest which accrued earlier on unpaid interest payments so that the country could now boast a clean slate.

The successful implementation of both the rescheduling and Argentina's austerity package announced in the summer has focused attention on the country as a possible early beneficiary of loans under the so-called Baker plan for easing the debt crisis.

But Argentina is still working on its economic programme for next year and has not decided how much financing it will need or what form it will take.

The latest loan payment is the second under its 1985 package. Argentina drew a first tranche of \$2.2bn in September.

### **Lion's den**

CAPTAIN Nicholas Barker, who commands the Navy's Fisheries Protection Squadron, is well used to being in a tight spot, having spent days in the virtually unarmed ice patrol ship *Endurance* evading Argentine aircraft and submarines around South Georgia. But his latest exploit could have invited disaster.

With Lt-Cdr John Eldridge, captain of the fisheries protection ship *Guernsey*, he threw a party on board, when the ship was visiting Vigo, for all the skippers in the local fishing fleet who had been arrested by the Navy for poaching in British waters.

It seems the party turned out to be a great success—with both poachers and gamekeepers gaining a better appreciation of each other's jobs.

# Argentina exploits UN windfall

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Flushed with the diplomatic success of having secured French support for a Falklands resolution, Argentina yesterday was lobbying intensively at the United Nations for further defections from the European camp, which in the past has shown qualified solidarity with Britain by abstaining as a bloc.

As a counter-measure, Britain was seeking support for an amendment on the right to self-determination of the Falkland islanders which would offset to a degree British losses in the General Assembly and give the proposed measure a new gloss and emphasis.

With the two-day Falklands debate due to begin in the Assembly today, the Argentines were pressing the point that the newly drafted resolution, which does not refer to the sovereignty dispute over the Falklands, amounted to a monumental concession on their part.

The Argentine-inspired draft

tries to take into account British arguments that the point of departure for a rapprochement between the two countries should be the opening of a dialogue on bilateral issues excluding the question of Falklands sovereignty. The draft refers to negotiations on "all aspects of the future" of the islands, a term vague enough for the French.

There were unconfirmed reports that France had paved the way for Greek and Italian support and that Danish, West German and Dutch desertions were possibly forthcoming.

Since the first Falklands resolution, presented in the aftermath of the war in the South Atlantic in 1982, European countries have always viewed the British position on Falklands negotiations as intransigent and have kept their outright support away from Argentina with great reluctance.

Faced with the prospect of a

spectacular win by the Argentines in the Assembly, Britain has presented the self-determination amendments in order to save face. Yet the outcome of the voting on the amendment hung in the balance for Britain, since a majority of the Assembly has found the Falklands a special colonial case where the right to self-determination does not apply.

Most countries feel that the islanders, though settlers for generations, are British and an anachronism, and there was a risk that Britain could overplay its hand in the Assembly.

Because negotiation to settle disputes are a basic tenet of the UN Charter, and a principle difficult to vote against, Britain has always counted the large number of abstentions as well as the negative votes as manifestations of support for its position, or as testimony of its power to influence and persuade. Last year the vote was 89-9 with 54 abstentions.

## Argentina rethinks UN strategy on Falklands

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH at the United Nations

ARGENTINA has been forced to rethink its diplomatic strategy before the start of today's Falklands debate in the General Assembly as a result of the latest British amendments.

The amendments, which Britain tabled on Friday, include the principle of the right to self-determination in line with the U.N. Charter.

They will be voted on before the Argentine draft, and if adopted, will automatically be included in the final resolution.

However, diplomats predict that Argentina may decide to introduce counter-amendments in the final hour.

For the first time since the two countries went to war over the future of the islands in 1982, Argentina has presented a milder resolution to the assembly than on previous occasions.

However, with its latest draft, which omits mention of

the thorny issues of self-determination or sovereignty of the islands, it is expected to win well over 100 votes.

Last year 89 countries sided with Argentina, nine voted against, with 54 abstentions.

### Solidarity broken

In the past, EEC countries have adopted a common position by abstaining. But that solidarity has now been broken by France, which has told Argentina and Britain it will vote in favour of the Latin resolution.

There is intense speculation as to which of the other EEC partners will defect to the Argentine side. Possibilities being mentioned include Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Denmark and West Germany.

According to diplomatic sources, the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, has sent instructions to New York telling his delegation to abstain, as it did last year.

## Argentina wins key backing for UN motion on Falklands

BY ROBERT GRAHAM

BRITAIN is fighting a rear-guard action to prevent Argentina winning an important diplomatic victory in the annual debate on the Falklands which begins at the UN in New York today.

Argentina has now won the support of France and Italy—key members of the European Community—for a much softer motion than has been proposed in previous years. This calls for negotiations between Britain and Argentina to resolve the Falklands dispute and to discuss "all aspects" of the problem. By avoiding direct mention of sovereignty for the first time, Argentina has managed to split the solid front maintained by the EEC since the Falklands conflict in 1982.

Britain is now pinning its hopes on retaining Community support for an amendment to the Argentine motion. The amendment reaffirms the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter. However, the Argentine Government has been quick to point out that respecting the Falkland Islanders' right of self-determination "unhelpfully" raises the question of sovereignty.

The loss of support over the Falklands from key members of the Community would be a serious diplomatic blow to Britain. The Argentine Government has devoted much of the past four months to winning diplomatic support from Europe and isolating the Government of Mrs Margaret Thatcher. In this respect it is significant that the present motion is similar to a statement agreed with Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the British opposition Labour Party, when

he met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsín in Paris two months ago.

In previous years Argentina has failed to win widespread Community support because the motion before the UN mentioned the issue of sovereignty too directly. As a result the Community was able to justify abstention. But various Community members, especially France, reminded Britain during last year's debate that continued backing could not be taken for granted.

Britain had originally hoped that, by unilaterally resuming trade links with Argentina in July, the Community would be satisfied that London had made sufficient effort to improve relations. This gesture, however, appears to have been considered insufficient by France, Italy and Spain, which joins the EEC in 1986.

The British Government had hoped France would reject Argentina's overtures. But such hope was dashed last week when President Francois Mitterrand met Mrs Thatcher in London. The position of West Germany remains unclear but Bonn is thought more likely to support Britain.

Another departure this year, in line with a softer motion, has been the way Argentina has persuaded the Non-Aligned Movement to become directly involved. The motion is being sponsored by a group of Latin American countries that include Brazil and Mexico, and non-aligned countries like Algeria and India, whose backing is lent more weight by its status as a Commonwealth member and current head of the Non-Aligned Movement.

## The Falklands' grey area

Sir,—W. R. P. Bourne (Letters, November 13) paints a gloomy picture of Britain's conservation record in the Falkland Islands; but this is not the whole story.

When whaling began in these dependencies — South Georgia in particular — early this century it was a governor of the Falklands who warned of over-exploitation and collapse of the industry. Scientists and administrators at home were alerted and some of his proposals were put into effect: licensing of catches, enforcing measures against waste, and financing of scientific research on the life history of whales, then almost unknown.

Initial research efforts were halted by the death of the naturalist sent out, and then by the outbreak of the first world war. But in 1917 a committee was set up in the Falklands to plan future work.

During the 1920s and 1930s a series of scientific expeditions in *Discovery*, *Discovery II* and William Scoresby combined zoological studies of the whales captured, principally at the Grytviken whaling station, with investigation of their marine environment.

As pelagic whaling began to take over from land-based

stations at the end of the 1920s, it became clear that the survey's original aim — to provide a scientific basis for conservation — was doomed as international agreement would be needed to restrict catches, and this came too late.

In the circumstances it was creditable that the work was extended to the whole of the Southern Ocean. The immense amount of physical and biological data collected forms the basis of much present knowledge.

After the second world war most of the remaining scientists joined the National Institute of Oceanography (now Institute of Oceanographic Sciences), and continued to publish their findings. It is disappointing that more has not been done in recent years, but research in the Antarctic region, including some marine work, is carried out by the British Antarctic Survey among others.

Conservation is an issue that none of us can feel complacent about, and perhaps your correspondent feels he is more likely to get results by painting a picture in black and white instead of more historical shades of grey. — Yours faithfully,

Margaret Deacon.  
Southampton.

## French for talks on Falklands

ANGLO-FRENCH relations are expected to be put under some strain at the United Nations this week with a decision by President Mitterrand's Government to back a resolution calling for talks on the Falklands between Britain and Argentina, writes OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT.

France has abstained during previous United Nations calls for Falklands negotiations but diplomats at the assembly are reporting that this time Paris will back a "watered down" resolution inspired by Argentina.

All the indications are that Mrs Thatcher's Government will be defeated once again by a majority of the United Nations supporting talks. There has been intense lobbying, however, and Britain has tabled amendments insisting on the right of the islanders to determine their own future.

million when it ended early yesterday. Last year the total pledge was £1½ million but the amount collected was almost £800,000 more and it was hoped that this year's final figure could reach £5 million.



# WEEKEND FI

Saturday November 23 1985

MARKETS • FINANCE & THE FAMILY • PROPERTY • TRAVEL • MOTORING • DIVERSIONS • HOW TO SPEND IT • BOOKS • ARTS • TV •

Tourists are to be part of the economic future of the Falkland Islands. Arthur Sandles has been there to investigate the problems.

## Packages to penguins



SHOULD have guessed there was something different about this journey when the girl turned up with the two stuffed penguins. There we were on the platform at Paddington Station when a bright young thing from the public relations company emerged from the crowds with two beady-eyed heads poking from the top of a plastic carrier bag. "Just stand over there," she said. Click went the cameras. The British Rail man manoeuvred a poster into position: "Passengers for the Falklands should catch the 15.35 and change at Swindon." Click.

The Falkland Islands are moving into the next phase of the media game. Tourism and promotion. There was no disguising my own prescribed role in that game. To be whisked off to the South Atlantic and shown the touristic glories of the islands; to tell the world that there is more to the Falkland Islands than minefields, sheep and penguins; to be one more cog in the machine that is trying to make something of an economy Britain preferred to forget in an era before the Argies, and many in Britain would prefer to forget now.

Soon they are to start selling tours taking in the new lodges that are being built, lodges that will sit in some of the world's most remote and endearing islands, where penguins and seals, wild geese and tiny wrens scamper up to visitors. Fully inclusive package tours will cost upwards of £2,000 a time—assuming present arguments over the air fares can be settled.

At the moment the Falkland Islands have an image problem. The war (or if you deal in Foreign Office euphemisms, the conflict) took place in the early southern winter. The images that went around the world in that campaign are ones that have stuck. It is as if the Falkland Isles were only known by their war climate. In the minds of the American and US potential tourists, the Falkland Islands are a tiny gathering of sheepable outcrops part bog, part

fact is somewhat different. By standards the islands are, for a start, five times larger in land area than Jersey and Shetland combined and almost as large as Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk together. It takes an hour or more to fly from Port Stanley to some of the islands. There are broad sweeping sandy bays, high cliffs, mountains, rolling hills and gentle brooks. I have fished for trout in the rivers and mullet in the inlets; reached for the sun cream on warm afternoons of horseback explorations; and lazed in the grass to be disturbed by an inquisitive penguin pecking at my walking boots.

Islands famous for their foul weather have less rainfall a year than Sussex and a lot less snow than Derbyshire. It may not usually be as warm as the Balearics but it is never as cold as New York.

Another aspect of the image difficulties is that much of the reporting is done still under military hospitality. By far the greatest proportion of the troops, navy personnel and airmen (and, recently, airwomen) who visit the islands see very little of them. For the average serviceman the time and money required for a flight to see rockhopper colonies or fur seal beaches is prohibitive. Their tales are of hard work and a lack of bright lights.

For the moment you board British Airways 747, on charter to the RAF. By next month it will be TriStars, bought from Pan Am and operated by the RAF. In a little under nine hours you are in Ascension, a volcanic outcrop with a breeze block transit lounge and expensive pre-stamped envelopes at the Naafi counter.

And so up again. It's daylight now and strong winds buffet us from time to time. The films roll on and on. And at

last there are some grey shapes on the horizon. The islands are there.

No military secrets are revealed by saying that what is going on at Mount Pleasant Airport is astonishing. Here is no little air-strip to serve a small island community. Most British and European provincial airports are minnows compared with what is being built at Mount Pleasant.

All the locals I spoke to talked in wonder at the development but in perplexity at its size. No-one seems to know exactly what the UK Government has in mind for this southern outpost except that there is a total faith in that Government's determination to stay.

I met no resident, as opposed to contract Briton, who thought anything other than that the islands would remain British for as long as the UK had the physical power to hold them. "The one thing we do know," said one farmer, "is that Britain will never let us down. Look what happened when the Argies came—everyone rushed to help. They worked round the clock and there were no strikes."

From here, some "solutions" mooted in London take on a different perspective. It is not only the South Americans who might have objections to re-opening air routes. There is considerable local feeling about any links with the continent to the west, even if the economic benefits would be huge.

"I don't care what tourists you bring," said one hotel worker. "But don't expect me to be nice to the Argies." To everyone else, however, they seem willing to be extremely nice and—another image dispelled—commercially aware.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation has a budget of some £30m from the UK Government which will be

spent over a five-year period to put the kelpers and their community onto a more realistic base—although what precisely that is again no one seems certain. The money is being spent in three basic areas: agriculture and fisheries, light industry (but only that associated with the land and the sea), and tourism. Hand in hand with progress on these fronts will come a growth in population, both through immigration and a halting of emigration by making life on the islands more attractive to the bright and the young.

The difficulties are considerable. A community of less than 2,000 is simply not large enough to sustain many services. No-one in his right mind is going to set up as a chicken farmer or photographic processor with so few potential customers. As long as the islands' present isolation remains, with the only air and sea links via the UK, many export possibilities are out of the question.

At first glance it seems shocking that most of the millions of sheep carcasses that the Falklands farmers produce end up being dumped on remote islands to be eaten by birds—but what else can they do with them?

The military authorities refuse to sign any contracts which might provide a medium-term base for new concerns. Indeed, a plan for a dry cleaning operation, franchised from Sketchleys, has problems because the military suddenly said it would not give the new enterprise any custom.

The military and the civilian population are much less involved with each other than one might expect and, once away from Stanley and into "Camp" (any part of the islands outside Stanley) the

only sign of Fortress Falkland is the occasional buzz of jet or helicopter and a view of warships on the water.

There are, of course, the usual oddities of service/civilian relationships. The military has a great deal of "waste" which the locals find perfectly serviceable. The services are wary of developing a local trade that could lead to military items falling off the back of a lorry so all military waste is further damaged, supposedly beyond use—Land Rovers have their lamps and radiators destroyed by sledge hammer, waterproof jackets are slit from collar to hem. Somehow the islanders rescue and repair them. "If there is one specialist business which every islander knows, it is how to keep a Land Rover on the road whatever its age and condition," they say.

I heard a story, first hand, from a host who had been told by his high ranking army dinner guest that the military never threw any usable food away—and meanwhile tucked into iceberg lettuce that had been liberated from the army dump that morning.

In the wake of the war and the updated Shackleton Report the Falkland Islands are moving fast, over and beyond the vast airport and its 35-mile link road with Stanley. Some of the larger estates are being broken up and sold off into smaller (if 25,000 acres is smaller) units. Small plots, of 50 acres, are being offered to entrepreneurs for light industry and specialist agriculture. One project, for example, aims to grow salad crops using hydroponic methods.

There are two major obstacles to such developments. The islands are actually short of labour and there is a desperate need for housing. "Some of the schemes that are suggested are just silly," says

Simon Armstrong, general manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. "We file them under 'loonies'." These include schemes that take advantage of a non-existent pool of low cost labour.

Housing seems at times an insoluble problem. The local Government has funds for soft mortgages, but these are not unlimited. The local bank, the Standard and Chartered, is praised for its efficiency but criticised for its unwillingness to lend long, or even medium term, against local security—thus no mortgages. Such is the confidence of the bank in the future that it is insisting on Government guarantees, which are not forthcoming.

There is a queue of Britons wanting to move to the Falklands but without housing such migration is out of the question. Instead, various schemes are being tried which are not necessarily labour intensive—and which place any housing demand in camp rather than in Stanley. Salmon farming is being tried, the cost of feed circumvented, the locals hope, with a scheme developed with the help of the Aquaculture Institute of the University of Stirling, that will use local mutton, mullet and krill to fatten the fish.

There is enormous pressure from the islanders for a 200-mile fishing limit around the islands. Well over 100 deep-sea fishing vessels have been seen in Falkland waters this year, ships from Poland, Japan, Russia and Cuba among them. Licensing these vessels would, it is said, produce £10-£15m a year for the islands. Officially, when it says anything, the Foreign Office suggests the cost of policing would be too high. Unofficially, the real problem is political. Imagine

the furore if a Cuban ship, unlicensed, were arrested and then claimed to have a license from the Argentine Government.

Tourism provides a much more immediate prospect for revenue, even if communications are once more a major drawback. The bird and sea mammal life is astonishingly abundant in the Falkland summer months. In just a few days I have seen five types of penguins, king and rock cormorants, huge albatrosses, the darting red breasted meadowlark, black necked geese, red-backed hawks, striated caracaras, teal and wigeons, turkey vultures, the ubiquitous Upland Geese and, . . . well the list goes on. Dolphins leap in the bays, sea lions and elephant seals lounge on the beaches.

For the moment, and for the foreseeable future, you rely entirely on local hospitality to see these things. There are hotels in Stanley, the white painted Upland Goose and the less famous but wonderfully hospitable Malvina House among them, but elsewhere at the moment you stay in private farm houses. For the most part there are large, friendly and remarkably warm (heat, mainly from the abundant peat, is not a problem). You are ferried around by Land Rover over land which shows no sign of road. Between the islands you travel by the Islander Aircraft of FIGAS, the government-owned airline, or sometimes by Bristow helicopter.

By next summer (theirs, not ours) the additional lodge style accommodation will be appearing at Volunteer Point on East Falkland, and possibly on New Island, on the western edge of West Falkland and perhaps the most scenic of the islands. At Port Howard, a little settlement in the fold of the hills that, with its pretty flowering hedges and neat fields with dairy cattle around the painted houses looks at first glance like a Devon hamlet; and on Pebble Island old farm houses are being converted to hold visitors.

There is considerable local alarm at the prospect of a tourist "invasion." Few people locally seemed very keen on the cruise ships that come in from time to time, particularly when they visit small islands with sensitive bird colonies on them. Heavy tourist traffic could be extremely destructive. A tourist that provokes a nest bird into flight (or, in the case of penguins, into scamper) simply allows the cruising skuas to move in and take the eggs.

At the levels presently envisaged by the FIDC, which is being advised by the English Tourist Board, the traffic should be fairly light—perhaps 2,000-3,000 people a year. There is no question that the cost of the trips is well out of line with rival offerings. Two weeks in Bird Island on the Seychelles, a trip just about the same distance as Falkland, can be bought for £1,400 in peak season, which is about the going rate for a wild life trip to South America and rather more than many safaris in Africa.

The big problem is the flight. The Royal Air Force is not a commercial organisation and is not open to much discussion on tour operator discounts. It is therefore charging tour companies more for a return flight to Falkland Island than it costs to fly round the world on some airlines. The situation would be transformed by the introduction of flights from Santiago (Chile) or, of course, anywhere in Argentina.

For the moment, however, that seems unlikely. So, is it worth it? On my way down, infected by the pre-publicity and in the company of those army and air-force personnel for whom it was near banishment, I doubted it. When the time came to leave, however, my mind had been changed. Perhaps, after all, like the penguins, just a few of us will migrate to the Falklands in October.



## French back Argentina on Falklands

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

France has decided to throw its support behind an Argentinian-inspired draft resolution at the United Nations seeking a far-reaching dialogue between Britain and Argentina, including negotiations on the Falkland Islands.

The move could provide momentum for further support from within the European Community.

According to diplomatic sources, France informed the British Foreign Office of its decision to depart from its traditional abstention after Argentine dropped any mention of the word "sovereignty" in the draft resolution. Instead, the measure simply refers to "all aspects of the future" of the Falkland Islands.

The French move comes after

intense lobbying by Argentina and is certain to strain Anglo-French relations. Since 1982, when the first post-Falklands war resolution came before the General Assembly, France has wanted to vote with Argentina but has been held back by British pressure.

The debate is due to begin on Tuesday.

## 'Rocking stone' moves again after 45 years

By LIN JENKINS

A 540-ton "rocking stone" at the centre of many legends on the Isles of Scilly has been sent rocking again for the first time in 45 years.

The dominating Logan Stone on Peninnis Head, St Mary's, is said to have played an important role in ancient fertility rites.

The rocking, which is said to be able to disfigure a penny placed beneath the stone, stopped after German bombs dropped in 1940 knocked the stone off its axis.

It was restored after Mr Eddie Prynn, of St Merryn, Cornwall, flew out to the island with an engineer and a quarryman, determined to set the stone moving once again.

He used hydraulic gear, pumps and what he called "mystic assistance" to get the Logan rocking.

### 'Mystic challenge'

Mr Prynn, whose quarter-acre garden at his home is dedicated as a "stone temple", had two giant rocks quarried from the new Falkland Islands airport shipped to his home. They now stand in his garden commemorating the war dead.

"I have never seen anything like Scilly's Logan. The whole exercise to get the Logan to rock was a mystic and engineering

challenge," he said, kissing the stone in tribute.

"We have got the Logan rocking again, and that is what we came to do and we wish it well."

Within hours local school-children were seeing if the story of the penny was true, and whispers went through the island concerning all the old stories about the Logan's significance for the happiness of the Scillies.

**HARRY BARRETT reports**

Fishing News  
22 November 1985

# BARTER DEALS IN DANGER

## —Falklands report warns on mackerel and herring

**PRICES** paid for British mackerel and herring transhipped to Eastern bloc factory ships could be undermined because of what is happening on a fishery 8,000 miles away.

This warning comes in a report prepared for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on *The Fisheries Around the Falklands*.

Fish valued at over US\$260m. has been lifted from waters around the Falkland Islands by foreign fleets in the first nine

months of this year, according to the report. A large proportion of this fish is squid, which is part of a complicated bartering arrangement for British mackerel and herring.

The USSR and other Eastern bloc countries have been supplying squid to Japan, which operates a system of import controls. Japan has had around 50 vessels off the Falklands catching some 50,000 tonnes, but, with the Japanese and Taiwanese reported to be increasing their fleets to 350 vessels, imports into Japan will be vastly reduced.

The rub for British pelagic fishermen, the report indicates, is because the USSR is paid for its squid with mackerel and herring bought through agents from Scottish fishermen.

By supplying most of their own squid requirements, there will be no necessity for Japan to buy heavy quantities of mackerel and herring to pay off the Russians.

Although there is a ban on USSR exports into Japan, the fish is understood to enter as coming from another Eastern bloc country.

The report says: "Squid caught by USSR and other Eastern bloc vessels enters the Japanese market under the import quota as part of a

## ... Russia plans big fish grab

**THE Soviet Union is set to grab a share of Falkland Islands waters.**

The USSR has offered the Argentine government a deal on fishing operations in the Argentine exclusive economic zone, which includes the exclusion zone in Falkland waters.

Our Argentine correspondent, Valdez Goyeneche, says the deal — under the name NEPTUNO —

amounts to several hundred thousand tonnes of fish for which an international market price would be paid.

The NEPTUNO programme recommends giving an important share to private Argentine fishing interests to help raise their technology level.

The Commercial Department of the United States Embassy is understood to have shown its agreement to the deal.

Cont..

## Barter deal

From page one

barter arrangement. Squid caught by Eastern bloc vessels is transhipped near the Falkland Islands and shipped to Japan.

"Companies sell the squid at delivered prices to Japanese companies possessing a portion of the import quotas.

"The Eastern bloc vessels receive as payment mackerel or herring purchased by the companies from Scottish fishing operators and transhipped to Eastern bloc vessels around the UK coasts (klondyking).

"The exact barter arrangement in terms of how many tonnes of mackerel purchase a tonne of squid obviously depend on the market prices, but detailed data is not available due to the obvious needs of commercial secrecy.

"However, approximate figures for the 1984 season are: mackerel three to four tonnes bartered for one tonne *Loligo* squid; mackerel five tonnes bartered for one tonne *Illex* squid; herring two to three tonnes bartered for one tonne *Loligo* squid; and herring four tonnes bartered for one tonne *Illex* squid.

The 350 vessels expected to enter the Falklands fishery from Taiwan and Japan could be taking up to 1,000 tonnes of squid per vessel a year.

## COMMENT

### Whitehall waking up

REVEALING what is happening on the fisheries around the Falkland Islands (*Fishing News*, November 1) has caused some scuttling around in Whitehall. A report has emerged on the situation prepared for the Foreign Office and, last week, foreign secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called a meeting of interested parties. How sad that it has taken so long!

The principle of fighting to protect the Falklands, losing many lives doing it and not reaping the economic advantages that accrue, had failed to move the government. But, perhaps the way the problem is moving closer to home, will change its attitude.

From our story (page 1) it seems that Britain's vital herring and mackerel trade with the Soviet Union is at risk. This klondyking operation is something that the British fishing industry cannot afford to lose. No amount of SFIA advertising could replace the gap left by the Eastern bloc ships if the barter deals, done through Japan via British agents, goes wrong.

The threat that the Falkland squid poses, in relation to barter deals on mackerel and herring, has already been realised in some quarters of Scotland. Some time ago the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation urged the government to get tough with the Russians over the Falklands to protect their herring and mackerel trade.

What they suggested was that entry to the Falkland fishery should be conditional on the Russians agreeing to buy minimum amounts of British mackerel and herring. This would have been a way of tying down the very loose klondyking arrangements where the Russians always have the last word on price by threatening to withdraw.

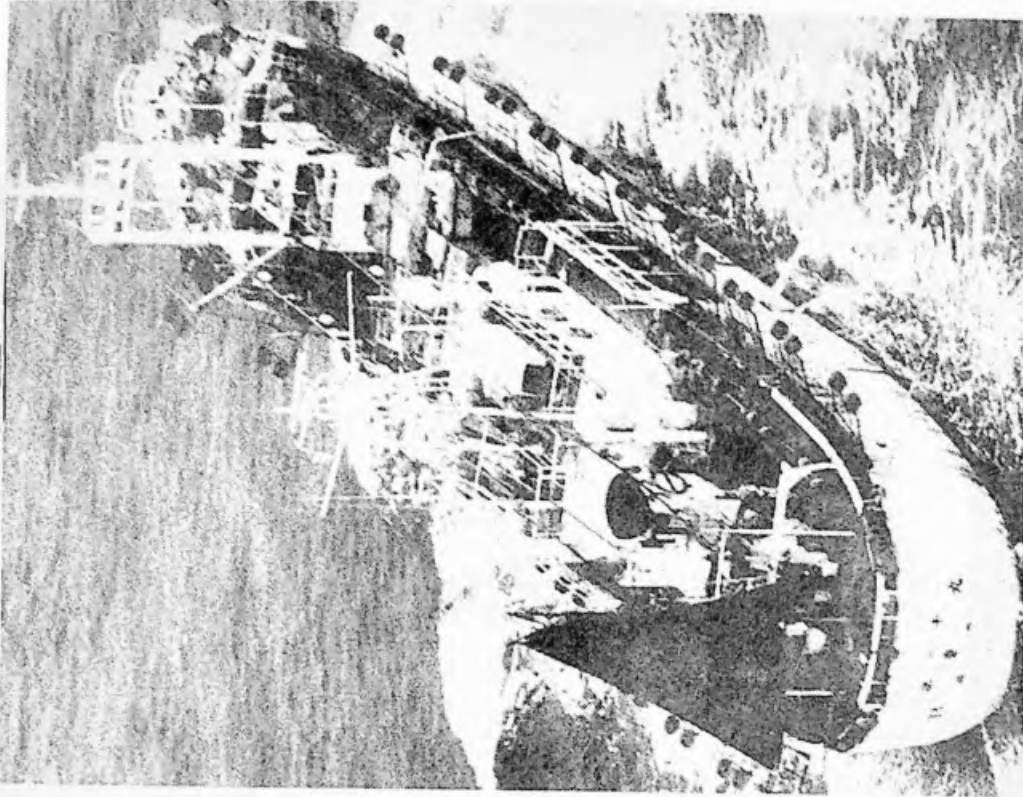
The one hope that the Foreign Office entertains of getting off a difficult fish hook is that the current United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation Biennial Conference will get some positive reaction to setting up an international commission to run the fisheries around the Falklands.

This is a pretty vain hope. Since 200-mile limits, multi-lateral arrangements are a dinosaur of the past.

A Commission might help protect the resource, but it would still leave the problem of who collects the licence fees.

# The Falklands heist leaps to £300 million

**—UK warning on stocks**



Japan is stepping up its activities in Falklands waters with boats like this big squid-jigger.

**THE massive haul of fish being taken within a radius of 200-miles around the Falkland Islands reached US\$262m. for the period January to September this year.**

According to estimated figures in a report\* just published for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, this compares with US\$204m. taken in the whole of the previous year.

Fish to the value of US\$181m. was taken in the first 10 months of 1985, compared with US\$141m. in the whole of 1984.

## Controls for the area

**THE most effective forms of management control on the Falklands fishery would be quotas or total allowable catch system, or limits on the number of vessels by licensing.**

There would be difficulties whatever scheme was introduced, says the report.

A quota system would require continuous stock assessment. "For example, if applied to squid, a constant catch quota could lead to a decimation of the stock when a poor brood arrived."

The report suggests that controls on fishing effort are easier to enforce than limiting catches. "It can be checked at once whether a vessel fishing has a right to do so."

The major problem with a licensing agreement is that it is difficult to be specific about the species to be caught. "Yet, clearly, both the potential value of any licence fee and the total level

of catch intended at, depend on the species composition of the catch."

The report suggests two possible ways of introducing a licensing system: 1. Licences should be restricted to a certain season or area where a majority of single species can be caught. 2. That the conditions for the licence depend on the ability to monitor the species composition of the catch.

With the large variation of species in the catch, as well as value, the report says that a licence system would need to be flexible.

A notional figure on landed value of five per cent for licence fees is suggested, based on systems in other parts of the world.

The report notes that, on this basis, licence fees would have produced US\$10m. in 1984. For the first nine months of 1985, fees would have amounted to US\$13m.

within an area named the Falkland Islands Protection Zone (FIPZ), which is less than 200-miles in some areas, according to the report.

The total haul taken from the Falklands area in 1984 was 349,000-tonnes while, in the first nine months of this year, it had risen to 381,000-tonnes.

Some 241,000-tonnes was taken in 1984 in the FIPZ area and this had risen to 263,000-tonnes for the first nine month of this year.

The establishment of a licensed fishery would have produced US\$23m. in fees over the past 21 months.

The rapid build-up of fleets from some 10 countries supplemented by bulk carriers, reefers and tankers has given cause for concern about overfishing on some stocks.

The report says of southern blue whiting: "There is a need for caution in the management of this stock if depletion is to be avoided."

An average of the best and worst possible figures on maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for southern blue whiting, calculated in the study, is 152,000-tonnes. "The 1983 catch level exceeded even the most optimistic MSY calculated. The main fishing fleet catching blue whiting has been from Poland, whose vessels caught 411,000-tonnes in the period 1981/3."

The report says that a reduction in catches of blue whiting, recorded in the transshipping base of Berkeley Sound from Polish vessels, may be an indicator of problems with the stock or as a result of transfer of fishing effort to squid.

In July 1984 to January 1985, transshipments from Polish vessels were down to 9,500-tonnes of fish meal and 33,000-tonnes of frozen fish.

One consequence of heavy fishing on blue whiting, notes the report, could be an increase in average value as parasite level is reduced with a thinning out of the shoals.



## HARRY BARRETT looks at a new report on fishing effort around the Falkland Islands

The effect of overfishing could also mean a loss to the Falkland Islands in transshipping fees.

The report says: "It seems clear that if Eastern bloc demand for meal remains high, there will be pressure on the blue whiting resource. It also seems clear that, at catch levels of 150,000-tonnes, the resource is liable to be substantially depleted (if it is not already depleted)."

Turning to squid, the most important resource in the 200-mile zone, the report notes there is extreme confusion on previous figures for the two main species, *Illex argentinus* and *Loligo patagonica*, brought about by figures published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, which are almost certainly incorrect.

The squid fishery is dominated by the USSR and Poland, but there has been an increasing effort by Spain and Japan, which is expected to grow.

"Fishermen from both countries (Spain and Japan) are protected by trade barriers, which effectively ensure that they have unlimited access to their home markets. Currently, both markets import a considerable amount from Eastern bloc fleets. Accordingly, both Japanese and Spanish operators must see the opportunity to erode the market share of the Eastern bloc."

A lack of information on squid in the area makes management of the resource

difficult but, the report notes, that similar species have declined quickly when heavily fished.

The major market for squid is Japan, where demand runs at 500,000-tonnes for all species. The report says: "In 1984, a quota of 40,000-tonnes was set on the import of the squid *Illex* from the Falkland Islands and near waters caught by other than Japanese boats."

"Japanese fishermen themselves caught around 50,000-tonnes and, in total, somewhere between 80-

90,000-tonnes was placed on the market from the fishery over the Patagonia Shelf, much of it from Falkland waters. A similar import quota is expected to be confirmed in 1985."

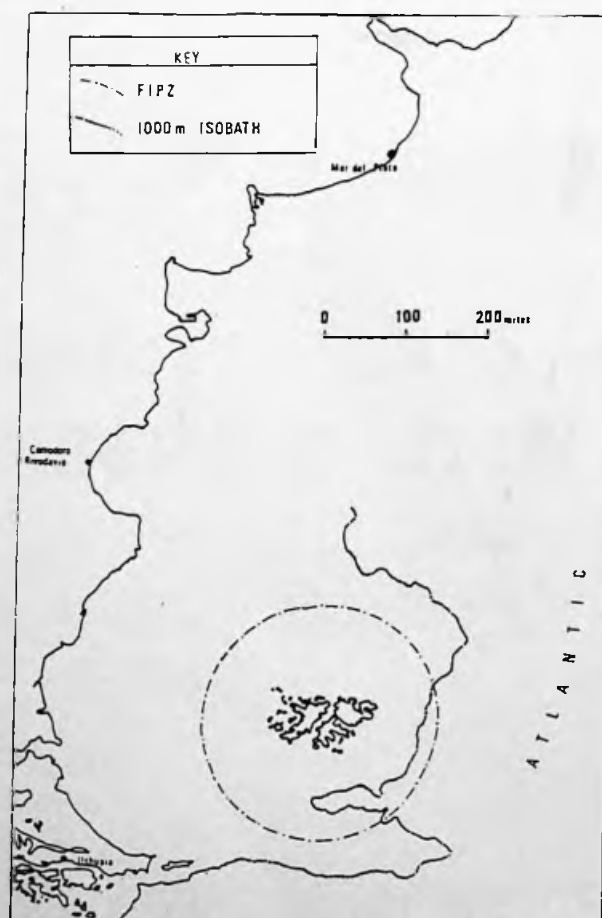
The hake fishery in the area is also complicated by lack of scientific information on the stock. A survey in the early 1970s indicated a biomass of between 2.3 and five million tonnes. Catches reached a peak in 1979 when 465,000-tonnes were taken.

The report says that the hake stock is probably fully

exploited at present, but regulations within the Falklands zone would be fairly irrelevant, since only a small amount of the stock is in this area.

"However, the economic consequences in terms of loss of revenue are similar to those for other species."

\**The Fisheries Around the Falklands*, by J. R. Beddington, Solange Brault and J. Gulland, IED/IUCN, Marine Assessment Group, Centre for Environmental Technology, Imperial College, London.



The South-West Atlantic, showing the limits of the Falkland Islands' Protection Zone (FIPZ), and the 1000 metre depth isobath.

cont..



# Fleets in the zone

● THE major effort on the Falklands fishery comes from eight countries. The report looks at these fleets and how they operate:

**USSR:** The Russian fishing fleet, which is the largest in the FIPZ, is composed almost entirely of trawlers larger than 2,000 GRT. Russian vessels tranship at sea and only to Russian carrier ships. Usually a large portion of the fleet operates in the same area and moves in a block. The fleet includes research ships, cargo carriers, a tug and an icebreaker.

**POLAND:** A large proportion of the Polish fleet is in the 2-3,000 GRT class. Polish vessels move as a block and all Polish vessels travel to Berkeley Sound to tranship by Polish cargo ships, as well as vessels bearing flags of Panama, Liberia, Greece and others. Polish vessels were present in large numbers throughout the observation period.

**BULGARIA:** The Bulgarian fishing fleet consists of eight vessels, all 2-3,000 ton. They tranship in Berkeley Sound, where two Bulgarian fish carriers are seen regularly.

**GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR):** The bulk of the GDR fleet consists of small 1,000 GRT vessels which transfer trawl catches directly to a factory ship. However, much of their effort has shifted to squid-jigging. Some large (2-3,000 GRT) vessels which transfer trawl catches directly operate along with the smaller vessels. GDR vessels do not tranship in Berkeley Sound.

**SPAIN:** The Spanish fleet in the FIPZ is composed almost entirely of the three smaller tonnage classes. Spanish operations intensified in

1985 and most of the additional effort was from the smallest vessels of less than 1,000 GRT.

**JAPAN:** The majority of Japanese fishing vessels are smaller than 1,000 GRT and equipped for squid-jigging. There has been a striking change in fishing activity from 1984 to 1985. Most 1984 fishing effort was by large trawlers, whereas in 1985 it was mostly by small jigging vessels. Japanese jigging vessels tranship either in Punta Arenas or in Berkeley Sound, while Japanese trawlers tranship mainly at sea. The smaller vessels tend to be recorded from Berkeley Sound more often in 1985, closer to their fishing grounds. They transfer their catch to Japanese carriers.

**TAIWAN:** As a result of identification problems, very little is known about the Taiwanese fleet. The few that have been positively identified are small (1,000 GRT), most probably jigging for squid. Some were sighted in Berkeley Sound, which indicates they are transferring at least part of their catch. Although a number of Taiwanese vessels were sighted in the FIPZ in 1984, the bulk were first seen in 1985.

**KOREA:** The South Korean fleet is composed of a small number of squid-jigging vessels of less than 1,000 GRT. These have appeared in the sightings records since early 1985. More positively identified sightings of Korean vessels have been made in Berkeley Sound than anywhere else in the FIPZ; this is obviously caused by incomplete sightings of vessels at sea.

COUNTRY	TONNAGE CLASS	CATCH RATE TODAY	NO OF SHIPS SIGHTED	NO OF SHIPS IN ANALYSIS	NO OF FISHING DAYS 1984 JAN-SEPT 1985
USSR	<1000	10	1	0	
	1-2000	15	1	0	
	2-3000	25	49	41	776
	3-4000	40	32	22	666
	>4000	45	22	21	737
	TOTALS		105	84	2179
POLAND	<1000	10	9	8	514
	1-2000	15	16	15	1139
	2-3000	25	48	47	3399
	3-4000	40	3	1	0
	TOTALS		76	71	5052
BULGARIA	2-3000	25	8	5	164
	TOTALS				2820
GDR	<1000	10	9	8	339
	2-3000	25	4	4	126
	TOTALS		13	12	465
SPAIN	<1000	10	24	23	696
	1-2000	15	17	16	448
	2-3000	25	8	3	148
	TOTALS		53	42	1292
JAPAN	<1000	16	32	20	22
	1-2000	15	6	2	0
	2-3000	25	9	7	275
	TOTALS		47	29	297
TAIWAN	<1000	16	49	20	99
	16	14	11	0	277
S. KOREA					
	TOTAL ALL FLEETS		365	274	9548

Fishing effort (vessel days) of identified vessels in the FIPZ, by country and tonnage, during 1984 and 1985. "Ships in analysis" are those sighted at sufficient frequency to be included in the interpolation process for estimating fishing time. Catch rates assumed are from existing information.

---

## **'VICTORY LINK'**

### **FALKLANDS**

### **HOTEL FOR SALE**

The Uplands Goose Hotel in Port Stanley has been put on the market for £450,000. It's 20" thick walls have stood up to 120 years of South Atlantic weather.

It overlooks Victory Green, and during the Falklands conflict its telephone line maintained a link with the outside world after British troops liberated Port Stanley.

The Falkland Islands population of 2,200, including 1,200 in Port Stanley, has been supplemented by 5,000 made up of British troops and a growing number of Japanese and Koreans engaged in the fishing industry. The hotel is working to 100 per cent capacity-Reuter.

---

Daily Mail

21.11.85

## **Trapped ship**

### **breaks free**

ANTARCTICA: The British survey ship trapped in pack-ice broke free yesterday after her crew reboarded her.

The 2,000-ton John Biscoe had been abandoned after becoming stuck off the west coast of the Antarctic peninsula, dangerously close to two icebergs which had grounded on the ocean floor.

## General predicts smaller garrison on Falklands

By David Fairhall,  
Defence Correspondent.

A substantial reduction in the Falklands garrison was signalled yesterday by Major General Peter de la Billiere, who commanded the British forces there until July.

Addressing the Royal United Services Institute in London, General de la Billiere said that once Mount Pleasant coastal airport was completed next year it could become a tri-service stronghold to guarantee reinforcement through Ascension with a substantially smaller permanent garrison.



Maj-Gen de la Billiere :  
airport key to future

This "stronghold Mount Pleasant" approach would mean investing more in intelligence to warn of any renewed Argentinian invasion.

But he thought it a more likely policy than maintaining a "shop window" of comprehensive deterrence involving 3,000 troops and a substantial naval capability.

General de la Billiere was giving a presentation with Sir Rex Hunt, the recently retired governor of British South Atlantic Territories.

The general's third option was "care and maintenance" of garrison facilities, which might require fewer than 100 men but carried the risks Britain ran before 1982.

The cost of the garrison is put at £552 million in this year's defence budget, and £232 million of this will be spent on building and maintenance, and the rest on operations and replacement of equipment lost in the fighting.

Even in 1988-89, when construction and war loss costs will have ended the defence provision is still £192 million. The general and Sir Rex reminded their audience that the British territories included South Georgia, with its ice-free harbours, often called the gateway to the Antarctic.

# Britain set to maintain Falkland strength in face of Argentine weakness

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain is likely to maintain a sizable garrison in the Falkland Islands, even though the Argentine armed forces are in a "parlous" state.

That became clear yesterday from an authoritative paper delivered to the Royal United Services Institute in London by Major-General Peter de la Billiere, who until June was commander of the military forces in the Falklands. He appeared with Sir Rex Hunt, who was until recently Civil Commissioner in the Islands.

Ministers are considering how big a garrison will be required in the islands once the new airfield at Mount Pleasant is completed in about a year's time.

General de la Billiere's paper will have been cleared at very senior level, and can probably be seen as an attempt to bring before the public the alternatives now confronting Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

General de la Billiere summarized the state of the Argentine forces as follows:

**Air Force:** Has been materially rebuilt since the conflict of 1982 and modernized to some extent. But shortage of money has allowed training and maintenance to deteriorate to a level where air operations beyond frontiers defence would be

difficult to mount and impossible to sustain.

**Navy:** "The Argentine Navy is also in a parlous state. The Belgrano has been replaced with some more modern surface ships and the submarine fleet has been enhanced but, as with the air force, the financial constraints are severely affecting their operational standards and capabilities."

**Army:** The army was probably the most dispirited of the three services and in the greatest disarray. "Apart from raiding by special forces there seems to be to be little prospect of the army carrying out effective operations against the islands for the foreseeable future."

Although the threat was of limited forces being used for hit and run action, "this situation could change overnight if our force levels were reduced to a point where our resolve to repel such attacks lacked credibility".

General de la Billiere outlined three options for the future of the Falklands garrison. All were based on an ability rapidly to reinforce the islands using Ascension Island and the Mount Pleasant airfield.

The options were:

- The maintenance of a balanced military force strong enough to hold the Islands

against any likely threat. This would require military strength of well over 3,000 and a sizeable naval capability. It would be comparable to the garrison which has been maintained since the 1982 conflict.

- The option most likely to be accepted was making a stronghold of Mount Pleasant airfield in which sufficient forces from all three services would be maintained not only to deny Mount Pleasant to any foreseen assault, but to ensure it remained in operation to receive reinforcements. This would require substantially smaller forces.

- The garrison could be reduced to a care and maintenance basis in which a very small number of servicemen - perhaps fewer than 100 - would maintain the vital equipment and stores which would be brought into use if reinforcement became necessary.

But General de la Billiere gave a warning that "the nation in possession of Mount Pleasant owns the Falklands Islands and the dependencies". If the care and maintenance option were adopted and things went wrong, "there is no going back once the airport is occupied by another power. All that has been invested in lives and money could be lost in a matter of hours."

## TEXT OF THE U.N. RESOLUTION

**T**HE text of the resolution is as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and having received the report of the Secretary-General,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the peaceful and definitive settlement by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of all their differences, in accordance with the United Nations Charter,

Taking note of the interest repeatedly expressed by both parties in normalising their relations,

Convinced that such purpose would be facilitated by a global negotiation between both Governments that will allow them to rebuild mutual confidence on solid basis and to resolve the pending problems, including all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

### Proposed requests

1. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to initiate negotiations with a view to find the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the pending problems between both countries, including all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the United Nations Charter,
2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his renewed mission of good offices in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made in Paragraph 1 above, and to take the necessary measures to that end,
3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its 41st session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution,
4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its 41st session the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)."

# SOFTER LINE ON FALKLANDS BY ARGENTINA

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH United Nations Correspondent

**A**RGENTINA has softened her diplomatic tactics in advance of next week's annual United Nations General Assembly debate on the Falklands conflict with Britain.

She has been touting a resolution omitting the controversial issues of self-determination and sovereignty of the Islands. A copy of the draft has been

obtained by the DAILY TELEGRAPH.

It simply requests London and Buenos Aires to "initiate negotiations," in an attempt to resolve the pending problems between both countries.

At the same time there is a call for the United Nations Secretary-General, Senor Perez de Cuellar, to continue his mission of good offices.

So far the Secretary-General has been unable to achieve any breakthrough in private negotiations since Britain has repeatedly voted against General Assembly resolutions on the Falklands conflict.

Earlier this week, in an annual report on the conflict he said he "deplored" the lack of progress.

### British 'worried'

Because of the relatively mild nature of this year's resolution, British diplomats are privately believed to be worried that the number of votes in favour of the Argentine position will increase dramatically.

Last year, the Argentine resolution calling for resumption of diplomatic negotiations attracted 89 positive votes, and nine against, with 54 abstentions.

"This new draft naturally has superficial attractions at the United Nations," one British source said in an interview. "Our question is not so much what is in it, but what has been left out."

"Why is Argentina so silent about self-determination and the question of sovereignty? Given the history of our past relations, we can't afford another Berne breakdown."

### Lobbying intensively

British diplomats, meanwhile, are lobbying intensively against the present draft.

One major obstacle they face is support it may receive from countries friendly to Britain, such as Sweden and Austria.

There have already been suggestions that these two countries might lend their names as co-sponsors to the draft.

In the past the draft has largely been the work of the Latin group, but so far India, Tanzania and Yugoslavia have expressed willingness to support this latest Argentine position.

According to United Nations diplomats France, an EEC country which has regularly abstained, might support Argentina this time round.

Argentina meanwhile, is hoping for British support for her case next week.

"We would expect that Mrs Thatcher would take a different approach this time around," said one Argentine source.

"We feel this is a genuine attempt to try to meet the British half-way and are trying to establish some basis of flexibility."

Editorial Comment—P18

# Britain faces new pressure at UN over Falklands

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN'S position of refusing to negotiate on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with Argentina is expected to come under renewed attack at the United Nations in New York next week.

Argentina is understood to be preparing a moderate resolution calling for negotiations on "all aspects" of the Falklands question in an attempt to acquire wider support for its position among UN members.

Last year Argentina's position attracted 89 votes in the UN debate with nine against and 54 abstentions. The abstentions included the nine members of the European Community apart from Britain.

Question marks still hang over the position to be adopted by France, Italy and Ireland on the Falklands issue. These governments say privately that they have yet to decide on their attitudes towards a motion which still has to assume its final form. If France backs Argentina it may be followed by Italy. Dublin is thought unlikely to back Buenos Aires.

Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, due to leave for New York today, is virtually certain of gathering increased support, including that of prospective members of the EEC—Spain and possibly Portugal—according to Western diplomats in Buenos Aires.

It is reliably understood that the motion to be presented by a group of Latin American non-aligned countries and possibly by some European countries including Austria and Sweden, represents a major departure in Argentine diplomatic strategy in the UN.

Previous motions have been submitted only by Argentina and supported by a restricted group of Latin American countries, and have involved a specific reference to the word sovereignty.

Next week, however, several countries are expected to endorse a formula for unblocking the current impasse in

Anglo-Argentine relations as a result of the Falklands conflict.

Argentine Foreign Ministry officials, who have been working on the text with their UN allies for several weeks, appeared to have taken their cue from the success of recent meetings between Mr Raul Alfonsín and British opposition leaders. The formula agreed is similar to the 1980 Lisbon agreement between Spain and Britain which led to a breakthrough over Gibraltar.

In Lisbon both sides agreed to discuss "all aspects of the future" of the Rock—diplomatic shorthand for eventually talking about sovereignty without committing either side to admitting each others claim publicly from the outset.

The motion may also refer to the safeguarding of the way of life of the Falkland island inhabitants but will by-pass a more specific reference to their right to self-determination which Argentina has always denied on the basis that the Falklands is "occupied territory" and not a colony.

Britain may challenge this as a key omission which violates UN support for universal self-determination.

Most western diplomats in Buenos Aires, however, view the motion as an "impeccably conceived compromise" which may make it very difficult for Britain to continue to resist resuming negotiations with Argentina on the future of the islands.

Argentina has presented a motion over the Falkland issue annually ever since the end of the conflict with Britain in 1982, but has failed to substantially alter the composition of the votes in its favour.

Last year, a total of 89 votes against nine represented only a small improvement for Argentina, over 1983 when the military regime was still in power. The 1984 motion was supported by the US but nine EEC countries joined 45 other UN members in abstaining.



**News Round-up****'Unique jobs situation' in Falklands**By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER  
Defence Staff

**T**HE Falkland Islands must be unique at the moment in having more jobs than manpower, Sir Rex Hunt, the former Governor, told the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies in London yesterday.

The lack of accommodation is acting as a brake on the resident population and the chronic manpower shortage holding back the economic development although he predicted a small but steady rise in population over the next 10 years.

While remaining a burden on the taxpayer, the Falklands would not cost anything like the current amounts in future, he claimed. To raise revenue he proposed a licensing system for the 200 or more ships fishing in the island waters at any one time.

Sir Rex believed there was no point in negotiating the future of the islands with Argentina because it would not accept any compromises on sovereignty. There is "no middle road" solution.

**Cabinet shuffle after 'tunagate'**

Mr Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, shuffled his Cabinet after the recent resignation of the Fisheries Minister over the sale of a million tins of rancid tuna, a scandal the Press dubbed "tunagate."

Mr Mulroney, whose Progressive Conservative government has recently slumped in opinion polls, made the Science Minister, Mr Tom Siddon of British Columbia, the new fisheries chief to succeed Mr John Fraser. The science portfolio will be taken over by Mr Frank Oberle, another British Columbian.

**Hayward's £1m aid**

Mr "Union" Jack Hayward has made a £1 million donation towards the cost of sheltered housing for the elderly at the new £11,300,000 shared civilian and military hospital in Port Stanley. Mr Timothy Raison, Overseas Development Minister, said yesterday. He added that the state of Guernsey had given £100,000.

**FALKLANDS COMMANDER QUILTS JOB**

By A. J. McILROY

**MAJ-GEN.** Sir Jeremy Moore, 57, who commanded the British land forces in the Falklands war, has given up his post as director-general of the Food and Drink Federation and the Food Manufacturers' Federation, after only 17 months.

He left his job, reported to pay £35,000 a year after discussions with Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons and president of the federations. According to close associates the two did not see eye to eye and parted company by mutual consent.

Sir Jeremy is to receive an undisclosed sum as a pay-off.

Sir Jeremy became unemployed when he retired from the Royal Marines in 1983. At the time he said: "Everyone told me getting a job wouldn't be a problem, but so far no company has offered me one."

For a time he lived on his £12,500-a-year pension. In March, 1984, he was appointed temporary specialist adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Defence at £80 a day.

When he took up his position as director-general of the two federations, which are shortly to merge, Sir Jeremy admitted for the first time that his difficulties in finding a suitable job had given him moments of pessimism.

**FALKLANDS AGAIN**

**DESPITE**, or perhaps because of, his pressing domestic problems President ALFONSIN of Argentina is clearly stepping up his country's long-running campaign to get its hands on the Falkland Islands. His three-nation European tour the other month was ostensibly to promote exports and attract foreign investment but he lost no opportunity to press the French, the West Germans, and the Yugoslavs to support Argentina's claim to the territory. As a bonus he has had talks with both Mr KINNOCK and Mr STEEL which, whatever they did or did not tell him, generated enormous media coverage in Argentina, even temporarily overshadowing the human rights trial of the appalling junta. Now comes a discernible shift in President ALFONSIN's tactics to be deployed in next week's United Nations General Assembly debate when, once again, the Falklands issue is on the agenda and Britain will surely be put in the dock.

The key resolution this year is apparently a mild one, omitting what can fairly be called provocative words such as "self-determination" and "sovereignty" and calling on Britain and Argentina to "initiate negotiations," and it is guaranteed to appeal to the growing pro-Argentine lobby in the UN. This time Britain may find itself unable to muster more than a handful of votes.

Yet it ought to be fairly obvious to the United Nations and Mr ALFONSIN that as long as Mrs THATCHER remains at 10 the British Government will baulk at serious negotiations with Argentina over the sovereignty of the Falklands. The islands were not recaptured to be handed over to civilians or military in Buenos Aires a few years later. Some reasonable accommodation with a democratic Argentine government, however, is surely as desirable as it is inevitable. Thus it is time for a resumption of a sensible dialogue.

## Antarctic survey ship may be lost

By John Ezard

The British Antarctic Survey last night faced losing one of its only two research vessels after the John Biscoe had to be abandoned in pack-ice off the west coast of the Antarctic peninsula.

Sixty-four passengers and crew were transferred to an American survey ship, the Polar Duke, after the Biscoe drifted "dangerously close" to grounded icebergs two miles from the Amiot Islands, according to a BAS statement.

The vessel's captain, Chris Elliott, is expected to go back to the area today aboard a West German ship, the Polarstern, to see whether the Biscoe is critically damaged. If possible the crew will go back on board.

A BAS spokesman said that the Biscoe could cost up to £20 million to replace. The Cambridge-based survey's yearly budget is £12.5 million, but the spokesman added: "We are cautiously optimistic that the ship can be saved."

The Biscoe left Britain on September 17 to conduct research which includes surveying for minerals. An increasing number of foreign ships are surveying the Antarctic as the 1992 review date approaches for the Antarctic Treaty. This protects the area from international oil and other mineral exploitation.

## Short leases

Those who wonder just how long the Falklands deadlock will last may gain a clue in recent behind-the-scenes movements on the Buenos Aires property market.

Diplomats in the Argentine capital report that in recent weeks several foreign embassies including the Canadian, Finnish and Australian, have been offered a number of smart apartments for rent.

On the surface this is not a very unusual move at a time of year (the local summer) when staff transfers are common, and new arrivals tend to prefer a change of habitat from that of their predecessors.

What is slightly out of the ordinary is that for once the offer is not coming from Argentines keen on inflating their dollar bank accounts, but from the British Government.

The flats — as many as 12, according to some — are only part of the numerous properties acquired by the Foreign Office over the years for its Buenos Aires Embassy staff. Many of these properties have been empty since the 1982 Falklands war left only a skeleton staff of British diplomats operating under the Swiss flag.

Foreign embassies interested in the flats have been haggling for long leases. But British officials have insisted on a maximum of three years — and less if possible.

As one British diplomat told his foreign opposite number

"You never know just how soon we're going to need to have them back."

For the Argentines a three-year time frame for normalising relations may already be on pessimistic side. But it does concur with the view of more sceptical observers. They have given up any hope of substantial progress until after the next British General Election.

## **TYPHOID RUSSIAN IN FALKLANDS**

**By Our Port Stanley  
Correspondent**

Medical authorities in the Falklands have confirmed that a Russian seaman has typhoid. He has been moved into isolation at the British Military Hospital.

Mr Oleg Moskoby, aged 42, was transferred from his trawler to the civilian hospital where a series of tests were conducted over several days before the illness was diagnosed. It is the first known case of typhoid ever recorded in the Falklands.

B.A. Herald  
17th November 1985

## Foreign fishing, a money maker for Argentina

by Michael Llanos

ARGENTINA could reap over 350 million dollars a year in much-needed foreign exchange by formally opening its territorial waters to foreign fishing fleets, according to a private report released here.

State coffers could increase an estimated 250 million dollars a year, the report said, if Argentina signed fishing contracts with countries like the Soviet Union and Poland, which now fish in Argentine waters without paying the catch fee that has become standard practice worldwide.

Since the 1982 Malvinas war, 230 vessels from 10 countries have fished for free in waters claimed by Argentina, netting some two million tons a year, the report said.

The report, prepared by the Narwhal consulting firm and dubbed the *Neptune Programme*, has been welcomed by the Soviet Union and Poland, while the United States and French embassies have shown interest.

Narwhal president Jorge Valdez Goyeneche yesterday told the *Herald* that the report was submitted to Growth Promotion Secretary Manuel Tanoira last month. Tanoira was very pleased with the Neptune Programme and said it expressed government thinking, Valdez Goyeneche said.

Under the programme, Argentina would repeal existing legislation and formally open its 200-mile territorial waters to foreign fleets in exchange for a percentage fee of all fish caught in the area.

Fees vary between 15 and 30 percent in other bilateral contracts, Valdez Goyeneche said, but using the conservative figure and an estimated annual catch total of two million tons Argentina's cut could easily exceed 250 million dollars.

In addition, opening Argentine ports to foreign fishing vessels would mean an extra 100 million dollars in annual sales for the state-run oil company (YPF), according to the Neptune Programme.

The Soviet Union's fishing ministry representative here, Yuri Lezgintsev, has welcomed the idea and said Russia is willing to negotiate a fee of up to 15 percent with Argentina.

Moreover, the Soviets said they would accept Argentine personnel aboard Russian

vessels to supervise fishing operations and suggested the possibility of creating joint ventures with Argentine firms.

The Soviet Union also requested that any contract include Soviet rights to use Argentine ports for repairs, supplies and changing of ship crews — services that would mean increased income for the coastal economy.

Poland's trade office has shown a similar interest in paying a percentage fee to legally fish in Argentine waters. And the US and French embassies, though their countries do not have fleets in the South Atlantic, have likewise expressed interest in the Neptune Programme.

According to Valdez Goyeneche the programme would benefit, rather than harm, Argentina's fishing fleet. "With the extra foreign exchange the state could channel long-term credit for fishing companies badly in need of technology and competitive equipment," he said.

In addition, credit would be available to expand Argentina's fishing fleet, providing work to shipyards and builders, Valdez Goyeneche said.

That Argentina can afford to open its waters to increased fishing activity seems unquestionable. This year's total catch is estimated at around 300,000 tons, a typical year by Argentine standards. But a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report says up to 4.5 million tons of fish can be caught in Argentine waters without fear of excessive depredation.

Valdez Goyeneche noted as well that Argentina, with the "most extensive fishing platform in the world," is only 34th among the top 40 fishing nations in the world. Chile, on the other hand, is fifth. "We have much more potential," he concluded.

Narwhal, backed by industry and even union spokesmen, hopes the government will act fast in repealing the 1973 law that now bars foreign fleets from openly fishing in Argentine waters.

But though Valdez Goyeneche was optimistic that Congress or President Raúl Alfonsín would take action in December, the *Herald* was unable to find a government spokesman interested enough to comment on the important initiative.

# Rex Hunt: home from the Falklands at last

A STOCKY figure with a bushy eyebrows, a woolly hat and an anorak several sizes too big climbs out of a car outside the station at Sunningdale, Berkshire. Only the registration number of the red Fiesta gives one a clue—F 1000.

Sir Rex Hunt, former Governor of the Falklands, has come home to roost at last.

As a man who has spent much of his career in such world trouble-spots as Uganda, Bernes, Saigon, Jakarta—I was going to ask where he was going to spend his retirement?

The President and Head Greenkeeper of the Port Stanley Golf Club (a free drop if you land in a shell-hole, and mind the sheep) intends to join a Berkshire club—"if they'll have me"—and is being pressed to write his memoirs. What will he and his wife Mavis

miss most about the Falklands? "The birds, for a start. We shall have to get used to different species in our garden. No more kelp geese, or stinkers or leggers, and no more turkey-vultures sitting on the chimney pots." Or penguins.

"Then we shall miss the smell of the gorse," adds Lady Hunt. "And the smoke of the peat fires."

"But most of all we shall miss the people," says Sir Rex. "They were so friendly, so hospitable, and more British than the British."

Had the war, and the presence of a far larger garrison, destroyed the old Falklands way of life? "All the changes have been for the better," he insists. "Better communications, a proper air link, video sets in the settlements, more farms, more farmers."

Sir Rex says that the only complaint about the troops was that people were not seeing so much of them

recently. "A number of the men are coming back at the end of their service to provide some of our best new settlers."

"And we have a lot more to do, to make things better still—but I shall have to learn to stop saying 'we' now that I have retired."

The two were unpacking. Had they many souvenirs? Not really. Some presentation silverware, an album of photographs given by the garrison, a box that once held British Army rockets and came in useful for bringing home their umbrella-stand.

The proudly-worn "Bennie" cap lavished by the islanders is a souvenir, too, as is the anorak—"I swapped it in the Victory Bar with a six-foot sailor who wanted a memento of the Governor." Oh, yes, and there is the pair of pyjamas Sir Rex found in a drawer when he got back to Government House. "They are warmer than mine, so I must have belonged to Brigadier Menendez."



MICHAEL PATTISON

EXPLOSIVE SITUATION: Sir Rex gingerly unloading a 66mm rocket box—a war souvenir—containing an umbrella stand from an earlier posting in Borneo



Generals pass buck as prosecutor reveals they expected no 'major British response' to Falklands invasion

# How Galtieri got it wrong

THE TRIAL of the former president Leopoldo Galtieri and 16 other senior officers for their incompetent conduct of the 1982 Falklands war has become the scene of the latest battle between Argentina's three rival forces. The army, navy and air force have begun to leak the court's secret proceedings as each tries to blame the other for losing the war.

The court martial, pursued by the reluctant armed forces more than three years after the event, is being held in daily eight-hour sessions in the hot and stuffy conference room of the First Army Corps in Buenos Aires. It has been declared a military secret by President Raul Alfonsín "because it deals with national security". The public is excluded and the press is admitted only for the first five minutes each day.

Documents leaked to The Sunday Times include the 7,000-page prosecution case. It reveals that it was on January 5, 1982, that the military junta - General Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Anaya and Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo - set up a working group to analyse the possibility of taking the islands.

The group started work in secrecy on January 12. On March 6, the junta ordered the joint chiefs of staff to begin in-depth preparations. On March 26, Galtieri, Anaya and Lami Dozo fixed the date of the invasion for one of the first three days of April.

The prosecutor, Brigadier Hector Canale, describes the

By Marla Laura Avignolo  
Buenos Aires

war that the accused undertook as a "defensive" one. The defendants claim the plan was to "occupy in order to negotiate".

But the prosecution says the three forces "did not have the necessary joint training to carry out the operation", servicemen lacked training, equipment did not work and bombs had not been adapted for use by the air force's planes.

"The bombs did not become effective until May 25. Until then, they did not explode. In addition, the navy had only three mines when the conflict began", Canale said.

Canale also said that the junta had accepted the peace proposal put forward early in May by the then president of Peru, Belaunde Terry. But the Argentinian military committee - an ad hoc body created to supervise the war, and which included the three commanders in chief, the head of the joint chiefs of staff, the minister of foreign affairs and the intelligence chief of the joint chiefs of staff - decided to modify the proposal in the absence of Brigadier Lami Dozo, who had always advocated a peaceful settlement. The British then rejected the changes.

If true, this version of the fate of the Belaunde Terry peace plan sheds new light on the controversy surrounding the

sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano and seems to belie claims that the Argentinian side had decided to accept the plan when the cruiser was sunk on May 2.

All three Argentinian commanders-in-chief shared "an initial conviction that the enemy would not respond in any major way" to the invasion of the Falklands, according to the prosecution. "But the enemy reacted energetically. This called for a reassessment of an unexpected situation, given that there was no plan drawn up for after the occupation of the islands. Before April 2, 1982, there had been no analysis of or planning for the defence of the islands".

In accusing Galtieri of negligence, the prosecutor says he caused "grave damage to the security and interests of the state and the discipline of the armed forces".

Anaya is accused of having ordered the navy back to port after the sinking of the Belgrano - "a decision taken in contradiction of the role assigned to the navy by the military junta, which had envisaged the war as primarily naval", according to Canale.

In 1983, the Rattenbach report, a military commission's own secret evaluation of the conduct of the war, called for the death sentence for Galtieri, Anaya, General Benjamin Menendez, who was field commander in the Falklands, and two other officers. Two years later, the climate has





**In triumph . . . and disgrace: Galtieri on his way to the occupied Falklands and (right) in court facing negligence charges**

changed and even the prosecution is calling for light sentences; 12 years for Galtieri and Anaya, eight for Lami Dozo and four for Menendez. The prosecutor expects an early release for Galtieri because of his "outstanding social, individual and family life and lack of previous convictions".

The prosecutor acknowledges that Lami Dozo "had a better understanding of reality and tried to reach an agreement with Great Britain through the only possible route: by getting the United States to apply pressure". Menendez, he said, caused

disruption "because he lacked the personal qualities necessary to carry out the mission assigned to him and he abandoned strategic and tactical principles of which, given his high rank, he cannot have been unaware".

For Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, a former torturer and the man who surrendered South Georgia to British forces, the prosecutor asked for a discharge on the grounds that Astiz surrendered because the forces at his command "were insufficient for resistance".



## Argentina, UK agree on need for fish treaty

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

WITH LESS than two weeks to go before a United Nations General Assembly debate on the Falklands issue, Britain and Argentina have publicly agreed on the need for a joint international effort to conserve fishing stocks around the disputed islands.

UK and Argentine officials present in Rome this week at the meeting of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) have publicly endorsed a proposal that the UN body should conduct a feasibility study of Falklands waters. The move appears to be a significant step towards the eventual setting up of a mechanism for the waters' multi-national supervision involving Britain and Argentina without prejudice to the sovereignty claims of either country.

Thatcher  
goes for  
joint  
Falkland  
move

### Argentina oil move

British Petroleum has confirmed it is considering starting oil exploration in Argentina and in the sea between the mainland and the Falkland Islands.

## Thatcher goes for joint Falklands zone

THE government is continuing its efforts to establish a multilaterally based fisheries conservation and management regime around the Falklands, prime minister Margaret Thatcher said in the Commons last week.

She was replying to questions by Labour MPs concerned over the continued exploitation of Falklands fishing grounds by foreign vessels. She told them that the government is supporting an initiative by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation to negotiate an international agreement.

John Holmes of Euroship, the international shipbrokers based in Kent, has also voiced concern and has written to fisheries minister John Gummer and his local MP Jonathan Aitken.

He has asked for more campaigning for UK fishermen over the Falklands issue and the setting up of a 200-mile limit around the Islands.

"In the standard British way of doing things, the 'cupboard will be bare,' before the politicians realise something is wrong," he says.

Mr. Holmes suggests that the government invests in the valuable Falklands grounds.

# Cool Carriers in Falkland reefers deal

By Martin Whitfield

A VALUABLE contract to ship fish from the Falkland Islands to Japan has been won by the world's largest refrigerated ship operator, Cool Carriers, of Sweden.

The deal envisages the use of at least ten large reefer vessels in the first half of 1986 with a projected contract value in excess of \$10 million.

For Cool Carriers, the contract is the second success this month. The company, formed after the collapse of Salen Reefer earlier this year, also won a \$45m eight-ship service to ship Ecuadorian bananas to the US and then citrus fruit to Japan.

Responsibility for the loading of the reefer ships from Japanese-controlled fishing vessels will rest with the Swedish group.

A new specially designed work launch will be delivered to Cool Carriers to be used as a tug to assist fishing vessels and for the transport of stevedores and their equipment for the venture.

The Japanese fishing group Kanagawa Squid Jigging Corporation, which will coordinate fishing operations, placed the reefer contract with Cool Carriers.

A spokesman for Cool Carriers said the company would be using ships in the 400,000

cubic feet class for the project with at least two vessels in the area at any one time.

One reefer ship would be used as a "mother vessel" serving as a base for accommodation and communication, while loading would be direct on to a vessel bound for Japan as soon as there was a full load of fish.

It is estimated that loading operations will take between 25-35 days, depending on the weather, while the journey to Japan from the Falklands — 11,300 miles — will take around a further 30 days.

The length of loading time and the fact that vessels will have to travel to the South Atlantic from either Japan or Europe adds

significantly to the cost of the contract.

Cool Carriers has devised methods of protecting vessels in the loading operation during difficult weather conditions and the company's own stevedoring personnel will be living on the mother ship for the duration of fishing.

Japanese, Soviet, Spanish and East European fishing fleets are all operating in the Falklands area. Some British shipowners have pressed the UK government to declare a zone of territorial waters around the islands so that British ships can gain a share of the reefer shipments to the main markets.

## Belgrano details 'threaten security'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Public discussion of the detailed criticism by Labour MPs of the decision to sink the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict "would still risk unacceptable damage to national security," the Government said in a White Paper yesterday.

Replying to the Commons foreign affairs committee report on the controversy surrounding the sinking on May 2, 1982, the Government said that the speculation provoked by intelligence matters was a cause for concern.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday that he would be pressing for a Commons debate on the report in Government time. The issue was whether the Government had lied about the sinking, he said.

The Government concedes "with the benefit of hindsight" that there was and is misunderstanding about the purposes of the exclusion zones created around the Falklands during the conflict.

It welcomes the conclusion in the report, drawn up in July by the Tory majority on the committee, that the decision to authorise the sinking of the cruiser was militarily justified in the light of intelligence assessments.

In a minority report the four Labour members on the committee said the order was "a hasty and unjustifiable decision to risk many lives and a possible disaster to ensure the life of an administration."

Mr Ian Mikardo, one of the committee's Labour members said yesterday that the minority report showed that "almost everything the Government has said about the Belgrano is lies."

In the six-page White Paper, the Government says it regrets the refusal of the Labour MPs to accept the sincerity of the visit to the US by Mr Francis Pym, then foreign secretary, and ministers' "search for a diplomatic solution."

Ministers were not aware of the Belgrano's precise course until November 1982, the government says adding that they were not informed of the cruiser's change of course — 11 hours before it was attacked — until March 1984. It reiterates Mrs Thatcher's previous statements that the cruiser's precise course was irrelevant to the threat posed.

The Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, a persistent critic of the sinking, last night seized on the White Paper's reference to the acceptance by the Tory majority on the foreign affairs committee that Sir John Nott, then defence secretary, that his inaccurate statements to the Commons about when the Belgrano was first sighted were made in good faith.

He pointed to a draft recently leaked to him of a statement made by Sir John on May 4, 1982, which shows, according to Mr Dalyell, that the Government made last-minute changes.



## 12 YEARS URGED FOR GALTIERI

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA  
in Buenos Aires

**T**HE prosecution in the Argentine court-martial of 16 military officers accused of leading the country into defeat in the 1982 Falklands war with Britain has asked for former President Galtieri to be jailed for 12 years.

According to court sources Senor Hector Canale, military prosecutor, also sought in a two-day secret final argument at the two-year-old trial:

12 years' jail for Adml Jorge Anaya and 10 years for Brig. Basilio Lami Dozo, both members of the Galtieri junta that ordered the April 2 invasion; Four years' jail for Gen Mario Benjamin Menendez, who was Argentine military governor of the Falklands during the 10-week war, and 30 months for Gen. Omar Pareda, Third Infantry Brigade commander at the time.

The prosecution sought acquittal of 10 other accused, including Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz.

Astiz, who is on active service, is accused of surrendering his troops in the South Georgias without firing a single shot at the outset of the war.

The lieutenant, who was briefly taken to Britain after the conflict, is also accused of human rights violations in Argentina under the former military regime.

If convicted, those accused in the court-martial, would also be dishonourably discharged; but the prosecution's requests seem lenient in the light of a report by the so-called Rattenbach Commission, which was said to have recommended the death penalty for Galtieri and Anaya in November 1983.

### Decision not at issue

The report accused the officers of both military and political offences and was even said to have incriminated Senor Nicapor Costa Menendez, Argentine Foreign Minister, during the war, for failing to realise that the United States would not remain neutral during the conflict.

At the court-martial, however, the political decision to invade the islands is not at issue.

Although the prosecutor has accused most of the accused of "negligence," he softened the sentences he requested, citing the officers' good conduct and saying that some of them were only following orders.

"The political decision to recover the islands is not punishable under Argentine law," Galtieri's defence counsel, Gen. Eduardo Senorans, told the tribunal as he opened his 100-page final argument on Tuesday.

### Concern at speculation over Belgrano

MINISTERS are concerned at the speculation on intelligence matters over events surrounding the sinking of the Argentine warship General Belgrano during the 1982 Falklands conflict, a White Paper said yesterday.

The concern was offered as a reason why the Government was unable to reply in detail to a minority report from the Commons Foreign Affairs committee which inquired into the sinking. The committee divided on party lines, with Labour members producing a minority report.

Yesterday's White Paper said: "Many of the points in the minority report touch on intelligence matters. Public discussion of these would still risk unacceptable damage to national security."

"Indeed, the prominence which has been given to intelligence matters, and the speculation this has caused, during the controversy over the sinking of the Belgrano is in itself a cause for concern."

Command 9647. HMSO. £1.35.

# Falklands war prosecutor drops charges against 10 Argentine officers

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The Military prosecutor in the trial in which 16 officers are being tried for their responsibility in Argentina's 1982 defeat in the Falklands conflict has concluded his presentation by requesting that 10 of the 16 officers be acquitted.

A defence lawyer for the former military President, General Leopoldo Galtieri, took the floor in the secret military trial yesterday after Brigadier Hector Canale. The prosecutor, rested his case on Tuesday.

Brigadier Canale accused the three-man military junta, which ordered the invasion of the Falklands on April 2, 1982 of "military negligence" in their decision to capture the islands by force, and requested that General Galtieri and the former Navy Commander, Admiral

Jorge Anaya, be sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

For Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, the third junta member, the prosecution sought eight years' imprisonment. On Tuesday Brigadier Canale requested a four-year sentence for General Mario Benjamin Menendez, who commanded Argentine troops in the Falklands during the war, and 30 months for General Jorge Omar Parada, who led the Army's Third Infantry Brigade.

The prosecution case after a two-year trial was considerably more lenient towards the accused officers than had been expected. A special military investigation before the trial had recommended life imprisonment for the junta and for several commanders.

For Admiral Juan José

Lombardo, commander of Argentina's South Atlantic Theatre of Operations during the war, the prosecutor requested a three-year sentence.

Among the 10 lower ranking officers who Brigadier Canale said should be acquitted is the naval Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, who is accused of surrendering without a fight to British forces in South Georgia. The prosecution argued that Lieutenant Astiz acted under "extenuating circumstances".

Proceedings during the final phase of the trial were originally to have been in public under military legal proceedings, but the court ruled that they should be secret for reasons of national security. Defence Ministry spokesmen and congressmen who attended the secret sessions reported the proceedings.

That old cab meant such a lot to me, says Sir Rex

# The faithful British buddy I had to leave behind

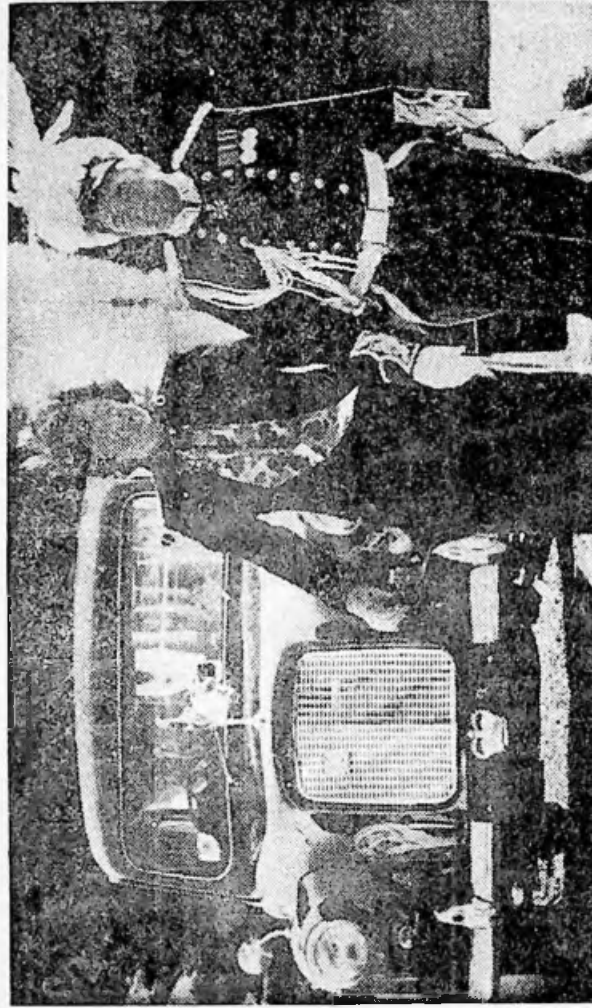
EX-FALKLANDS Governor Sir Rex Hunt has one big regret on retiring from the islands... leaving behind an old London taxi.

He would willingly swap his Lotus Elite sports car for the faithful cab.

"A London taxi was the last thing people expected to see in a remote colony 8000 miles away, let alone believe it was the official car of Her Majesty's Government," said Sir Rex in his first interview since his retirement.

"But it was an appealing combination and that red cab became a part of me. In war and peace we went through a lot together and it brought a tear to my eye when I realised I would have to leave it behind.

"I miss opening the front door and expecting to see it parked outside. However, it is the official car



TRANSPORT OF NOSTALGIA: Sir Rex and Lady Hunt with the Falklands taxi.

to ask every family whether they would stay if a British Government handed them over to Argentine control.

He said: "Only one family said they would remain. All the others would leave immediately.

"The people are fiercely British and want to remain so. They want to live in the same peace and quiet under our flag as do people in the Channel Islands.

"All the time in Port Stanley there are Phantom jets screaming past low over the town. But the RAF have never had a single complaint about the deafening noise because to the Islanders that is the sound of freedom.

"Hopefully the Argentinians will mature and realise the Falklands never were, are not now, and never will be anything but British."

Sir Rex looks like having a busy retirement. He has been invited to appear on television and radio, give after dinner speeches, and embark on a tour of lectures.

He said: "I am toying with the

idea of writing a book. It will not be specifically on the Falklands but about my diplomatic career.

"People are expecting a book revealing the inside story of the Falklands but there is little to tell that hasn't already been said.

"There has been a suggestion that I am a little bitter about being recalled from the Falklands to retire a few months earlier than I need have.

## New start

"But that is not true. I was only supposed to have been governor for three years but thanks to Gallieri I had my term extended a couple of times.

"There is now a new constitution on the islands and it seems sensible a new governor should be there at the start.

"It's about time I put my feet up and watched TV and tried to do something about my golf handicap." said Sir Rex proudly wearing his dark blue Port Stanley golf club sweater.

## FALKLANDS ANALOGY ON ULSTER

By GRAHAM JONES  
Political Staff

**MR ENOCH POWELL**,  
Ulster Unionist MP  
for South Down, called  
last night for the Prime  
Minister to treat the  
Northern Ireland issue as  
a new Falklands.

He said Mrs Thatcher should  
"save the nation's honour" by  
"imposing her political will."

Mr Powell said in a speech  
to the 1900 Club at the Carlton  
Club that the present attempt  
by Dublin to persuade Britain  
to surrender part of its  
sovereignty in Ulster had  
brought "a more testing  
struggle than 1982."

He said Mrs Thatcher  
"knows that she has at her  
personal command the means  
of ending the long agony of  
Ulster. A single syllable can  
stop the futile but bloodstained  
campaign to sell the province  
out and can give to all the  
people the reconciling assur-  
ance that their place in the  
Union is no longer to be  
negotiable."

## How Argentina cares more for Falklands

Sir,—It seems time that some of the thought about the Falklands which you call for (Leader, November 8) is also devoted to other aspects of the welfare of the islands, including the fisheries discussed elsewhere in your columns on the same day.

The appalling nature of our conservation record in the Falklands does not appear to be widely appreciated. It started when the first official visitor, Lord Byron's grandfather, set fire to the natural vegetation to flush out the native foxes, now extinct.

We were not the first colonists and, after we withdrew on finding out how barren the place was, we were able to re-establish ourselves only because the Americans threw out the legitimate occupants, the Argentinians, when they tried to control the sealing.

Under our administration first the fur seals and then in succession the elephant seals, larger penguins, whales, and recently the sea-lions have all been systematically over-exploited until their populations collapsed; they have not yet recovered.

**I HAD HOPED THE  
WISHES OF THE  
ISLANDS' FAUNA  
WOULD REMAIN  
PARAMOUNT**



The practice of burning vegetation in the spring to provide new grass for the sheep in the middle of the birds' breeding season has progressively impoverished the soil and led to such a wind-erosion problem that flying grit presents a serious hazard at the new airfield. Grass-burning is still being carried out on a large scale by the Falkland Islands Company.

The fisheries are not in fact located immediately around the islands but along the edge of the Patagonian continental shelf to the south and west and, until the recent general extension of

exclusive economic zones, it would never have occurred to us to claim them.

The Argentinians have been studying them for years in collaboration with the West Germans and Japanese, with results discussed at a meeting convened by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in February 1983, where we were not even represented. Our contribution has not been a helpful one.

It seems time we showed a little more humility.—Yours faithfully,

**W.R.P. Bourne.**  
3 Contlaw Place,  
Milltimber, Aberdeen.



### Talks with Argentina

*From Lord Radnor*

Sir, May I comment on your editorial, "Optimism in Argentina" (November 5) and Dr Blakemore's letter of November 8? The former suggests that the time is ripe to settle differences between Great Britain and Argentina, whilst the latter raises the question of how best this might be put into practice.

A statement from our Government clearly outlining our views on the future of the islands, even if

contrary to Argentinian expectations and hopes, must surely be a priority. A firm statement from ourselves, had it been made as far back as the 1930s, when schools in Argentina first started teaching that the "Malvinas" were Argentinian territory, might well have saved much trouble later on.

If such a statement were to the effect that a long leaseback situation was the best that Argentina could expect, then the question of sovereignty would have been aired. Argentina would be able to claim

territorial ownership, and the citizens of the Falkland Islands could continue their lives as at present for, say, 99 years.

The way might then be paved not only for normalisation of relations between the two countries, but, one might hope, joint commercial ventures to the benefit of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

RADNOR,

As from: House of Lords.  
November 8.

# Falklands war junta goes on trial

**Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires explains the delicate political problems posed by the trial of Gen Galtieri and his colleagues**

During the 1982 Falklands war the only occasions on which foreign journalists were allowed into the Argentine Army's First Corps barracks in Buenos Aires were to take guided tours of the "museum of subversion." Accompanied by an officer, journalists were advised to reject reports of military murder and torture and to look upon the waxwork terrorists and their heroic victims in uniform as the only truth.

To return to those barracks at the start of the court martial this week of 16 officers accused of negligence in the Falklands war was to get a measure of the political change taking place in Argentina, and of those who are resisting it. Accompanied by a bearded young Presidential Press spokesman, we were led to the court room where the men in the dock looked somewhat sheepish under the glare of the television lights.

The most remarkable aspect of the Falklands court martial is that it is finally taking place. It has taken the Argentine armed forces three years and five months officially to assume their defeat at the hands of the British in June 1982, and to set in motion the judgment of the main culprits. The delay demonstrates that the military is marching more slowly than the people to Argentina's new democratic tune.

The trial was ordered by the outgoing junta of President

Reynaldo Bignone in November 1983, when the pressure of events had made some public rendering of accounts inevitable.

A week after the trial was ordered, the full details of an official investigation into the Falklands war were published in the local media, and several books on the conflict written by Argentine and English writers have reached the top of the best seller lists.

It is understood that the military prosecutor will agree with the broad findings of the official commission, which laid the main blame on the three-man junta of General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Anaya and Brigadier General Basilio Lami Dozo for pursuing a war with Britain without the necessary diplomatic support or military preparation.

In addition, General Mario Benjamin Menéndez, named by the Argentines as military governor in Port Stanley, is charged with having failed adequately to deploy his troops around Port Stanley and for having demoralised the conscript army which finally capitulated.

lated to the British.

The prosecutor is expected however to press for much lighter sentences on the main accused than those which were originally suggested by the official inquiry, according to one leaked report.

The use of military force, he is likely to say, although misguided was "not totally unreasonable" since the military occupation of the islands was essentially a "defensive reaction" to the aggression initially shown by Britain's diplomatic intrusion, and over-reaction to the Argentine scrap merchants' putting up their flag on South Georgia. The British taskforce set sail two weeks later.

If the prosecution had endorsed fully the findings of the official report, former President Galtieri and former Navy Chief Admiral Anaya would face the death penalty, permitted under military law for extreme cases of misconduct in time of war.

Instead, the prosecutor is planning to recommend prison terms of 12 years for Gen Galtieri and Admiral Anaya

and four years for Gen Menéndez. Brig Gen Lami Dozo is likely to face a sentence of less than 10 years while the bulk of the remaining officers may well be acquitted including Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, the commander of the Argentine forces on South Georgia.

Among the mitigating factors in favour of Gen Galtieri, the prosecutor points to his "patriotic feelings supporting the recovery of the Malvinas, which have been implanted on our fellow countrymen from an early age."

But even if one accepts that on April 2, 1982 most Argentine's readily endorsed Gen Galtieri's "patriotism" by enthusiastically backing the military invasion, the trial by its very nature will not provide a complete picture of the military's conduct.

A secret trial was demanded by the military and accepted in the aftermath of the publicity given to the human rights trial of the nine members of the three juntas which ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1982 when 9,000 people "disappeared."

A veil of silence is likely therefore to descend on such questionable activities as contraband arms deals and the use of hospital ships for military re-enforcements. According to some reports the ministry has also conceded that details about Chile's apparent military co-operation with Britain could be politically

embarrassing. The extent to which the former military regime's own domestic unpopularity may have motivated the Falklands adventure as a diversionary tactic is unlikely to be analysed in this strictly "military" court martial.

Nor will the proceedings ponder the alleged link between the Argentine military's incompetence in fighting a conventional war and its long history of planning focused almost exclusively on internal repression.

Nevertheless, however biased the final verdict in mid-December, the armed forces are unlikely to emerge exonerated. Argentine public opinion has already taken a great interest in the human rights trial and the nature of those former regimes has been most brutally exposed.

The lessons that will be drawn from the Falklands court martial are less clear. Some military officers firmly believe that Argentina might have won the war, given more advanced weapons systems, a more professional and fighting force, and better commanders. The trial may thus stimulate inter-service rivalries about who should get the biggest slice in an increasingly small defence cake.

Its effect on Government policy is likely to be small, as Mr Alfonsín sees a diplomatic solution to the Falklands dispute as the most rational assertion of an eternal claim. He has yet to decide, however, what he will do with a less politicised military.

## In the dock - leaders who lost Falklands war



The military junta members who led Argentina to defeat in the Falklands War, Admiral Jorge Anaya (left), General Leopoldo Galtieri and Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, awaiting the final stage of their court martial in Buenos Aires. The prosecution yesterday asked for jail sentences of 8-12 years.

## COURT DEBUT OF GALTIERI

By Our Buenos Aires  
Correspondent

Ex-President Galtieri of Argentina and 15 other officers accused of mishandling the 1982 Falklands war with Britain yesterday faced a military tribunal for the first time since court martial hearings began two years ago.

Another defendant is Navy lieutenant Alfredo Astiz who was briefly taken to Britain after Argentina surrendered. Astiz also faces charges involving events before the war but according to Press leaks the prosecution will not seek his imprisonment.

## Galtieri trial enters its final phase

From Douglas Tweedale  
Buenos Aires

Ex-President Leopoldo Galtieri and 15 other military leaders are to be formally charged with responsibility for Argentina's 1982 defeat in the Falklands War as their two-year-old military trial enters its final phase today.

A military prosecutor will present the charges against General Galtieri and the others in secret hearings expected to last for 10 days. Their defence lawyers will make their final arguments to the Supreme Military Tribunal.

Argentine newspapers have reported that the prosecutor will accuse General Galtieri of criminal negligence in planning the April 2, 1982, invasion of the Falklands and the 14-week war that followed, and will demand that he be sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

The other two members of the military junta which launched the Falklands invasion, Admiral Jorge Anaya and Air Force Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, are, if committed, reported to be facing sentences of 12 and 10 years respectively.

Also on trial are captain Alfredo Astiz, the naval officer accused of surrendering South Georgia to British forces.



## Court martial of Falklands war officers nears end

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

The court martial of General Leopoldo Galtieri and more than a dozen other officers for their part in the Falklands war goes into its final stage today when the prosecution presents its case.

The proceedings, conducted by the Armed Forces Supreme Council, Argentina's highest military tribunal, will be as secretive as ever even though the government hinted more than a month ago that the trial might be opened to the public.

For once, the press has been invited, but reporters will still only be allowed to mill around outside the courtroom, much as the did before. The latest stage of the trial, begun under the former military regime's last president, General Reynaldo Bignone, comes at a sensitive stage of dealings between the government and the armed forces.

It may also coincide with the start of legal action against five officers, most of them linked to army intelligence and three of them still in active service, for their alleged part in a bombing cam-

paign to disrupt the return to democracy.

The officers and one civilian, a columnist on the leading conservative daily, *La Prensa*, were arrested during the state of seige imposed by President Raul Alfonsin shortly before the congressional and provincial elections a week ago. That decree and the trial are thought to have been discussed at a meeting last Thursday between the head of the army, General Hector Rios Erenu, and about 30 other high ranking officers.

What happened at the meeting is not known, but reports suggest that General Rios Erenu is poised to consolidate his position in a planned reorganisation of the army. In Argentina, such reports, apparently inspired in official circles and perhaps reflecting not much more than wishful thinking, could mean the opposite is about to happen.

As in the civil trial of nine former regime leaders, including General Galtieri, for human rights crimes, popular support for action against the war leaders is matched by more or less exactly the opposite sentiments in the military.

General Rios Erenu apparently had to deal with protests from officers disgruntled about a reported decision to cut the army budget and reduce the number of conscripts next year to 25,000, barely a third of the level under the regime.

Adding to the tension, all three forces are approaching their end of year promotion reviews. Those officers not promoted face enforced retirement. Only a few, if any, can expect to get jobs as advisers to the authorities.

The prosecutor at the court martial is said to have sought a 15-year prison sentence for General Galtieri, who is accused of dereliction of duty among other charges.



General Galtieri:  
Prosecution begins



Daily Mail  
11.11.85

— Argentine —  
**TV crew ban  
by Falklands**

PORT STANLEY: Falklands councillors have turned down a request for a visit by an Argentine TV crew.

But Terry Betts, chairman of the Falklands general employees union, argued: 'Islanders should be getting over their case to everyone, including Argentines.'

## ***US island base***

By **NORMAN KIRKHAM**, Diplomatic Correspondent

**A**MERICA is planning to develop a nuclear submarine supply base on the tiny British island of Ascension in the South Atlantic after secret diplomatic contacts between Washington and London.

The United States Air Force is already operating the Wide-awake airfield on Ascension, with regular flights of Starlifter transports to and from Florida. American technicians based there monitor rocket launches and satellite signals.

British sources said yesterday that the Government would approve the new naval project.

Known in the past mainly as the breeding ground for sea turtles and the sooty tern, the deserted island was first garrisoned by British troops when Napoleon was banished to exile on St Helena, 700 miles to the south east.

Ascension is administered under the Governorship of St Helena and the American air base has proved a major source of employment for people from that territory.

## ***Falkland envy for St Helena***

By **DAVID BROWN**  
Agriculture Correspondent

**B**RTAIN is spending more than £600,000 over three years to develop in-shore and deep sea fishing around the remote island of St Helena in the South Atlantic even though experts doubt whether there are large stocks of fish available in the area.

The project is being watched with envy by Falkland islanders who have failed to persuade the Government to declare a 200-mile protected fishing limit around the Falklands where fleets of Eastern European, Japanese and Spanish fishing vessels plunder vast shoals of fish.

Mr Eric Ogden, Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, believes the Foreign Office will not declare a 200-mile limit around the Falklands through fear of upsetting Argentina.

St Helena, a remnant of the British Empire 1,200 miles off the coast of West Africa has a modest fishing industry. Local fishermen believe that there may be rich fish stocks in deep water off the islands but no one knows for certain.

## Belgrano paper 'aim of Keays burglary'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

THE home of Miss Sara Keays's sister, Elizabeth, was burgled in an attempt to snatch back papers belonging to Mr Cecil Parkinson which incriminated Mrs Thatcher over the sinking of the General Belgrano, Mr TAM DALYELL, Labour, Linlithgow, suggested in the Commons.

Mr Dalyell, who has persistently challenged the Prime Minister over the sinking of the Argentine warship during the Falklands conflict, accused Mrs Thatcher of a "cold, calculated, cynical and sustained deception" of the House and the all-party Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In his new attack on the Prime Minister, he drew on Miss Keays's remarks about her affair with Mr Parkinson, the former Conservative party chairman, and on a document said to be the first draft of a statement by Sir John Nott, the then Defence Secretary, to MPs about the end of the General Belgrano.

bizarre burglary was to try to snatch back some of Mr Parkinson's papers incriminating the Prime Minister in relation to her behaviour over the Falklands.

"And I should not be surprised if the Keays's burglary was carried out by the same thugs who were surprised by Miss Hilda Murrell, the 78-year-old Shewsbury rose grower who was the subject of a brutal callous murder."

The House rose at 5pm.

### 'Words changed'

Mr Dalyell said that according to the ndraft, the ship was attacked at 8 a.m. on May 2, 1982, but the word "attacked" had been replaced by "detected" when Sir John came to report to the Commons on May 4.

"At the stage of the first draft it had not occurred, apparently, to John Nott Nott to make an alteration from attack to detect," said Mr Dalyell.

"It would appear that the change from incomplete truth to downright deception was made on the orders of someone else, and that someone else could only have been the Prime Minister."

Mr Dalyell repeated his claims that the purpose behind the Prime Minister's actions was to "scupper" the Peruvian peace proposals, which would have deprived her of military victory.

### News blackout

He stressed that Miss Sara Keays had not given him the document he had seen, but he believed it originated in Mr Parkinson's papers.

Mr Dalyell referred to Miss Keays's claims that she had been told by the police that a news blackout had been imposed, and Downing Street informed, on the burglary two years ago at her sister's flat in Battersea.

"I am not concerned with the motives or morality of Miss Sara Keays, bluntly, I am not interested in bed, but I am interested in burglary," he said.

"How come Downing Street was immediately informed about what purports to be an ordinary burglary in Battersea?"

"I suggest to the Director of Public Prosecutions that this

# Thatcher accused of 'cynical deception'

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mrs Thatcher had been guilty of a cold, calculated, cynical sustained deception of the House of Commons and one of its select committees in relation to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser the General Belgrano, Mr Tam Davell (Linlithgow, Lab) said in the Commons. Speaking during the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech, he said that the bizarre burglary at the House where Miss Sara Keyes had been staying was to try to snatch back some of Mr Cecil Parkinson's papers incriminating the Prime Minister in relation to her behaviour over the Falklands.

If MPs shrugged their shoulders and said it happened three long years ago they would injure democracy itself. Ministers, however exalted, should not be allowed to get away with deception.

The Prime Minister owed to the House an explanation as to why the first draft of Sir John Nott's speech of May 4, 1982 was withheld from the select committee inquiry into the sinking. He (Mr Davell) had given the Speaker what he had not the slightest uncertainty was a genuine document. The clerk of the select committee had given him a categorical assurance that no such draft had come before the committee or the clerk.

There was no particular reason why MPs should be able to see the first draft of Sir John Nott's speech. The crucial, substantial change in that statement must have been required by somebody else. At the stage of the first draft it did not occur to Sir John Nott to make the alteration of "attack" to "detect". It would appear the change from incomplete truth to downright deception was made on the orders of somebody else - and that could only have been the Prime Minister.

The document was a draft statement for Sir John Nott to make on May 4, 1982. The draft stated that the Belgrano was attacked at 8 pm on May 2. Sir John Nott's actual statement was that the Belgrano was detected at 8 pm on that day. The change could not have been accidental, it must have been deliberate. The key point was that the cover up did not start subsequent to Nott but started with his initial statement.

I believe (he said) that the Prime Minister and Sir John Nott, knew that the Belgrano was sailing away from the exclusion zone. They wanted to sink her, but since we had not declared war formally and we were acting in self defence, they had to make it appear that the Belgrano was an immediate threat.

It was not the officials who misled ministers, it was ministers who misled the House.

In the past excuses have been made for Sir John Nott that in the fog of war he made a genuine mistake on May 4, 1982. Now, from the leaked first draft in the possession of Mr Speaker of his speech we know that his crucial mistake in giving the House and country the idea that the 44-year old Belgrano was an immediate threat to the Task Force was a deliberate

deception by the Prime Minister and Sir John Nott, the purpose of which was to enable her, having attacked the Belgrano, to scupper the peace proposals which would have deprived her of military victory.

The Prime Minister went to enormous lengths to try to ensure this draft statement was withdrawn from the foreign affairs select committee. Had it not been for the fortuitous events surrounding Mr Cecil Parkinson's troubles, the Prime Minister might have got away with this document never seeing the light of day.

The Director of Public Prosecutions would be failing in his duty if he did not ask Mr Speaker for a copy of the draft speech Miss Sara Keyes had not given Mr Davell the document, but he believed the copy he had given the Speaker originated in Mr Parkinson's papers.

Referring to the burglary of the house where Miss Keays had been staying, he asked why Downing Street had been told immediately about what purported to be an ordinary burglary in Battersea. I suggest (he said) to the DPP that this bizarre burglary was to try to snatch back some of the Parkinson papers incriminating the Prime Minister in relation to her behaviour over the Falklands.

Earlier, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had said the Prime Minister had made clear to Mr Gorbachev, the Russian leader, that she welcomed the prospect of a deeper dialogue on nuclear arms between the two countries.

It was important for European governments to talk to each other about the issues affecting the future of their continent. Mrs Thatcher had made clear that Britain's position in respect of its own forces remained the same.

The recent news that the Soviet Union intended to release Dr Sakharov's wife for medical treatment in the West was at last a step, but only a step, in the right direction. There had been reports that the USSR might be thinking of some liberalization of its policy on Jewish emigration. Let us (he said) wait and see.

He endorsed the judgement of Nato defence ministers that the Soviet offer on arms reductions was one-sided and self-serving. But there were some positive elements in the proposals on which they could build, including a degree of recognition that UK and French forces were not an appropriate subject for bilateral negotiation between Moscow and Washington.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the central problem facing the summit was whether it would help to bring the nuclear arms race to an end. That race was now moving into an area which would make arms control more difficult and war more likely unless it could now be stopped.

The purpose of the Star Wars programme was not to make nuclear weapons obsolete but to protect America's land-based missiles rather than to protect its people.

## 'Keays was burgled to protect PM'

By Ivor Owen

MEMBERS OF THE security services were accused in the House of Commons yesterday of burgling a south London flat as part of a "cover-up" operation to protect the Prime Minister.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour MP for Linlithgow) said the home of Miss Sara Keays, the former mistress of Mr Cecil Parkinson, who resigned from his Cabinet post as a result of their affair, had been broken into in the hope of recovering a paper which showed that Mrs Thatcher had engaged in a "sustained deception" of the House over the sinking of the General Belgrano, the Argentine cruiser.

Mr Dalyell said the paper—and he stressed the copy he had seen had not reached him through Miss Keays—was a draft statement prepared by civil servants for Sir John Nott, then Defence Secretary, suggesting he should inform the Commons that the Belgrano was attacked at 8 pm on May 2, 1982.

In the event Sir John had used the word "detected" instead of "attacked" in his statement to the House on May 4.

Mr Dalyell said: "The change from incomplete truth to downright deception was made by someone else and that someone else could only be the Prime Minister."

Mr Dalyell said Miss Keays had stated in her recently published book that the police had told her that a news blackout had been imposed on the burglary of her south London flat and that Downing Street had been informed.

He suggested the Director of Public Prosecutions would be failing in his duty if he did not ask the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) to hand over the copy of the draft prepared by the civil servants, which was in his charge.

## Argentina may benefit from Baker loans plan

By Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires

THE US has indicated that Argentina is a strong contender for new loans under the Baker plan for easing Third World debts.

In a speech to local businessmen and bankers this week, Mr David Mulford, the US Treasury's Assistant Secretary for International Affairs said: "Argentina's economic programme is showing an impressive performance and deserves our support... It is now one of the small number of countries that is in a position to take advantage of the (Baker) strategy..."

Mr Mulford said President Raul Alfonsin, the Argentine leader, had expressed his "delight" at the prospect of being considered a "test case" for the Baker plan.

"We hope we shall be in a position within the next 60 days to take full advantage of this important new initiative," Mr Mulford said.

According to local bankers a three month period is aimed principally at giving the US Government time to resolve the practical aspects of the Baker plan such as the condition under which \$20bn of new commercial funds might be channelled to the Third World.

Argentine officials meanwhile indicated that President Alfonsin's statement was an expression of goodwill but did not signify a firm request for immediate aid.

Argentina has yet to decide on its borrowing needs for next year and wants to iron out pending issues of domestic policy before embarking on a fresh round of debt talks with the bank. In addition to securing speedy parliamentary approval for the 1986 budget, a major priority is to secure an agreement with both sides of industry which will allow the country to move out of the current prices freeze.

Mr Mulford's brief official visit to Buenos Aires is being seen as partly an attempt to help create a climate of moderation prior to next month's meeting in Montevideo of the Cartagena group of Latin American debtor countries. The meeting is being called to consider the Baker plan.

Mr Mulford's visit coincided with the arrival in Buenos Aires of Mr Luis Alva Castro, Peru's Prime Minister.

## Argentina

### Putting up with hard times

FROM OUR ARGENTINA CORRESPONDENT

It was not quite as good as advertised: but, for the government of a country in the grip of an austerity programme, it wasn't bad at all. President Raul Alfonsin's Radical Party did not fare as well as some of the opinion polls had predicted in Argentina's mid-term elections on November 3rd. Its share of the vote fell from 48%, in December 1983, to about 43%. But the Radicals kept their comfortable majority in the Chamber of Deputies and, thanks to gains in the provincial elections, they have a chance of winning the Senate (where they are now in a minority) when the provincial assemblies choose a new one next year.

The Radicals' chief rival, the Peronists' Party, lost eight seats in the chamber, and its share of the vote dropped from 42% to about 35%. The Peronists' nearest approach to success was achieved by a new faction of the party called the *Renovadores*, which opposes the political gangsterism associated with some of the orthodox followers of Peron. In working-class Buenos Aires the *Renovadores* did almost as well as the Radicals. The old Peronist faction of Mr Herminio Iglesias, who is said to run protection rackets in the capital, did badly.

The Radicals made much of the apparent success of their June austerity measures. The monthly inflation rate in September was only 2%, compared with 30% or so before June. This is cheering for Argentines, for whom inflation had become a constant terror. But wages have been frozen as well and some have fallen in real terms by as much as 30% since January. Unemployment has also increased over the period.

There is little evidence of the bottlenecks and hoarding which usually accompany price controls. But cracks have begun to show in the wage-and-price-

control structure. The price of chicken rose by 30% last week. Some businessmen, wanting to avoid strikes, have been making disguised wage increases in the form of loans, bonuses and food subsidies. After his successful election, Mr Alfonsin has to work out how he can persuade labour and management to accept a post-freeze prices-and-incomes policy.



The **TIMES**

Nov. 8 1985

### Talks with Argentina

*From Dr Harold Blakemore*

Sir. This letter is prompted by your timely and thoughtful editorial, "Optimism in Argentina" (November 5), and to endorse fervently, as one involved in Latin American affairs, its final sentence: "There is nothing to fear from discussion and debate with Argentina in the tones that shared democracy makes possible".

Precisely: but the discussion and debate on what you describe as "an intractable problem", namely the Falklands dispute, must take into account our willingness to consider the question of sovereignty, as the Government of Argentina has fully acknowledged the wishes of the islanders for which we fought and for which many died.

All kinds of arrangements - some more transitory than others - have been mooted to reconcile the positions of the two governments and they are worth exploring and discussing. But I have a growing impression that international opinion increasingly regards our Government as the more intransigent of the two: this is very clear in many contexts - the UN, Europe, and Latin America itself.

Whatever may have been the electoral advantage in 1983 of what happened in the South Atlantic in 1982 it ought, surely, to be weighed against the balance of our national and international interests now.

"Things", you say, "have therefore changed in Argentina, and only the most blinkered can doubt that it is in Britain's interests too that these gains should be sustained".

No one can disagree with that: the question is, how best may we sustain them?

Yours faithfully,  
**HAROLD BLAKEMORE**,  
43 Fitzjohn Avenue,  
Barnet,  
Hertfordshire.  
November 6.

## One way to watch the money go

As this year's public spending Star Chamber closes for business, pavilioned in secret deals and wreathed in Downing Street smiles, it is instructive to look back only a week or two to what was supposed to be happening to Mr Michael Heseltine's defence budget. Then, according (naturally) to the Sunday Telegraph, top brass at the MoD were jangling with apprehension as the Treasury bore down for a billion or so in cuts. It doesn't, unsurprisingly, seem to have happened. Mr Heseltine's bemuddled, leaky friends were being wildly alarmist as usual. And the bottom line of PESC here — as in so many other areas — has been privatised and massaged enough to leave the MoD untraumatised.

But pause a moment, because Admiral Sandy Woodward is in Southern Seas again. Once Admiral Woodward sailed those seas as commander of the Falklands task force. Now he is deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, visiting an outpost of empire which consumes some £450-£500 million year after year, and will easily top £2 billion before the end of the decade. One thing Admiral Sandy says is of specific interest. Fortress Falklands "must to some extent detract from the timeliness of some of our commitment to Nato." Which, being interpreted, means troops can't be in two places at once, and that Port Stanley is rather a long way from the Rhine. But "if we think things are going wrong nearer home then we have time to change our minds and move things away." Phew... Excellent! The Admiral's secondary point, however, is rather more bemusing. Is President Alfonsin, busy with his "state of siege," about to launch another invasion? No, he "doesn't see an immediate and dangerous shift in the last few weeks" — though "we must remain alert for we didn't see any immediate shift early in 1982." In other words, there is no present threat. There is, however, a severe hiatus of logic, not to mention commonsense.

President Alfonsin's state of siege is

directed, perhaps melodramatically, against a finite number of right wing activists and former army officers. The basic thrust of Alfonsin's policy over two years has been cutting his armed forces down to size. He has lately de-commissioned much of his navy. The actual likelihood of Argentina invading the Falklands again, under his democratic government, is somewhat less than that of a Dutch raiding party laying claim to Harwich. It is not a threat. And if it were ever to become a threat again then no doubt Admiral Sandy could do for Port Stanley precisely what he says he would do if there was trouble in the Rhine: reinforce.

At a political level, of course, a reasonable negotiated settlement is as possible as ever: and both the Alliance and the Labour Party have signalled their desire to make that settlement. But even in the current drifting stalemate, the millions of pounds licking away day by day ought to count. "As a military man I have to be prepared for the worst," says Sandy Woodward. Quite right. It is Defence's job to defend those areas that elected politicians decree should be defended to the extent of the politically perceived threat. But somebody has to have the nous, surely, to say when the threat has dwindled: somebody, surely, has to note Alfonsin's dismantled navy and make parallel cuts: somebody has to *think* about the Falklands. There are no market forces in defence; nor yet the political pressures of ordinary voters seeking better homes, schools and hospitals. The military do what their Secretary of State proscribes, and where there's a vacuum of thought or instruction, they fill it, just to be on the safe sides. And vacuums cost big money.

## Mr Adams gets half a loaf

Justice is seldom perfect and the case of Adams v. the European Commission is no exception, despite yesterday's cheering decision by the European Court of Justice. Mr Stanley Adams, who blew the whistle on Hoffmann-La Roche only to find that the roof fell in on his life, had to wait no less than 12 years for compensation for the Commission's betrayal of his confidence. In the meantime his reward for exposing ille-

### ***Fishing increase***

Foreign fishing vessels in the 200-mile economic zone around the Falklands have increased from 60 ships at the peak period last year to more than 100 at the same period this year, Foreign Office officials announced.

## Britain seeking international controls on Falklands fishing

By David Fairhall,  
Defence Correspondent

The Government dares not declare a Falklands fisheries zone it may be unable to police and is pinning its hopes on the establishment of a multilateral fisheries regime organised by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) with Argentina's cooperation.

A survey of the fish stocks just published by the Foreign Office indicates that at least one of the three main species in that corner of the South Atlantic — the blue whiting — is already being overfished, and that licence fees from a conservation regime might have generated more than £10 million this year.

But at 8,000 miles' range the Royal Navy could not be asked to uphold a unilateral fisheries limit which was constantly being challenged by Argentina and the nations fishing most heavily in Falklands waters: the Soviet Union, Poland, Spain, and Japan. The British Government is therefore seeking an agreement with the FAO.

That agreement has not yet been offered, and without it a multilateral scheme would pose some of the same risks for Britain as a unilateral declaration. The hope is that several of the South American countries, plus those which fish the area, can be drawn into an agreement which the coastal states would then enforce.

The issue of the Falklands' sovereignty would be "frozen," by analogy with the Antarctic Treaty, and the islanders would do their own policing, using perhaps an aircraft and a fast patrol boat paid for by the fishing licence fees.

A survey commissioned from Dr J. R. Beddington, of Imperial College, London, has meanwhile persuaded the Government that while the increasingly heavy fishing by foreign vessels round the Falklands gives cause for concern, it is not critical.

A fleet of more than 100 Soviet bloc, Spanish, Japanese, Taiwanese and Korean vessels has been active there this year, compared with about 60 last season.

# The last great free-for-all at sea

Jeremy Cherfas

THE continuing dispute between Britain and Argentina about sovereignty over the Falkland Islands threatens to destroy an extremely valuable marine resource—the squid of the South Atlantic.

Argentina has suggested that Britain impose some sort of control on catches around the Falklands, before marine life there is exterminated by overfishing. But the Foreign Office appears reluctant to act. A meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations will consider the problem in Rome this Saturday.

The Foreign Office is likely to propose a multilateral agreement, perhaps including Argentina. But a report commissioned by the Foreign Office and paid for by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation indicates that a quota unilaterally imposed by Britain is the only regulatory system likely to succeed.

The continental shelf off southern Argentina extends well beyond the Falkland Islands. In recent years, it has become the happiest hunting ground for the world's fishing fleets. It supports an extremely abundant population of fish. Until quite recently, Poland was the main exploiter of these stocks, catching mostly blue whiting, a species that is taken for human consumption in the Eastern bloc and for fishmeal everywhere else.

A few years ago the Poles discovered that there were also huge schools of squid in the area. Since then, many other nations, including Japan, the Soviet Union, Spain, Portugal, South Korea, Taiwan, East Germany and Bulgaria, have moved in.

Squid sells for roughly \$1000 a tonne. Japan, perhaps the biggest market for squid, imported 20 000 tonnes of it taken from around the Falklands in 1981. By 1984 this had risen to 80 000 tonnes, roughly one fifth of the Japanese market. Taiwan is increasing its South Atlantic fleet from 30 to 80 vessels next year. Two of the three factory boats that the People's Republic of China recently purchased from West Germany are believed to be heading for the Falklands.

The fishery around the Falkland Islands is at present completely unregulated. Peter Hjul, editor of *Fishing News International*, says that "everyone there thinks the British are crazy. It's just about the only free-for-all left in the world." And Dr John Beddington, the director of the Marine Resources Assessment Group at Imperial College London who did the study for the Foreign Office, says: "There is a definite risk of overfishing".

The Japanese are interested primarily in squid of the species *Illex*, which is most abundant between December and June. Spain takes large quantities of hake and blue whiting, but is primarily interested in the *Loligo* squid, whose season runs from July to December. In a single week

recently, Spain landed some 3000 tonnes of squid, worth about £5 million, at its northern port of Vigo. Squid worth about £50 million were landed at Vigo last year.

The state of the Falklands fishery has unexpectedly important consequences for

conserve. Squid breed prolifically and replace their number in about 18 months.

Such conservation would be made easier if fishing was carried out by jigging, using long lines to haul the squid aboard, rather than trawling, which damages too many of the animals that escape. The problem is how to implement any control.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, mentioned the issue during a speech to the United Nations on 14 October. He spoke of the "increasingly urgent task of conserving the South Atlantic fisheries". The Falklands Department at the Foreign Office says that "regulation is something we are in favour of". The Foreign Office would prefer an international, multilateral arrangement, and has offered to support any such agreement made under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

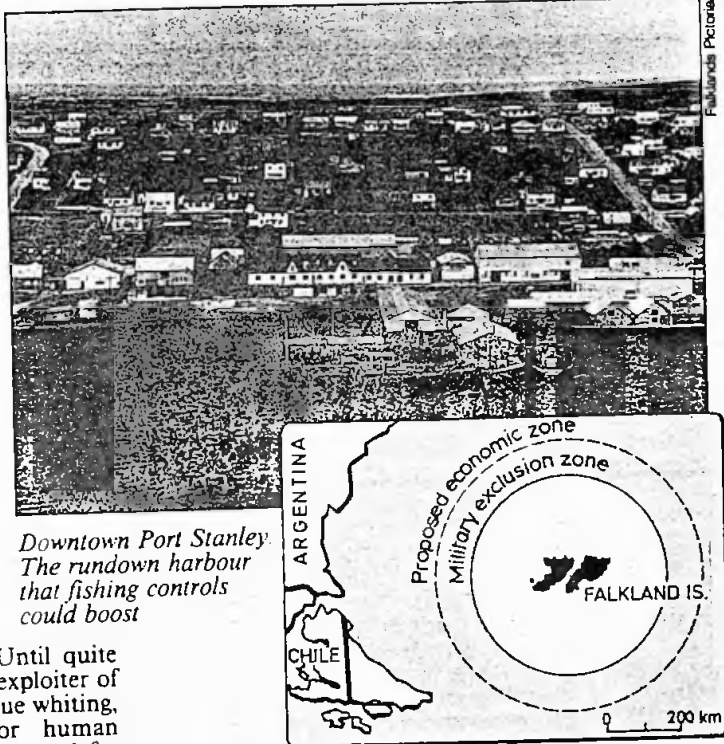
Beddington, along with others involved in fisheries management and exploitation, points out that multilateral agreements have a poor history—except where the coastal nation has threatened to implement a licensing system. British Naval intelligence shows that practically all fishing takes place within 200 nautical miles of the Falklands coast. It is concentrated to the southwest of the islands.

Those who support a declaration by Britain of an exclusive economic zone of 200 miles around the Falklands, believe that, if combined with a ceiling on the allowable catch and quotas for nations interested in fishing those waters, it would provide effective safeguards for the squid. But the Foreign Office believes that sole jurisdiction by Britain over the Falklands fishery would not be viable. It points to the "considerable political and practical problems to be overcome".

The current military exclusion zone encompasses a radius of 150 nautical miles from the centre of Falkland Sound. On the west side of the islands this is only 75 miles from the coast. A 200-mile exclusive economic zone would cover an area of ocean almost twice as large. This the Foreign Office feels would pose "immense difficulties".

Hjul disagrees. "A couple of aircraft and a few fast patrol vessels" is all you would need to enforce a 200-mile zone, he says. "We've got a military presence down there, and it would be good practice for them."

Would such a zone not be provocative to the Argentinians? Jimmy Hind offers Marr & Son as "honest brokers and civilian policemen". He says Britain should impose a total allowable catch of about 200 000 tonnes a year, a figure Beddington feels is reasonable. Half of this catch would be allowed to other countries—on condition that Japanese import barriers against British-caught fish are removed and that a



*Downtown Port Stanley. The rundown harbour that fishing controls could boost*

the British fishing fleet. The countries of the Eastern bloc do not have a domestic market for squid. Instead they exchange their squid catch from the South Atlantic for mackerel and herring caught by British fishermen in the North Sea. The deals are done directly with Soviet factory boats. The going rate is about three tonnes of herring for every tonne of squid. Most of the bartered squid is then shipped by British firms to Japan.

This barter system was developed by James Marr & Son of Hull. Jimmy Hind, a director of the company, explained that nobody in Britain wanted to eat herring or mackerel. Yet there was a ready market for these fish in the Soviet Union.

The British fishing industry is threatened in two ways by the current free-for-all in the South Atlantic. First, there is a danger that the Japanese may land as many squid as they need without taking any of that caught by the Eastern bloc. Then there would be no barter with the British. Secondly, if the world's fishing fleets take as much as they want, the squid fishery will doubtless collapse. Either way, says Beddington, the price of herring and mackerel in the North Sea will "plunge to the price of fishmeal".

Beddington's report to the Foreign Office does not make any specific recommendations. It does point out, however, that all the foreseeable consequences of the current regime are bad. It also points out that because of the biology of the squid the Falklands fishery should be very easy to

► royalty is paid. A royalty of five per cent would bring in revenue of \$5 million a year, more than enough to make the scheme self-financing.

A five-per-cent royalty is in line with that charged for other fisheries in the southern oceans. New Zealand's fee for squid is \$100 per tonne, roughly 10 per cent of the value of the catch, and a recently concluded regulation of the tuna fishery around the Maldives in the Indian Ocean calls for a royalty of 10 per cent.

Most nations would be willing to pay, Hjul says. "The Spanish are quite responsible and have voiced their concern about overfishing," he said. Even the Japanese will comply if they have to. A licensing system might also require ships to enter Port Stanley to pick up their licences, for servicing, inspection and so on. This could easily bring a further £1 million a year in harbour fees at the port. Alastair Cameron, a representative of the Falklands Islands government, told *New Scientist* that the islands currently get about £500 000 a year in harbour fees. "A licence fee would make a considerable difference to us," he said.

The Foreign Office appears to be most worried about the question of sovereignty. None of the nations involved in the South Atlantic fishery support British claims over the Falklands. "Would they respect an agreement?" asked a Foreign Office spokesman. Some observers believe that they would.

"My feeling is that if the British protect these waters the Argentines won't object," says Hjul. Argentina has already voiced its concern about overfishing, first to a meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1983 and again two weeks ago, when it complained to a seafood conference in Marrakesh that the price of squid was starting to drop as a result of increased Japanese catches.

Hjul points out that a country exercises no sovereign right over an exclusive economic zone, except for the right to exploit marine resources. It claims no right over the waters themselves and cannot impede innocent passage through them.

Britain already implements a 200-mile exclusive zone as part of the European Community fisheries, although it has not so far claimed such a zone around its other Atlantic fisheries off Tristan da Cunha and St Helena. However, the fisheries in these areas do not merit it.

Hjul claims that the Foreign Office "has a long history of neglect of the fishing industry. It finds fish an embarrassment". He cites the handling of the so-called cod war with Iceland in the 1970s, and inactivity over EEC fishing regulations as evidence, but hopes that this time the Foreign Office will not drag its feet. "What we really want," he says, "is a bilateral agreement between Britain and Argentina. It only needs an Act of Parliament to establish an exclusive economic zone and the two countries could jointly administer it and share the licence fees."

Meanwhile, "the government has been giving money away," says Hind. "The most valuable resource that exists down there is not being used in any way, shape or form." Unless some form of regulation is implemented, and quickly, that resource could be lost forever. □



# WORLD FOCUS

## ON 'ARGENTINE MIRACLE'

By TONY ALLEN MILLS in Buenos Aires

**W**ITH election victory safely beneath his belt, President Alfonsín has been turning to the daunting task of preserving the success of what economists are calling the "Argentine miracle".

The government's unexpected triumph in getting to grips with hyper-inflation has awed Argentine voters, impressed foreign investors, and is now luring a stream of distinguished economists on inspection visits to Buenos Aires.

The latest arrival was Prof. Franco Modigliani, the 1985 Economics Nobel Prize-winner. He was eager to learn of the "notable" results of Argentina's anti-inflationary "miracle".

Later this month the eminent American economist, Prof. J. K. Galbraith, will pay a visit, and Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the all-powerful federal reserve is also expected soon.

The attraction for the luminaries of world economics is a simple strategy that in countless other countries round the globe has been tried and rejected.

### Prices freeze

When Sr. Juan Sourrouille, Argentina's Economics Minister, introduced a prices and wages freeze five months ago, few observers believed it could have a lasting effect on hyper-inflation, then spinning into orbit at an explosive annual rate of 2,340 per cent.

But miraculously, it worked. In June, prices had rocketed by 30.5 per cent., but by September, the inflation rate was down to a modest two per cent.—the compound annual rate of 26.8 per cent.

The trend continued in October with an estimated monthly increase of just 2.5 per cent.

Against all the odds, the freeze is holding, and Sourrouille has become the first economics minister in a decade to be hailed as a hero instead of being condemned as a crook.

Financial analysts have attributed much of the success of the freeze to the Argentine public's positive reaction. When the government introduced its anti-

agency measures, Sr. Alfonsín was prepared for a hostile backlash to the austerity he demanded.

But most Argentines seemed to accept that drastic action was long overdue. When the plan showed signs of working, Sr. Alfonsín's popularity soared.

Though the issues in Sunday's general election were confused by the last-minute crisis over Right-wing subversion, the ruling Radical party undoubtedly benefited from its anti-inflation success.

### Laxer controls

With the election vote of confidence behind him, Sr. Alfonsín is expected to proceed cautiously in the crucial process of relaxing the controls to enable the economy to expand under its own steam.

Analysts say the government will gradually ease controls to allow free market forces some influence. But few believe the controls will be dumped altogether.

The bonus for Sr. Alfonsín comes in the shape of American admiration for his efforts to rid Argentina of hyper-inflation.

In practical terms, that may lead to Buenos Aires becoming the first recipient of a "cheap" loan under the debt assistance plan proposed by Mr James Baker, Washington's Treasury Secretary.

The Reagan Government wants to encourage Latin American countries that employ positive plans for financial recovery.

It's a measure of Sr. Alfonsín's shifting economic fortunes that Argentina is no longer the country most likely to default on its 50 billion (£55 million) foreign debt: it's now the country most likely to benefit from further American aid.

## Woodward goes back to assess Falklands

By PATRICK WATTS in Port Stanley

**A**DML SIR JON (SANDY) WOODWARD, who commanded the British Task Force which liberated the Falklands, has returned to the Islands for the first time since the South Atlantic conflict.

Now Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, his purpose is to gauge the future force levels which would be required as the construction of the Mt Pleasant airfield and harbour complex nears completion.

"It can't be done from an office in Whitehall, as one tends to lose a certain amount of being in touch with reality. I hope to go back with sensible ideas," said Adml Woodward.

The size of a future British garrison was "a complicated process, with not just military thinking, but a combination of talks with politicians in Britain and with the Islanders," he added.

### Remain alert

Asked if the recent move by President Alfonsín of Argentina to declare a "state of siege" had any effect on Defence policy toward the Falklands, Adml Woodward replied: "We view any change in Argentina with some concern, but I don't see an immediate and dangerous shift in the last few weeks."

"However, we must remain alert, as we indeed didn't see an immediate shift early in 1982 and so that's in the back of my mind."

"As a military man I have to be prepared for the worst."

He said he had mixed feelings about returning to the Falklands three years after the conflict, recalling the various disasters which occurred with the loss of several British ships as victims of Argentine air attacks.

### 'Long way home'

The £400 million project at Mt Pleasant, which takes in complete accommodation and facilities for the British troops, is expected to be completed in 18 months, although the main airport runway has been operational since May this year when Prince Andrew officially opened the airport.

Asked about Britain's commitment to Nato, Adml Woodward admitted that defending the Falklands with people and equipment "must detract from their ready availability against the need to use them in the Nato context, simply because it takes a long while to get them home."

"Therefore, it must to some degree detract from the timeliness of the commitment of some of our forces to Nato, but that's all."

"It's a very qualified detractor if you like, and I don't think it's particularly significant in Nato terms, because it's a matter of timing only."

"And if we think things are going wrong nearer home then we have time to change our minds and move things away."

"It's a bit of one and a bit of the other," insisted the admiral.

## Alfonsín gains 65 seats in national poll

From Douglas Tweedale  
Buenos Aires

President Alfonsín's Radical Party won 65 of the 127 seats contested in Sunday's Argentine election, increasing its majority in the 254-member Chamber of Deputies by one seat, according to the provisional results given below.

Argentine congressional  
election results  
(1983 figures in brackets)

Party	% of vote	Seats won	Total seats	Provinces/ districts won
Radicals	43 (48)	65	130 1 gain	20 (12)
Peronists (3 factions)	35 (38)	48	103 8 loss	2 (10)
Intransigent party (left-wing)	6 (2.8)	5	6 3 gains	-
UCD (conservative)	3 (1.1)	2	3 1 gain	-
Others (local or provincial)	13 (9.6)	7	12 5 gains	2 (2)
		127	254	

## Firstland Oil expands its Falklands interests

Firstland Oil & Gas, which holds the first oil prospecting licence granted for the Falkland Islands, has confirmed its long-term commitment to the area by buying the 220 sq m Douglas Station, which covers about 12½ per cent of East Falkland.

During its first year of operations the company has carried out a series of geological studies. It intends to continue its activities on the islands and is having discussions with the Government.

The Douglas purchase will give the company a base on the Falklands.

For the 13 months to the end of June 1985, Firstland suffered a pre-tax loss of £97,219 on turnover of £154,849. As it was incorporated only in May 1984 there are no comparative figures. With no tax charge the loss per share came out at 2p. It is not proposed to pay a dividend.

The year was marked, the directors say, by substantial investment to lay the founda-

tions for the future. However the company ended the period with no bank borrowings.

It is intended to offset the high risk of the South Atlantic with exploration and production in the mature oil areas of the US. In Texas and Oklahoma it has added a little less than \$3m (£2.09m) worth of proven reserves (unescalated and undiscounted) to the company's assets.

In the year a small profit was made before allowing for depletion, amortisation and depreciation.

Further exploration and development acreage is being sought and since the year end almost all the remaining interests in the Tounget lease have been bought. That will bring immediate income.

Firstland also has interests in Australia in the Surat-Bowen basin where it has recently been given an authority to prospect by the Queensland Department of Mines.

# Minor election gain for Alfonsín

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

Argentina's mid-term elections appear to have dashed President Alfonsín's hopes of winning an absolute majority in the Senate next year although his ruling Radical Party made a small advance in the lower house of Congress.

With over 99 per cent of the votes counted, official returns showed the Radicals taking 65 of the 127 seats up for contest in the Chamber of Deputies, an increase of one. The gain was only possible because of an alliance with a regional movement in the northern province of Catamarca, a traditional stronghold for the opposition Peronist mass movement.

The Radicals lost three seats in Buenos Aires province which they were only partly able to recover elsewhere. Their share of the vote fell to 43 per cent from 48 per cent at congressional elections in October 1983.

The Peronists' support fell from 38.5 per cent to 34.5 per cent. The election seems to have done little to settle the factional feuds of the last decade but the Peronists avoided the "haemorrhage" predicted by opinion polls.

They lost eight seats. The Radicals outvoted the Peronists in nearly all the provinces but this often served only to make way for smaller parties. The new Chamber will include 130 Radicals, 103 Peronists, five members of the nominally left-wing Intransigent Party, up from two and two members of the rightwing Union Centro Democrático. Provincial parties took another two seats, taking their total to 10.

The overriding issue in the interior was the provincial assemblies who will decide the shape of the national Senate in a year's time. The government needed to win control of at least three of these assemblies but yesterday it appeared to have succeeded in only one.

Since the return to elected rule in late 1983, the Radicals have held 18 of the Senate's 46 seats and the Peronists 21. The most favourable analysis yesterday of the president's prospects in the upper house after a third of its seats are renewed by the assemblies in October next year, was that the Radicals might close this gap to just one seat.

But the balance of power will continue to be held by provincial party senators.

Daily Mail  
6.11.85

## FIRST IN FALKLANDS

OIL exploration minnow Firstland Oil & Gas has joined Coalite as a major landowner in the Falkland Islands.

It is buying 220 square miles of East Falkland for hundreds of thousands of pounds, and aims to step up its local exploration work.

Firstland chairman Paul Beck says: 'The terrain rather resembles Scotland. It

has a hamlet with 16-20 inhabitants, agricultural land and coastal water.

'We expect to build somewhere for our people to work on the land. It may also contain certain useful minerals.'

Firstland shares are dealt informally through Rule 535. They stuck at 115p yesterday — unimpressed by the Falklands deal and losses of £97,000 for the year to June.

# The ruling party has increased its parliamentary majority. Jimmy Burns reports

## Argentina shows satisfaction with democracy

"AS IF by magic, the nightmare of bombs and the threat of a coup have receded overnight."

Nothing perhaps better sums up the public mood in Argentina following Sunday's mid-term election result than this comment by the Peronist candidate Carlos Grosso.

However many the unresolved conspiracy theories that provided the immediate backdrop to the final vote, the Congressional poll confirms that the large majority of Argentines are finally resolved to treat democracy as more than just a transitory experience.

Historically mid-term elections have marked the beginning of the end for democratic governments here. Twenty years ago the radical government of President Arturo Illia failed the two year test of its popularity and was subsequently toppled in a military coup.

On Sunday night over 84 per cent of the electorate voted, as many as in the presidential elections of October 1983 and in the Beagle Channel Referendum last year.

As before, the main credit for keeping democratic participation alive must go to President Raul Alfonsín whose ruling Radical Party increased its parliamentary majority. With 69 per cent of the vote counted early yesterday, the Radicals had won 44 per cent against 25 per cent taken by the main opposition party, the Peronists. Founded by the late General



Alfonsín: gamble

US Federal Reserve Board chairman Mr Paul Volcker, Nobel economics laureate Mr Franco Modigliani and Harvard University economist Mr John Kenneth Galbraith will visit Argentina this month to study the country's anti-inflation programme, Mr Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, said, agencies report from Buenos Aires.

Mr David Mulford, US Assistant Treasury Secretary, will fly to Argentina today for talks on the US debt strategy with President Raul Alfonsín and finance ministry officials, the US Treasury said.

Aires the Radical number of deputies was diminished because of good results obtained by the Renovadores — the renewal faction of the Peronists.

On balance, however, Argentine democracy has emerged reinforced from Sunday's result. The Radicals have not shown themselves to be particularly magnanimous during their first two years in government and had they crushed the opposition on Sunday President Alfonsín would have found himself under pressure to push ahead with his plans for a historic "third movement." This would effectively brush aside parliamentary rule in favour of a populist presidency similar to Peron's and with its nearest contemporary equivalent in Mexico's ruling PRI.

Instead, there is room for consensus politics. The Renovadores, who have a substantial presence in Parliament and in the Labour movement, represented a clean break with their party's authoritarian past.

While recognising that Mr Alfonsín with his charisma and broad social appeal remains an important guarantor of democracy, the Renovadores have freed themselves from the ghost of their founder, the late General Juan Peron in favour of a more effective and responsible parliament.

Their campaign with its commitment to a moderate economic programme and its social democratic approach to politics has been almost indis-

tinguishable from the policies of the Radicals.

The Renovadores have criticised the recession provoked by recent austerity measures but they privately accept that by drastically reducing the rate of inflation the Government has prepared the groundwork for a more viable prices and incomes policy.

The new Peronists have not agreed with the Left's call for a moratorium on the \$48bn (£34.3bn) foreign debt but are likely to reinforce the Government's determination to get more flexible conditions from the country's creditors as a way of ensuring that future obligations are not met at the expense of economic growth.

For the military, the message of Sunday's vote should be clear. The days in which Argentina rallied around the armed forces as the best insurance against political violence belong to the past.

Nevertheless, Alfonsín is expected to make the armed forces as much as Parliament a key participant in the next stage of national reconciliation. His insistence last week in the trial of the nine juntas that it was only individuals and not the institution of the armed forces in the dock, was a veiled message to the Left that the country cannot afford a witch-hunt against all the officers responsible. Sunday's elections are a significant step in the right direction but Mr Alfonsín knows that he is no magician.



## OPTIMISM IN ARGENTINA

Barely five months into an economic austerity programme of exceptional severity, President Raul Alfonsín appears to have achieved a greater electoral victory than any economic or political forecaster would have dared to predict. It is spectacularly good news that this has occurred in Argentina, hitherto unquestionably the most inflationary and mismanaged of all the debt-ridden economies of Latin America. Nothing succeeds like success. The efforts of neighbouring governments to persuade their electorates to swallow the unpleasant medicine of economic reform will thus be greatly reinforced.

It is also remarkably good news that such reform should be pursued, and now endorsed, in a democracy. President Alfonsín's task has been a fearful one: to reduce Argentina's inflation rate from over 1,000 per cent last year, after a quarter of a century in which Argentinian prices multiplied 100,000 times. The programme launched in June required drastic and painful adjustments by Argentina's citizens, but rapidly reduced inflation to a mere two or three per cent a month and secured a strategic renegotiation of the most pressing elements of Argentina's \$46 billion of foreign debt. Now it has resecured the President a mandate to persevere.

The stability of the Argentinian economy is an essential constituent in the struggle to resolve the international debt crisis without government default, which threatens to lead to the collapse of the Western banking system on which all of our economic fortunes have come to depend. The stability of

Argentinian democracy is also an essential element in the diplomacy of the Falklands question, on which so much of Britain's political fortunes has so recently depended.

Sunday's elections were a new phenomenon. Argentinians have not gone to this sort of poll for 20 years, and then no British interest seemed involved. The results so far give several reasons for optimism. The Radical vote, at some 44 per cent, is almost as high as the 46 per cent attained in 1983, and this confirms that what occurred then did represent a profound realignment in Argentinian politics. It is no new landslide, but it is near the 45 to 50 per cent that President Alfonsín expected to get. He will emerge with a slightly increased majority in the House of Deputies.

The Peronists went into the election divided. They do not appear to have suffered the degree of defeat that might drive them to desperate courses, and in the capital city and in Buenos Aires Province, the reformist elements in the party have done best. Small gains have been made by small parties and provincial parties – in itself an encouraging sign in a country where minorities of left and right have too frequently ignored democratic channels; and one prone to excessive centralization.

"Six years, no more, no less" is Dr Alfonsín's estimate of his time in the *Casa Rosada*. His popularity far outstrips that of his party, but such is a common phenomenon in democracies, and there are no grounds at all for questioning the sincerity of his democratic convictions. The

President's authority does not rest on measures like the recent technical state of siege, whose influence on the poll is hard to discern, but on the real achievements in the past year. The Government came late to taking the drastic steps needed to begin to restore economic order, and still has many difficulties ahead, but the immediate results of the austerity plan have proved remarkably successful, and the plan itself remarkably popular.

Things have therefore changed in Argentina, and only the most blinkered can doubt that it is in Britain's interests too that these gains should be sustained. The Falklands dispute remains an intractable problem, but discussion looks less impossible than it did a year ago. Now that Mr Kinnock and Mr Steel have met the president, the virtual taboo on the subject that prevailed in the general election has been quietly, but decisively, broken. Recent declarations from Buenos Aires do not show the nervousness that surrounded the abortive Berne talks. In an interview last week, the Foreign Minister, Señor Caputo, did not rule out the possibility of Argentina taking part in multilateral talks on fishery control along with the British Government, under the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organization, without prejudice to the sovereignty argument. Sir Geoffrey Howe has realistically resisted pressure to make any multilateral declaration of control over disputed waters. There is nothing to fear from discussion and debate with Argentina in the tones that shared democracy makes possible.

## Alfonsín jubilant after election boost

From Douglas Tweedale  
Buenos Aires

President Alfonsín of Argentina has emerged from mid-term congressional elections with a strengthened mandate for his two-year-old democratic government.

His centrist Radical Party gained a broad victory over the faction-ridden Peronists, increasing its slight majority in the Chamber of Deputies and

winning control of several key provinces.

In a statement issued hours after provisional results were released on Sunday Señor Alfonsín said the elections represented "another victory for democracy". He urged the 127 newly-elected deputies to join him "in the exciting task of pulling the country out of decadence and building the modern Argentina".

With 96 per cent of the vote

counted, projections gave the Radicals 43 per cent of the vote compared with 34.5 per cent for several Peronist slates.

Both main parties received fewer votes overall than in the October 1983 elections which swept Señor Alfonsín into office, although Monday's results were considered a clear victory for the president's party.

Señor Leopoldo Moreau, elected as a deputy for the Radical Party, said the victory

was "a plebiscite in favour of a Government which has received broad popular support".

For the Peronist Party, split between a reformist wing and a leadership of old-time labour bosses, the election was much a chance to sort out internal conflicts as a contest with the Radicals.

The Radical candidates fared better than expected in provincial areas.

Leading article, page 15

# BSC acts to bar Argentine steel

BY JOAN GRAY

BRITISH STEEL is preparing an anti-dumping case against the first consignments of Argentine steel to come to Britain since the end of the Falklands hostilities.

Consignments are being arranged by Harlow & Jones, a Kensington steel importer, and other German merchants. It is planned that the German-imported steel will arrive in Britain late this year and the Harlow & Jones consignment next year.

Harlow & Jones is planning to import up to 10,000 tonnes of commercial-quality cold rolled coil steel. This type could be used for car bodies but is more likely to be used for filing cabinets or car components.

The company aims to sell the steel at about £270 a tonne basis

price, that is, excluding extras. This is above the £265 a tonne basis British Steel would sell at to its largest customers but below the corporation's £295 a tonne basis list price on smaller quantities.

Both Harlow & Jones and British Steel would then add an average £10 a tonne for extras and delivery.

Mr David Lloyd, a Harlow & Jones director, said: "Argentine steel is very competitively priced and we have not been able to import any for years because of the embargo."

The embargo, imposed at the end of the Falklands hostilities, was lifted in July, reopening the way for Argentine steel imports.

"We will not be selling it at less than British Steel would

charge to a major consumer such as British Leyland and large stockists such as GKN," said Mr Lloyd.

"But we will be providing it to medium-sized consumers, such as component suppliers to the automotive industry or office furniture manufacturers, at the same price as British Steel sells to large buyers."

The company would not confirm the exact quantity of steel it was expecting to import. However, Mr Lloyd thought it would be about 10,000 tonnes, equivalent to a quarter of one week's current output from a leading plant such as Llanwern.

Harlow & Jones said it would sell the Argentine steel at the same price as Brazilian steel in Britain and of comparable steel from other low-cost producers such as Korea and Mexico.

British Steel has been upset in recent weeks about low-priced imports from several South American countries including Venezuela and Brazil.

There had been speculation that the corporation would respond to the threat of cheap imports with a 4 per cent price cut. The corporation denies this. The wide range of tariffs available, however, sometimes makes it difficult to tell when price cuts take place.

None the less, the corporation has said there will be no price increase from next January 1 for this type of steel.

British Steel is understood to be building up an anti-dumping dossier which could lead to its lawyers presenting a suit to the EEC and governments concerned.

*Daily mail 5.11.85***Falklands mission**

**PORT STANLEY:** Mrs Sarah Jones, widow of Colonel 'H' Jones who was killed in the Falklands, returns to the islands today to prepare for a visit next year of nearly 100 Falklands war dependants.

## Alfonsín 'triumph' in poll

**BEUNOS AIRES:** President Raul Alfonsín said "democracy has triumphed" yesterday as election returns showed his centre-left Radical Civic Union slightly strengthening its dominance in the Lower Chamber of Congress.

The Radicals added one more seat to their previous majority of 129 in balloting for half of the House of Deputies' 254 members, according to the returns.

The opposition Peronist Party lost seven deputies for a new party total of 104 and the hard-line traditional leadership of the party split into rival campaigns, was outpolled by a more moderate reformist faction.

President Alfonsín called on the new deputies to "apply themselves to the impassioned task of rescuing the country from decadence and creating a modern, united and reconciliated Argentina."

The election outcome was seen as a clear vote of confidence in President Alfonsín and his policies, including an anti-inflation programme launched in June and a 60-day state of siege declared on October 25 to suppress a small group of alleged subversives.

With 99 per cent of the vote counted yesterday afternoon: Radical Civic Union candidates received 6,580,451 votes, 42 per cent of the total. Peronists won 5,273,811 votes or 34.5 per cent.

Running a distant third was the leftist Intransigent Party with 927,817 votes, 6 per cent.

Election officials said 84 per cent of the 18.7 million eligible voters went to the polls in this country where voting is mandatory.

In the capital, police fired tear gas and water cannon to break up a mob of about 300 opposition Peronist Party supporters who attacked celebrating Radicals and then turned on the officers, pelting them with rocks and bottles early yesterday.

In the Buenos Aires suburb of Lanús, one young Radical was hit in the stomach when shots were fired from a passing car, police said. In Formosa, 750 miles to the north, two youths were taken to hospital with injuries when Peronists, some wielding clubs, attacked Radicals in the streets.—AP.

## PEACE AND RECOGNITION?

THE VICTORY of Señor RAUL ALFONSIN in the Argentine elections is a very good thing in itself. Anxiety within Argentina has centred around the possibility of another military *Putsch*, if only of the half-cock sort which exploded in the chamber of the Spanish parliament. The process of democratising the hispanic world is not a lost cause. But it takes time, votes, trade and friends. It might be no bad thing for this country to look again at relations with Argentina. There is of course a great problem in respect of those islands which preoccupied us three years ago. The issue of sovereignty is as great an obstacle as ever. However it is worth noting the recent conciliatory style of both Señor ALFONSIN and his Foreign Minister, Señor DANTE CAPUTO. Argentina candidly has more important things to deal with than the eternal islands. She needs to maximise her trade and to have other friends inside the EEC besides Italy. She needs a period of serenity in which the liberal democratic institutions battered by generals (now on trial for State-sponsored murder), can consolidate themselves.

It is odd, even if it has briefly been expedient, for us to have normal diplomatic relations with the monstrous régime of Gen. PINOCHET in Chile and none with the reputable democracy struggling to be born next door. Keeping up old hatreds is bad policy, fullstop. The war is over, though the issue of the islands will kick around in diplomatic in-trays for years to come. But in the real world we are not going to fight the Argentines again and they are not going to fight us. What therefore really stops us from moving towards at least *de facto* diplomatic recognition, preferably the full *de jure* forms of mutual dealing between nation and nation? It is surely not beyond the wit of each side to find a form of words which says that the island problem and the issue of territorial waters remain in dispute between two countries who nevertheless recognise one another and seek to deal with each other's Government. There are doubtless technicalities but clever men in Foreign Offices are hired to get us round technicalities. While wise men are hired to bring sour quarrels to an end.

## Alfonsin poll win falls short of total victory

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN has won a useful vote of confidence in Argentina's general election, but results showed yesterday his Radical party's victory was less emphatic than expected.

A predicted collapse by the bitterly-divided Peronist Opposition failed to materialise. Smaller parties of Left and Right also picked up votes to squeeze the two main rivals.

But the Radicals comfortably achieved their prime objective of increasing their overall majority in Congress, the legislative Lower House of Parliament.

The elections took place under emergency "state of siege" legislation introduced by Señor Alfonsin 10 days ago to combat Rightwing subversion.

Opinions differed over the extent to which last week's legal wrangling over the arrests of the alleged extremists affected voting. But politicians on all sides claimed the problem-free conduct of the elections proved the democratic system was functioning smoothly after years of dictatorship.

### Saved from disaster

In a message to the nation yesterday, President Alfonsin said: "Once the citizens have spoken with their own voice, it is difficult to silence them. That is why democracy has triumphed."

Earlier he told reporters: "All political forces have reason to be satisfied because yesterday was a great day."

With the count almost completed, the Radicals had obtained 43 per cent. of the Congressional vote against a combined 34.5 per cent. for the rival Peronist factions.

The Radicals were expected to pick up at least four extra congressional seats, increasing their majority in the 254-seat Lower House to six.

The result suggested that despite the problems Señor Alfonsin's undoubted personal popularity posed for the Peronists, they were saved from disaster by broad concern about economic austerity.

The Peronists' share of the vote declined from 38.5 per cent. in the 1983 elections to 34.5 per cent. this year, but many had predicted far worse.

### Critics poised

The Leftist Intransigente party was the biggest winner among fringe groups, more than doubling its share of the Congressional vote to 6 per cent. The Conservative Union of the Democratic Centre also gained ground, but not by as much as it hoped.

In provincial and municipal elections, conducted simultaneously, the Radicals did slightly better but could not gain control of the Senate or Upper House. Regional assemblies will nominate new senators next year but the Peronists will retain an overall majority.

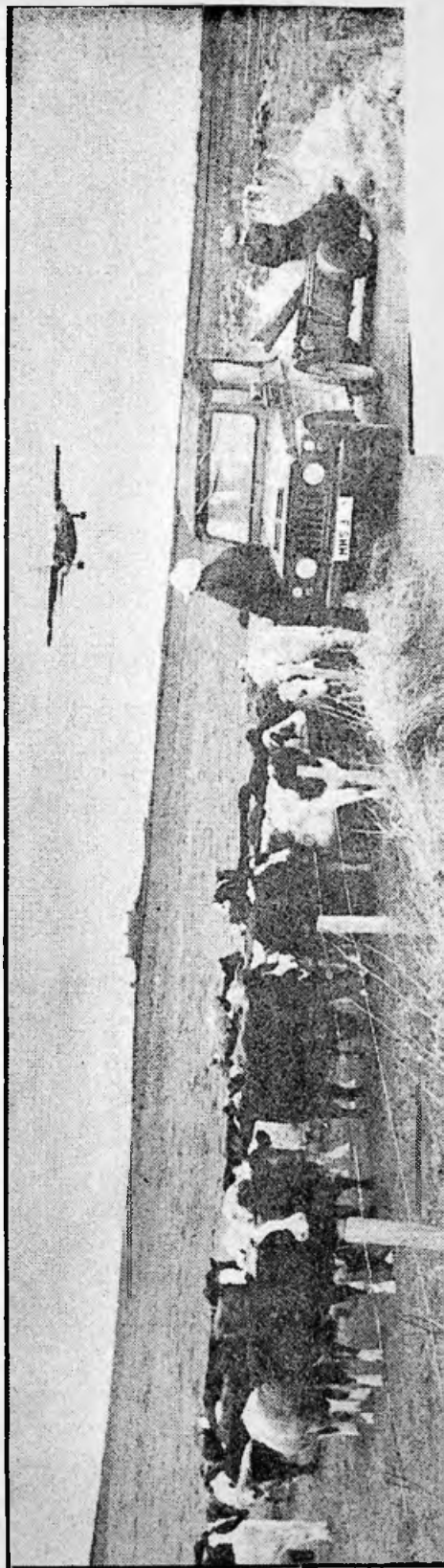
For President Alfonsin, whose image was used by the Radicals as the cornerstone of their campaign, the result was a personal victory but also a warning that his critics are poised to hound him if he takes a false step.

The results provide the President with vital political support to continue his battle against inflation. The wage and prices freeze in force for nearly six months is beginning to crack at the seams.

But Señor Alfonsin's hand has been strengthened for future bargaining with the unions.

ON FLIGHT 612 BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE WILDS

# Even the bank manager drops out of the sky!



**TOUCHDOWN:** Papa Westray's fire crew stand by—after feeding the cows. PICTURES: DAVID CRUMP

ON the remote Orkney Island of Westray, they still talk about the day Flight LC 612 from mainland Kirkwall nearly made premature fillet steaks out of a local farmer's beef herd.

Indeed, as Westray's airport manager Jimmy Drever emerged from behind a cow byre in woolly hat and wellingtons, he whistled a warning to a stray Friesian dining on the grass landing strip.

The 'airport' is what's termed 'dual purpose', which means that between flights cows graze on the runway.

Airport chief Jimmy, a farmer the rest of the time, can unhitch the fire tender from the back of his tractor and tow out his muck spreader.

**Aileen Doherty, finding a novel twist to all those flying-doctor stories**



There are no hard landing strips on Loganair's Orkney route and few full-time staff and the pilots in their tiny twin-engined aircraft routinely negotiate the boneshaking strips with a skill that would be the toast of a Jumbo jet flight-deck.

It is the only way this unique little airline can continue to survive, providing a life-line service to these tiny weather-beaten islands cut off from the Scottish mainland by the ferocious Pentland Firth.

To the islanders, their unique flying bus service is the only visible link with the world outside. Its two eight-seater Islander aircraft bring in newspapers, mail, tractor parts — and teachers, the vet, the doctor and the inter-island dentist.

*Its cargo holds unload consignments of newly-hatched chickens, calves and washing machine spares. On one occasion a three-tier wedding cake survived turbulence and a bumpy landing, arriving intact on the lap of a passenger.*

Schoolchildren travel to Kirkwall Grammar by air. The island police arrive by air in genuine dawn swoops. Even the bank manager drops out of the sky.

**S**OME years ago, operating losses threatened the service. But the islanders, united by their geography and the onslaught of the elements, pulled together and kept it functioning under new owners, British Midland.

Pilots doubled up as baggage handlers and farmers preferred their rich pastureland for runways. The cows obliged on the maintenance side, chewing the grass short enough to smooth out take-offs.

Loganair's most vital role in Orkney is the air ambulance, which goes out on average four times a week on emergency calls.

In the past they used to call out the lifeboat for a burst appendix,' said Bob Tollock, Orcadian born and bred. 'If it was on one of the northern-most islands like Papa Westray or Eday the journey could take four hours,

'Sometimes they were dead by the time it arrived. We can do the round trip in under 30 minutes now.'

'Mostly it's maternity cases.

'We've had two babies born in the air. One particular lady was about to give birth when the plane was diverted due to fog at Kirkwall.

'The pilot was praying she could hold out until Edinburgh but the wee bairn entered the world over Shapinsay Sound — a beautiful little girl, God bless her.'

Loganair, which also serves the Shetlands and Western Isles, carries 19,000 passengers annually.

It's in the Guinness Book of Records for the shortest flight in the world from Westray to neighbouring Papa Westray, a trip that's shorter than the main runway at Heathrow.

**O**NE regular passenger is Maisie Muir, the Royal Bank of Scotland's travelling 'cash dispenser' for nearly 20 years. Dressed in her knitted office suit, she picked her way between the cowpats in Jimmy Drever's pasture, hugging a black leather briefcase, her portable office containing overdrafts for new cowsheds.

'These islands are so remote they don't have a bank of their own,' said Maisie, who has never been lured by the luxury of a centrally-heated branch office in the city.

'I set up business once a week in a little hut. On the smallest islands people lend me their dining rooms for the day and very kindly bring me my meals.

*'Quite often customers forget I'm on the island and come tearing down the runway at the end of the day with cheques in their hands. If they miss me altogether they've had it for the week, though I daresay the local storekeeper will cash a cheque if they're really stuck.'*

'My job now is a good deal easier than when I started with the old boat bank. I'm not very good on the sea, and it would take nine hours just getting to an island.'

In the seat alongside Maisie was schoolteacher Margaret Butler, making her fortnightly visit to give music lessons to the five children who attend Eday primary school.

'Ideally I'd like to get in more often, but it's just not possible,' said Margaret, her cheeks flushed a ruddy pink from the Atlantic wind gusting down the airstrip.

Ed Bewley left a £30,000-a-year

job flying Tridents for British Airways European routes to pilot a Loganair Islander for £10,000 a year.

'Ah, but I've got the best fringe benefits in the business,' said Ed, whose stone-built house overlooks the spectacular Atlantic.

'The sea, the winds, the purest air in the British Isles and sheer beauty, I've got them all here.'

Not that the setting is necessarily always a benefit. It's not unusual for the pilots to have to summon help from a nearby farmhouse to push their aircraft out of gulleys if they've misjudged the muddy bits!



Daily Mail  
4.11.85

## Sir Rex reunited

RETIRED against his wishes as Governor of the Falkland Islands last month, Sir Rex Hunt, still only 59, had the consolation of a reunion with his daughter Diana when he arrived back in Britain at the weekend.

Sir Rex and his wife Mavis, who left the South Atlantic in tears to a hero's send-off last month, were greeted by Diana, 23, whom they haven't seen for several years, as they stepped off the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Landing Ship Sir Geraint, a sister ship of the ill-fated Sir Galahad. They had sailed the 8,000 miles from Port Stanley to Portland's Royal Naval base on her.

The couple, who are retiring to their home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, also have a son Tony, 21, a commercial pilot in the United States. Both children were adopted 20 years ago.

'Hopefully I shall be writing a book about my experiences in the Falklands,' he says. 'I shall also be doing a lot of reading and playing plenty of golf!'



*Hunt: Writing.*

As I revealed in January, Sir Rex was retired early on full pension although the 1,800 islanders twice petitioned the Prime Minister for him to stay.

## Reshuffle rumoured as Argentines vote

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Reports of an impending Cabinet reshuffle by President Alfonsín of Argentina gained strength as Argentines went to the polls yesterday to vote in the first mid-term congressional elections since 1965.

The Senate majority leader, Señor Antonio Napoli, was quoted as saying that some changes in the Cabinet "are very likely after the elections" in which Señor Alfonsín's ruling Radical party appeared headed for a comfortable victory.

Other sources reported that the President was considering making changes in six or seven top government posts after an embarrassing legal bungle forced him to declare a 60-day state of siege on October 26 in order to detain 12 suspects in an alleged right-wing conspiracy to spoil the elections through a wave of symbolic bombings and threats.

The somewhat unusual state

of siege remained in effect yesterday but did not affect voting. The Government had guaranteed that constitutional rights and liberties would not be affected by the measure.

An estimated 18.5 million Argentines were expected to vote in the obligatory elections for municipal, provincial and congressional posts.

Pre-election opinion polls predicted that the Radical Party would win approximately 50 per cent of the votes and increase its slight majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The rival Peronist Party, split by bitter leadership struggles, was expected to do poorly in all but a handful of key districts.

● **GUATAMALA CITY:** The Army was on full alert yesterday as Guatemalans went to the polls to elect a civilian President after three decades of almost uninterrupted military rule (Reuter reports).

## ARGENTINA GOES TO THE POLLS

By Our Staff Correspondent  
in Buenos Aires

Argentina held its first mid-term parliamentary election for 20 years yesterday. More than 18 million were voting people to tell half the seat, in the House of Deputies as well as provincial representatives and town councillors.

Opinion polls published in Buenos Aires at the weekend suggested that President Alfonsín's ruling Radical party could increase its majority.

## FALKLANDS MISSION

By Our Port Stanley  
Correspondent

Mrs Sarah Jones, wife of Colonel "H" Jones, who was killed in the Falklands during the battle for Goose Green, returns to the islands tomorrow as vice-chairman of the Falklands Families Association, preparing the way for a visit of nearly 100 Falklands conflict dependants next year.

## FALKLAND FISHERIES 'PLUNDERED'

By GODFREY BROWN,  
Agriculture Correspondent

BRITAIN is becoming the laughing stock of the world's fishing business for allowing foreign boats to take £50 millions worth of squid and blue whiting a year from Falkland Islands waters, it has been claimed.

The charge comes from Mr Harry Barratt, managing director of the authoritative industry newspaper *Fishing News*, in the latest issue.

The concentration of foreign fishing boats has escalated rapidly as it has become clear Britain will not impose a 200 miles exclusive economic zone around the islands, he maintained.

There are increasing numbers of East German, Bulgarian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian vessels in the area, in addition to 16 Spanish and 20 Polish boats, he wrote.

### Rich waters

The picture of foreign boats cashing in on the fish-rich Falklands waters emerged at a recent international seafood conference in Marrakech, Morocco.

Taiwan was reported to be increasing its fishing from 30 to 80 vessels.

A shipment of 5,000 tons of squid, valued at £2,400,000, was landed at the Spanish port of Vigo last week, and the Spanish fleet planned to take 30,000 tons of squid from the Falklands area between October and December this year alone, he said.

A major operation involving "reefer" or refrigerator ships had been mounted in the Falklands to move the massive fish catches out. Although Port Stanley was out of bounds to foreign vessels, the refrigerator ships had gathered in the sheltered cove of Berkeley Sound.



Flying Officer Jane Kimble, 23, preparing to leave for a four-month tour in the Falkland Islands, the first WRAF officer to be posted there. Helping her to pack is husband Sam, a fellow flying officer at RAF Buchan, Aberdeenshire.

# Joint sacrifice that can secure

**David Steel**

ARGENTINA will shed no tears for General Galtieri. When he and the other military rulers are finally convicted in a trial of the generals which is a trail-blazer for democrats all over Latin America, there will be huge sighs of relief all round.

Earlier this month, while attending the Liberal International Congress in Madrid, I spent an hour talking to the leader who has engineered the restoration to "clean" democracy of the Argentine — President Raoul

Alfonsín — and had a longer discussion with his Minister of State, Jorge Sabato. Our talks gave me the opportunity to record my appreciation of his courageous and successful effort to restore democracy and respect for human rights in Argentina and of his stand against the Argentine military adventure in the Falklands.

It should not escape public notice that our joint victories — ours in the Falklands war, President Alfonsín's in the Argentine — together brought down General Galtieri's dictatorship. Freedom was restored not only in the Falklands but on the Argentine mainland too.

Talking to other Latin

American Liberal leaders left me in no doubt that the move to democracy in Argentina is having a profound effect on other countries on the continent. And the strengthening of democratic values and institutions in South America will help promote the dialogue with Western Europe which could be of such advantage to both sides.

It is for these reasons that I find it difficult to understand how we can justify the position adopted by the British Government steadfastly to refuse to open negotiations with the democratically elected government in Argentina when it was British Government policy to secure a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands during

negotiations prior to the tragic war in 1982.

Mrs Thatcher's Government was willing to negotiate with the military dictatorship in 1982, the possibility of "exchanging the title of sovereignty against a long lease back to Her Majesty's Government." Yet her Fortress mentality is now upsetting normal life for the Islanders, damaging British interests in Latin America, distorting our defence contribution to Nato without achieving peace in the region, and costing the Exchequer £1.5 million every day.

From my discussions with President Alfonsín I believe we should grasp the opportunity which now exists deter-

## Falklands stability

minedly to seek a solution to all the issues involved.

Argentina wants a normalisation of relations and so should we. In my view we can best secure the Falklanders' future by supporting democracy in the Argentine (and thus the well-being of more than 15,000 British citizens there) by agreeing a cessation of hostilities, re-establishing diplomatic and commercial relations and sitting down together to find international guarantees for a future for the Falkland Islands.

Democracy would not have come to the Argentine without the sacrifices and courage of our forces during the war in the South Atlantic and nor would it have come

without the sacrifice and courage of Liberals and Democrats like Raoul Alfonsín. In my view this joint sacrifice and joint achievement should be used to secure stability in the South Atlantic, to ensure democracy in Argentina prospers and that the Falkland Islanders enjoy a safe and peaceful future. Whilst the views of the Islanders must be taken into account the Islanders cannot have an absolute veto over the British Parliament.

President Alfonsín fully understands the need to demonstrate beyond doubt that the Islanders' way of life will be protected and that that protection must be guaranteed. The Islanders need not worry about being flooded

by Argentinians: the Argentine Government's private worry is the reverse — that the Islanders might leave.

It was for that reason that our joint communique stressed the importance of guaranteeing effectively for the Islanders the preservation of their way of life. How best to achieve enforceable international guarantees would be a matter for the negotiators to take on board in order that any proposals fully reassure the Islanders. We must not let the chance of meaningful negotiations slip away when there is so much at stake.

*David Steel is leader of the Liberal Party and MP for Tweeddale, Etterick and Lauderdale.*

## Alfonsín set to win poll

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsín's ruling Radical party yesterday seemed set to win by a considerable margin as the country voted in mid-term elections.

Opinion polls suggested that the Radicals stood a good chance of increasing their share of seats in the lower house of Congress, where half the seats were at stake and where they have held a slim majority since the return to democratic rule just over 23 months ago.

However, the outcome in elections for provincial assemblies that will decide the state of the parties in the Senate in a year's time, remained unclear.

Prospects for the opposition Peronist mass movement, whose internal divisions are now so bad that candidates ran under rival lists in many areas, were considered bleak. Polls predicted that the Peronists might lose perhaps 20 seats in the lower house and control of a few provinces.

Voting is obligatory here, and with perhaps 30 per cent of the electorate undecided, the unknown factor was how much of the votes would be picked up by smaller parties in and around the capital or by regional groups in the interior.

The chief contenders for switched votes in Greater Buenos Aires were the Intransigent Party of Mr Oscar Allende, a renegade Radical, and the Centro Centro Democrático of Mr Alvaro Alsogaray, a one-time economy minister.

The Intransigents claim to be a leftwing party, but that is perhaps only true in the country's peculiar political spectrum, severely biased towards the right by decades of authoritarian populism. In fact, they are chiefly notable for a negative line on virtually everything, and most of all for their vociferously nationalist opposition to overseas banks and foreign "imperialism."

The UCD is identifiably on the right, espousing the "liberal" free market economic principles Mr Alsogaray tried to put into practice two decades ago. But his credentials as a "liberal" of democratic sentiments are questionable.

London Standard

4.11.85

## Alfonsin tightens his grip

THE Argentinian president Raul Alfonsin's Radical Party expected today to widen its congressional majority by achieving a solid victory in the country's first mid-term elections in 20 years.

The Radical Party had 44 per cent of the vote with 69 per cent of the vote counted, officials said. The different factions of the opposition Peronist party had 25 per cent of the vote.



HOLIDAYS are front page news again just as we are all getting over the last bout (Mine? Shower flooded the bedroom and leg swelled up with a horsefly bite. What about yours?).

The travel industry is in crisis. In a week when fighting broke out at a Sheffield travel agent's with two women slugging each other for the last rock-bottom-priced trip to Spain, 3,000 tour operators and travel agents flew to Sorrento in Italy on a visit containing many of the classic factors that could put you off foreign travel altogether.

They had come for the Association of British Travel Agents' annual conference and many of them arrived almost a day late. The main train from London to Gatwick was delayed by a points failure at Purley. The plane was late taking off. There was fog at Gatwick. The Abta president's wife had her jewellery bag snatched on a previous visit, so this time Naples airport was crawling with security dogs.

And, heavens, the weather. It is always bad for the Abta conference. Even when they went to Phoenix, Arizona, which is practically the desert, it poured. There had not been a drop of rain in Sorrento all summer, but by Tuesday there was thunder, lightning and a torrential, palm-thrashing downpour that continued all week.

Then there was so much food poisoning that the Abta doctor was singled out for special praise at the final session. The marketing director of Kuoni developed septicaemia, having been bitten by some weird animal on a recent study tour of India.

Furthermore, one of the problems with Italy is that everything is marble. This means that coming down a staircase the chances of finding your legs due north of your left pap are considerable. On Thursday the head of the Abta secretariat was flown home for surgery and the day before someone had broken a leg.

As if that were not enough the Abta golf tournament was unusual. It is the annual high spot but no one had checked if there was a golf course anywhere near Sorrento. So it had to be held in Dublin and played before the conference.

Then there were announcements day after day that people still had not confirmed their return flights or completed tour forms. How can these people organise our holidays when they obviously couldn't get themselves to Clacton and back?

## STEPHEN PILE



### joins Abta's argy-bargy over package holidays

And why have they gone through all this suffering? To discuss the astonishing proposal that big businessmen should not be self interested, profit-seeking total ratfinks, but sweet-natured lambs concerned for the welfare of everybody else.

The background is this: Last year about 500 companies sent 6m Britons abroad to dance the conga round hotel car parks and get emotionally involved with waiters. But '85 was a bad year. By May they were desperate because no one was booking due to violence in Spain and the shaky pound. There was a mad cutting of prices followed by a wet British summer and a rush of late bookings, while everyone belatedly tried to put their prices up.

Now Thomson's, the market leader, has had enough. To encourage early booking and to counter a £32 holiday offer from Intasun, a fast-growing, price-cutting, upstart rival snapping at its heels and threatening its dominance, Thomson's brought out a Spanish holiday for the price of dinner out for two (£25).

Beneath it lies a clash of business ethos. It's the London School of Economics versus the East End. Thomson's are a bunch of grey-suited accountants and corporate men led by a middle-class LSE graduate, Roger Davies. Intasun is led by Harry Goodman, an orphan turned millionaire who ostentatiously flew back to London in his own plane during the conference to give away £10,000 on the Thames Telethon. Goodman stayed in a villa, gave lavish parties and dressed up as a ghost to frighten his girlfriend, Yvonne. Both men are red hot and razor sharp.

In trying to knock out Intasun, Thomson's has stunned everyone else. Travel agents say they cannot live on their 10% commission from a £25 trip and smaller tour operators simply cannot compete. Already Thomson's has sold 400,000 holidays with that number of deposits earning £16m interest. To pay for these cheaper trips, it must increase its market share from 1.5m to 2.5m passengers. Intasun is aiming to grow from 1m to 1.75m.

If they succeed, these two will take 60% of the holiday market and Goodman happily predicts that 200 operators could be out of business. The reaction of the industry is to talk about the need for maturity. "A mature industry," one middle-sized tour operator said, "is one that realises there is enough business for us all to co-exist." Sweet really.

But if there was a crisis in Sorrento it was drowned in razzmatazz.

And the opening ceremony was a classic of the genre. Before discussing their crisis the agents all swanned off to the forum at Pompeii where the Italian minister of tourism spoke surrounded by elegant guardsmen. A local travel agent decided that this would be the ideal moment to fly overhead and drop 3,500 roses on the delegates. Just as the ceremony was beginning a low-flying aircraft appeared, swooped down, drowned out the minister's address, dropped the roses and missed. Minutes later it was back, flying so low that delegates crouched. After three attempts not a single flower had landed in the forum.

Once opened, the conference had three sections. Firstly the exhibition where one brave soul was trying to promote holidays to the Falklands. Secondly, the tours and the parties. Thirdly the business sessions in the last of which, "The Power Game", Davies and Goodman faced their critics.

Is it good for the industry? Does the public think we are cowboys? Does the whole thing stink? The big boys won hands down. It's good for your business, the delegates were told. You couldn't have paid for the free press publicity that package holidays received last week. The gimmick of 500 very cheap holidays will attract the punters and give a good travel agent the chance to sell them something else.

In a desperate bid to avoid the rain, next year's conference will be at Surfers' Beach in Brisbane. Wish you were here. But how many of them will be?

Photograph by  
Bryn Colton

Mail on Sunday  
3.11.85

**BOOKS Edited by Paula Johnson**

# Shackleton the heroic failure

SCOTT and Shackleton were the rival names in Edwardian Polar exploration.

And like Oxford and Cambridge, you either supported one or the other in the game of taming the Last Place on Earth — Antarctica.

Personally, they soon hated each other's guts.

But is Shackleton the real subject of this book? Six years ago Roland Huntford wrote an outspokenly damning book on Scott, the duffer, compared to Amundsen, the professional and Scott's superior in every respect, who reached the South Pole first without losing a man.

## **Squabbles**

Readers may have more than a suspicion that Huntford's life of Shackleton is an excuse to vilify Scott yet again by comparison, while showing up both Englishmen as bungling, improvising amateurs.

The code of the British gentleman amateur was an excuse for incompetence, according to Huntford. Gentlemen scorned skis, which they didn't know how to use properly, or Eskimo dogs, which they did not know how to drive. Their

ideal was to walk to the Pole, with hand-hauled sledges, reading Shakespeare or Darwin to one another at night.

Their rivalry was marked by childish squabbles, such as whether Shackleton had been given a lift on a sledge when he was ill or whether he had 'cheated' by using Scott's base.

Both Scott and Shackleton were adventurers on the make and reaching the Pole would make them for life.

Temperamentally they were opposites. Ernest Shackleton, the Anglo-Irish Merchant Navy man with a sense of humour and a poetic imagination, had the charisma to make men follow him anywhere.

Scott, suspicious, jealous of his rank and bad tempered, was a disciplinarian.

In the end, it was Scott who led his companions to what is now seen as death

through bad planning, and who was enshrined as a martyr-hero. Shackleton had the sense (and the guts) to turn back and save his men and his memory was overshadowed. This book is a major attempt to reverse that verdict.

Scott was called 'captain' by his men, Shackleton 'boss' by his and therein lay the difference. In every respect except their objective, they were poles apart.

## **Emerged**

Shackleton failed to achieve any of his objectives — to reach the Pole, to cross Antarctica or to circumnavigate it. But he emerged as a great leader of men when his ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed and sunk in the ice.

After eating their last meal on board a ship rearing up at a crazy angle under the pressure of the ice floes, he said calmly: 'Ship

and stores have gone — so now we'll go home.' This meant an amazing journey of 600 miles on foot or on ice floes and an open boat to Elephant Island, then a 700-mile voyage to South Georgia and a heroic scaling of an uncharted mountain range to reach help.

Then, furious at the Admiralty's delay in sending relief, Shackleton went to Chile, borrowed a Navy boat and rescued the men he had left behind. This part of an otherwise heavy book is an epic story excitingly told.

Shackleton knew that the hero-myth demanded that heroes did not die in bed. Having been told by a gypsy that he would die by the time he was 48, he managed to put together a last expedition just in time.

But he died of a heart attack as it reached South Georgia, six weeks before his 48th birthday.



**CHARISMA: Shackleton**

# Alfonsín needs ballot to fend off the bullet

**ARGENTINA'S** ruling Radical Party is generally expected to win today's mid-term congressional and municipal elections. The major uncertainty is by how much.

A convincing victory for President Raúl Alfonsín's supporters, similar to that which marked the end of seven years of military rule in October 1983, could prove a fundamental step in reinforcing democratic institutions. On the other hand, say Government officials, a close result and a hung parliament would leave the Presidency

vulnerable to attack from the military.

The opposition Peronists and other smaller political groups claim the Government has confused the electorate. They have concentrated on criticising the Radicals' performance in Government and what some claim is an attempt to enforce a populist one-party state, Mexican-style.

The Peronists, racked by leadership struggles, have produced rival factions competing for parliamentary seats. But the party, founded

by the late General Juan Perón, still claims to command the support of a large proportion of the working class because of the Government's poor record on jobs and wages.

Unemployment in May reached its highest level in 11 years amid a record 1,000 per cent inflation, although the Government's subsequent austerity measures have reduced price increases to under 2 per cent a month.

The Opposition, however, has been hard pressed to mount an effective counter attack in the aftermath of Alfonsín's denunciation of a military conspiracy to topple him by Right-wing extremists.

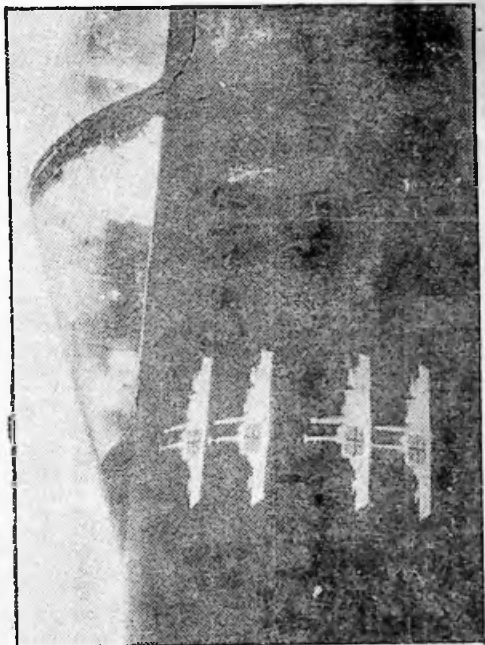
The Government has yet to come forward with conclusive evidence linking six military officers and six civilians to the plot, nor has the declaration of a limited state of siege stopped the wave of bomb attacks and telephone threats.

Officials believe that a small but determined extremist group is trying to exploit unrest inside the armed forces over human rights and defence cuts.

A major reform of the military intelligence services — some of whose members are linked to the conspiracy — is among the initiatives being considered by the Government.



Election target: A campaigning Alfonsín in a jet that boasted hits on four British ships in the Falklands war.



## Money-back offer in Falklands land row

MORE than 50 Falkland islanders who bought land at knock-down prices from the Falkland Islands Company a year ago have been told that they can have their money back with interest if they are unhappy with the deal.

The move follows criticism from the purchasers that they are still waiting to occupy their land because of lengthy delays in drawing up the boundaries of the plot.

What was intended to be an exciting project to establish a new settlement and farming enterprises to boost the Falklands economy has degenerated over the last 12 months into a source of argument and frustration.

By DAVID BROWN  
Agriculture Correspondent

Problems began after the Falklands War when the Falkland Islands Company, the main landowner and a subsidiary of the huge Coalite group in Britain, offered 50 plots of 50 acres each for sale near the settlement of Fitzroy.

The idea was to allow islanders, or new immigrants, to start up enterprises such as vegetable farms to make the islands less dependent on sheep farming and imports of other goods.

Most of the plots were sold for £500 each to the islanders—at a price of £10 an acre—and a few were sold for £1,000 each to new settlers.

Money to complete the legal

purchase of the land was handed over last October, but since then buyers have complained that they have been unable to gain access and that the Falkland Islands Company is still using the land as grazing for its sheep.

The company says it has been out of pocket all along from the deal. Mr Ted Needham, its chairman, said: "Much of the delay has not been of our making."

"We had to wait until the precise line of the new road being built in the Falklands was known before we could draw up the exact boundaries of the new plots. We have also had trouble getting proper surveys done but there is no reason why these people cannot get on the land."

## Alfonsín in strong position

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS  
in Buenos Aires

A CRISIS over Right-wing extremism should not prevent President Alfonsín's ruling Radical Party from increasing its parliamentary majority in elections taking place in Argentina today, according to last-minute opinion polls.

Last week's crackdown on a dozen suspected Right-wing subversives has, if anything, increased the government's popularity, polls showed.

Half of the 254 seats on Congress are at stake. A poll in the newspaper *Tiempo Argentino* predicted yesterday that the Radicals would win nine new seats to increase their overall majority in the House to 11.

The main Peronist opposition party, so bitterly divided that it is running two rival lists of candidates, is expected to lose up to 20 seats.

The polls also showed that most Argentines have been quite unbothered by the legal fuss over Press. Alfonsín's decision to impose a "state of siege" to enable him to order the arrest of the 12 alleged extremists.

The move brought the Government into open conflict with the courts, which repeatedly blocked the President's actions on constitutional grounds. The affair also stirred the ghosts of past military dictators who had resorted to similar emergency legislation.

But a poll by the Aresco public opinion organisation found yesterday that in greater Buenos Aires almost 70 per cent supported the state of siege. Only 13 per cent opposed it (the rest were "don't knows").

A Radical victory will be seen as a personal triumph for Senor Alfonsín, who did not physically take part in the campaign, but was politically and spiritually at its core.

Every item of Radical propaganda praised the President's democratic virtues.



## Poll may hamper Alfonsin

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

Almost 19 million people will go to the polls in mid-term elections on Sunday, amid renewed concern about President Alfonsin's prospects during the rest of his six years in office.

Half the 254 seats in the lower house of Congress, The Chamber of Deputies, are at stake in the first elections since the return to democratic rule in late 1983.

But that is perhaps not the real issue, particularly as the ruling Radicals already have a slim majority in the house and have the President's high popularity rating working for them.

Instead, his ability to govern Argentina is much more likely to be dictated by voting in the interior for provincial assemblies, where just over 400 seats are up for contest.

In a year's time, it will be the provincial assemblies that decide the future balance of power in the national Senate, where President Alfonsin has been outmanoeuvred several times by a majority mobilised by the opposition Peronist mass movement.

Two years after their unprecedented electoral defeat in October, 1983, the Peronists seem able only to do damage. They remain devoid of ideas, united only sporadically in their opposition to President Alfonsin, and then only at the bidding of Argentina's autocratic rightwing labour barons.

The Peronists are as plagued as ever by the bitter and often highly personal power struggles that helped keep them out of power at the last elections.

The Radicals have tried to turn the vote into a referendum on the President. He is by far the biggest Radical vote-winner.

# BRITAIN IS CHALLENGED TO A DEBATE ON FALKLANDS

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

**SEÑOR DANTE CAPUTO**, Argentina's Foreign Minister, challenged the British Government yesterday to face him in public debate on the two countries' differences over the Falklands Islands.

"I would really love to have a public debate with British representatives on this so that (our position) can be known by the British public," Señor Caputo said.

In an exclusive interview he told me he was ready to debate with "anyone" from Mrs Thatcher's side, but would expect to meet his British counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"I would have no problem if such a debate were organised so that the public of both countries would know our positions and know exactly where we stand," the Argentine Minister said.

It was the first time Señor Caputo had suggested such a debate, which, Foreign Ministry officials said later, might best be organised for television.

The idea emerged during an informative 45-minute interview for its conciliatory tone on Falklands matters.

## No shift on sovereignty

Señor Caputo quickly made it clear that Argentina's fundamental position on the question of sovereignty over the islands had not shifted, but he also insisted that negotiations with Mrs Thatcher had not become impossible, despite months of deadlock and frustration.

## View on Thatcher

The Foreign Minister said that should Mr Kinnock or the Social Democratic party win the general election, their stated support for resuming a dialogue with Argentina would mean that "nobody would be surprised if the (Falklands)

He had unusually warm words for the Falkland Islanders, and made encouraging noises about joining Britain in United Nations-sponsored talks on Falklands fishing rights.

A moustachioed chain smoker with degrees from the Sorbonne and an American university, Señor Caputo also steered notably clear of criticising Mrs Thatcher, who in the past has been the target of stinging abuse by Buenos Aires officials.

The overwhelming impression was of an Argentine politician embarking on a long-term seduction of public opinion in both Britain and the Falklands.

That impression was confirmed by diplomatic sources, who pointed to President Alfonsín's favourable meetings with British Opposition leaders as evidence of a shifting Argentine strategy over the islands.

negotiating process started right after."

But Señor Caputo denied he had given up the prospect of further progress with Mrs Thatcher. "If I thought there was no chance at all, I would put the subject to rest," he said. "But I insist. It's difficult, but not impossible."

He repeated Argentina's familiar demands that bilateral negotiations should begin with an open agenda—in other words that there should be no explicit exclusion of the question of sovereignty, a condition Britain has not accepted.

But in more accommodating terms he added: "I understand that we have to start a dialogue, even if the dialogue creates a precedent from the juridical point of view. (We need) a dialogue just to see whether the negotiating process could be restarted."

"The British Government says Argentina doesn't want to discuss practical problems. What we want to discuss is everything but without leaving aside the central problem. . . . A realistic diplomacy would be not to ignore a problem (sovereignty) that is separating both countries."

"I'm not saying to solve that problem. That is something that requires time. I'm saying not ignore it."

## Plea for 'audacity'

Señor Caputo, who is one of President Alfonsín's most trusted advisers, said a solution to the impasse over negotiations "does not have to be a defeat for any of the sides involved, from a political point of view."

He added: "Maybe Mrs Thatcher could take an audacious step forward, and in the wake of the Falklands war she could appear as a person who shows her will to resolve problems and controversies peacefully."

The Minister said that if talks were to start with an open agenda, "this does not mean that the first subject we discuss will be sovereignty."

"We have to give ourselves time to start discussing, understanding each other, to find our way to a solution. . . . What I am asking is that sovereignty not be excluded explicitly from the negotiations. More than that I cannot say."

He added that if the question of the agenda could be resolved, and if the "remaining obstacle" were a formal declaration of cessation of hostilities in the South Atlantic, Argentina would oblige—"not because we believe it's necessary, but because we think it would be useful to start a dialogue."

## Practical matters

Turning to practical matters, Señor Caputo gave an oblique hint that Argentine exports to Britain—in a state of paralysis despite the unilateral raising of the British embargo, last July—might soon begin to flow again.

Local businessmen complain that Argentine Government red tape is effectively barring shipments to Britain. Señor Caputo said it would not be a "dramatic change" if exports resumed.

He also suggested that Argentina was favourably inclined to a proposal by the Food and Agricultural Organisation to hold talks on the problems of over-fishing in Falklands waters.

The talks would include Britain, which governs fishing within the Falklands exclusion zone, and countries such as Russia and Japan that maintain long-range fishing fleets in the area.

"As long as this doesn't create any legal precedent in the dispute Britain and Argentina have right now, I think that we should both actively contribute to avoid deprivation of fisheries in the region," Señor Caputo said.

A decision is expected at the end of this month, and if Argentina joins the talks, it will be the first time since an occasion in Switzerland last year that officials from London and Buenos Aires have met in formal talks on the Falklands.

## Daunting task

The Argentine Foreign Minister also addressed himself to the daunting task of improving his country's standing with the Falklands Islanders, who, both sides agree, are a crucial element in future debate.

In the past Argentina had sought to make friends with the islanders, and "it's something we should be doing again," Señor Caputo said.

Acknowledging that the process would inevitably take time to allow scars to heal, he added: "As soon as the islanders know the advantages of living in Argentina, including the flexibility of the constitutional system, and the great autonomy that regions and provinces have, they will see no dangers in integrating themselves into Argentine society."

President Alfonsín said in his speech (marking the second anniversary of the restoration of democracy this week) that Argentines would build a new Argentina.

"This is a land that deserves to be rebuilt, and we would really be happy if the islanders accompanied us in that task."



# FALKLANDS FISH SCANDAL GROWS

BRITAIN has become the laughing stock of the world's fishing business.

It emerged at the International Seafood Conference in Marrakech last week that foreign fleets can hardly believe their luck as the British Government stands by and watches them lift squid and blue whiting to the tune of £50m. a year from around the Falkland Islands.

The British Government — as it has become clear — will not impose a 200-mile exclusive economic zone around the Falklands, so the concentration of foreign fishing effort has escalated rapidly. There are also growing numbers of East German, Bulgarian, Japanese, Portuguese and Soviet vessels in the area in addition to 16 Spanish and 20 Polish vessels.

Taiwan is reported to be increasing its fishing from 30 to 80 vessels and two of the three factory ships recently bought by mainland

**—£50m being  
lifted by  
foreign fleets**

**HARRY BARRETT reports  
from Marrakech**

China from West Germany are expected on the fishery.

A shipment of 3,000 tons of squid, with a first-hand value of £2.4m., was landed into the Spanish port of Vigo last week. There were reports of large amounts of the 'gambas' giant prawns among this landing.

The Spanish fleet plans to take 30,000 tonnes of squid from the Falklands area between October and December this year alone. Some of this squid is packed and moved on to Poland.

A giant reefer operation has been mounted in the Falkland Islands to move the massive amounts of fish out. Port Stanley is out of bounds to foreign vessels, but reefer vessels have gathered in the sheltered cove of Berkeley Sound, where fish is transhipped by the catcher vessels into the reefers.

A spokesman for one reefer company told me that his ships had freighted 30,000

tonnes of squid into Japan last year and, already, 28,000 tonnes had been put into Japan this year. Most of this squid had been taken by a large fleet of Japanese jig-ger vessels.

This lucrative business is providing strong competition among reefer firms around the world.

Catches of blue whiting from the Falklands will total some 250,000 tons this year.

With the first-hand value of blue whiting on world markets at US\$500 a tonne and squid at US\$1,000 a tonne, the retail value of the fish being taken from the Falklands is approaching some £50m. ... and all coming out of what could so easily be British-controlled waters.

● See Comment page two

cont../

Fishing News cont..

1 November 1985

# COMMENT

## FALKLANDS — AN OPPORTUNITY LOST

TO BE in Morocco last week was to be embarrassed to be British. To hear people at the International Seafood Conference (ISC) in Marrakech talking openly and confidently about their plans for exploiting the waters around the Falkland Islands was to underline — to the world — what a low priority fish has in the scale of British industry.

The refusal by the British Government to claim these lucrative fishing waters is just another example of the Foreign Office's appeasement policy, which has seen many British fishing opportunities lost, for example in the EEC.

It is ironic that, in all the FO's preoccupation not to damage relations with Argentina any further, restricting fishing with a 200-mile zone around the Falklands would be a healing step with Argentina. A speaker from Argentina was complaining at the ISC about the level of foreign fishing, which had seen prices for squid from Argentina plummet from US\$1,000 to US\$150-200.

The British Government's argument that it would cost too much to protect a 200-mile zone is seen as fallacious when, it is realised, that the Japanese are paying US\$32m. to fish off the coast of the USA alone.

North Sea oil is scheduled to start running out and the economic future looks frightening for Britain. But we are now standing back as countries all around the world are moving ahead with plans to increase their revenue and food consumption from the sea.

ROYAL AIRFORCE NEWS  
1 - 14 November 1985



MEMBERS of Personnel Management at RAF Stanley, organised a 40-mile sponsored walk in September along the recently constructed road to Mount Pleasant Airport. The road to the airport, known affectionately as the M1, has little Tarmac, and can prove quite arduous to the walker.

However, the walk was completed within 12 hours by most of the team. So far, the walkers have collected more than £500 for charity, and the money is still rolling in. The main beneficiary is the David Whitfield Baby Unit Fund, which is part of Hull Royal Infirmary. Some of the money will be given to the Falkland Islands Age Concern and to the RAFA Wings Appeal.

Fortunately the team were not required to walk back as they hitched a ride in a Sea King helicopter.

The picture shows the team posing for a snap just before setting off. From left to right: Standing: Sqn Ldr Ian Spalding, Cpl Gary Ransome, FS Dave Hill, Flt Lt Jenny Fudge, Sgt Paul Hind; Kneeling: SAC Laurie Lomax, SAC Tam Weir. On the extreme right is WO Norman Yates, who with SAC Steve Muggleton provided support for the team.

ROYAL AIRFORCE NEWS  
1-14 November 1985

## Birth of a forest?



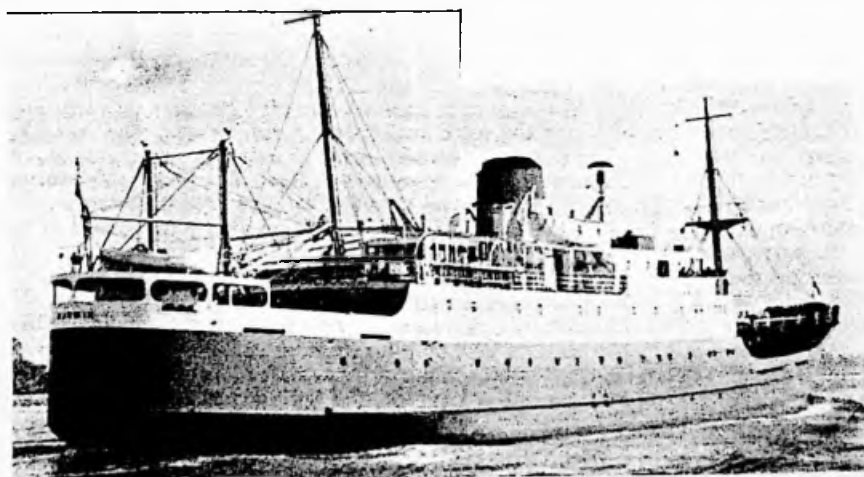
IT MAY NOT look all that significant, but the 14 September 1985 was an historic day at Mount Alice, home of 751 SU on West Falkland. On that day, three small Scots Pine were planted on the mountain top, the first trees to be planted under Government auspices on West Falkland since 1903. The pine trees were supplied by Gordon Bassett, Grounds Maintenance Officer (PSA), South Atlantic. The site was chosen by Flt Lt Dick Mander and the first sod turned by Sqn Ldr John Parker, OC 751 SU. The volunteer green-finger expert was Lance Corporal Lawrence of Milan Platoon, A Company, First Light Infantry.

The photograph shows all the willing helpers; From left to right: Cpl Brian Barrass, Cpl Trevor Nee, Jnr Tech Andy Jessop, SAC Dave Craig, SAC Al Boulton, Cpl Alan Wicker, Jnr Tech 'Nobby' Clarke, Jnr Tech Tim Dalby, Flt Sgt 'Taif' Hughes, SAC Colin Gifford, above the Boss, Sqn Ldr John Parker, Cpl 'Doc' Forrest, Cpl Bob Gosling (Royal signals) above Cpl Reg Felton, LCpl Ian Lawrence (1st Light Infantry), Flt Lt Dick Mander.

# Goole-built Ships

*Roy Cressey describes the wide variety of ships built by Goole Shipbuilders — Part Two — the Post-War Years*

..... By this time, the order book at the yard was so full that they had work for 2 to 3 years in hand. An unusual vessel for Goole was launched in 1957. She was a 220ft Royal Mail Steam Passenger/Cargo vessel named *Darwin*. Launched on 18th February, 1957 by Mrs L. W. H. Young, wife of the Chairman & Managing Director of the owners, the Falkland Island Co Ltd of London, the *Darwin* was fitted with accommodation for 36 passengers and a crew of 30. The vessel was built for trading between Montevideo and the Falkland Islands with occasional voyages to South Africa. People in the Falklands were dependant on the *Darwin* for the supply of essential materials and for transport between the islands and the South African mainland. In September, 1973 she was sold to Greek owners and became the *Christos K* but the people of the Falklands remembered her with affection and in the late 1970s she was depicted on a 2p Falkland Islands postage stamp. She changed hands several times in the 1970s before arriving at Bermuda on 21st March, 1979 under escort. She was placed under arrest in February, 1980 and finally scuttled off the coast of Bermuda on 15th August, 1983 — an inglorious end to a fine vessel.



*Left — The motor vessel Darwin (Yard No 505), built 1957, served the Falkland Islands for many years until sold to Greece in 1973. She was scuttled off the coast of Bermuda in 1983. (C. Hill, courtesy World Ship Photo Library)*

# Alfonsín calls for vote against 'professionals of violence'

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raúl Alfonsín issued a strong warning yesterday that Argentina's two-year-old democracy would put up a fight against conspirators whom he called "the professionals of violence", and defended the imposition of a state of siege to clear up a recent wave of right-wing terrorism.

In a televised address marking the second anniversary of the elections which returned Argentina to democracy, Señor Alfonsín said: "The state is under attack, the nation challenged, and our security threatened" by a campaign that has included thousands of false bomb threats and 42 explosions in recent months.

Only hours after he spoke, a 43rd bomb exploded outside the Army intelligence school in Buenos Aires, causing minor damage but no injuries. The President blamed the wave of bombings, in which one person has been killed, on sympathizers of right-wing military rule seeking to seize power "by promoting the idea that democracy is inadequate to defend our citizens".

Vowing that he would not make the same mistake as previous civilian Governments in this coup-plagued nation, Señor Alfonsín said the 60-day state of siege he decreed last Friday was a measure "declared by the people against the professionals of authoritarianism, to neutralize and isolate them".

Referring to the congressional elections on Sunday, he called on Argentines to "respond with votes to these attacks which seek to weaken and undermine democracy".

Last-minute political cam-

paigning for the elections continued as the President spoke. The latest published opinion poll indicated that the state of siege would have little or no effect on a predicted easy victory for Señor Alfonsín's radical party.

As well as an inspirational message to the nation, Señor Alfonsín's speech served as an unofficial campaign speech that is likely to bolster the somewhat lacklustre campaigning of his party's youthful but little-known congressional candidates.

Señor Marcelo Stubrin, aged 34, and Señor Leopoldo Moreau, aged 37, are the Radical Party's leading candidates for re-election to the Chamber of Deputies, where half of the 254 seats are to be renewed on Sunday, but they have only recently become public figures in their own right.

To make up for this, their campaign propaganda has cleverly focused on the overwhelmingly popular image of Señor Alfonsín, who enjoys the approval of about 80 per cent of the population.

The main opposition party, the Peronists, are still gripped by bitter leadership struggles, and stand to lose as many as 20 of the 111 seats they hold in the lower house.

Only a few of Peronist candidates who have escaped their party's reputation for incompetence and corruption are likely to receive voter approval on Sunday. Señor Carlos Grosso, running for a seat in the Buenos Aires federal district, is chief among what is being seen as a new generation of Peronist politicians.



# Argentine poll poses serious test for Alfonsín

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

THE STATE of siege introduced by the Argentine Government last week has transformed Sunday's mid-term parliamentary elections from a routine exercise with little electoral enthusiasm into a serious test of President Raul Alfonsín's popularity.

The President himself holds office until 1989 but in the Lower House, the Chamber of Deputies, half of the 254 members are facing re-election and more than 6,000 local government posts are due for renewal.

Before the state of siege was introduced against a background of an alleged conspiracy by right-wing extremists to disrupt democracy, President Alfonsín's Radical Party was expected to improve its tenuous parliamentary majority.

Radical Party officials are now saying that they would be happy to retain their existing position in the Lower House where it has a one seat majority over the combined opposition headed by the Peronist Party.

Polls show that nearly 30 per cent of the electorate is undecided. When President Alfonsín came to power in December 1983 he obtained 46 per cent of the vote.

Polls earlier in the campaign, before the state of siege was introduced, gave his Radical Party 54 per cent of the vote.

The local elections will have an indirect influence on the composition of the Upper House, where the Government is in a minority, since provincial delegates will vote for a renewal of the House next year. Also at stake in Sunday's poll is the future of the Peronists, deeply divided since their upset defeat in the presidential elections.

A moderate dissident faction opposed to the orthodox right-wing leadership of the party, founded by the late General Juan Peron, has fielded strong candidates in the key electoral



Alfonsín . . . right-wing conspiracy alleged

districts of Buenos Aires and its province.

The Radicals have campaigned on the success in bringing down inflation, civil rights, foreign policy and an emergency food programme to help the poor. But more recently they have narrowed the emphasis of their campaign to offering a straight choice between stable democracy as represented by Sr Alfonsín and the chaos implicit in the threat of a fresh military intervention.

In a nationwide broadcast on Thursday, Mr Alfonsín justified recent emergency measures as the defence of his party's two-year effort "to consolidate democracy," and blamed the outbreak of terrorism on minority groups bent on taking power. "I want to tell Argentines and give notice to the destabilisers . . . we will respond with votes," Mr Alfonsín said.

The opposition has accused the Government of exploiting the state's propaganda machinery and the figure of the president to make up for the alleged weakness of the Radical parliamentary candidates and the lack of clear objectives for the future.

## Argentina

### That besieged feeling

President Raul Alfonsin's government in Argentina prides itself on its democratic credentials, which have won the country new respect abroad and are useful in his argument with Britain about the Falkland islands. The declaration of a 60-day state of siege on October 25th, in order to provide a belated judicial seal of approval for the arrest of 12 people suspected of organising a wave of bomb attacks in Buenos Aires, has smudged the president's democratic reputation. The bomb-

ings have struck at a big shop that is the Buenos Aires version of Harrods, the army headquarters, and a dozen other targets in the city.

The interior minister, Mr Antonio Troccoli, was quick to point a finger at extreme right-wingers with military connections; the army is said to be unhappy about the trial now under way of nine former members of the military juntas that ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1983, and about cuts in defence spending. Six officers and six civilians charged with taking part in a "destabilisation campaign" were arrested by presidential decree on October 22nd.

The decree appeared to violate at least three articles of the constitution, which insist that such arrests can be carried out only under due process of law. Two courts promptly ruled the arrests unconstitutional, and seven of the men were released. By the end of last week, the president felt he had no alternative but to call a state of siege, which gives him the necessary powers. A court this week upheld the arrest orders.

The bombing campaign has coincided with the end of a mid-term congressional and local election campaign; polling takes place on November 3rd. President Alfonsin's critics have accused him of using a sledgehammer to crack a comparatively small terrorist nut, in order to create a climate of urgency in the closing days of the campaign to influence voters to rally around his Radical Party. The president's defenders suggest he has acted decisively to smother at birth a process which, if it had gone unchecked, might have led to terrorist attacks in the streets followed by a military coup.

Friday 1 November 1985

6 *The Daily Telegraph, Friday, November 1, 1985*

## ALFONSIN'S RADICALS SET FOR COMFORTABLE WIN DESPITE AUSTERITY

By TONY ALLEN - MILLS in Buenos Aires

**P**RESIDENT ALFONSIN'S ruling Radical party is poised for a remarkable victory in historic congressional elections that take place in Argentina on Sunday.

Opinion polls suggest that two years of continuous economic problems have barely dented his popularity and most political analysts expect him to emerge next week with a healthy vote of confidence.

In the first poll of its kind for 20 years, half of the 254 Deputies in Congress face re-election.

More than 6,000 seats are also at stake in municipal and provincial assemblies around the country.

A shadow has been cast over the election by a disturbing outbreak of Right-wing extremism, but the latest opinion polls suggest that the Radical party should obtain about 50 per cent. of the Congressional vote, which would safely guarantee its overall majority.

### Personal appeal

The Opposition Peronist party, consumed by internal splits since its heavy defeat in the 1985 Presidential elections, is presenting two rival lists of candidates that together are expected to gain about 30 per cent. of the vote. The Left-wing Intransigente party and conservative Union of the Democratic Centre will pick up much of the rest.

Although Senor Alfonsin as President is in theory above the electoral fray, in practice the Radicals have turned his enduring personal appeal into the mainstay of their campaign.

The walls of Buenos Aires are plastered with posters showing a portrait of Senor Alfonsin with his wrists secured by rope. The slogan reads: "Don't tie his hands," a warning that a Congress ruled by the President's opponents might lead to deadlock.

The Radicals have also capitalised on the fact that Raul Alfonsin's initials are the same as "Republica Argentina" and have presented the president as the epitome of national pride.

This unquestioned popularity has led Opposition parties to refrain from criticising him directly.

The early part of the election campaign focused on the Government's efforts to bring Argentina's rampant inflation rate under control. With a price and wages freeze in force and austerity spreading steadily, the opposition had hoped to profit from

disenchantment with the Radical regime.

But in the last two weeks the focus of debate has shifted sharply from the economy to the awkward problem of extreme Right-wing subversion.

### 'Good intentions'

The Government was hardly impressive with its bungled attempts to arrest the alleged ringleaders of a bombing campaign, but most political analysts believe that voters will be sympathetic to Senor Alfonsin's efforts to protect democracy.

Even the imposition of a state of siege, a measure usually associated with military dictatorships, seems not to have diminished public confidence in the President, and some analysts forecast that the Radicals will benefit from concern about subversion.

"The Government didn't tackle the problem very cleverly, but at least they did it with good intentions," a Western diplomat said.

Other commentators stress that the fact that the elections are taking place at all represents a triumph, given Argentina's history of military coups.

"On Sunday there will be victors, but there won't be vanquished," said the columnist Alberto Maranon. "Whatever the results, the poll will be a vote in favour of democracy."

## Alfonsin justifies his state of siege

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin said yesterday that "professionals of authoritarianism" were trying to take over the country and he had imposed the state of siege a week ago to protect Argentine democracy.

In a speech marking his election in October, 1983, President Alfonsin called on the public to respond to the "attempts to weaken and bury democracy" by voting in next Sunday's congressional and provincial elections.

He said that although it seemed "incredible, absurd," minority groups were trying to overthrow his government by "raising the banner of death" in an attempt to impose "their famous order, pistol in hand."

The government appeared to be making slow progress in the courts to overcome the constitutional crisis prompted by the move to a state of siege last Friday.

An Appeals Court upheld the government's right to detain retired Colonel Alejandro Arias Duval who commanded the police security service during much of the former military regime. The government view has now prevailed in court against writs of habeas corpus granted to seven men arrested under presidential orders in connection with the month-long wave of bomb attacks.

But five other men named by the President are still at liberty, other courts continue to rule against the government, and it remained unclear yesterday how many of the seven men were back in custody.

One of the civilians, a journalist on a leading Conservative newspaper, was rearrested in the early hours and it was said that the five officers involved were being held by the military.

## 826 Squadron Sea Kings back in Britain

# Varied but sad tour ends for B Flight

**B FLIGHT** of 826 Naval Air Squadron is back in Britain after completing a 3½-months deployment to the Falkland Islands.

The flight, equipped with anti-submarine Sea King helicopters and based in RFA Reliant, was the last to travel down by sea from Ascension Island, subsequent trips being made both ways by Airbridge.

There were many opportunities for visits, adventurous courses, and unusual flying operations, but the tour was marred by the loss of four crew members.

Their aircraft collided with a Hercules transport plane in thick cloud on June 27 and crashed into deep water to the

north of the Islands. On July 5 the Reliant steamed to the spot where a requiem service was held.

Despite the losses, the flight got back to work. Leisure pursuits included rock climbing, hill walking and canoeing courses held at the remote Hill Cove exped centre.

### Yomp

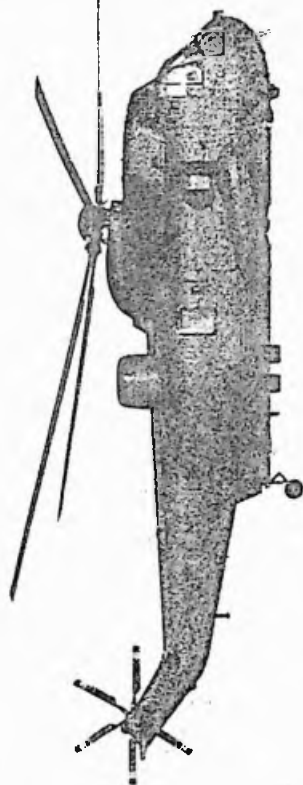
A yomp from San Carlos to Stanley was led by the met. officer, who unfortunately failed to arrange the weather. Some of the worst conditions that the South Atlantic had to offer

prevented the team completing the trip in the planned three days.

During the deployment there were several distinguished visitors to the Reliant and the

flight. They included the First Sea Lord (now Chief of the Defence Staff), Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse; the Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt; and the

Minister for the Armed Forces, Mr. John Stanley. The flight was also visited by the commanding officer of 826 Squadron, Lieut.-Cdr. Keith Dudley.



A tranquil sea and sky make conditions a little easier in the Falkland Islands for this helicopter of B Flight, 826 Squadron, and its "mother-ship", RFA Reliant. However, the flight has had its share of bad weather — and bad luck.

# FALKLANDS SHIPS HAVE EVENTFUL TRIP HOME

HM SHIPS Danae and Avenger have returned to Devonport after six months in the South Atlantic. Accompanying them was RFA Olwen, which is now going into refit.

The ships' passage home was marked by visits to ports not much frequented by the Royal Navy in recent years.

Leaving the Falkland Islands Protection Zone, they rounded Cape Horn two days later before entering the Magellan Straits. Scenery on this passage, and later in the Patagonian Channels, more than made up

for what the ships' companies had missed at South Georgia because of snow showers and low cloud.

Jungle-clad mountains seemed to enclose the channels, which narrowed to as little as fifty yards at times. The Avenger was prevented by a defective radar from completing the Patagonian transit.

Two old friends in the shape of HMS Norfolk and RFA Tidepool (both now renamed) greeted the group at Talcahuano, Chile, at the start of a four-day visit. The Chileans were excellent hosts, and the ships' companies thoroughly enjoyed their first run ashore for four months.

## CHEAP FLIGHTS

Next stop was Guayaquil in Ecuador, where several parties took advantage of cheap flights to visit the Quito, 10,000ft. up in the Andes.

An engine problem kept the Danae in port for an extra day, so she had to make best speed for two days to catch the Avenger for their arrival at Panama. Three days were spent in the city before the trio transited the canal.

After a highly enjoyable one-day banyan visit to Cayman Brac, the frigates parted company for their final calls, the Danae and Olwen sailing to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and the Avenger to West Palm Beach.

## Exped. helps MS research

MEMBERS of the Joint Services Brabant Island Expedition 1983-5 are raising money for multiple sclerosis research by giving talks, lectures and exhibitions.

These include an exhibition of Brabant photographs by former Royal Navy photographer Jed Corbett at the Nikon Gallery, Nikon House, 380 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey on weekdays between November 4 and 28, admission free.

Contributions may be forwarded directly to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London SW6 1EE, in an envelope marked "JSE Brabant Island Appeal."

## SIR REX LEAVES IN RFA

SIR Rex Hunt, Governor and Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands for the past six years, and Lady Hunt, left the islands last month in the RFA Sir Geraint.

NAVY NEWS  
NOVEMBER 1983

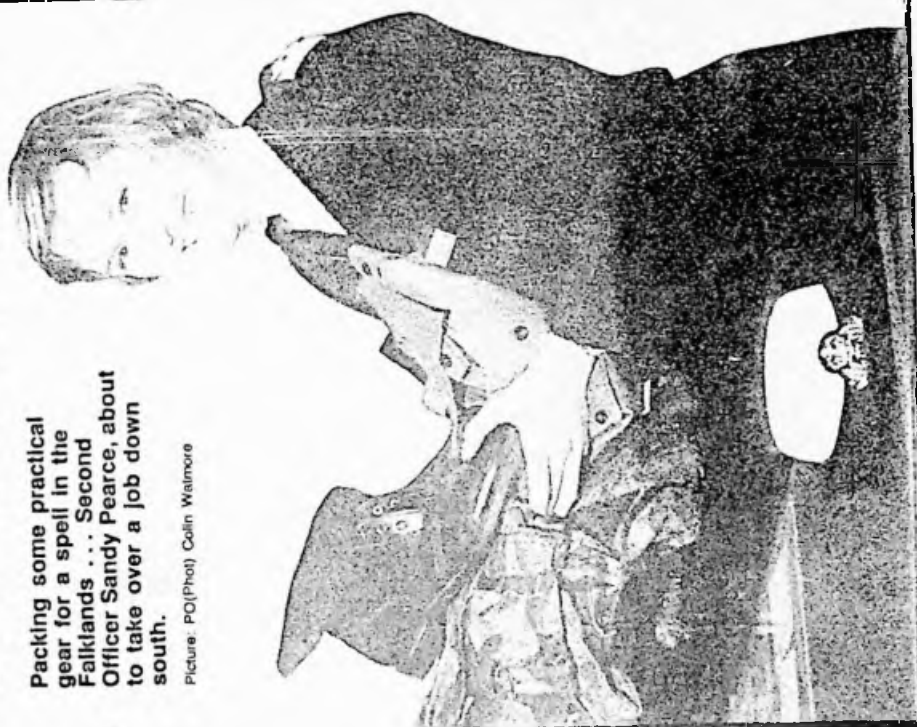
FROM THE first time, jobs in the Falkland Islands at present done by male Royal Navy personnel have been opened to members of the Women's Royal Naval Service.



## SOUTHBOUND SANDY

Packing some practical gear for a spell in the Falklands ... Second Officer Sandy Pearce, about to take over a job down south.

Picture: PO(Phot) Colin Wainmore



# WRNS ON WAY TO FALKLANDS

FOR THE first time, jobs in the Falkland Islands at present done by male Royal Navy personnel have been opened to members of the WRNS from the Communications, Radar and Secretariat specialisations.

Cont.

Cont...

NAVY NEWS  
NOVEMBER 1985

The first WRNS members to go will all be volunteers and then, like the men, they will be selected on grounds of availability. The present standard tour of service is four months, after which they will return to UK establishments to be replaced by either a man or woman.

First to depart is Second Officer Sandy Pearce, who will fly out from RAF Brize Norton early this month.

Her primary task will be as one of three watchkeeping officers (the other two are male and from the Army and RAF), who are responsible for overseeing joint service operations on and around the islands. She will have a sailor and an RAF senior aircraftman in her team.

Her responsibilities will also include welfare of all Wrens on the islands at any one time.

### Combat gear

In the Falklands the Wrens will join members of the other Women's Services already there. Final accommodation arrangements are still being settled.

It is planned that one senior rate and six junior rates fly out in January, and another senior rate and three junior rates in March.

On the islands they may often swap their high-heeled court shoes and distinctive hats for combat gear with navy blue berets. And in their kit they will be taking flame-resistant No. 8 trousers as part of working rig.

## Tristram back in service

RFA Sir Tristram went on show in London last month after 15 months of major surgery on the Tyne.

The ship was badly damaged during an Argentine air raid which also devastated RFA Sir Galahad at Fitzroy during the Falklands War. The Sir Galahad was beyond repair, but after an 8,000 mile piggy-back journey on board the heavy-lift vessel Dan Lister, the Sir Tristram was rebuilt by Tyne Shiprepairers.

Her battered aluminium superstructure was replaced by steel, and she was cut in two and lengthened by 29ft. Other modifications include a new electronic pneumatic control system and a strengthened vehicle deck to allow her to operate big Chinook heavy-lift helicopters.

Capt. Robin Green, who is in command of the ship, was also in command during the Falklands conflict.



"Dashed hard luck on the sailors, eh chaps?"

Smiles

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Journalist missing

A BUENOS Aires judge yesterday began an investigation into the disappearance of Mr Jose Palozzi, the Italian editor of an Argentine magazine, *Ano Cero*. Police said they were treating his disappearance as a kidnapping.

Mr Palozzi was reported missing after being taken from his home on Sunday by a man claiming to be a policeman. Nothing has been heard of him since, the journalist, a resident of Argentina, once claimed that a former Junta member, Admiral Emilio Massera, ran the controversial Italian masonic lodge P2 in Argentina. — Reuter/AP.



Steven Berkoff—rejected

### Sunk by the BBC

□ The latest work by playwright Steven Berkoff, *Sink the Belgrano*, has been rejected by BBC Television, in spite of an enthusiastic reception by certain producers and directors in the drama department. It's an unbalanced account of events, says Berkoff, which argues that the sinking was a conspiracy to inflame the Falklands war. "It's written in verse, and maybe the BBC don't like verse," he says. "The Prime Minister figure is unsympathetic, but I don't think the BBC rejected it because they're the tool of the Government. They've resisted that idea many times, although there is a kind of caution about things not being balanced." He adds mysteriously that "the BBC thinks the Thatcher Government's on the way out, anyway," and says there are two or three other parties interested in producing the play on state or television.

## Labour attacks Thatcher broadcast to Falklands

The Prime Minister was accused by a Labour spokesman of "flipping her lid" on the Falklands over the Christmas holiday (Our Political Correspondent writes).

The further bout of political abuse was provoked by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Christmas Day broadcast to the Falkland Islands, in which she repeated her condemnation of allies who had supported last month's United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for talks between Argentina and Britain.

Mrs Thatcher said in her message: "We are committed to protecting your right to determine your own future. It is one of the fundamental principles of

the United Nations and I regret that at the recent general assembly so many of our friends proved unwilling to face up to the real issues at stake.

Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the Prime Minister should apologize for her insulting remarks. "She seems finally to have flipped her lid," he said.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said: "Instead of using, or abusing, Christmas for a controversial political message the Prime Minister should ask herself why friendly governments of the United States, France and Italy voted against us." The UN resolution was carried by 107 votes to four.



Tuesday 24 December 1985

## Rain ruins 25% of Argentine wheat

BY OUR BUENOS AIRES CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT a quarter of the expected Argentine wheat harvest for this season appears to have been ruined by torrential rains that fell on the country's major production areas during October and November.

The projected harvest of between 11m and 13m tonnes has been revised because of the damage and the local grains futures exchange currently expects no more than 8.8m tonnes to be harvested.

Rains in Buenos Aires province, where 65 per cent of this

year's wheat crop was sown, have caused widespread downy mildew, smut and rust blights. Some farmers have decided not to harvest their wheat because of low yields and depressed market prices.

Argentina has committed 4.5m tonnes of this year's wheat harvest to exports while a similar amount is needed for domestic consumption. But some analysts believe the harvest, even with reduced yields, will be sufficient for such demand.

"We're going to make it this

year—barely but we'll make it," says grain dealer Guillermo Cavazedo of the private trading firm Bunte y Bornes. He says private grain operators have turned over 1m tonnes of the harvest, which is half completed, to the Government-controlled National Grain Board to meet its foreign commitments. Some foreign buyers have reduced their planned wheat purchases from Argentina, reportedly because of fears that grain quality as well as quantity has been affected by bad weather.



## UK trough of a Soviet wave

Sir,—In his tribute to Admiral Gorshkov (December 12) David Fairhall seems to have misinterpreted the "Tsar of the Ocean Wave's" attitude to air power at sea, as so many naval commentators have done in the past twenty-five years. This misinterpretation lies in his use of the words "vulnerable and formidable" when describing fixed wing aircraft carriers.

Yes — they are vulnerable and formidable, but Gorschov's genius lay in seeing that they are also indispensable in modern warfare, and his great achievement was his successful propaganda campaign to convince both Tory and Labour governments (and quite a lot of admirals, too) that Britain should no longer afford a proper Fleet Air Arm.

Gorshkov will no doubt relish the irony of Britain's

situation now, for the cost of the Falklands war and garrison would have bought us five strike carriers, while just a couple would probably have deterred Argentina and prevented the war itself.

Charles Gidley.

8 Abbots Rd.,  
Winchester.

### Vote on the Falklands

SIR—On Dec. 7 a letter from the South Atlantic Council, City University, which accurately reflects Argentine propaganda, appeared in your columns.

The letter avers that even Britain's blood-brothers of the Old Commonwealth were not prepared to save her from a crushing diplomatic defeat at the United Nations; that the defeat is corroborative proof of Britain's intransigence; that Britain is morally obliged to discuss the sovereignty issue with Argentina. It says, in short, that the *status quo ante bellum* must be restored.

The letter shows a misunderstanding of both the UN's procedures (where, frequently, voting takes place without benefit of having listened to the arguments) and the standing of its resolutions in international law.

It belittles the category, which the UN itself acknowledges, of territories that are developing towards self-government, one of which is the Falklands and all of which have rights.

It ignores, as Argentina did and does, the proviso consistently applied by the Thatcher Governments since 1979, of respecting the wishes of the islanders in any negotiations about their future.

Little wonder then, that a previous offer to discuss sovereignty has been withdrawn.

M. R. MEADMORE  
London, W.12

**A**fter all the bickering and bad behaviour in the Commons, not to mention the cabinet room, Mrs Thatcher is taking a break from politics over Christmas. She is retreating to Chequers for the Christmas and new year recess, and officials hope it will be a complete break. She has already put into the "can" her Christmas message to the Falklands, hospital radio and a Walt Disney Christmas special to be broadcast to 240m people in North America on Christmas day. She has turned down all requests for new year radio and television interviews - leaving the way clear for Neil Kinnock to broadcast his turn of the year thoughts to the nation on BBC radio next Sunday lunchtime.



## FALKLANDS' CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day dawned with bright sunshine and the local radio station promising temperatures more typical of the South of France than the South Atlantic. The strong winds were cooling but they did not lessen the fierce strength of the sun.

I crawled from my tent, pitched high on the central range of mountains between San Carlos and Stanley on East Falkland. To the south the view was magnificent, overlooking Fitzroy, Bluff Cove and the sea; to the west was the huge sprawling construction site of the new Mount Pleasant Airport, our reason for being in the Falklands, and from which four of us had escaped for the Christmas break. Having sniffed the air I returned to my sleeping bag and promptly went to sleep again for another hour.

After breakfast - Sugar Puffs, cheese rolls and coffee - Les, Jim, Paul and I set off over the steep moorland to the large outcrop of rock where we intended to spend the day climbing. We had believed this spot to be called Church Rocks, but when we arrived we checked the map, took some compass bearings and found that Church Rocks were in fact about a kilometre to the west. These rocks were unmarked and unnamed.

We climbed the northern side of the rocks, which was sheltered from



the wind. The unpolluted sky of the South Atlantic offers little resistance to the sun's rays, and the temperatures soon soared into the eighties. It was a dream world for the climber, every rock previously untouched and every route a first ascent.

We stopped for a rest and a snack lunch at around three o'clock. Then, while Les and Paul continued climbing, Jim and I walked for two or three miles along the crest of the chain of hills. We enjoyed breathtaking views of the island, particularly to the north, where a complex system of rivers and inlets lay below us like a map. To the west were Mount Kent, Two Sisters and Tumbledown, names made famous by the recent conflict, which seemed remarkably remote in the tranquil Christmas sunshine.

When we returned to the camp we saw that Les and Paul had been busy. A bunch of balloons tied to the tent served as Christmas decorations. The smell of cooking sausages wafted out. Our Christmas dinner consisted of tomato soup, pilchards, hot sausage sandwiches and apples.

As we ate we sat and looked out across the coast and the Atlantic. It had been a splendid day. We felt healthy and tanned by the sun. The wind dropped to a pleasant breeze and the world seemed a peaceful place.

That night in the tent we sat, drank cans of beer, told jokes and exchanged tall stories. As the light faded and we prepared to sleep we held a rapid vote and chose a name for the rocks where we had spent the day - Christmas Crags. **Chris Hale**

Ministry of Defence



## A glut of squid

From Mr J. Provan MEP

Sir, — Robert Graham's article (December 12) on the threat of over-fishing in Falklands waters provides an excellent analysis of the study carried out by the marine resources assessment group at Imperial College.

While I believe that the principal benefit to the Falkland Islands from a managed fishery would be the provision of much needed employment through the development of on-shore facilities for the fishing industry, the most significant point made in the report is the explanation of the direct relationship between Falklands squid fishery and the livelihood of those involved in Scottish Mackerel and herring fisheries. This is because Falklands squid is used to the East Europeans as a "hard currency" to barter for mackerel and herring.

At present the price received by Scottish fishermen for their mackerel and herring is only marginally above the EEC withdrawal price. In 1984 the UK exported some 146,000 tonnes of fresh mackerel and 32,000 tonnes of herring. The East European buyers know that the Scottish boats cannot divert

their effort to other fishing grounds. As your article states, there is evidence to suggest that the supply of squid on the world market has increased and that the price has fallen.

Fishing activity in Falklands waters has built up rapidly in recent years and there is every indication that the number of vessels preparing to enter the fishery next year will be substantially greater than that involved in 1985. There is, therefore, a very real danger of a glut of squid on the world market with serious direct consequences for the Scottish pelagic fleet and for the EEC's withdrawal system, thus placing an extra burden on the EEC budget. All encouragement must, therefore, be given to the British Government to seek an early management agreement on the fishery through the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

James Provan,  
(Conservative spokesman on  
agriculture and fisheries in the  
European Parliament).  
Wallacetown,  
Bridge of Earn,  
Perth,  
Scotland.

## Latin America 'faces wide economic and social instability'

BY HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

LATIN AMERICA will be faced with widespread social and economic instability if present economic strategies are continued, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) warns in its authoritative preliminary overview of the region's performance in 1985.

Growth rates have been disappointing this year, exports of capital to the industrialised countries have remained at a high level and the general average of inflation is very high, Mr Roberto Gonzalez, ECLAC's executive secretary, reported in Santiago.

The region's gross domestic product rose 2.8 per cent in 1985, 0.4 per cent down on the 1984 figure, a performance achieved only because of a 7 per cent growth rate in Brazil.

If the Brazilian experience is left aside, Mr Gonzalez said, the per capita income in the region shrank by 1.5 per cent this year.

Only four countries, Brazil, Cuba, Paraguay and Mexico registered appreciable growth, the economies of Chile and Colombia stagnated and 14 remaining economies contracted.

Inflation through the region

averaged 144 per cent if the hyper-inflation of Bolivia is left out of calculation. If the extraordinary 11,300 per cent price rise of that country is taken into consideration, the regional average rises to 610 per cent, up from the 164 per cent average of last year.

As a result of a fall in the region's trade surplus and continuing high levels of debt payments, Latin America's current account surplus contracted from \$9.3bn last year to a mere \$300m this year.

With the inflow of loans and investments less than the outflow of profits and debt service payments, the region as a whole exported more than \$30bn in capital to the developed world.

Over the past four years, capital exports have totalled \$106bn. The region's foreign debt is put by ECLAC at \$368bn, 2 per cent up on last year.

"The responsibility for solving the debt problem now needs to be suitably shared between debtors and creditors and must be managed with due regard not only to its financial aspects but its more general economic, social and political implications," Mr Gonzalez commented.



## Twickers expansion for '86/'87

BIRD-watching in northern China, trekking in Venezuela and escorted tours to the Falkland Islands are just three of the new possibilities introduced this year by 'Wildlife and wilderness' specialist, **Twickers World**.

The expanded worldwide programme for 1986/87 features several new tours. In addition to those mentioned above, the new options are: Seychelles cruising, Zambia and Malawi, an escorted tour of Tibet and China, a photographic tour of the Canadian Rockies and a programme of holidays to the Comores Islands, just off the coast of Madagascar.

One thousand people were carried on the programme in 1985 - this is expected to rise to 1,200 in '86. Hedda Lyons, **Twickers World** Managing Director, says that about 30% of the company's business comes through the retail travel trade. Promotions are done, sometimes in the form of seminars and sometimes in conjunction with various tourist offices, in order to increase that share.

Ms Lyons believes that "agents today are becoming increasingly attuned to the unique and more specialised holiday product." It is a fairly early-booking market, although the days of clients booking 6-12 months prior to departure have been replaced by a one-three month lead-in time.

Ms Lyons describes the **Twickers World** programme as "offering general interest holidays for people wanting to do something different".

For more details of the programme, which covers Latin America, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Asia, Australia and North America, telephone **Twickers World** on 01-892 8164/7606 or 01-486 8371.



## Falkland packages

ONE of the less obvious holiday destinations now being promoted to the UK market is the Falkland Islands.

A four-page brochure now available gives details of the islands themselves, as well as information on accommodation and transportation and on chartering *my Penguin!*

The return fare (from RAF Brize Norton) is £1,950, although an Apex fare of £1,250 is now available and there are special group booking rates too (details on request from the Falkland Islands Department, Room WH 301, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1A 2AH; telephone 01-233 8709).

Anyone interested in putting together a package, should contact Patrick Roper at the Falkland Islands Department of the **English Tourist Board**, Thames Tower, Black's Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9EL, or telephone 01-486 9000.

The Financial Times  
Thursday 19 December 1985

### **Falklands peace bid**

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he would resume contacts with Britain and Argentina next year to try to begin a process leading to a solution of the Falklands dispute.

## **'LOST LINKS' WARNING TO FALKLANDERS**

**By Our Port Stanley  
Correspondent**

An all-party delegation of MPs and peers have concluded a fact-finding, seven-day visit to the Falklands, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. They will report their findings to the Ministry and to the Foreign Office.

The leader of the delegation, Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen, warned the islanders they must expect to renew their lost links with Argentina "one day, though not for sometime.

"We would like eventually for there to be some better arrangements with South America, without of course in any way weakening sovereignty," he said.

Daily Mail  
18.12.85

## Islanders' plea over fish zone

PORT STANLEY: A delegation of British MPs and peers left the Falklands yesterday after a week inspecting military and civilian communities.

They said they were surprised by the islanders' 'passionate determination' to get a 200-mile zone around the islands to control the present heavy fishing by Eastern bloc and European countries.

## Government all at sea in its maritime policy

Sir, — John Carvels (December 11) forecasting the outcome of the Lords channel link debate and Mrs Thatcher's subsequent trip to Paris in January also diagnosed a serious national malaise.

The Prime Minister's dislike of trains is frequently reported but her phobia about ships is less often highlighted. The origins of the affliction are obscure and certainly no lure occurred after 1982 even though feats of maritime prowess then largely secured her a berth in No. 10 for another 5 years. In fact after that therapy the symptoms worsened — degenerating from negative policies of irresponsible neglect into positive action to damage the fleet.

Two of the salvos fired in 1984 — the abolition of capital allowances for shipowners and the withdrawal of seafarers' tax allowances — were right on target in their destructive capacity to undermine the competitiveness of British ships. According to a recent owners' survey we are now the only maritime nation in the world sending ships to sea without any safeguards or incentives.

As John Carvel reports an-



other attack is planned for early 1986 against the remnants of the fleet which has halved in size since 1980. This time it will be directed at our ferries which have not only had the nerve to survive but have also continued to dominate the subsidised french competition.

All that will be scuppered however when Mrs Thatcher signs a treaty with President Mitterand for a fixed channel link. It is to be signed even though the government's own 1985 assessment of tonnage needed for strategic purposes until 1992, took no account of ships lost as a result of a fixed link missile.

Is there a cure — apart

from an election — for such a phobia which also causes blindness to all the lessons of our history? My union, representing 29,000 shipmasters and officers at sea, would prescribe a cruise, perhaps to the Falklands in, say, Canberra or QE2. The Prime Minister could be assured that the medical staff on board, and indeed the whole ship's company would try any treatment likely to remedy the situation. —

Yours sincerely

John Newman,

(Deputy General Secretary)  
National Union of Marine  
Aviation and Shipping Trans-  
port Officers,  
London E11.

## Argentine appeals

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

The prosecution at the trial of Argentina's former military rulers for human rights crimes plans to appeal against the verdict in which four of the nine defendants were acquitted a week ago.

The assistant prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno Ocampo, said that an appeal will be filed on the grounds that the ruling by the federal appeals court was "arbitrary."

Defence counsel for the five convicted former commanders, including General Jorge Videla and Admiral Emilio Massera, who were sentenced to life imprisonment, have already said they will appeal to the supreme court.

Lawyers here feel that none of the appeals is likely to get very far and human rights campaigners are already thinking of bringing new charges against some of the acquitted.

The target of most of those plans seems to be General Leopoldo Galtieri, who is alleged to have played an active part in the former regime's "dirty war" in the late 1970s as he clawed his way to the top of the army.

General Galtieri was head of the army's second and first corps as the regime consolidated its grip on power after the 1976 coup with a campaign of state terror in which at least 9,000 people disappeared and many more were illegally held and tortured.

One witness testified how, during a visit to the navy's notorious Mechanics School, he boasted he was the "lord of life and death."



Monday 16 December  
1985

# 'Dirty war' cases big problem still for Alfonsín

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Buenos Aires

**P**RESIDENT ALFONSÍN of Argentina embarks this month on his third year in office with the praises of fellow world leaders ringing in his ears.

Not only has he taken giant strides to sort out Argentina's acute economic problems.

Last week he delivered the goods on his fundamental campaign promise — to bring the military dictators to justice.

The life sentences handed down to ex-Junta leader Jorge Videla and his Naval colleague, Adml Emilio Massera, were hailed around the democratic world as the clearest sign so far that the rule of law has been restored in Argentina after years of dictatorship.

## Slightly diminished

Local fury over lesser sentences for other Junta members, and the fact that the Falklands trio, led by Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, was acquitted, only slightly diminished Senor Alfonsín's achievement.

It was most unusual in Latin-American history for a military regime to be called to account for abuses of power. Civilian Governments have been chary of clashing with generals accustomed to ruling by force.

But the trial verdict by no means ends President Alfonsín's confrontation with his country's painful past. Serious problems await that could yet provoke the military into a full return to their old coup-mongering ways.

The crucial question concerns the future of charges against other, more junior officers accused of human rights abuses during the so-called "dirty war" against Left-wing guerrillas in the late 1970s.

## Paved the way

During the month of evidence that preceded the verdict, dozens if not hundreds of military officers were accused by name of torture, murder, and other abuses.

The Junta leaders have paid the penalty for their overall responsibility for the "dirty war."

But what human rights activists — notably the now famous Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo — want to know is whether other generals and the colonels, majors and captains who in many cases actually fired the pistol or applied the electric cattle prod, will also be brought to justice.

By general agreement, the

six-man Junta tribunal's verdict paved the way for further trials by announcing it would forward all charges levelled against officers to the Armed Forces Supreme Council.

But the military has proved notoriously reluctant to pursue human rights charges through its own courts.

Indeed the opinion of most officers remains steadfast. They regard the "dirty war" as having been totally necessary to prevent Argentina from falling into the hands of Marxist subversives.

Their only regret is that the civilian population does not seem to realise it was "saved" from anarchy.

Among Argentines deeply concerned lest the Junta verdicts end proceedings against the military is Senora Hebe de Bonafini, president of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, women whose children "disappeared" during the "dirty war".

Last week Senora de Bonafini organised a 24-hour rally to reject any amnesty for lower-ranked officers.

Of the lesser sentences imposed by the tribunal, she said: "They were a joke on the people because while a bicycle thief gets 16 years these military officers, who robbed, killed, tortured and raped, are acquitted."

## Interminable prospect

For President Alfonsín the prospect is developing of interminable legal military struggles that might wrap up the courts for years. It has taken more than a year to bring the nine Junta leaders' trial to its conclusion — and appeals may stretch out for years to come.

To embark now on hundreds more individual prosecutions might simply be asking too much of the legal profession's resources.

It might also prove more than the military were prepared to swallow.

Meanwhile those Junta leaders who walked free from the tribunal are by no means high and dry. Gen. Galtieri and his Falklands colleagues await the outcome of a separate military tribunal considering their conduct of the war.

Prosecutors have requested 12 years jail for Galtieri and Adml Jorge Anaya and eight years for Air Force Chief Basilio Lami Dozo. Verdicts are expected in mid-January.

# Touch of hysteria on the Right

By Peregrine  
Worsthorne

"LEFT Bias of Games in the Classroom," shouted headlines last week. They were prompted by a new pamphlet written by the redoubtable Right-wing philosopher Professor Roger Scruton, attacking "peace studies" and "Third World studies" as they are now being taught in many of our schools.

The Professor alleges that children are being indoctrinated in anti-Western and anti-Nato attitudes by politically motivated teachers who wish this country ill. Just how deadly serious this problem is judged to be can be inferred from the fact that the pamphlet is published by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies. In other words, we are being asked to believe that peace and Third World studies could become a veritable threat to the safety of the realm.

At the risk of sounding complacent, let me say that I find such fears exaggerated, not to say a trifle absurd. Yet this kind of exaggeration, bordering on hysteria, is by no means uncommon in Right-wing intellectual circles. I constantly find myself in the company of Right-wing academics, journalists, politicians and businessmen who seem to sense a great Left-wing conspiracy sapping away at the patriotic fibre of the British people. Whenever an article appears in the newspapers, or a programme on the telly, which is anti-American or insufficiently excoriating of the Soviet Union, or anti-capitalist, it is seized upon as one more straw in a cold east wind blowing off the Russian steppes.



To my mind, however, what is much more remarkable today than all these silly Left-wing articles and programmes is their quite staggering lack of impact. I do not deny that there is a lot of Marxist, or sub-Marxist, propaganda around; that the media are tiresomely full of politically illiterate material with a vaguely anti-capitalist bias. But the effect, as far as I can judge, is minimal. The overwhelming majority of the country is probably more pro-capitalist, pro-democratic, pro-Western (whatever that may mean) than ever before in its history. Far from the status quo or the established ideology being in danger, it has never been more securely based in the hearts and—what is more important—in the pockets of the people than it is today.

At the time of the Falklands campaign everybody was astonished by the sudden outburst of patriotic fervour, not to say jingoism, that galvanised all classes of the nation; by the number of square-jawed, blue-eyed types that suddenly re-appeared on the telly screens; by the enthusiasm for the war that erupted from the shop floor, and so on. What price "peace studies" then? With the benefit of Falklands war hindsight, is it not clear that this country has been very much less influenced by pacifist-type propaganda than Right-wing pessimists seem to assume?

When it came to the crunch, the old nationalist Adam was still there as strong as ever. The same is true, in my view, in all the areas where Right-wingers fear the Left is gaining ground. If Professor Scruton really believes that "Third Worldism," for example, has many adherents he must visit very few establishments where ordinary people express their views. (The letter columns of the *Guardian*, in this respect, scarcely qualify.) As for socialism, it is fast becoming little more than a minority cult.

No, I am not overlooking all the evidence to the contrary in

the media. But such *contra mundum* tendencies on the part of intellectuals, journalists and some teachers are to be expected—indeed welcomed—in a free society, not as a sign of sickness but of health. If there were no signs of anti-Americanism or anti-capitalism or indeed anti-racism in this country, then there really would be grounds for libertarians to have nightmares.

As I have pointed out before in this space, the single most important development in this country during the past quarter of a century has been the spread of affluence to a majority of the nation. Thus today it is the masses who are the "haves," with the "have-nots" reduced to a minority. In other words, the "haves" no longer need to fear mass democracy, or majority rule, as a threat to their privileges, since nowadays the privileged comprise the majority.

Democracy used to be assumed to be a radical force on the side of the bottom dogs, because there were always more of "them" than of top dogs. Nowadays, democracy is increasingly seen to be on the side of the better-off majority; therefore a fundamentally conservative force. Certain political and social aspects of conservatism have always been attractive to the masses: its emphasis on defence, order, punishment, old-fashioned morality and so on. To these, however, must now be added economic self-interest. For the first time in this country capitalism itself is beginning to become a populist cause, as it always has been in the United States.

Against an ideology now so firmly entrenched, not only among the privileged elites but also among the almost equally privileged masses, the so-called waves of intellectual subversion can fall without doing much damage. I would go even further than that and argue that they may even do some good. For when the masses of a society begin to have not only an emotional antipathy to change—which they have

always had—but also—and this is wholly new—a material vested interest in the status quo, then it is positively desirable that at least a section of the elite should stand up for the underdogs, even if this does mean writing and saying things which may have a Marxist or even pro-Soviet tinge to them, desirable in the sense of correcting a balance that might otherwise become excessively conformist to the ideas of democratic capitalism.

One rather gets the impression, from reading Roger Scruton and others—even Bernard Levin—that public opinion in the West in general and Britain in particular is so potentially gullible to Left-wing values that it must be spared from even the slightest danger of infection. Thus Bernard Levin has seen fit to inveigh against the current BBC series "Comrades," which is accused of peddling pro-Soviet propaganda. So it may be, of a very mild kind. But what does it matter? Nothing on the programmes would make anybody want to live in the Soviet Union, or be under any illusions about the nastiness of the system. People really are not such gullible fools as Right-wing writers seem to assume.



In this respect, perhaps it is worth recalling Adam Smith's reply to a pessimist who was predicting economic disaster for mercantilist Britain as far back as 1760. "Be assured, my young friend, that there is a great deal of ruin in a nation." In the same spirit I would reassure these Right-wingers that there is a great deal of subversion in a nation.

By all means let them deplore peace and Third World studies, pro-Soviet bias on the BBC, Marxist leanings among the bishops, anti-Americanism at Oxbridge, even compassion in the heir to the throne. But if those evils are the measure of the subversive threat facing this country, then it seems to me that people of property in this country—ie, most of us—have never before had it so good. Happy indeed is the country where an Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies has no worse troubles to contend with than a few score cranky teachers preaching peace.

## The Alfonsin window

LAST week, in a very brave act, the civilian court in Argentina put behind bars a group of army officers who had usurped power and committed countless brutalities against their fellow-citizens. In the next few days their comrades-in-arms, including the egregious Leopoldo Galtieri, will be judged for their part in the Falklands débâcle. The two-year-old constitutional government of President Alfonsin is showing it is serious in its proclaimed intentions of punishing major criminals, in or out of uniform.

Alfonsin's courage in tackling the enemies of democracy in his own country should advance the possibility of some eventual solution of the Anglo-Argentine dispute over the Falklands. For that possibility to blossom, however, there will have to be much greater flexibility in the positions of the two adversaries. Just as Mrs Thatcher recognised that Garret FitzGerald offered a unique opportunity for some accommodation over Northern Ireland, she should seize the chance of dealing with Alfonsin over the Falklands.

It is understandable that, in her own

political interests, she chooses to remain intransigently anti-Argentine. But this posture of hers is leading to the bizarre situation where Britain is happily talking to the Chinese, Spanish and Irish Governments—all of whom have claims on territory ruled by Westminster—yet will have no truck with talks about the future of 1,700 Falklanders.

For their part, however, the Argentines must realise that no British Government, whatever its stripe, is going to hand over the territory on a plate. After all, Argentina's legal title to the Falklands is certainly no stronger than that of Britain; millions of Argentines who are now cheering for Alfonsin were emotionally committed to Galtieri's madness in 1982, and British troops are back in possession in Port Stanley.

What the politicians and diplomats on both sides must constantly keep in mind is that, sooner or later, the whole, sad, mishandled Falklands affair will have to be resolved by compromise. It would be better if it were sooner; but even Mrs Thatcher must surely realise that her own attitude cannot be maintained for ever.

## Falkland Goose lays a nest egg

HOTELIERS with a pioneering spirit, a love of open spaces and a talent for disguising mutton in their dishes will be delighted to hear that the Upland Goose is for sale.

Desmond King, who has been run off his feet in Port Stanley's only hotel since the day Max Hastings walked in to tell him he had been liberated, is calling it a day. He has instructed Grant & Partners in Mayfair to ask £450,000 for the place, and justifies the figure by pointing to a profit of £80,000 last year.

Five cottages, built with 20-inch-thick walls last century by a West Country stonemason, were knocked together to form the Upland Goose, which sits under a corrugated iron roof overlooking Victory Green and the harbour. It has 16 rooms and a 100ft garden that provides all the vegetables for the kitchen.

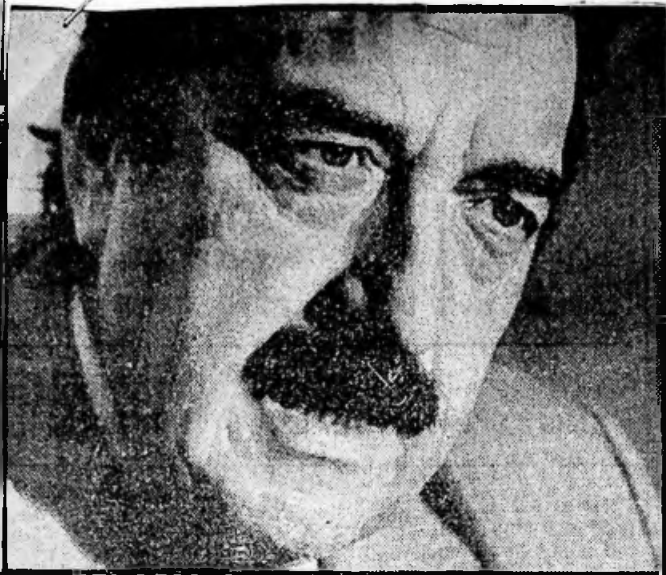
"Lack of food wasn't one of our worries during the conflict," says King, "because we have to

plan so far ahead for food, anyway. We had power cuts, water cuts, a hotel full of refugees and just about everything else, but we managed to stay open through all the fighting."

The lack of any local livestock other than sheep caused him no problems in ringing the changes on the menu. He has provided a choice of nine starters, 18 main courses, and 18 desserts.

But things have been getting a bit hectic lately, with the 2,200 population of the islands boosted by 4,000 British troops, plus Japanese and Koreans involved in fishing, and biologists on field research. So King has decided to retire, leaving it to someone else to exploit the planning consent he has for eight more bedrooms.

Grant & Partners say a big brewery ought to snap up the Goose and make the most of it in an advertising campaign. Refreshing the Britons other brewers can't reach. . . ?



● Last week five of Argentina's former leaders were jailed for human-rights offences. And three members of the ousted junta are on trial over the invasion of the Falklands. These events are milestones in the historic struggle of President Alfonsín (left) to build a democracy. ISABEL HILTON and MARIA LAURA AVIGNOLO report

# CAN ALFONSIN STEM THE TEARS?



GENERAL Jorge Videla, ex-president of Argentina, is a tall, thin man, obsessively neatly dressed and lately with the fixed look of somebody who has opted for a private interior world. Just before his arrest two years ago, he opened his wardrobe and gave his wife instructions about its contents.

The dark suits he wore as president were designated as gifts to his children. The most magnificent of his general's dress uniforms, sumptuous with comic-opera braid, he wanted cleaned for a specially humiliating ceremony: "I shall wear it when they strip me of my rank," he told his wife. "A mere corporal will tear off the epaulettes I won in the service of my country. It is God's will." General Videla was preparing himself for martyrdom.

Last week, in the federal appeal court in Buenos Aires, that martyrdom came nearer. Videla and his eight co-accused, members of the three successive juntas that ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1982, were sentenced on several thousand charges of human-rights violations. The importance of their trial is the degree to which it represents Argentina's will to come to terms with the torture, death and disappearance of between 11,000 and 30,000 people under the last military dictatorship.

For the first time in a country that has had 32 military governments, and in which, since 1930, every elected president has been forced from office by a military coup, a civilian court sat in judgment on the men at arms who had usurped power and so terribly misused it. "It proves," said the youth wing of the Radical party, "that democracy is capable of resolving the most profound traumas that Argentine society has suffered, even when the ideological extremes are constantly putting it at risk."

Two attacks were mounted on the verdicts immediately. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who for eight years have campaigned for the return of the disappeared, last week staged a 24-hour demonstration in protest at what they see as absurdly light sentences. Supporters of the armed forces were equally angry.

"People have forgotten what hell terrorism was in this country," said Dolores Pereda, an admirer of the last military government. "I would put up a statue to Videla because he saved Argentina."

THE MAN who had brought Videla and his co-accused to trial was a provincial lawyer when they staged their coup in 1976. Raul Alfonsín began his political career with nothing more to recommend him than a large measure of common sense, a degree of courage and a strong sense of justice.

He is now on the way to being the most successful president Argentina has ever had, but until 1982, there was everything wrong with Raul Alfonsín's career. He was the leader of a small, dissident, leftist group within the crumbling Radical party, a party that had gone into eclipse since the death of its caudillo, Ricardo Balbin, in 1978.

In 1982, when the rest of Argentina lost its head in the Falklands war, Alfonsín, alone of the country's prominent politicians, refused the military junta's "invitation" to go on a tour of the islands, and issued a statement criticising the invasion.

But by the end of 1982, the junta had collapsed under the rubble of that disastrous war, and the small-town lawyer was riding on a wave of enthusiasm for change.

Argentines love to debate when exactly it was that the rot began in the nation's political life. But whatever faction people belong to, they agree that the 1970s marked

an all-time low. Former dictator Juan Peron had returned to Argentina in 1973 to lead a movement divided between its radical youth wing and the extreme right - a right Peron eventually supported.

After Peron's death in 1975, his widow Maria-Estela, known to her followers as Isabelita, presided briefly over a country in chaos. On Christmas day 1975, Videla issued an ultimatum from Tucuman province, where he was, successfully, fighting the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), a marxist guerrilla force. If Isabelita could not impose order in 90 days, he said, the armed forces would do it for her. On March 24, 1976, he kept his word.

Isabelita was arrested, Videla became president and the "dirty war" began in earnest. The "order" the new regime imposed on Argentina was the peace of the grave. A campaign of terror was unleashed which caught up the committed and bystanders alike. Men, women and, in the most poignant cases, children disappeared from their homes, off the streets, from their places of work, forced struggling into unmarked cars by groups of unidentified men.

But for much of the populace, the arrival of the military in power brought order to chaos. The disorder existed only in the lives of those whose homes were ransacked, whose possessions were stolen, and whose mutilated bodies were buried in secret graves or thrown out of helicopters over the sea, occasionally to be washed up, embarrassingly, on the shore.

But as Argentina began to move toward elections in 1983, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo became the symbol of the conscience of the nation. After the humiliation of the Falklands defeat came the shameful acknowledgment that most Argentines had turned a blind eye to mass murder. They elected Alfonsín

in the hope that he would show them a way back to sanity and self-respect.

ALFONSOIN had promised justice for the dirty war but reality is always more complicated. How could a democracy uphold the rule of law if murder and torture went unpunished? But how could such a new democracy, in a country with such a depressing history of military coups, hope to impose justice on such a powerful and implacably hostile institution as the armed forces?

Alfonsín's first decision, aided by the sheer practical difficulties of lack of evidence, was not to try to deal justice on a case-by-case basis.

Instead, he opted to arrest and eventually to put on trial the nine commanders who comprised the three successive juntas of the dictatorship - the three presidents, Jorge Videla, Roberto Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri, the admirals Emilio Massera, Armando Lambrusini and Jorge Anaya, and the three brigadiers Orlando Agosti, Ruben Graffigna and Basilio Lami Dozo. This was unlikely to please the armed forces, but Alfonsín hoped they would recognise that it was better than putting every implicated officer on trial.

He sent the nine commanders for trial in the civilian courts, but with the extraordinary instruction that the code of military justice was to apply. Among other things, this meant that they enjoyed more favourable conditions of detention in barracks belonging to the armed forces. Below the

commanders, Alfonsín decreed that only those officers who had exceeded their orders would be tried for violations of human rights.

To demonstrate to the armed forces his even-handedness, Alfonsín further ordered the arrest and trial of the most notorious surviving terrorist, Mario Firmenich, then in exile in Brazil. In 1984, Firmenich was extradited to Argentina and the process of building a case against him began. With these trials, Alfonsín hoped to pave the way toward an eventual amnesty for the lesser characters - armed services personnel and guerrillas alike - and a much-needed national reconciliation.

In the wider public, however, there continued to be the expectation that Alfonsín would execute a literal case-by-case justice, as he had appeared to promise in his campaign.

Alfonsín's solution was typical of his style. To defuse public expectations, he appointed a commission of eminent people, not activists in human rights, to investigate the fate of the disappeared. The commission was to report to Alfonsín.

As the work of the National Commission on Disappeared Persons (Conadep) got under way in January of 1984, the members were deluged with evidence so appalling that they resolved to take their work much further than envisaged, visiting the sites of concentration camps and prisons, reconstructing the vanished apparatus of exter-

mination. Fifteen months later, the traumatised commission delivered its report to Alfonsín.

First, it told the story of the dirty war in inescapable detail. When it was finally published, the public, which has always preferred to think of itself as spiritually part of the "civilised" West rather than Latin America, was truly shocked.

Second, the report exploded once and for all the myths that human-rights abuses were few, and were committed by isolated and renegade groups without the knowledge of the military government.

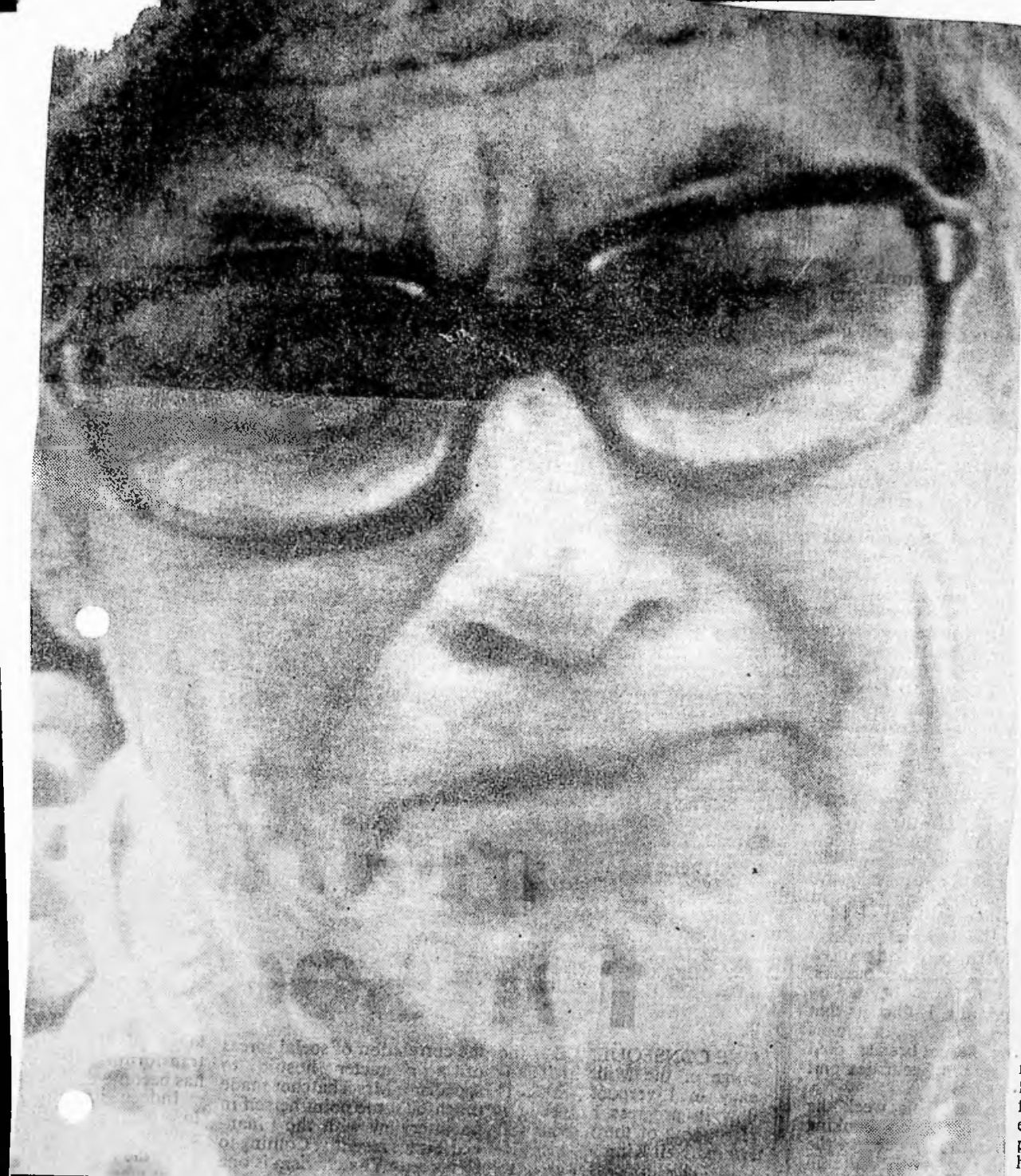
Third, the commission report included a long list of names of officers who had taken a consenting part in the repression.

The impact on the public of the Conadep report, finally published in condensed form under the title Never Again, was so profound that any doubts about the advisability of trying the nine commanders were set aside.

The trial started on April 26 and the public was admitted to the courtroom. There, day after day, scenes of harrowing intensity were played out. Alfonsín decreed the proceedings too inflammatory to be broadcast with sound, and the first scenes to be broadcast in full were those from last week's verdict.

Videla, the first president of the dictatorship, received the harshest sentence - life imprisonment with isolation - a judgement that does not entirely reflect his role in the





There are already 1,700 military trials in progress against serving officers of lower rank - those who were deemed to have exceeded orders. And in addition, Galtieri, Lami Dozo and Anaya are awaiting judgment after a closed military trial, on charges relating to the Falklands war. Judgment is due on January 7 and the prosecution has asked for sentences of 12 years for Galtieri and Anaya, and six for Lami Dozo.

IF MORE trials now begin in the civilian courts, Alfonsín will be faced with the politically disagreeable prospect of conspicuously interrupting the course of justice with his amnesty law. The Mothers and other human-rights organisations continue to demand *Justicia al final* - justice to the bitter end. Alfonsín's response is *Justicia como ejemplo* - exemplary justice.

The signs are that the Argentine public agrees with Alfonsín.

Against all predictions, he is more popular today than when elected two years ago, in spite of having come to office with expectations of his government that no mortal president could fulfil.

He began his term apparently reluctant to deal with Argentina's economic chaos and when he finally acted, earlier this year, it was with draconian measures. And just as people have accepted economic reality, there has been a fundamental change in political attitudes. Today the right would find little support for a military coup, nor the left for the armed struggle. The easy resort to violence that has plagued the life of Argentina has been discredited.

Last week's verdicts were thus one more step on the road to political normalisation, a road as fraught with perils as the road to democracy taken by Spain after the death of Franco. Spain found in Felipe Gonzalez a leader who not only caught the imagination of his public but who succeeded in forcing the pace of modernisation in his country's political life.

Alfonsín, in turn, may prove to be the president who convinces Argentina that reality is an important commodity in politics and that it can be combined with principle. In this ambition, his greatest peril is that the Argentine public might revert to the habit of creating a fantasy around their leader rather than building serious party politics. If they do that, they will cast Alfonsín in an image he has not chosen, but might not have the power to refuse - the caudillo of the 1980s.

A mother's grief: eight years of campaigning for the 'disappeared ones' is exacting penalties on all sides

repression. Videla is now thought to have been led into the dirty war by the man who was the army chief of staff at the time of the coup and later became president, Viola, the ideologist of the war against subversion.

Videla deluded himself, as many in the Argentine armed forces did, that what they did was justified. They were fighting what they liked to describe as the "third world war", the war against subversion.

Admiral Massera, universally considered the most evil figure, offered an aggressive defence. "We are being tried," he said, "not for offences against human rights but for having won a war against subversion." Massera was sentenced to life imprisonment. Viola, the ideologist, was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

Against this, it came as a shock to many that the men who launched the Falklands war, Lami Dozo, Anaya and Galtieri, were acquitted of human-rights violations. Although they were charged with

multiple homicide, no cases were admitted by the judge because no bodies could be produced.

Nevertheless, with the trials of the commanders and of Firmenich, Alfonsín hoped to lay the political foundations of an amnesty for those officers who had only "obeyed orders". It was a strategy that received a setback last week when the court resolved to move down the military hierarchy and prosecute the lower ranks of command for human-rights crimes.

## Argentina

## Washed linen from a dirty war

The problem of human rights in Argentina has almost been forgotten in the wake of the Falkland Islands. But the issue is still a major concern of the British Government. The Foreign Office is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

The British Government's policy is clear and consistent. It is based on the principle of human rights. The British Government is aware of the human rights situation in Argentina and is working to ensure that the British Government's policy is clear and consistent.

## Guatemala

## He survived

Mr Victor Cordero, who was elected President of Guatemala on December 10, is now in the United Kingdom. He is now in the United Kingdom. He is now in the United Kingdom.

## Argentina

# Washed linen from a dirty war

FROM OUR BUENOS AIRES CORRESPONDENT

The readiness of the army to intervene in politics has always been at the centre of Argentina's political debate. That issue was faced head-on when President Alfonsín authorised the prosecution, on charges of human-rights violations, of the nine members of the three military juntas that ruled the country between 1976 and 1982. Many Argentines feared that the trial, which started last April, would sour relations between President Alfonsín's government and the army, and might lead to a coup. The surprisingly judicious verdict of the court on December 9th may instead, if things go well, instil a new respect for the law and the constitution among Argentina's soldiers.

Six civilian judges, sitting as a court martial, condemned a former president, General Jorge Videla, and a former navy chief, Admiral Emilio Massera, to life imprisonment. The other seven accused men got lighter sentences or were acquitted. Among those absolved were the three military men in charge of the Falklands war with Britain—General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Anaya, and the air force's Brigadier-General Basilio Lami Dozo. The three now face a court of their military peers to judge their responsibility for the Falklands debacle.

The human-rights trial was ordered after a government inquiry last year into the cases of more than 8,000 Argentines who have disappeared since the 1976 coup. The special court's chairman, Mr Leon Arslanian, found that the juntas had acted illegally in repressing left-wing terrorists, their sympathisers and many "innocents". But the court turned down the prosecution's request for the same prison sentences for each of the nine, on the ground that they could not be held collectively responsible.

The acquittals seemed to refute the complaint of defence lawyers that the trial

was a witch-hunt. The court sifted painstakingly through evidence provided by more than 1,000 witnesses. Some of it was rejected. The prosecution failed to produce written orders for the alleged crimes—most of the disappearances occurred early on, when General Videla and Admiral Massera ruled unchallenged—and the verdict was based on circumstantial evidence.

The court believed the buck should not stop at the top. The judges recommended that a military tribunal investigate more than 300 junior and middle-ranking officers who carried out the juntas' orders. The judges' virtual absolution of the air force from blame has irritated the army and the navy. The three services are now squabbling over the dwindling defence budget, and it has been suggested that there is a tacit alliance between the government and the air force.

It is not yet clear whether junior officers will be charged. The government is said to be working on a draft law appealing for "national reconciliation" and exonerating the armed forces from further blame. For most Argentines, this might lay the human-rights issue to rest. Human-rights groups organised protests in Buenos Aires this week, but their support has been dwindling in recent months. Even the opposition Peronist party applauds the verdict as "a Hispanic triumph" for democracy.

## Guatemala

# He survived

Mr Vinicio Cerezo, who was elected president of Guatemala on December 8th, is a judo black belt and always carries a revolver. Army-backed death squads have tried to kill him at least

## FALKLANDS FACTS... AND ILLUSIONS

**SIR**—The article by Maxi Gainza "Wipe the Falklands' slate clean" (Dec. 4) was intriguing, as much for what he did not write as for what he did. I have re-read his article many times and would share his hopes for a new beginning for British/Argentine relations.

However, the only sure foundations for true respect and friendship are on the Falklands facts of 1985, not the Malvinas illusions of 1982.

Senor Gainza writes persuasively about former friendships; his call to "forget the past" could not be more mellow. We should all be "against evil and war." Yet the hard core of his comments are that unless the British accept the claims of Argentina for the Falklands, this will imperil the fragile democracy of the new democratic government of Argentina which would, at best, lead to the Soviet dominance of that country and, at worst, lead to another war in the South West Atlantic.

The "save Argentine democracy" theme is not new, the "danger of renewed conflict" theme is not new. The "Save Argentina from the Soviets" hasn't been heard for some time (and Soviet ships do have "harbour rights" in Southern Argentine ports). He would have us not only put the past behind us but equate Argentine invasion and occupation of the Falklands and South Georgia with the minimum British response to defeat that aggression. Britain never attacked the mainland of Argentina so the events of 1982 were more than "there were wrongs on both sides."

It is sadly true that President Alfonsín makes the same claims against the Falklands as did the Junta. Purchase any map of the South West Atlantic in Argentina and you will see that the claims for not only the Falklands, but for South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and the whole of British Antarctica, have not been abandoned. The present Government of Argentina is simply better at public relations.

Certainly the plans for an international "Hearts and Minds Campaign" prepared by the Argentine Foreign Office more than 12 months ago have been spectacularly successful. The European tour of President Alfonsín was a prelude to the votes in the United Nations last month. They worked hard and got results.

Given that even the Junta would never have invaded British islands in 1982 had they thought they would be resisted and defeated, and that, in part at any rate, that illusion was fostered by the willingness of successive British governments to talk about the sovereignty of the Falklands (and never with the agreement of the British Parliament) surely it cannot be a basis for good relations to allow illusions to have any part of British/Argentine discussions now.

The first basis for any long-term settlement is for the people of Argentina to accept, however reluctantly, that they lost the war they began and that the sovereignty of the Falklands has been decided once and for all. After all, Britain no longer claims Calais or Normandy, Spain does not claim the Netherlands, Mexico does not seek Texas and so on.

At this date there are few, if any, in the Falklands who want contacts of any kind with anyone from Argentina, official or unofficial. They do not hate anyone, they want to decide their own future in their own islands. They know the old ways are gone for ever but they want to build their future their way. They also know the world about them. They cannot forget the past, while Argentina claims their future.

They have also very good reasons to believe that while the Argentine claims for the Falklands have a degree of misguided nationalism and pride, the importance of the islands for control of the South West Atlantic and the Cape Horn seaways and as the British gateway to Antarctica, are better appreciated in Buenos Aires than by some in the United Kingdom. To abandon British interests in these waters or in the "last great unknown continent" would be folly.

There is a sure way forward to co-operation and friendship. Let Argentina declare an end to the state of hostility and normal diplomatic relations could be resumed. Let those who broke the peace make their moves to bring peace back to the South West Atlantic. That means accepting the goodwill which this British Government has clearly shown to Argentina over the years since the Liberation. Friendship is a two-way trade. Britain would be friends with Argentina but it takes two to tango and Senor Gainza should find a better tune.

**ERIC OGDEN**

Chairman, Falklands Islands Assn.,  
London, S.W.1.

### FALKLANDS PLEA

The eight elected members of the Falklands legislature have tabled a motion urging the British Government not to enter talks with Argentina on sovereignty of the island.

## Cartagena group meets to discuss debt initiative

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

THE 11-nation Cartagena group of Latin American debtors began a series of key meetings yesterday in Montevideo, Uruguay, to prepare a common response to the Baker initiative aimed at easing the debt crisis in developing countries.

Originally the Montevideo meeting of the group formed last year to co-ordinate positions on the region's \$350bn (£246bn) foreign debt was to have been fairly routine. But since the formulation of the Baker plan—launched by Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, last October in Seoul—it has acquired a new significance.

Under the plan, commercial banks would pledge \$20bn of fresh money over the next three years, to be matched by \$20bn of net lending by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Yesterday's meetings in Montevideo began as a special conference of smaller Latin American debtor countries ended in Costa Rica. These small debtors, like Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, fear they may be ignored and that initiatives like those of Mr Baker are designed to bail out the big debtors.

Argentina has emerged as a potential test case for the Baker initiative.

But a working paper, the fruit of two weeks of secret contacts by Argentina with Brazilian and Mexican officials, and the expected main discussion piece at yesterday's talks, hints at renewed militancy for the sake of regional solidarity, however temporary. The paper broadly follows the position

already assumed publicly by Presidents Raul Alfonsín of Argentina and José Sarney of Brazil during their recent summit—the Baker plan is a step in the right direction but not nearly enough.

Nagging doubts remain, as the working paper indicates only too clearly. "The proposal of the US Treasury Secretary makes no reference whatsoever to the central problem and the fundamental cause of the debt crisis — the persistent and practically unprecedented high level of interest rates."

Over the past 15 months the US prime rate has been reduced from 13 per cent to 9.5 per cent but this is still 4 to 5 percentage points above the average rates in the 1960s and 1970s. The paper points out that if the rates were to be reduced to their historic levels the ensuing savings of \$15bn would eliminate the deficit on current account which in 1985 will be close to \$10bn. The paper also questions IMF conditionality and talks boldly of the right of every Third World country to "economic self determination."

So far there appear to be few supporters, at least among the major debtors, of anything that might smack of a regional moratorium. The emphasis, under the even handed ad hoc secretarialship of Uruguayan Foreign Minister, Mr Enrique Iglesias, is on constructive dialogue and not confrontation. But the Baker plan looks set for a harsh dressing down in Montevideo with the focus shifting to longer term solutions.



R.A.F. NEWS 13.12.85 - 9.1.86

## Falklands tour No 3

Number 26 Squadron RAF Regiment departed RAF Germany recently to begin their third Falkland Islands tour since 1983. It will be responsible for the short-range air defence of RAF Stanley and Port Stanley environs and will man the dispersed Rapier sites for every minute of their tour. The period, of course, includes Christmas.

Before leaving, the sqn officers, SNCOs and airmen held a Ladies Guest Night in the Junior Ranks Mess at which the Stn Cdr, Gp Capt D Cousins, was the principle guest.

The Falklands detachment provides the sqn with an opportunity to practice its Rapier skills. The sqn resides at Black Eagle Camp, a self contained camp within RAF Stanley, which boasts its own messes and "barracks."



TriStar squeezes in

# Visit sets all hearts a-flutter

By Flt Lt Roy Roberts

**"Ascot 3665 you have been cleared to land, surface wind 260 degrees at five knots, the circuit is clear, the barrier down and the approach cable down." The approach controller in Wildenrath's Air Traffic Control tower guides another aircraft to a safe landing on the 2700 metre long runway on a cold and misty November afternoon.**

With three different types of aircraft, the Phantom, Pembroke and Gazelle helicopter based at Wildenrath, the station is used to a large number of aircraft movements. Regular visitors to the station range from the tiny Alouette helicopters of the Belgian Air Force, through Danish F16s to Hercules and VC 10 passenger and transport aircraft. As the RAF air trooping centre for Southern Germany, Wildenrath is also used to a large turnover of passengers embarking from the Boeing 737s operated by Britannia Airways; but the hearts of the Movements staff fluttered somewhat when Ascot 3665, a wide bodied Lockheed TriStar 500 landed and then taxied towards the Air Terminal.

Capable of carrying 260 passengers, a fully loaded TriStar would have swamped the Terminal's facilities for a mere 130 inbound passengers.

Apprehension was soon converted to excitement as the TriStar had arrived on a "proving flight" carrying only its normal complement of crew and no passengers.

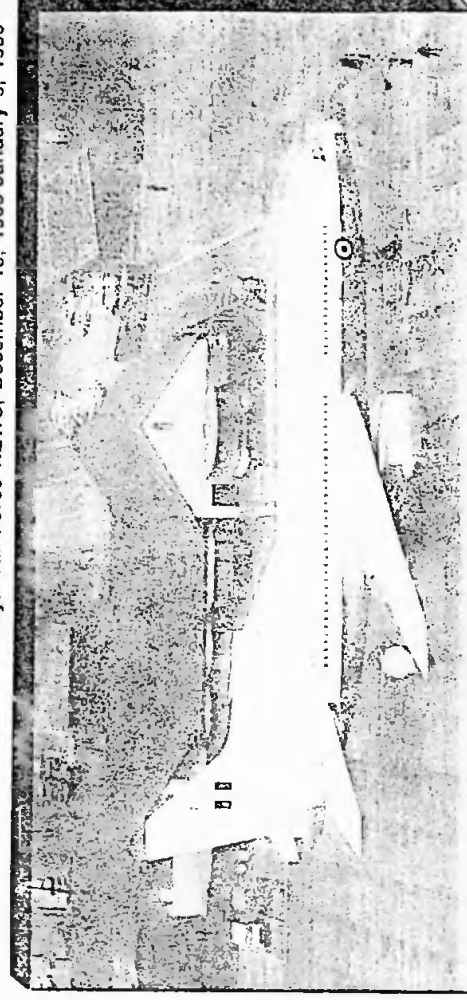
The exercise was being under-

taken to test the suitability of the aircraft to operate into and out of stations such as Wildenrath.

Beneficial training for both aircrew and ground staffs can be achieved — at Wildenrath, the Movements Squadron led by Sqn Ldr David Bevan sends teams all over Germany to assist with the handling of differing types of aircraft, and the TriStar visit helped to keep handling staff current on their varying tasks. The station's Fire Teams turned out in force, both as a precautionary measure and to examine the aircraft at close hand with a professional eye. The sheer size of the aircraft and in particular the high rear engine would be a daunting task in the event of a fire, and in the wake of the recent Manchester airport tragedy, the efficient escape of large numbers of passengers is of constant concern to the rescue services.

The turning manoeuvrability of the TriStar was very impressive and the flight "proved" that a landing was perfectly possible. The runway and parallel taxiways at Wildenrath are capable of handling large visitors, but the main limiting factors on use by a TriStar are the weight of the aircraft, the width of the access between the runway and taxiways, and the turning radius of the aircraft.

The access used was only some 50 feet wide and with the wheeltrack of the TriStar some 36 feet hogey to hogey, converting to approximately 42 feet from the outside tyre edges there was not a



The TriStar dwarfs the terminal building at Wildenrath.

The TriStar, driven by three Rolls Royce RB 211 Turbo fan engines, is based at Brize Norton, and from December onwards will be operating between its home base and Stanley. The aircraft is quite capable of carrying its passengers, in considerably more comfort than the Hercules used originally on the "air bridge", the 4,200 makes to Ascension, and then after refuelling, the remaining 3,915 miles to Stanley.

A return to the Falklands will evoke memories for the visiting pilot Flt Lt Peter Clarke and his

co-pilot Flt Lt Ian Milton, both Falklands veterans. With an estimated journey time of 20 hours from Brize Norton to Stanley, including 1½ hours at Ascension, Cpl Stewards Brian Kane and Al MacKenzie have promised to practise moving lots of coffee and meals for the troops. Making sure that her potential passengers and freight will be loaded correctly was FS Patricia Gosney, Flight Engineer was FS David Flood, with the travelling groundcrew supplied from 216 Sqn.

Wildenrath's largest visitor to date will be remembered as a very smart and impressive sight. A Phantom of 92 Sqn landing shortly after the TriStar seemed positively minute in comparative size, and it was estimated that the RAF roundel emblazoned on the TriStar fuselage would have covered a complete Phantom wing.

After welcoming Flt Lt Clarke and his crew, the Station Commander Wildenrath, Gp Capt Ian McBride spoke for everyone on the station when he said "Please come and see us again!"



**FALKLAND  
ISLANDS  
GOVERNMENT**

***A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY  
FOR TEACHERS***

We require travelling teachers, for early January 1986, to teach small groups of children, mostly 5-11 year olds, on isolated farms, living with pupils' families. The job is most suited to recently qualified teachers.

A one year contract with paid return passage is offered. Salary would be in the range £3,624 to £3,996 with an allowance of £464 per annum. Whilst the salary is low, the cost of living is minimal.

Job description and application form from: Falkland Islands Government Office, 29 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL.

**CLOSING DATE: 24th December 1985.**

## Falklands waters face threat of overfishing

### Child's eye view of Falklands

By Gareth Parry

A 17-year-old Argentinian writing of the Falklands war, says: "I remember what happened in 1982, and it makes me sad; sad because I can't understand why two civilised countries can send people to fight when human life is much more important than a piece of land."

A British youth of the same age says of the conflict: "My country would go to war to help a friendly country, to combat an aggressive neighbour, or in the defence of principles which must be upheld if democracy, and not anarchy, is to prevail."

These may be the nationalistic attitudes that shape any

future hope of reconciliation between Britain and Argentina, suggests *New Society* magazine in publishing this week a study of how children of both nations now perceive the war.

The study by two psychologists — one resident in Argentina, the other in Britain — shows that their respective interviewees have completely different views not only of the war, but also of what their own country stands for.

To the Argentinians, aged from seven to 17, Argentina means territory. When the schoolboys in the study were asked to complete an unfinished map of their country

they filled in every scrap of land — including the Malvinas islands [the Falklands].

Yet even 10-year-olds in Britain, given a map to complete, might leave off large areas as large as Devon or Cornwall. To them their nationality was a question not of territory but of people and principles.

Mrs Thatcher, rather than General Galtieri, was the leader most often named. "For the children it does seem to have been Mrs Thatcher's war," comment the authors, Paul Webley, of Exeter University, and Katharine Cutts, an Argentine resident and a research psychologist.

# Falklands waters face threat of overfishing

BY ROBERT GRAHAM, LATIN AMERICA EDITOR

A RAPID increase in the exploitation of the rich fisheries round the Falklands is creating strong pressure for an international agreement regulating the catch. The waters round the Falklands are one of the last unregulated areas of the oceans which contain large stocks of fish.

The surge in exploitation of these waters is a direct result of political uncertainties in the wake of the 1982 Falklands' conflict and Britain's continued political reluctance to declare a territorial zone—either within the current military controlled 150-mile protection zone, or in 200 mile territorial sea claim.

The scale of the increase in fishing, mainly by East Bloc, Japanese and Spanish fleets, is highlighted in a recent study prepared by Imperial College's Centre for Environmental Technology. The study estimates the value of the catch in the 200 mile zone round the Falklands between January and September at \$262m. This compares with \$202m in the previous 12 months. The size of the catch is such that in the case of squid, increased supplies from Falklands waters have helped depress international prices this year.

Available data on fish stocks are limited and no one really knows the extent to which there is overfishing. However, experts believe there is a serious danger of overfishing unless some regulation is brought in quickly. On current trends well over 400,000 tons of fish will be caught in the 200 miles zone this year. Until September the catch was estimated at 380,000 tons against 349,000 tons for the whole of 1984.

Britain has been sufficiently concerned to put the matter to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome. Discussions began in April and several nations involved in fish-

ing agreed to back a study — both on fish stocks and on ways to regulate them. But initially Argentina demurred to back the project, anxious that no move might be taken as a downgrading of its claim to sovereignty of the islands. However, Argentina has finally agreed to the study, which should be ready in the spring.

This is seen as a major step forward, although Argentina has stressed it is not bound to accept any of the report's findings or recommendations.

The basic difficulty for any system of control is disputed sovereignty. For instance, the

## The surge in exploitation of these waters is a direct result of political uncertainties in the wake of the 1982 Falklands' conflict

British Government would like to see a system of licences instituted, the fees in part or whole going to the Falkland Islands. Fishing licence fees have long been seen as the way to the islands' financial independence. But such payments inevitably imply British control and sovereignty, and it is hard to see Argentina accepting this.

Almost 60 per cent of the catch is accounted for by Soviet and Polish vessels; but in the past year Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Taiwanese boats have been increasingly active. Fishing concentrates on two types of squid (*illex argentinus* and *loligo patagonica*), the southern blue whiting (*merluccius australis*) and two hakes (*merluccius australis* and *merluccius hubbsii*).

The main market for squid is Japan. This is a complex and highly regulated market, but of great interest, not merely to Japanese operators, but also to Eastern European fleets. Squid caught by East Bloc countries enter the Japanese market via import quotas and as part of an unusual barter system: middle men sell the squid to Japan and with this cash they buy mackerel or herring from Scottish fishing operators which is then passed on to East Bloc customers.

Spain, another market for squid, also imports from East Bloc operations. One side effect of unrestricted expansion of squid fishing would be to lower the price of squid and reduce the demand for mackerel and herring as "hard currency" in barter deals, the report concludes.

Interestingly the report gives a far less optimistic assessment of potential income from licence fees than previously anticipated by the British Government. The fees would depend heavily on the behaviour of squid stocks and would net no more than \$10m on a 200-mile zone.

If the FAO initiative fails to produce a system to control stocks, the British Government is faced with an awkward dilemma. It can declare a territorial zone of 150 or 200 miles, so risking an exacerbation of the dispute with Argentina, and obliging a costly policing operation of this sovereign area. Yet if it does nothing, fish stocks risk being plundered and the prospect of the Falkland Islanders gaining any benefit from their major known resource will evaporate.

**\*\* The Fisheries around the Falklands, J. R. Beddington, Solange Brault and J. Gulland. IED/IUCN Marine Resources Assessment Group, Centre for Environmental Technology, Imperial College, London.**

# Argentine debate will not die down

From Jeremy Morgan  
in Buenos Aires

The mixture of stiff sentences and acquittals handed down in the trial of nine former military leaders promises to keep the divisive human rights issue alive in Argentina, human rights activists said.

Senior sources in President Raul Alfonsín's Government, speaking before the sentence and yesterday's second anniversary of democratic rule, said the president hoped to put the issue to rest with the Federal Appeals Court ruling.

The decision by the first civilian court in the history of Argentina to judge military officers is unlikely to satisfy anybody. It has done little to resolve questions about what happens next in the investigation into the disappearance of at least 9,000 people during the "dirty war" after the military took over in 1976.

The Federal Appeals Court sentenced the regime's first president, General Jorge Videla, and his chief accomplice in the coup, Admiral Emilio Massera, to life imprisonment, and they are expected to serve at least 20 years. Two other officers, one also a former president, were sentenced to 17 and eight years.

They will be seen as martyrs by the far right and the officer corps, which shows little remorse about the methods used in the "dirty war."

But the third conspirator in the coup, Brigadier Orlando Agosti of the air force, was sentenced to only 4½ years, and four of the nine defendants, including General Galtieri, were acquitted of all charges.

The verdict was attacked by human rights campaigners. Mrs Habe de Bonifini, the leader of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who have protested weekly since the early days of the "dirty war," said the ruling was "a fraud."

The approach to the verdict saw mounting debate about a possible pardon for hundreds of military officers, policemen and security agents.

The outcome of the trial has also raised questions about a prosecution that was so confident that it chose to ad-lib much of its final plea, and is now seen to have left the court little choice but to acquit.

## JUDGMENT IN ARGENTINA

THERE IS MORE than a risk that the British public will respond to the trials in Argentina by noticing only the acquittal of Gen. LEOPOLDO GALTIERI and his immediate colleagues (the other side during the Falklands War). The temptation to shrug off the trials as some sort of whitewash is real but wholly misconceived. This judicial process relates entirely to the atrocities committed against civilians. GALTIERI, to be rather brutal about it, is the Argentine general the British happen to have heard about. But the truth is that he was the third military Head of State under the Armed Forces régime. JORGE VIDELA was the first and ROBERTO VIOLA (generally thought of as the driving intelligence behind the régime) the second. VIDELA has gone to prison for life, as has Adml. MASSERA. Gen. VIOLA received 17 years. This was a trial for crimes against humanity (though thankfully one without a gallows). The pre-eminently responsible men, those directly concerned with disappearance and murder, have been sent to prison. Whether GALTIERI was lucky is a matter of judgment, though he was often seen before the Falklands War as the most acceptable of all the military rulers.

The tribunal which acquitted him has heavily punished two former Heads of State. Right or wrong, that tribunal is not bogus. One reads with relief that junior officers, for whom an amnesty was predicted will not get it, and that further trials based on the evidence collected at the first bunch of trials will take place. Killers by hand as well as by brain will be held responsible. The governing of a country, humiliated in war, with a tattered economy, a recent history of military barbarism in power and the killers of the Left (the Montaneros) a recent memory, is quite exceptionally difficult. Señor ALFONSIN is the repository of liberal democracy and after Argentina's recent history it matters terribly that he should succeed. These patient trials should be taken as evidence that the effort is being made.

## ARGENTINE SPLIT ON VERDICTS

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA  
in Buenos Aires

THE Argentine sentences of life imprisonment on two former military rulers accused of wide human rights violations and the acquittal of four others has set the basis for a new chapter in the country's effort to come to terms with its dark past.

The Nuremberg-like trial was ordered by President Alfonsín two years ago, shortly after he took over from eight years of military rule. Nine men were accused of overseeing a state terrorism campaign between 1976 and 1982, when at least 9,000 people disappeared.

The court sentenced ex-President Videla, 60, and Adml. Massera, 60, to life in jail on counts of murder, illegal arrests, torture and theft. Ex-President Viola, 61, was jailed for 17 years, Adml. Lambruschini, 63, for eight years, and Brig. Agosti, 61, for four years and six months.

But the six-man tribunal let off Gen. Galtieri scot-free, together with Brig. Graffigna, Adml. Anaya and Brig. Lami Dozo.

Although most politicians in Buenos Aires welcomed the verdicts as a victory for democracy, human rights campaigners and Left-wing parties immediately condemned them as "lenient," "a farce" and "a slap in the face."

### Protest march

A small demonstration outside the courthouse grew into a march of 1,000 protestors through central Buenos Aires last night.

In a decision which will influence the human rights trial scene in the future, the court also announced it would forward all charges against lower-ranking military officers — gathered during five months of public testimony — to the highest military court in the country for it to open an investigation.

The announcement dispelled fears that the court could implicitly clear all other lower-ranking officers of charges for crimes committed during the so-called "Dirty War" by alleging they were only following orders.

Under the military code of justice, the Armed Forces Tribunal is to handle the cases.

There are about 1,700 human rights cases involving lower-ranking military officers.

There will be appeals against Monday's verdicts by some of the defence lawyers and by the prosecutor, who had requested much stiffer sentences.



## VERDICTS ON THE JUNTA

The victims of the Argentine armed forces in the "dirty war" numbered some 9,000. In the past eight months the country has had a full rehearsal of the barbarism and caprice by which that total was achieved. The sentences on the three Juntas that governed Argentina from 1976 until 1982 include two of life imprisonment. But human justice once again appears tardy and inadequate. Small wonder that the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who virtually alone demanded the truth in years when few thought it would ever be allowed to emerge, cannot accept the finality of this trial.

The repression after 1976 was conducted in such a way that large numbers of the armed forces and the police were involved. President Alfonsín's decision to prosecute only the Junta members was surgical and symbolic, and had the obvious defect of leaving out of the account many notorious figures - Captain Astiz is just one who comes to mind - who had not reached the titular eminence of

Junta membership. It also included officers who were less involved, and have consequently received lighter sentences.

Nevertheless, some justice has been done. The alternative to government prosecutions of officers was a trial of those ultimately responsible by chain of command. The nature of the repression and the passage of time would have made convictions unlikely in many cases. The evidence that has been given by nearly a thousand witnesses, goes towards establishing and clarifying the record of what occurred. That in itself is a part of the task of ensuring that nothing like it should occur again.

The history of military government in Argentina has been one of contamination and illusion. Argentine officers can point to the corruption and opportunism of Peronism but not in their own defence. It is true that civilian political failures made a resumption of

military rule inevitable in 1976 and that most Argentines had small desire to question military methods after 1976. But the armed forces had not mastered the situation; they had succumbed to it, and they perpetrated the worst excesses of all concerned. Seeking an escape from political dilemmas in the Falklands adventure, General Galtieri had no proper instrument to hand, and defeat brought with it the fullest revelation of what the armed forces had done plus a court martial that is still to come.

Monday's sentences are only the beginning of the end in the resolution of the problems left by the "dirty war". President Alfonsín's Government may itself bring no further prosecutions, but some fifteen hundred cases are pending and what happens to them does not depend on the fiat of the executive. The evidence in the trials just ended can be used in these cases. It is part of the restoration of democratic rule that verdicts are not a foregone conclusion.

## Anger over Galtieri acquittal

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The opening shots in the debate that is sure to follow Monday's verdict in the human rights trial of Argentina's former military leaders were fired almost before the President of the Federal Appeals Court had finished reading the decision.

Human rights activists immediately attacked the verdict as too lenient because it fell short of the sentences requested by the Federal Prosecutor, Señor Julio Strassera.

Señora Hebe de Bonafini, the leader of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo human rights group, who caused a stir by walking out of the court in protest, called the trial "a fraud to the people" and said: "Argentina's ethical base will never be repaired until the assassins are

tried by truly independent judges". Señora Herman Schiller, president of an influential Jewish human rights group, said the verdict "marks a sad day for democracy".

A coalition of human rights groups and youth groups will hold a 24-hour rally beginning today to protest against the acquittal of General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Anaya, Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo and Brigadier Omar Graffigna, and the reduced sentences received by Brigadier Orlando Agosti (four and a half years), General Roberto Viola (17 years) and Admiral Armando Lambruschini (eight years).

But other observers were less critical of the verdict, pointing out the unprecedented conviction of a former military

President, General Jorge Videla, to life imprisonment (Admiral Emilio Massera, General Videla's Navy Commander, was also sentenced to life imprisonment). Señor Carlos Grosso, leader of the opposition Peronist Party, said the decision "is tremendously important for this country's return to democracy". Señor Strassera has 10 days in which to appeal and said he was likely to do so.

The court had ordered that the trial's proceedings be sent to the Military Supreme Council for the investigation of crimes committed by lower ranking officers who were the equivalent of "field commanders" during the military's "dirty war" against suspected leftist guerrillas during the late 1970s.

Leading article, page 15

## New Guatemala leader vows to end terror

Guatemala City (Router) - Señor Vinicio Cerezo, the President-elect, has vowed to end corruption and bloody political violence that has claimed more than 100,000 lives in 30 years of nearly unbroken military rule in Guatemala.

"We are going to break with the past," Señor Cerezo told 10,000 cheering supporters in a victory speech after the run-off elections on Sunday. "From now on we want no more repression, violence, terror or fear."

Señor Cerezo, a Christian Democrat, has said he will reorganize the security forces and dissolve the feared Secret Police which human rights groups link to many killings and disappearances.

But Señor Cerezo has said he does not intend to hold the Army to account for human rights abuses as President Alfonsín of Argentina has done.

# Argentina sets a legal precedent

THE RULE of law in developing countries is more honoured in the breach than in the observance especially where the military are concerned. Thus the successful completion of the trial of Argentina's former junta leaders acquired a significance well beyond that of domestic Argentine politics.

It is the first time that civilian courts in a developing country have tried their previous military rulers by due process of law. This reflects great credit on the cautious and highly skilled restoration of democracy in Argentina carried out under the aegis of President Raul Alfonsín, who this month celebrates two years in power.

As a precedent, the trial offers a thin ray of hope for all those whose rights, and lives, are abused by military regimes. Examples do have an effect. For instance, Spain's remarkably peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy after Franco's death in 1975 has had a ripple effect throughout Latin America and has served as a guideline of what is possible, not least in Argentina.

The trial involved nine of the most senior members of the Argentine armed forces who seized power in 1976, and the charges concerned their conduct during the "dirty war." Over 9,000 people disappeared and thousands more were kidnapped or tortured in the military's brutal crusade against left-wing subversion.

## Political

The decision to prosecute was unashamedly political. President Alfonsín wanted to bring the military to account as an essential element in the re-establishment of democracy. He believed that only by hearing through court evidence the atrocities and cruelty of their former leaders, could Argentines appreciate the value of the democratic system. Furthermore he felt correctly that, if the military had been allowed to return quietly to barracks it implied weakness of civilian power.

The government was responsible for setting some of the

rules, in particular that the prosecution be limited to the most senior junta members on the grounds that they were responsible for the system that produced the crimes. But from here on matters have been in the hands of the court.

This is reflected in Monday's sentences. Four acquittals is far from what the prosecution thought might be the outcome and is a disappointment to the human rights activists. Yet a careful look at the sentences reveals a solomonic judgment from the court. Those punished most heavily were clearly the worst culprits—former President Videla and Admiral Massera; and the ones acquitted, including the last military president, General Galtieri, were lesser actors in the abuse of human rights.

## Taboo

The principle of military accountability has been established in an exemplary way. But the sentences also provide the military with some solace. The four acquittals prove the court was not engaged on a political vendetta.

Civil society in Argentina has demonstrated it can act with justice — not vengeance — to right the wrongs of its military rulers.

In this instance, the legal basis for prosecution was strong. It is obviously much more difficult for civilian governments to prosecute when amnesty laws have been passed exonerating military regimes prior to their exit from power, such as General Zia has already done in Pakistan.

But the most heartening aspect of the trial is the way it has tackled head-on the great taboo in developing country politics — the power of the military. The military all too often remain above the law not because there are no laws to cover them; but because civilian courts are afraid to bring them to book. This fear of provoking the military weakens all civilian authority and is a major cause of bad government in much of the developing world.

# Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires analyses the likely Argentina verdicts aim for effects of the outcome of the human rights trial reconciliation and stability

ON HIS second anniversary as President of Argentina, Mr Raul Alfonsín was yesterday provided with an opportunity to measure again the extent of his Government's popularity.

Tuesday night's verdict in the trial of nine junta members who ruled the country between 1976 and 1982 reads like an exercise in fine judgment which the President himself could have devised.

It seeks to pursue the middle ground between the extremists in Argentine society who in the past have tried to make the human rights issue the point on which Argentina's ascent to democracy stands or falls.

At the end of the trial, which has lasted eight months, the president of the federal appeals court, Mr Leon Arslanian, accepted that when the 1976 coup took place Argentina was being terrorised by a "revolutionary war."

The methods used to fight it, however — house breaking, illegal detention, torture and murder — went beyond the limits tolerable by civilised society and involved innocent victims as well as terrorists, the court decided.

In sentencing the accused, judges have compromised. By condemning only General Jorge Videla and Admiral Emilio Massera to life imprisonment, the judges have recognised that the bulk of human rights violations were committed by the Army and the Navy in the first two years

of the military regime.

It has been implicitly accepted that the members of the Galtieri junta, who were all acquitted, should be mainly answerable for their involvement in the Falklands war. This is currently being dealt with in a separate trial.

Since the human rights trial began in April, more than 1,000 witnesses have filed through court. What they had to say about the 8,000 "disappeared" people, including many innocent victims, has been woven into a tapestry of horror by the prosecution, which initially left public opinion shocked, and many members of the armed forces laid. These passions have now, to some extent, cooled.

By declaring some of the

evidence to be insufficient and throwing out some of the 700 cases pursued by the prosecution, the judges can claim to have acted fairly. They have thus rejected the defence's earlier claim that the proceedings had been planned by the Government as a political show trial, in which all nine had been condemned before they were heard.

Government officials argue that apart from boosting Argentina's international standing, the trial will make the armed forces think twice before intervening violently in the country's political life in the future.

Their version of history has been questioned since the collapse of the military regime after the Falklands defeat. The

armed forces had maintained that the 1976 coup led by Gen Videla, Admiral Massera, and Brig Gen Orlando Agosti, the Air Force leader, and the methods of repression subsequently pursued were part of a heroic crusade by the defenders of western Christian values against the threat of marxist revolution.

Before handing over to the democratically elected government, the military regime declared an amnesty in its favour. But human rights organisations demanded a sweeping witch-hunt and a "people's trial" of the armed forces. Most people demanded only that justice be done.

The reactions of both human rights groups and the armed forces to Tuesday's verdicts

appear to have been equally adverse. Mrs Hebe Bonafini, president of the Mothers of May, the relatives' group of the "disappeared," stormed out of the court, describing the acquittals as a farce. Fewer than a thousand supporters joined her in a protest outside, however.

It is understood that the Army and, to a lesser extent, the Navy is angry with the implication of the verdicts that these two services were most responsible for human rights violations. They suspect that the Air Force has come out of the trial lightly, because of its tacit political alliance with the Government.

The verdict could thus aggravate inter-service rivalries.

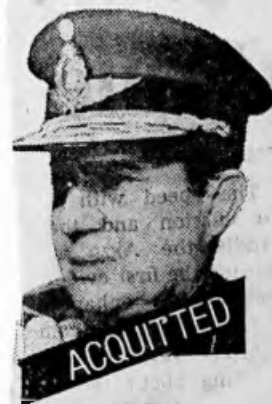
Within the military as a

whole, the main worry now is that the judges, far from closing the book on the human rights issue, have opened up a new and potentially more dangerous chapter. The court has recommended that investigations should continue into the actions of brigade and division commanders and some 300 to 400 middle and junior officers who are already before the courts in connection with human rights violations.

The Government privately feels that the military rather than the human rights organisations is the main focus of opposition.



Left to right: Emilio Massera, Jorge Anaya, Roberto Viola, Jorge Videla, Leopoldo Galtieri and



Basilio Lami Dozo

The trial of the junta members was initially accepted both by the Government and the current military chiefs as an essential move, to draw a line between past and present military activity and enable the armed forces to turn their backs on their political past and play a more professional role.

Now that the trial is over, the Government is relying on its parliamentary strength to launch a law in Congress early next year in defence of "national reconciliation." This would confine further human rights trials to a handful of officers.

Thus the Government hopes military discipline could be consolidated, the human rights nightmare finally laid to rest and political stability become a reality at last.

# Galtieri cleared over 'dirty war'

By **CRISTINA BONASEGNA** in Buenos Aires

**G**ENERAL LEOPOLDO GALTIERI, President of Argentina during the Falklands war, was yesterday acquitted by a Buenos Aires court which sentenced two other former military rulers to life imprisonment.

Ex-President Jorge Videla and Adml Emilio Massera were sentenced for their part in the "dirty war" against suspected Leftists during which 9,000 people disappeared.

They were found guilty after an eight-month trial of murder, illegal arrest and torture.

Former President Roberto Viola was sentenced to 17 years and Adml Armando Lambruschini to eight years. Brig Gen Orlando Agosti was jailed for four-and-a-half years.

## Junta members

Galtieri was cleared of all charges along with Air Force Brigadier Omar Grassigna, Adml Jorge Anaya and Brigadier-Gen. Basilo Lami Dozo, his fellow members of the ruling Junta at the time of the Falklands conflict. Brig. Gen. Omar Grassigna was also cleared.

Galtieri, Anaya and Lami Dozo still face charges before a military court for Argentina's defeat in the South Atlantic

conflict, which led to their downfall and the restoration of democratic rule in 1983. Galtieri could be jailed for up to 12 years.

The leader of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, the relatives of "desaparecidos" (missing people) who first brought human rights violations in Argentina to international attention, protested bitterly against the sentences.

"It's terrible. They have absolved criminals," said Hebe de Bonafini who was escorted from the courtroom while the verdict was read for donning a white headscarf, the symbol of the mothers' weekly marches demanding information about their missing relatives.

Before the sentences were passed, the Government lifted the state of siege imposed on Oct. 25 to curb a wave of Right-wing bomb attacks. The emergency was to have lasted until Christmas Day.

## 8 SOLDIERS DIE

By Our Jerusalem Correspondent

Eight Israeli soldiers died and seven were injured when their barrack dormitory in Samaria, on the West Bank of the Jordan, was destroyed by fire early yesterday. The cause of the fire was not known, though sabotage was not suspected.

## Falklands reminder

Saturday is the last recommended date for taking advantage of the special free aerogramme service to send Christmas messages to members of the armed forces in the South Atlantic, the Post Office said.



## **Galtieri cleared** **Argentine life terms** **in 'dirty war' trial**

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - former Argentine President Jorge Videla and his fellow junta member, Admiral Emilio Massera, were jailed for life yesterday for their part in the "dirty war" against left-wing guerrillas in which up to 9,000 people disappeared.

But three Argentine military rulers during the Falkland Islands conflict with Britain, General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Anaya and Air Force Brigadier General Basilio Lami Dozo, were cleared of charges in the human rights trial.

Videla's successor as president, General Roberto Viola, was jailed for 17 years for his part in the "dirty war" in the 1970's. Most of the people who disappeared were believed to have been kidnapped, tortured and killed by security forces.

Admiral Armando Lambruschini, Navy commander from 1978 to 1981 was jailed for eight years, and a former Air Force commander, Orlando Agosti, was jailed for four-and-a-half years. One other military leader on trial was cleared.

"Despite having . . . all the legal instruments and (physical) means needed to carry out repression in a legitimate way without hindering efficiency, (the accused) opted for clandestine and illegal procedures," Federal Appeals Court president Leon Arslanian said in reading the verdicts.

The verdicts were read in a 37-minute session before human rights leaders, diplomats and government officials. The session has broadcast nationwide. Former Air Force chief Omar Graffigna, the only one of the defendants not under arrest,

sat passively before the judges and showed no emotion when his acquittal was announced. The other eight defendants were simultaneously informed of the verdicts in their places of detention, court officials said.

The court ordered that the five former rulers convicted in the trial be stripped of all military rank and privilege.

The verdicts came only hours after President Raul Alfonsín lifted a state of siege declared 45 days ago to combat an alleged anti-government campaign by rightist extremists linked to the former military regime.

The verdicts and sentences were more lenient than those asked for by the prosecution.

Videla, Massera and Agosti made up the junta which toppled President Señora Perón in 1976 and began an era of military rule which ended after Argentina's 1982 defeat in the Falklands conflict.

During the eight-month trial, nearly 1,000 witnesses gave evidence against the nine military leaders who ruled in the period, giving a chilling account of abduction, torture and death at the hands of the military.

The leader of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, the relatives of "desaparecidos" (missing people) who first brought human rights violations in Argentina to international attention, protested bitterly against the sentences.

She was escorted out of the courtroom for donning a white headscarf, the symbol of the Mothers' weekly march outside Government House demanding information on their missing relatives.

## **Alfonsín** **lifts state** **of siege**

From Douglas Tweedale  
Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín has unexpectedly lifted a temporary state of siege imposed on Argentina last October to deal with a wave of right-wing terrorist bombings against his two-year-old civilian government.

The Interior Minister, Señor Antonio Troccoli, announced yesterday that the emergency measures were being lifted 15 days ahead of schedule because "the security measures taken have been sufficiently efficient in putting an end to the state of unrest we want to stop."

The government imposed the stage of siege 45 days ago after the courts rejected Señor Alfonsín's efforts to order the arrest of six military officers and six civilians suspected of conspiracy in a coup.

# Four Argentine junta members

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

IN A surprise decision an Argentine civilian court last night sentenced former military President General Jorge Videla and former Navy Chief Admiral Emilio Massera to life imprisonment but acquitted four other former junta members, including General Leopoldo Galtieri, in connection with human rights violations committed between 1976 and 1982.

General Galtieri, former Navy Chief Jorge Anaya and former Air Force Chief Brigadier General Basilio Lami Dozo may yet face prison sentences of up to 12 years for negligence during the Falklands War in a

separate trial currently before a military court martial board which is expected to reach its verdict before the New Year.

The civilian court, whose final proceedings were televised live nationwide, also rejected a plea from the chief state prosecutor that three others of the nine originally charged be condemned to life imprisonment. Former President General Roberto Viola, former Navy Chief Armando Lambruschini, and the former Air Force Chief Brigadier General Orlando Agosti had their sentences commuted to 17 years, eight years, and four years and six months

respectively.

The full text of the verdict, running to over 10,000 words, was not read in public but but Mr. Leon Arslanian, president of the Federal Appeals Court, said that he and the five other members of a specially convened civilian court martial board had acted with equanimity and fully analysed the evidence, turning down only those elements considered legally insufficient.

The statement appeared to be aimed at offsetting what is expected to be a major political debate in response to the controversial verdict.

## cleared on human rights

But angry human rights groups were the first to react last night, staging a spontaneous protest outside the courtroom against an alleged "sell out" by a judiciary in league with the Government. They had expected the judges to confirm the sentences of life imprisonment against five of the accused and prison sentences ranging from 10 to 15 years against the remaining four as urged by the chief state prosecutor.

Politically, the situation has been further complicated by the fact that last night's decision does not resolve the

fate of some 300 to 400 junior officers who are facing separate court cases in connection with human rights violations and which have become the focus of tension between the Government and the armed forces.

The judges last night based their guilty verdicts on the basis that some of the former junta members were in Government when the bulk of human rights violations were committed. But they have drawn back from clarifying whether other officers should also be condemned for carrying out the orders.

### WORLD NEWS

## Argentine war leaders cleared

Ex-President Leopoldo Galtieri and fellow junta members who took Argentina to war against Britain over the Falklands—navy commander Admiral Jorge Anaya and air force chief Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo—were cleared of all charges by a civilian tribunal.

Former president Gen Jorge Videla and four other former military rulers were convicted of human rights violations, including murder, torture and kidnapping. Videla was sentenced to life in jail. Another ex-president, Gen Roberto Viola, was jailed for 17 years.

The Government yesterday lifted the state of siege imposed in October to counter an alleged threat to democratic rule by right-wingers. Page 4



Daily Mail  
10.12.85



**THE UPLAND GOOSE**, the Falkland Islands' most famous (and only above) pub is up for sale at £450,000.

Its owner Desmond King is about to retire after running it for 16 years. Since the Falklands War, and the arrival of the army, his profits have run at around £85,000 a year, on turnover of £200,000.

Anticipating the arrival of new armies of tourists and bird watchers with the completion of the Falklands airport, he has secured consent to extend the pub's hotel accommodation from 16 bedrooms to 24.

The Upland Goose owns land on which Mr King raises food for consumption at his tables. Accompanying wines cannot be grown locally,

but they look good value, at £3.84 for a bottle of Beaujolais and £12 for a bottle of champagne.

'We've had quite a lot of interest in the Upland Goose,' say Mr King's agents Grant & Partners. 'People have a lot of faith in the local economy.'

But millionaire Jack Hayward, who has been trying to buy the Falklands Island Company from Coalite for years, thinks Mr King may be asking too much.

'I suppose the site and surrounding land may make it worthwhile, but you need to do a lot of work to the hotel. Last time I stayed there, cold water was coming out of the tap handles instead of the tap, and we were fighting for a bathroom.'

Daily Mail  
10.12.85

Argentina's ex-Junta leaders jailed for life

# Galtieri is not guilty

ARGENTINA'S former President Galtieri who started the Falklands War was cleared yesterday in a human rights trial.

The two other military leaders during the war with Britain were also found not guilty by the Buenos Aires court.

## Mail Foreign Service

But ex-President Jorge Videla and his fellow military junta member Admiral Emilio Massera were jailed for life for their part in the 'dirty war' against Left-Wing guerrillas in which an estimated 9,000 people disappeared.

Other former members of the nine-man Junta which ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1982 also received jail sentences ranging from four to 17 years.

Most of the people who disappeared were believed to have been kidnapped, tortured and killed by security forces.

The two officers cleared with Galtieri, the man who ordered the Falklands invasion in 1982, were Admiral Jorge Anaya and Air Force Brigadier General Basilio Lami Dozo.

But Galtieri, Anaya and Lami Dozo still face charges before the Supreme Military Tribunal for Argentina's defeat in the South Atlantic conflict, which led to their downfall and the

restoration of democratic rule after elections in October, 1983.

The trial was ordered by President Raul Alfonsin, only days after taking office in December 1983. During the eight-month trial, nearly 1,000 witnesses gave evidence of rape, torture and murder.

While the sentences were being handed down in the Palace of Justice, 200 people outside chanted 'Assassins' and had to be held back by a strong police cordon.

## Argentina may receive up to \$2bn World Bank aid

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA may receive up to \$2bn (£1.4bn) in World Bank funds over the next two years as part of an increase in multinational lending to Latin America envisaged in the Baker Plan for helping with Third World debt.

This emerged in Buenos Aires during the weekend at the start of an official visit by the bank's chairman, Mr Tom Clausen, aimed at sounding out Argentina's external financing needs for its \$48bn debt.

Acknowledging the way in which World Bank lending to Argentina has fallen off recently, Mr Clausen said that over the past two years, only \$180m had been disbursed.

But \$300m-\$400m had been earmarked for fiscal year ending June 1986, along with a further \$500m-\$1bn in 1987.

The total figure could be boosted to \$2bn over the next two years.

Mr Clausen played down the suggestion that Argentina had

been singled out as a "test case" for the Baker Plan, in apparent deference to the Argentine Government's public coyness about being brought under the US umbrella less than a week away from a meeting of Latin America debtor-countries in Montevideo.

"The Argentine Government should be congratulated on stabilising the economy," Mr Clausen told the local press.

It is understood that World Bank funds being considered will be channelled less towards project-financing, as in the past, and more towards specific sectors of the local economy as part of the Argentine Government's plans for growth-oriented structural reforms.

One idea being mooted is that the World Bank should provide funds for retraining an estimated 20,000 bank personnel who may lose their jobs if the Government pushes ahead with its plans for the closure of an estimated 100 local financial institutions.



The New Continents: 44  
the polar regions

An extraordinary sky over Antarctica - a "wave" cloud at Signy Island. Climate watching is just one aspect of the scientist's work at the South Pole. In the third part of our series on how a changing world looks now, we examine the polar regions, the world's last frontiers, as man begins to challenge these desperate wastelands in his search for profit - and supremacy.



DOUG ALLEN-BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

# THE NEW CONTINENTS

How a changing world looks now

Dramatic, dangerous and desperately inhospitable, the polar wastelands are the last frontiers on earth. But, as the world shrinks, their resources look increasingly attractive. In the Arctic, where the superpowers face each other across a frozen sea, there is a continual race to master the ice. In the Antarctic, hints of untapped resources threaten to upset a unique harmony of international co-operation and scientific research

# THE POLAR REGIONS

By Peter Wilsher and Parin Jannohamed

The Poles, both North and South, remain among the remotest, least visited places on earth. With one just a geographical dot in the middle of a frozen, ceaselessly moving ocean, and the other perched 2750m (9000ft) above sea-level on an almost two-mile thick layer of ice, they are not likely to attract the attentions of the international tourist industry. But the vast, resource-rich, strategically vital lands which border the Arctic, and, to a lesser extent, the icy desert of Antarctica, are moving inexorably to take their place on the world's political stage. For governments, for military planners, for major air and shipping lines, and for the big state and private energy corporations, the globe's chilly extremities are becoming increasingly hard to ignore. The days when the scientists, the weathermen

and the nature photographers could share them only with penguins, polar bears and the occasional Eskimo are already a memory.

The Arctic region has been intermittently colonised by man ever since the last large-scale retreat of the glaciers which until about 10,000 years ago covered much of northern Europe and America. Tacitus, the Roman historian, was introduced to his first Laplanders in AD98 (he found them "extraordinarily wild and horribly poor", but also surprisingly happy). Whale hunters, fur trappers and fish-

spearers have always found ways to survive, even in north-west Greenland where, except for a few days in July, the temperature never rises above 0 deg C. But although some of the most powerful and sophisticated nations - the United States, Russia, Canada and the Scandinavians - recognise it as their northern frontier, the attitude of most of them, until recently, has ranged from the casual to the completely uninterested.

The Tsars once owned all Alaska, but in 1870 sold it to Washington for a bargain-basement \$7.2 million (which

Congress, typically, regarded as grossly over-expensive). The Norwegians explored and claimed all Canada's Arctic islands (now discovered to be sitting on top of a chain of huge natural gas reservoirs) but amicably relinquished their rights in 1930. It was only in 1945, with the dawn of the nuclear age and the first exchanges of the Cold War, that the newly-emergent superpowers woke up to the fact that the shortest distance separating them lay across the Arctic wastes.

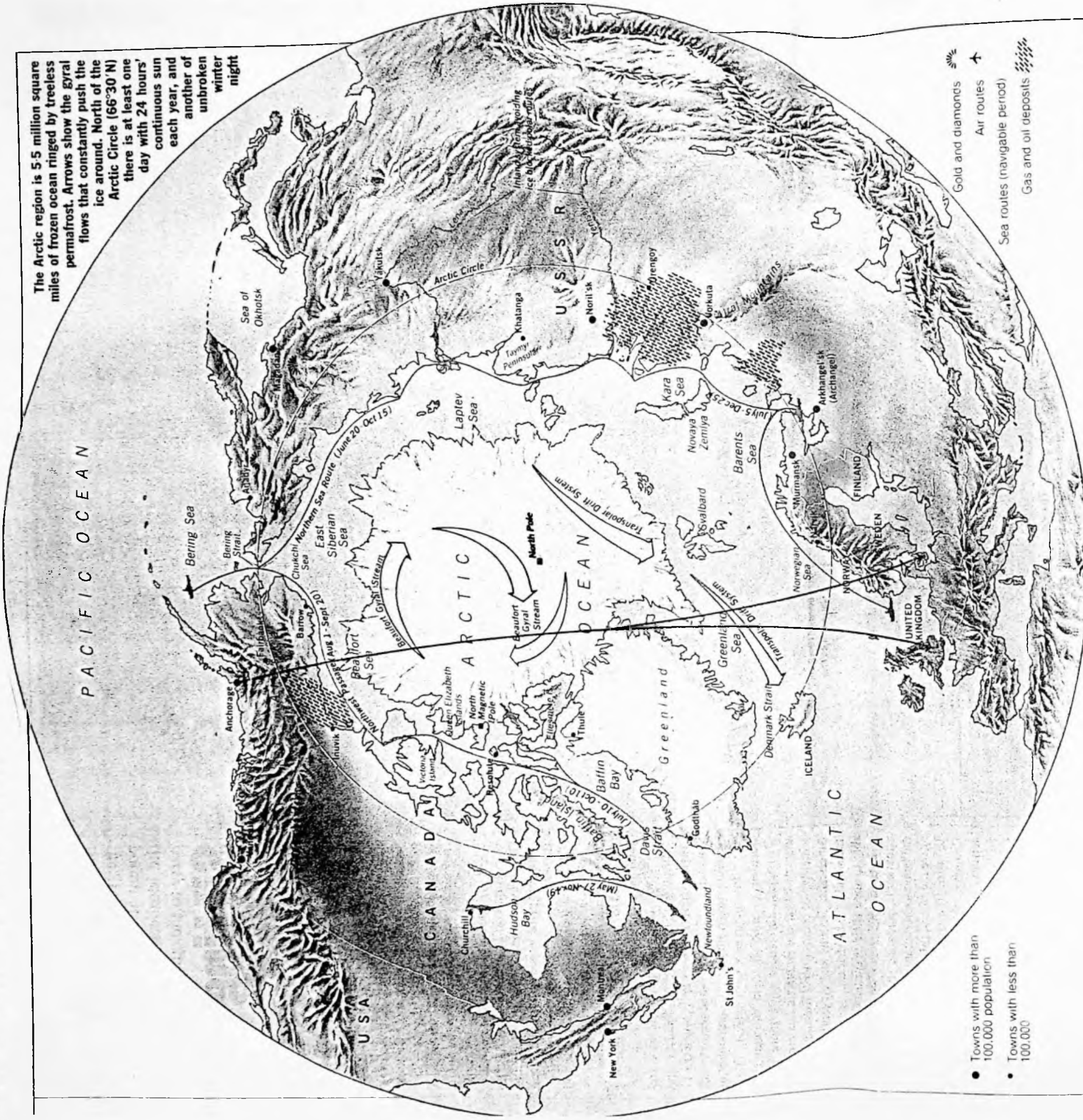
At its closest, the distance drops to only three miles, from Little Diomed Island, at the far tip of Alaska, to Big Diomed, across the Bering Strait, where the Soviet Union begins. All the Eskimo families used to celebrate every Easter together, gathering for a huge party on the ice. But no Siberian native has been seen since Afghanistan was invaded and Ronald Reagan became president of the United States.

More important, though, the northernmost tips of Canada and the US are both far closer to the main Soviet naval headquarters in Murmansk than they are to their own capitals, Ottawa and Washington. Recognising the potential threat, both sides spent billions building forward fighter bases and early warning radar systems, all constantly being updated, in some of the most inhospitable terrain that human beings have ever occupied on a permanent basis. Nuclear-powered submarines and powerful, heavily-reinforced conventional ships nose their way regularly under and through the ice. The USS Nautilus reached the Pole itself as early as 1958, approaching it from below. The Soviet icebreaker Arktika repeated the feat, taking a surface route, in 1977, and there has been at least one sub-polar collision when one of the hunter-killers got too near the quarry it was shadowing. The

Hot enough for December. Antarctic life is not all snowstorms and deprivation, as these Soviet scientists - photographed by Charles Swinbank of the British Antarctic Survey - find out







whole area, bristling with weaponry and sensing devices, remains one of the world's most heavily-defended buffer zones.

Meanwhile the Seventies and early Eighties saw an explosion of interest in the Arctic's barely-tapped mineral wealth. Oil and natural-gas reserves in particular are known to exist in staggering amounts. Even conservative estimates put them at something like 25 times bigger than the fields developed by

Britain and Norway in the North Sea – and with Middle East supplies priced at \$38 a barrel, both BP in Alaska and the Soviets in Urengoy and Pechora, were ready to face the massive technical and financial challenge of getting them out. Others, less lucky, ran into big trouble. One, Dome Petroleum, badly overextended in the Beaufort Sea, came close to wrecking the whole Canadian banking system last year, and with Saudi crude

back to \$18 a barrel, most exploration and development work in the region is temporarily on hold.

Large-scale exploitation, however, could have far-reaching repercussions – for the teeming Arctic wildlife, for the region's 800,000 indigenous people whose lifestyle is so much better adapted to eternal snow than to the late 20th century, for 41 million square miles of so far almost unpolluted environment and,

if some of the dire warnings are right, for the whole world climate pattern. All these considerations apply with even more force to the South Pole which, so far, apart from the activities of a few thousand explorers, biologists, geologists, glaciologists, meteorologists and meteorite-seekers scattered thinly across a gale-swept ice-plateau larger than Europe, has remained almost entirely untouched. Isolation and brutal



In six years' time the Antarctic Treaty comes up for renewal. But already there are signs that the race for the continent's potential riches may overtake the idealists – and even those party to the current agreement

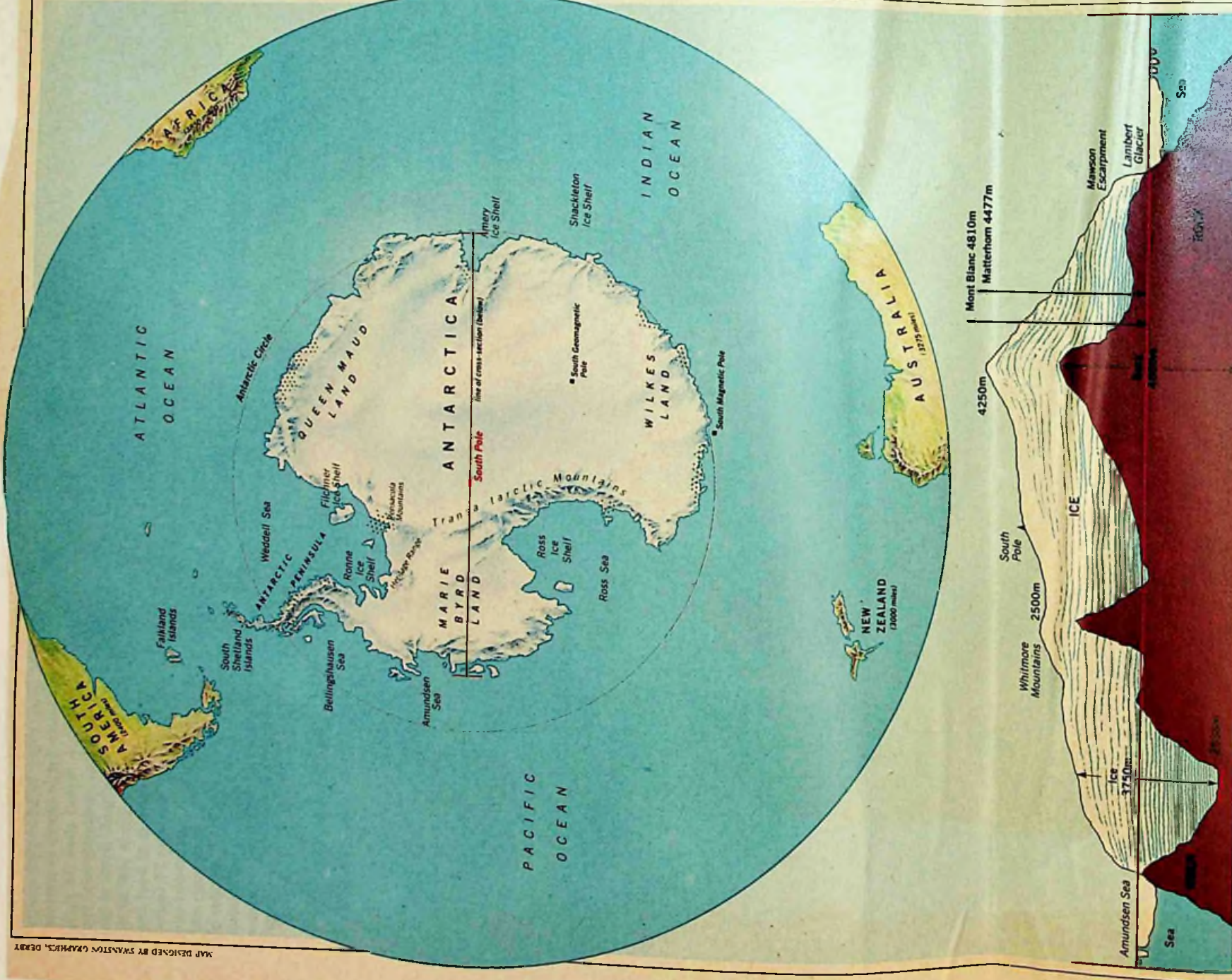
# Sitting on top of the wealth

Two cricket teams, the Gondwanaland Occasionals and the Beardmore Casuals, took the field – or rather the ice – last January to play an historic match, on a snowscape just 400 miles from the South Pole. The players were scientists, lawyers, diplomats and environmentalists from Antarctic Treaty nations visiting the Beardmore Camp, and the Hercules transport plane which had brought them there usefully doubled as a heavy roller. The pitch took spin from the start, and the Occasionals won by 27 runs. Despite their thermal underwear and snow-boots, 13 retired to the make-shift pavilion with mild symptoms of frost-bite.

It was an appropriately bizarre and offbeat way to mark the Treaty's first quarter-century. Since 1959, when the 12 countries which had co-operated so successfully in the south-polar component of the International Geophysical Year decided to sink all their national and ideological differences on a more permanent basis, the Antarctic has enjoyed remarkable tranquillity. Russians and Americans, Britons and Argentines, Indians and South Africans, have all been able to shed their prejudices once south of Latitude 60deg and work together in remarkable scientific harmony. Under the benevolent dictatorship of the consultative members, this autumn expanded to 18 with the accession of China and Uruguay, there has been no military activity, no nuclear dumping or testing, no commercial exploitation, no significant damage to the environment, no reactivation of the various conflicting territorial claims which the Treaty put into abeyance, and an almost total concentration on pure research and mutual support, when this is made necessary by the still desperately hostile terrain.

That idyllic period may now be coming to an end. For the past 12 months numerous shadows have started to gather, as the permanent representatives have pursued their endless round of meetings. Some now think the Treaty will be lucky to survive to 1991, which in theory is the first date when it can come up for renegotiation.

## Two large problems threaten its



At 6,250,000 square miles, Antarctica is larger than Europe – and loftier. The cross-section shows ice 3.8km (nearly two miles) deep, peaking just short of Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc. In fact the ice cap rises higher, to more than 5000m. The dotted areas show potential mineral deposits of silver, gold, cobalt, copper, manganese, molybdenum, titanium and uranium.

that Antarctica's riches should be used for mankind.

Speaking of Antarctica, Britain's Sir Geoffrey Howe recently mused that the circumpolar wildernesses were "a topic not much visited by foreign ministers".

His complacency may be short-lived. By the Nineties, it looks as though the diplomatic wardrobe will need to incorporate skis and snowshoes alongside the black ties and striped trousers.

ment can be reopened, and in the intervening period much has changed. In particular, oil and gas are believed to exist on a scale which some reckon could be on a par with the Arctic.

Many powerful groups are in line to claim a slice – the commercial companies who will do the work, the nations claiming sovereignty and non-claiming treaty signatories, who refuse to recognise anyone else's rights, and others who argue

innospitability aside, most of the responsibility for this goes to a remarkable piece of international self-denial embodied in the Antarctic Treaty which came into effect 24 years ago. Under its terms the entire frozen continent is reserved for scientific co-operation and the seven nations, including Britain, who have claims to various areas agree to put them into suspense while the treaty remains in force. But from 1991 the whole arrange-





But what do the penguins want? Greenpeace would like to see Antarctica as a world park, but many claims are waiting in the wings

stability – the smaller, less powerful United Nations members' dislike for an important international arrangement which appears to leave them out in the cold; and the question of mineral rights in and around the Antarctic land mass, which is rapidly becoming an urgent issue but which the Treaty leaves completely untouched.

The first threat may have been defused, at least for the moment. The UN, after debating "The Question of Antarctica" for three years, commissioned a report from the secretary-general (to which Britain contributed some 20 crate-loads of documentation). After considering the result it agreed that "in-depth discussion and any decisions" should be postponed until further notice. But the minerals question poses much deeper and more divisive difficulties.

The most hopeful sign is that although the presence of a variety of riches is suspected under the ice, no oil, gas, gold, diamonds, tin, copper or anything else has actually yet been found. It should be easier to work out some ground rules in a situation where no one actually knows who might find what where.

Ever since the Glomar Challenger (1972-3) detected traces of methane and ethane in the Ross Sea, the oil search has been on, with even official US reports talking about "tens of billions of barrels". And although difficulties and costs would be astronomical – possibly twice those at Alaska's Prudhoe Bay – the searchers are not noticeably dismayed. Norway and West Germany have been looking in the East Weddell Sea, Japan has just completed a three-year trawl through Bellingshausen, Weddell and Ross, France is active off Terre Adélie, Australia has had a look at the Amery Ice Shelf, and the Soviets in the Drake Passage, with aeromagnetic surveys over the Filchner, Ronne and Amery ice shelves. Even the Poles have been echoing in the Peninsula.

Malaysia, on behalf of the Antarctic have-nots, has advanced the claim that the region should be treated as "the common heritage of all the nations of this planet" and in the one-member one-vote regime of the UN this clearly carries some appeal.

With the accession of China to full Treaty status, this claim loses a lot of its force. The 18 consultative members now represent a full 80 per cent of the world's population, and it would hardly strain ingenuity to find some way of compensating the rest if a cornucopia of discoveries was suddenly made. The Treaty powers are under intense pressure to come up with a "minerals regime" that will command general consent. The shrewdest observers give them about three years to complete the task: otherwise they reckon the Treaty will find itself consigned to the waste-paper basket and the Antarctic, the last unsullied wilderness, will once again be up for every kind of commercial and cold-war grab.



From an ice core a snow chemist detects industrial pollution in the earth's atmosphere



Argentina's Almirante Brown station. Family settlements are encouraged by the Argentines

## Who wants a slice of the iced cake?

### Claimants

Seven signatories to the Antarctic Treaty have historic claims. None are generally accepted and several are in direct dispute but all are in abeyance while the Treaty holds.

**Britain** Britain has had a succession of famous explorers establishing the UK well up the polar honour roll. The claims overlap those of Argentina and Chile. Details of Operation Tabarin, a secret campaign to discourage Argentine penetration in the second world war, are still highly classified. Since the Treaty both countries' scientists have worked amicably. The British Antarctic Survey has five stations on land, and sea and air facilities.

**Argentina** Like Chile, Argentina traces its claims back to 1493, when Spain was awarded all land west of a line in the Atlantic joining the two poles. Its efforts are concentrated at Esperanza and Marambio.

**Chile** is building up its Villa las Estrellas settlement where an extended airstrip and 20-bedroom tourist hotel are planned.

**France** The d'Urville base was set up to study king penguins. Greenpeace has protested against the airstrip under construction there.

**New Zealand** Antarctica is New Zealand's nearest land neighbour and it applies New Zealand law in the area round the Ross Sea. **Australia** Since 1933 Australia has claimed three-sevenths of Antarctica on the grounds that it is vital to its southern security.

**Norway** In 1931 Norway claimed sovereignty over Peter I Island, and in 1939 extended this to the narrow area of Dronning Maud Land.

### Original non-claimants

The other five nations who originally signed the Treaty have so far held aloof from the scramble for territory. But that could change if mineral riches are really to be found.

**United States** Washington has sometimes considered making claims, notably during the elaborate expeditions in the Twenties and Thirties. Instead, after the success of the 1957-8 International Geophysical Year, it invited all 12 participants, including the USSR, to agree that for at least 30 years it should be reserved solely for scientific co-operation and research.

**USSR** Moscow duly agreed to hold off, but explicitly reserved its right to put forward territorial claims in the future. It has established a formidable research presence in

an area covering promising mineral sites. Japan participated enthusiastically in I. G. Year, and has maintained two bases. Its principal interest is in hydrocarbon deposits.

**Belgium** In 1957, Belgium established the highly-regarded King Baudouin base. **South Africa** has permanent bases on the Fimbul Ice Shelf. There are similarities between the Dufek Massif, near the Weddell Sea and the mineral-rich Rand.

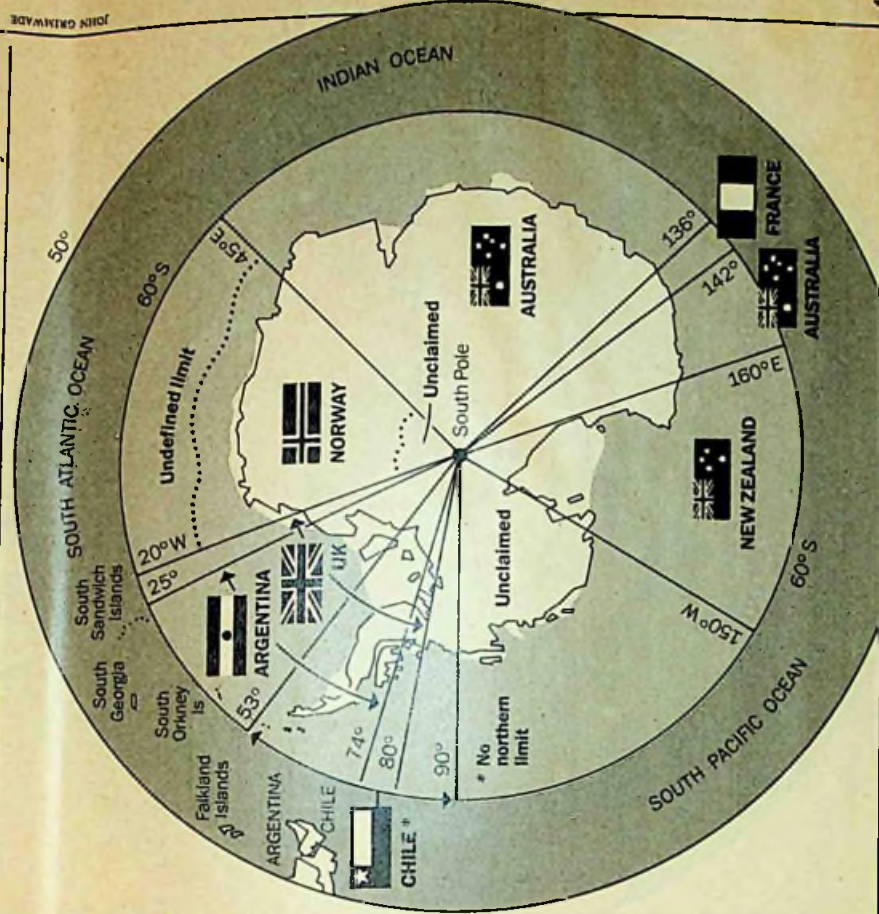
### Latecomers

Since the Treaty came into force in 1961, six additional nations have achieved full, consulting membership: Poland, West Germany, Brazil, India, China, Uruguay. All are busy establishing their Antarctic credentials with the development of permanent bases and substantial research programmes.

### The Critics

**Malaysia** has taken the lead in attacking the Treaty, which it sees as too exclusive, too secretive and too much devoted to sharing out any potential benefits among its rich and developed members. The attack has been supported by a diverse group of governments, including Tunisia, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia and Antigua and Barbuda. Their most formidable non-governmental ally is:

**Greenpeace** The environmental group has recently pushed Antarctica to the top of the agenda and has dispatched its own expedition in *Greenpeace*, which will establish a base on the coast. Their ultimate aim is to designate Antarctica in perpetuity as a world park, free from all commercial, military and environmental-threatened activity.





# THE ANTARCTIC SCIENTISTS

an aurora australis lights up Britain's Halley Station.



DR. G. ALLEN, BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

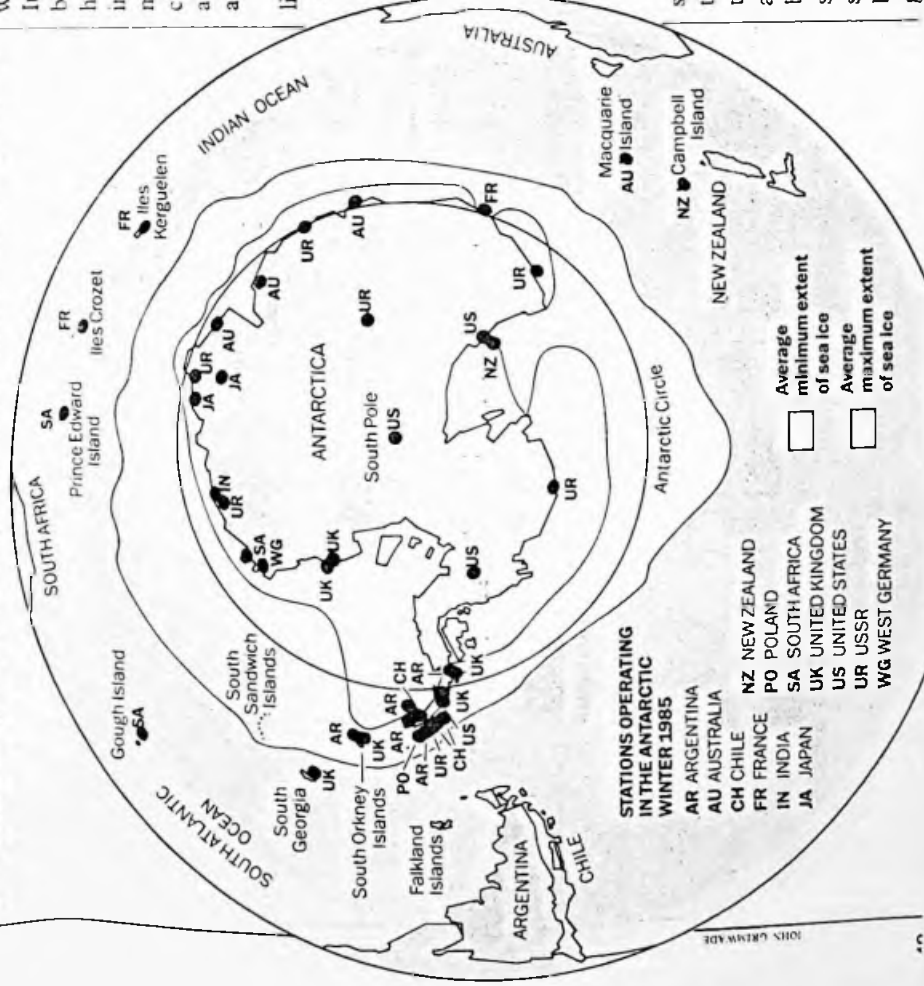
## Living at 50 below

The Antarctic is cold and a long way away. Yet it attracts scientists and researchers from a variety of countries, who are willing to stay for years at a time. *Charles Swinbank*, a veteran of British expeditions, explains what makes them go there

You are 2000 miles from the nearest road, bath, tree, dentist or television. A blizzard rages outside the hut making it vibrate. You stoke the coal stove to keep the minus 45 deg C outside temperature at bay but water still freezes if you spill it. You wonder if by now the huskies are buried under snowdrifts but then you hear their haunting chorus, for all the world like a pack of wolves in the forest. It is two years since you saw parents, brothers, sisters or friends. *Their* lives have begun to seem unreal, not yours. Day in, day out, you see the same old faces - 15 men, none of whom you would have chosen to be your friend. You retreat into a protective shell or read books to while away the long months of darkness.

Such was once the popular image of life in the Antarctic and, in places, that is how it was when I first went south 36 years ago. But today there are no explorers - only scientists and supporting staff. They refer to the old image as "the myth" because life in the Antarctic has changed dramatically within a generation. Thirty years ago all the research stations were on the coast because the interior was inaccessible. Today some are far inland, one at the South Pole itself.

The American Amundsen-Scott station is built on ice 2750m (9000ft) thick, 300 metres from the South Pole, towards which the whole thing is moving at a rate of 9m (30ft) a year. They know because they measure it with the help of satellites. Sixteen men and three women spend a year at a time in two-storey buildings sheltering under an aluminium geodesic dome 28m (92ft) in



A transmitter monitors a penguin's dives



diameter. The average temperature outside is -49 deg C (-56 deg F), in the buildings +18 deg C (64 deg F).

Six of the 19 are scientists studying meteorology, astronomy, cosmic rays, geodesy, the ionosphere and aurora. Each has a private room. There are showers and flushing loos, a spacious library, bar, cinema, lounge, billiards and a shop. Food is unlimited and up to the standards of a good hotel. The occupants are isolated for nine months of the year but in summer large aircraft on skis bring in lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, fruit and even fresh milk from New Zealand 3000 miles away. More isolated than any exiles in history, all are well-clothed, well-paid, and come here of their own free will. They can telephone when they want.

Not everyone lives like this. Standards of living in Antarctica vary as much between nations as they do in the rest of the world. The Americans top the list in terms of creature comforts, though the French are said to have the best food and wine. The Russians come last in most respects but what they lack in luxuries is offset by generous salaries, so generous in fact that many of them can expect cars, flats, and family holidays on the Black Sea when they return home. The British stations come about half way up the list.

The five stations run by the British Antarctic Survey are all on the coast or offshore islands. Most of the 60 or so men who winter there are still in their twenties, a full 10 years younger than their Russian counterparts. They are all specialists - meteorologists, physicists, zoologists, botanists, builders, electricians, diesel mechanics, radio operators, cooks and a station doctor.

To their number are added a further 30 or so geologists, geophysicists, glaciologists and field assistants who arrive from the UK each summer season. From their base in the Antarctic Peninsula they fly in ski-equipped aircraft to work in areas up to 1000 miles farther south. It is these modern travellers who are the nearest heirs to the explorers of history. Working in pairs, they live in tents, eat dehydrated rations, travel on snowmobiles and feel the chill wind cutting through their thick clothing. Two men alone in a wilderness, hundreds of miles from their Antarctic neighbours whom they may never see in a three-month season. But, unlike their predecessors, they are in daily radio contact with base, never on short rations and, in the event of trouble, can be reached in hours (weather permitting) by aircraft carrying a doctor.

There are still real hazards, like whiteouts and crevasses, but the party has been trained to deal with them. They depend on each other, delight in the vastness of the snowfield, the grandeur of the scenery, and work long hours to take advantage of spells of good weather. A blizzard means only a day or two in a warm sleeping bag in a cosy tent with a pile of novels at hand. Many years later,

some of them will recall this as the happiest time of their lives.

With two winters or two field seasons under his belt, the scientist returns to a laboratory in England. In contrast to those who went south in earlier years, now begins the hard part of his job. He is bound by contract to analyse his field data and prepare research papers for publication. If he thrives on this, he may earn a PhD, a career in research, and an invitation to go south again.

For people of any nationality confined to an Antarctic station - and this is the vast majority of the 1000-odd population during the winter - life is generally dominated by routine and can be hum-drum. Some must be up at night to take instrument readings or tend the power plant but most work through from breakfast to supper seven days a week, 30 days a month, 365 days a year. A 70-hour working week is common. Holidays are things that happen on other continents, memories long past. Boredom is not a problem. A small community is thrown together from all walks of life - introverts and extroverts, stable or capricious, but all depending for their survival on making a go of it. Most adjust easily, and in the course of a winter their shared experience and manifest interdependence give rise to a close-knit fraternity often with a vocabulary of its own.

Later some even become apprehensive at the thought of having to adjust once more to the stresses of life back home. Few dwell on the totality of their isolation. If things go wrong there is no one else to sort the problem out. The doctor at a Soviet station had to remove his own appendix when (as he wrote later) "I recognised in myself the symptoms of peritonitis". What else could he do?

## Mounting evidence on the world's weather

The main factor determining the level of the sea that laps round Britain's beaches is the depth and stability of the ice-sheet that buries all but 1 per cent of Antarctica. Something like nine-tenths of all the world's fresh water is more or less permanently frozen there. If the whole lot should melt - and the geological evidence is that it has certainly not been there for ever - then everything less than 65m (200 ft) above sea-level would vanish beneath the waves.

That is, of course, a doomsday scenario. But it does indicate the scale of the influence that the polar regions exercise over the earth's climate. The Arctic is slightly less important in absolute terms, but it makes up for that by its proximity to the more populous countries of the northern hemisphere.

The state of the ice, therefore, remains a matter of prime concern to the international weather-watching establishment, and beyond them every farmer, fuel economist, electricity board chairman, heating engineer, building standards inspector and all the other specialists whose calculations are affected by the world's changing temperature patterns.

Soviet researchers calculate that there is 250,000 square miles more sea ice between Greenland and Eastern Siberia than there was 40 years ago, and the mean temperature

## What are they doing down there?

Every year £500 million is spent on research in Antarctica. Nine-tenths of this goes on the nuts and bolts of establishing bases, building huts, setting up communications facilities and laying on the necessary ships and aeroplanes. But that still leaves more than £50 million for actual work with test tubes and geological hammers. During the two-month south-polar summer (November and October) more than 3000 assorted specialists of 20 different nations fan out across the ice. Nowadays, at least 1000 stay on to endure the rigours of the long winter, lit up by the flickering and spectacular lights of the *aurora australis*. So what is it they are looking for, in the world's greatest natural science-park?

**Reassembling Gondwana** Once Antarctica was part of Gondwana, a super-continent linked to the various chunks of landscape which are now called South America, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand. Geologists and oceanographers are trying to work out how it fitted together, and when, where and why it drifted apart.

**Peering through a two-mile-deep ice-sheet** Antarctica is the perfect test bed for remote-sensing. It is now possible to measure the depth of the ice-sheet by radar from aircraft. New mountain ranges have been found in this way, buried beneath thousands of feet of ice.

**Finding history in a snowflake** All the fifth man has ever flung into the atmosphere is tidily preserved in the cores that the glaciologists can now drill out of the ice. Already the air-pollution record goes back to the year Julius Caesar invaded Britain.

**Discovering unusual fossils** Antarctica, once you get used to the cold, is a palaeontologist's paradise. The prize find so far is the beautifully preserved penguin who must have stood 2m (6ft 6in) in his webbed feet.

**Understanding the effects of the sun** The sun fires out a constant stream of ultra-violet radiation and electrically charged particles, which collide with the earth's magnetic field and play havoc with electronic navigation equipment. Antarctica is the ideal place to investigate the phenomenon.

## THE ANTARCTIC SCIENTISTS



**Trying to save the krill** (pictured above) Minute prawn-like creatures populate the Antarctic waters by the billion. By some estimates they could be the richest protein-source on earth. But others claim they are already diminishing thanks to overfishing - mainly by the USSR and Japan - and sheer ignorance. A multi-nation programme is trying to ensure they do not become endangered.

**Investigating the plankton's bloom** Every spring the microscopic organisms that fill the Antarctic seas and provide food for all the teeming fish shoals, suddenly burst into flower, colouring the whole ocean (and blinding any submarine that might be around).

**Preserving the ozone layer** Ozone, vital to stabilising the earth's climate, could be destroyed by man-made chemicals, particularly the "freons" expelled by aerosol sprays. Upper-air researchers in Antarctica have proved this is happening. Urgent action should be on its way.

**Tracking high-voltage pollution** Polar probes show that the upper atmosphere is crackling with surplus radiation from the power-distribution grids. The next step is to find out if it matters.

in the Kara Sea has dropped by some 3 deg C. As a result, the period when the important Northern Sea Route through the Soviet Arctic is freely open to navigation has shrunk by a full month. And although this has been largely offset by building stronger-bulld ships and bigger and better ice-breakers, the additional cost has been astronomical.

More worrying are the more general trends, particularly the tendency for carbon dioxide, belched out from a million factory chimneys (and possibly also being released by changes in the deep-ocean currents) to build up significantly in the earth's atmosphere. This is liable to produce a "greenhouse effect", trapping some of the sun's radiation at low levels and causing an overall warming-up. Even a small increase in the average annual temperature would translate directly through to a shrinking of the permanent ice-cover, affecting the world's sea-air weather mix.

The pure, almost pollution-free environment of Antarctica makes it almost the only place on earth where accurate measurements of something as attenuated as carbon dioxide content can still be confidently made. Bubbles trapped in the annual layers of fresh-fallen and then-frozen snow which are dug up and analysed are capable of giving a comparative record going back several centuries.

On balance it seems that the amount of gas present has grown appreciably over the past 30

years. There has been a temperature rise of about ½ deg C over the same period, which is roughly in line with the theory. But as weather-stations are still very few and far between it is very hard to be sure how far the results so far are generally reliable.

Even in the Arctic, where systematic scientific work has been going on for more than 50 years, there are still enormous gaps in the coverage - not least because there is almost nowhere to establish a permanent observatory, and most stations, manned or automatic, are continually drifting with the ice. In the 20-odd years the Americans have occupied the ice-lump T-3, it has travelled 5000 miles.

In the south, the work has scarcely begun. It is possible to check on factors such as pollution, where the evidence lies conveniently filed in the annual layers of snow, and the radio-activity yield from each year's nuclear-weapon tests back to 1945. Otherwise there is little data going back more than three decades.

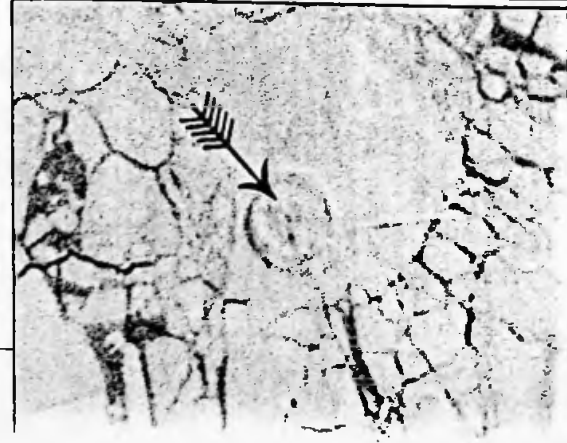
As a result, everyone knows that the Arctic and Antarctic are meteorologically of enormous importance, but no one as yet has more than the foggiest understanding of how the mechanisms actually work. Meanwhile the Poles, particularly Antarctica, offer conditions as close to those in a "meteorological laboratory" as they are ever likely to get.



## THE ARCTIC BATTLEFIELD

Near the Arctic Circle the USA and USSR face each other across the narrow gap of the Bering Strait. But it's across the Arctic Ocean itself that missiles are most likely to fly. A central element is the hunting and hiding of submarines. Here the Soviets have made a crucial breakthrough

## No thaw in the coldest war



On March 28, 1984, a US Landsat spacecraft took this extraordinary picture as it orbited high over the prison-camp island of Wrangel in the frozen East Siberian Sea. To the north a Soviet submarine, watched by two circling military planes (their jet-trail is arrowed), smashed its way up through the pack ice, several feet thick at that point, opening a half-mile wide circle of open water. From that day, Pentagon analysts knew that Moscow had acquired a powerful new threat - submarines that could hide for weeks, even months, below the ice, safe from detection and attack, and then break out to fire

their nuclear missiles across the empty polar ocean towards North America.

The Arctic is of crucial importance to Soviet strategy, and therefore to the planning of NATO's response in any possible future conflict. But where

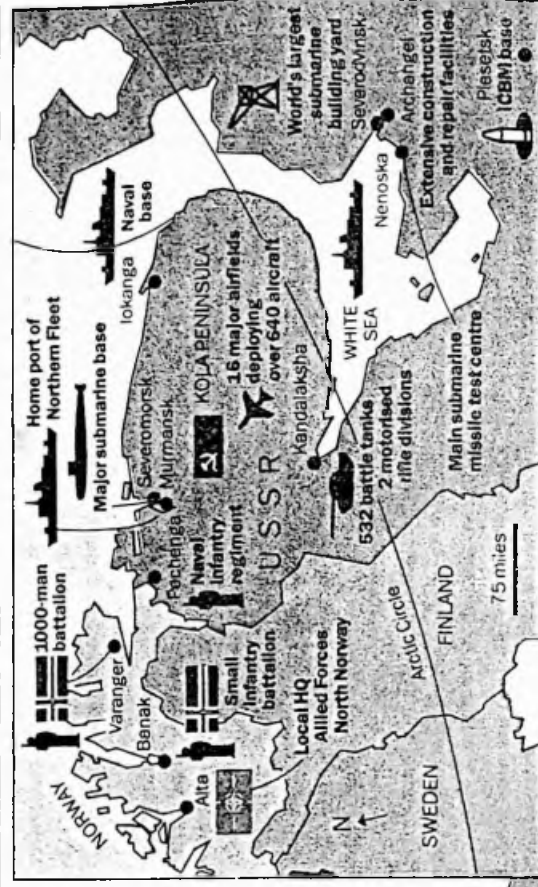
the forces available to the Western allies are scattered in a huge triangle stretching from Norway's North Cape down to Gibraltar and across to the US Navy's headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, the USSR's northern war machine is tightly packed into one single area, the Kola Peninsula and the Barents Sea waters, lapping up to the great Arctic Circle port of Murmansk.

For both sides, this drastic imbalance creates both enormous problems and substantial offsetting opportunities. Trying to get the best of the mix keeps the

senior staff officers of at least 10 countries more than fully employed, and at the moment there is some fear in NATO that the Soviets may be holding a significant advantage.

Nature and geography have combined to make the Kola Peninsula an ideal Soviet fortress. Despite its far northerly location, the flow of the warm Atlantic Gulf Stream keeps its many harbours permanently ice-free. Apart from Petropavlovsk, in remote and inaccessible Kamchatka, it provides the only stretch of the

**Early warning systems circle the Arctic: US advanced bases are positioned in high secrecy in Greenland, and the Soviet versions are in close proximity on the long Kola Peninsula, right**



immense Soviet coastline from which warships have year-round access to open sea, without running the gauntlet of foreign-controlled "choke points" such as the Dardanelles or the Denmark Strait.

Its closeness to the Atlantic offers at least the possibility of cutting Europe's reinforcement lifeline with North America. It is directly under the shortest flight-path from the US, making it valuable for both air-attack and air-defence. This is why the outer ring of Moscow's anti-ballistic-missile complex is located there, and why its 16 main airfields are all equipped to refuel the long-range bombers which might one nightmare day set off across the Pole. Above all, it provides the perfect base for Mr Gorbachev's advanced ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).

This was not always so. The first generation of Russian SSBNs lacked range and accuracy, and the only way they could get close enough to threaten US targets meant slipping out through the "Greenland-Iceland-UK Gap" which has probably the heaviest concentration of anti-submarine detection and fire-power in the world. It was not an attractive prospect. Later, with bigger submarines, more powerful missiles and a host of technical improvements, it became possible to achieve the same results without leaving the Barents Sea. But that, too, had its drawbacks. As long as they were restricted to a relatively small area of open water, the 42 Typhoons, Deltas and Yankees attached to the Northern Fleet (60 per cent of all Moscow's SSBN strength) presented an uncomfortably easy

target for any NATO counter-attack.

Men like Admiral James Watkins, Chief of US Naval Operations, recognised this could not last. Early intelligence on the Typhoon, the latest and most sophisticated of the Soviet SSBNs, suggested that it had been designed explicitly for under-ice operation. Details like the shape and strength of its hull and the conical fairing round its fin – the bit people used to call the conning-tower – strongly indicated a capacity to break through substantial ice-cover. The Wrangel sighting last year provided confirmation for everyone's worst fears.

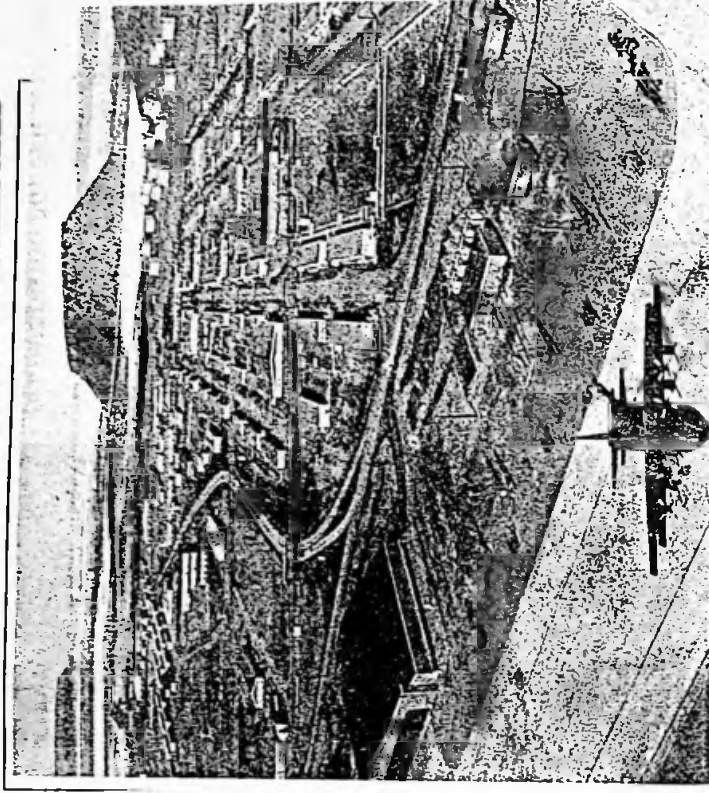
Certainly neither of the two Typhoons known to have gone into Northern Fleet service has ever been detected south of the Greenland-Scotland gap, and the best guess is that they are more or less permanently parked beneath the pack-ice. In fact NATO's anti-submarine experts have identified four vast areas now known as "ocean bastions" – one between Greenland and Spitsbergen (Svalbard), one in the Barents, one further east in the Kara Sea, and the biggest of all under the Pole – where conditions provide the right kind of cover because submarine hunting by plane or surface ship is effectively impossible.

The only realistic alternative is to send in other submarines to search and destroy, and for some time the US navy (and our own) have admitted despatching their hunter-killers for extensive training under the Arctic ice. The results, however, have not been overwhelmingly encouraging. First, vital parts of the NATO boats, not having



The Soviets' latest Akula class submarine on trials among the Arctic ice, armed with potent new long-range cruise missiles

## THE ARCTIC BATTLEFIELD



Even the Greenland government has no official knowledge of what goes on at Thule, the huge American and Nato air base, a vital link in the West's ballistic missile early-warning system (BMEWS)

been specially designed for the job, have a nasty habit of freezing up or breaking off. Their Soviet counterparts on the other hand enjoy such things as built-in heaters for the masts and periscopes, and movable fins, like top-class wing-mirrors, that swing themselves out of harm's way when a particularly vicious ice-keel scrapes by. Second, and even worse, the conditions make it ferociously difficult to stalk and attack an inevitably elusive opponent.

With modern sonar equipment it is not hard to identify the presence of the enemy. But pinpointing his position is a nightmare when the headphones give the impression of cruising through a gigantic glass full of ice-cubes and the echoes rebound crazily off every floe or iceberg, shelf, or sheet in the frozen vicinity. It is rather like playing blind-man's buff with your eyes open, in a room full of distorting mirrors. After an extended session of these

manoeuvres, men like the Royal Navy's Captain T. M. le Marchand, one of the few to describe the experience, understandably report "the tagging suspicion that we have got some catching up to do".

In security, though, nobody can afford to rest on yesterday's laurels. Soviet submarine superiority is unlikely to last for ever, and meantime there is an even newer threat, where advantage probably favours the West.

At one time use of air-launched cruise missiles over the North Pole was ruled out by the technical problems of accurate navigation because the flight-path lay mainly over featureless snowfields. Now that appears to have been largely licked, the densely-packed military installations on Kola and around Archangel move into yet another kind of weapon-range.

There is little chance, in the foreseeable future, that the Arctic will lose its key place on the defence map of the world.

## How the forces line up

### Soviet Northern Fleet v. NATO's North Atlantic Naval Forces

	USSR	NATO
Ballistic Missile Submarines	42	31
Attack submarines	132	136
Combat Aircraft	520	1080
Open Ocean Warships	42	206
Coastal Warships	95	66
Mine countermeasures vessels	65	49
Assault ships (tonnage)	38,050	402,300
Marines	3000	56,250
Coastal Defence Troops	2200	1000

Source: Robert van Tol, Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies.



## THE ARCTIC PEOPLES

While the outside world encroaches relentlessly upon their territories and their cultures, the nomads of the North try out new ways to defend their fierce attachment to a sub-zero lifestyle

# The nomads begin to dig in

Two million people, mostly Soviet citizens, nowadays live north of the Arctic Circle, and almost 9 million (still including tens of thousands of the KGB's political prisoners) beyond the northern tree line where the polar landscape of tundra and pack-ice more truly begins. But only just over 800,000 are left from the nomad communities - Inuit, Chukchi, Saami, Nenets, Komi and the rest - whose hunting and survival skills have kept

them alive and creatively thriving in the refrigerated snowscape for 10,000 years.

Everywhere their ancient customs and ways are under attack: from the oil and mining companies that gouge into the area's buried treasures; from the military who clamp security restrictions on their trapping and fishing grounds; from the technology which makes a mockery of their painfully evolved, beautifully crafted tools and

transport; from the environmentalists who threaten their livelihood with two-edged efforts to save the seal and the bowhead whale; and from a host of imported ills ranging from glue-sniffing and alcoholism to the debilitating effect of a distant government's welfare cheques.

They are, however, fighting back. In 1977 more than 400 leading Alaskan Eskimos, Canadian Inuit, Scandinavian Lapps and native Greenlanders

met to launch the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Embracing all Arctic peoples outside the USSR, this organisation is now a member (though as yet non-voting) of the United Nations.

Last year it backed a demand that the whole Arctic should be made a nuclear-free zone, and also asked for "full insight into the activities of American bases". It offers expertise and backing to dozens of local groups, from the Yupiks and Athapaskans round the Bering Strait to the reindeer herders of Finland's Lemmenjoki National Park, who are all trying to negotiate a legal and economic framework within which their children and grandchildren can maintain their forebears threatened traditions and beliefs.

### Windfall problems in Alaska

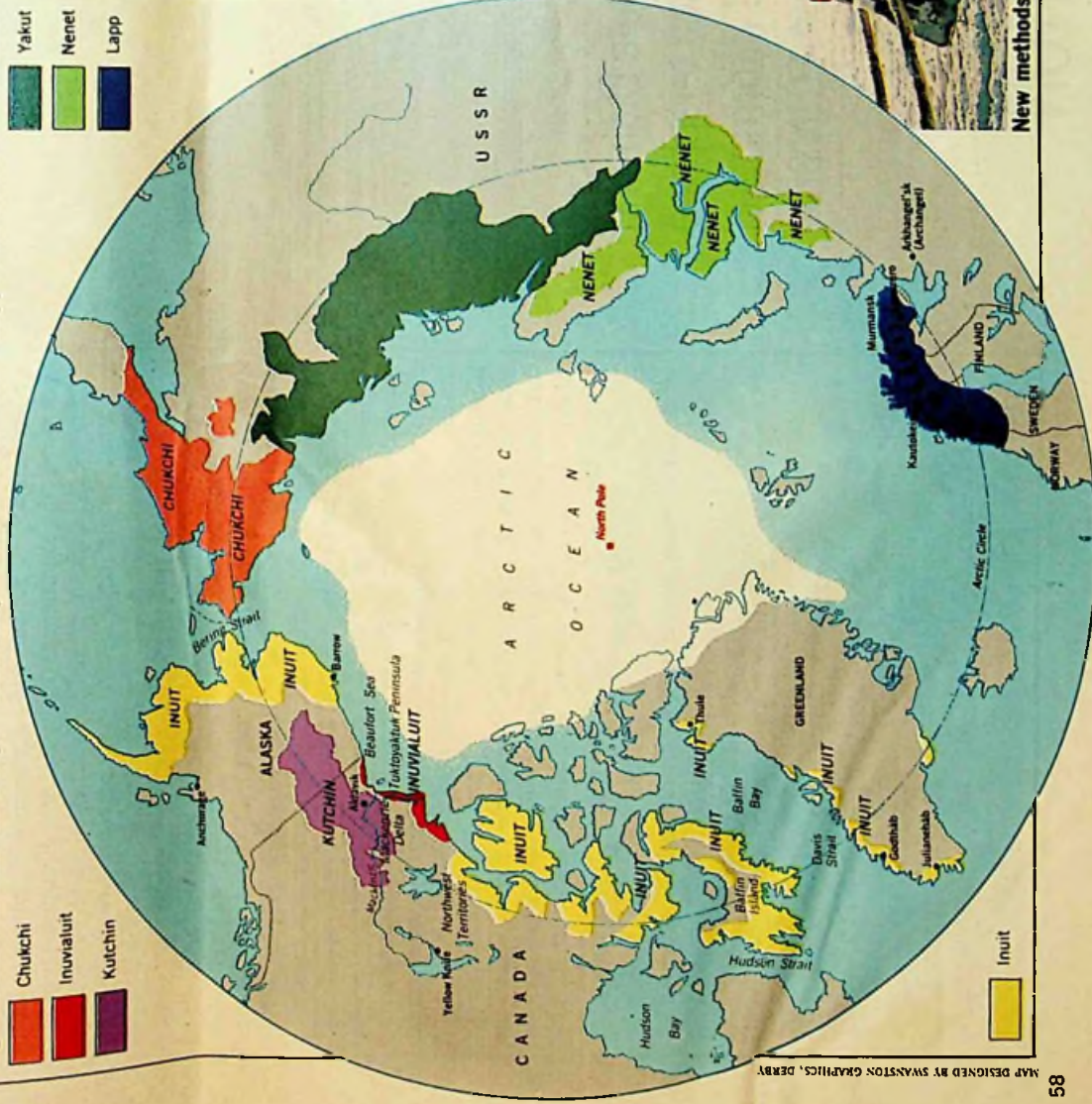
The population of America's most northerly State includes some 85,000 Arctic natives - Aleuts, Yupiks, Koyukons,

**A Mountie from Igloodik, Northwest Territory on patrol. It is rare for an Inuit to hold such a position in Canadian society**

Tanana, Kutchin and Inupiat. In 1971, after years of campaigning against growing poverty and loss of independence, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, designed to clear the way for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, granted them overnight 44 million acres of land and \$962.5 million in compensation. They are still coming to terms with this enormous windfall, trying to ensure that it preserves, rather than destroys their way of life.

Initially 13 regional and 200 village corporations were set up to administer the settlement. But although they all still exist, and millions of dollars have gone into providing schools, electricity, safe water and things like satellite telephones (in partial compensation for the area's unavoidable isolation and lack of roads) there is still a lot of frustrated disappointment, especially over the continuing lack of suitable jobs. Men who cannot hunt for a living are reduced to filling their own freezers and wondering what alternatives their sons will find to the endless cycle of boredom, drink, television and family violence which plagues their tiny communities.

The picture is not uniformly black. Alaska's most influential Eskimo leader, Willie Hensley, an Inupiat from Kotzebue, became chairman of United Bank Alaska, and has vigorously promoted craft workshops, Arctic language and history teaching in state schools, and video records to perpetuate the area's fast-fading fishing and kayak-building skills. Eskimo financiers own two of the biggest hotels in Anchorage, ➤62



New methods extend the threatened way of life of Lapland reindeer herdersmen



## THE ARCTIC PEOPLES

the state capital, and an Eskimo-owned company, Arctic Jomax Construction, has transformed village life for many with its innovative houses perched on metal-frame foundations above the permafrost. The Inupiat capital, Barrow, the most northerly town in the US, has benefited mightily from the Prudhoe Bay oil-bonanza just next door, and now boasts an enviable array of educational facilities, hospitals and public buildings.

The problem is that although work is available, in principle, to any local who applies, most of the cream opportunities in fact have gone to go-getting outsiders, often Mexicans, Filipinos and Koreans, who also monopolise most of the profitable spin-off businesses set up to serve the rigs and the pipeline. The big crunch, as everyone knows, will come in 1991, the first year when the treaty beneficiaries become free to sell their land and compensation shares to the highest bidder. In favoured areas like Barrow, the offers are likely to approach \$1 million a head.

### Canada's restricted citizens

Unlike their Alaskan cousins, who have full US citizenship, Canada's 47,000 Eskimos (who prefer to be called Inuit) and Indians are still subject to special, restricted status under the 1875 Indian Act. And although their traditional hunting and fishing grounds also include immensely rich oil and gas deposits - Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie Delta in the west and the Arctic Island fields, Hecla, Drake Point and King Christian, in the far north-east - they remain locked in discussion with the Ottawa government over future constitutional and financial arrangements.

Most advanced are the Inuvialuit, round the Mackenzie Delta. They reached a deal last year which guaranteed them a permanent land base of 35,000 square miles (though they only retain mineral rights in about one-sixth of that area) and compensation estimated to be worth CS118 million (£60 million) when it is finally paid out over the next 13 years. Both land and cash are held in long-term trust so they will not face the Alaskans' temptation to sell out. Instead a series of co-operative investment and development corporations are being set up, in



**Life for Soviet citizens in the port of Murmansk on the heavily fortified Kola peninsula is, in some ways, better than life in Moscow. The incentives for people to live up in the icy north - mainly to work on the USSR's biggest naval base - are higher wages and better accommodation. This satellite community (right) just outside Murmansk has all mod. cons. and offers far more space than the average family housing. The cafe (above) sells a wide variety of fruit and vegetables - all grown on the local glasshouse farms**



strike and a demonstration on the Oslo parliament's lawn.

Every power station, dam or tourist park proposal makes the Sami feel more trapped and hemmed in. And although only 10 per cent follow the traditional occupation of reindeer herding, they grow more determined each year to preserve those elements of uniqueness that remain.

### Official nomads in the USSR

The Soviet Union contains by far the greater part of the native Arctic population - five out of every six live somewhere between the Kola and Chukchi peninsulas, along the 4000 miles that make up Moscow's northern coastline. After the 1917 revolution nomad herding, the most common means of livelihood, was rejected as "non-socialist". But as no short-term alternative was offered, the activity was redefined as "production nomadism" and given a limited, collective legitimacy which it still retains.

The main ethnic and cultural groupings are listed separately in the Soviet census but they are otherwise treated as normal citizens, with no special privileges and rights, and no claim to land, either individually or as a people.

They retain a surprisingly strong sense of separate destiny. Often this has been officially encouraged: there is a Chukchi joke about the typical Arctic family - father, mother, two children, and over in the corner of the hut, the state researcher.

Even tiny groups like the Yukaghirs, now down to around 800, are busily rescuing heirlooms, artefacts and folklore from the past when their forebears roamed all over the eastern Arctic, and trying to create, for the first time, a Yukaghir alphabet to be used for printing the stories they told.

Eskimo people can cope perfectly well with the modern housing, factories, machines, transport systems and economic structure that the Danes bequeathed. The most sensitive issue - apart from fishing and hunting rights - remains the huge US bases, at Thule and Sondrestrom, over which the Greenlanders have little say.

### Defiant protest in Lapland

Like the Kurds, in the Middle East, the Lapps, or as they now prefer to call themselves, the Sami, are split among several countries - in their case Norway, Sweden, Finland and a few in the USSR. After nearly a century of more-or-less willing assimilation they have recently begun to reassert their own national identity. Land, as usual, is the crucial problem, and the erosion of custom and spirit that comes with aggressive southerners.

In 1979 when the Alta-Kautokeino hydroelectric project threatened to flood yet another northern valley and turn it into an artificial lake angry protests ended with an all-out

in the St Lawrence seaway. The Inuit fear that channels smashed through the pack-ice will make fishing impossible; Greenlanders foresee fatal disturbance to the whale and seal on which their economy largely depends.

### Inspiration from Greenland

With fewer than 50,000 people, sprinkled almost invisibly round the rim of the world's second-largest island, Greenland's population is well below that of Mervyn Tydfil. But in 1979, when it was granted home rule by Denmark, it became the first self-governing Arctic native state, and although it faces every kind of problem - not least staffing its fledgling civil service - it is rapidly emerging as an example and an inspiration to the rest of the area.

Proudly displaying its new Inuit name, Kalaallit Nunaat, it hosts conferences, launches hopeful new initiatives to curb the military and the multinationalists from doing irreversible damage, and at the same time demonstrates that an essentially

the hope of preserving all future profits, revenues and capital gains for the collective benefit of the Inuvialuit. Further south, the Council for Yukon Indians (with 7000 members) has reached "agreement in principle" on the sharing of land and mineral rights round their mountainous and inaccessible villages. More ambitiously, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, representing the Inuit of the Arctic Islands, and the Dene Nation Indians on the mainland, are both aspiring to self-government in vast areas carved out of Canada's still largely unexplored North-west Territories.

The big current issue affecting the Canadian Arctic is a controversial Arctic Pilot Project, which aims to set up a year-round service, using two specially designed ice-breaker tankers, to ship liquid natural gas from Drake Point, through the very difficult North-East Passage route, traversing Parry Channel and Baffin Bay, and down through the Davis Strait between Canada and Greenland, for delivery to the gas-terminals



## The Falklands and 'ties of blood'

**S**IR—Your recent leader headed "Beyond the Vote" about the United Nations vote on the Falklands glosses over some important facts. You write of the democratic Government of Argentina: "The political tincture of the Argentine Government does not affect in the slightest degree the cause for which the Falklands War was fought, and which Britain defended at the United Nations on Wednesday, which is the right of self-determination for the Falklanders". One should remember that the political tincture of the Argentine Government of the generals proved no obstacle to the Thatcher Government discussing the sovereignty issue before the 1982 conflict.

The leader draws attention to, and dismisses the significance of, the vote of the United States, Italy and Spain for the motion. It suggests the defection of France and Greece to the Argentine side to be more perplexing but there is no comment on the position of Australia and Canada who voted against Britain this year, and New Zealand who abstained (having voted with Britain last year). Are not these countries bound by "ancient ties of blood" to Britain as much as Spain and Italy are to Argentina? And what about all the Commonwealth countries who voted against Britain or abstained? What "notional self-interest" do these countries have in this dispute? The facts speak for themselves—Britain sustained a crushing diplomatic defeat, and appears to be more intransigent in the eyes of the world than Argentina.

ALAINE M. LOW  
Dept. of Systems Science,  
South Atlantic Cncl,  
City University, London, E.C.1.

### Questions on sovereignty

**S**IR—Sr Maxi Gainza puts in a strong plea for Argentina and Britain to start talking to each other including, by implication, the subject of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

I have never understood what legal or moral claims Argentina has to this sovereignty. Is it because the Argentines occupied the islands hundreds of years ago? If so, Britain should claim sovereignty over the United States. ~~or~~

Is it because the islands are near the coast of Argentina? In this case, we should transfer the Channel Islands to France.

N. E CHAFF  
Bath.

Lloyds List Saturday 7 December 1985

## Greenpeace to go ahead with Antarctic trip

From Kingsley Wood, Sydney

### ENVIRONMENTAL group

Greenpeace is to go ahead with its planned Antarctic expedition, despite pleas by the Australian government to call off the voyage on safety grounds.

Science Minister Mr Barry Jones visited the converted tug *Greenpeace*, which is in Sydney taking on stores, and made a personal appeal to scrap the idea. Greenpeace intends to build a small base at Commonwealth Bay, near McMurdo and leave a party of four to winter there as part of a campaign to have the Antarctic declared a world park.

After inspecting the ship and meeting the crew Mr Jones said he was still worried about the strength of the vessels hull and a long engine room which could not be cooled if needed. He accepted that the group would face many difficulties but decided to let them go.

The ship will leave for Antarctica on December 10.

# London and Madrid pledge to find Gibraltar solution

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Britain and Spain agreed only to continue the "study" of the issue of sovereignty over Gibraltar through diplomatic channels when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, ended a 24-hour visit to Madrid yesterday.

Sovereignty had been discussed fully and Spain's proposals reviewed, a joint statement by Sir Geoffrey and Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, his Spanish counterpart, said afterwards.

During a plenary session of both countries' delegations Sir Geoffrey acknowledged the constructive spirit of the proposals made 10 months ago by Spain, but he rejected any mechanism which from the start prejudged the eventual outcome, British officials indicated.

Señor Ordóñez expressed his country's respect for the people of Gibraltar, but disputed an unlimited right to self-determination. Both countries, he said, must now seek formulae of collaboration. The proposals made by Señor Fernando Morán, then Spain's Foreign Minister, envisaged either a lease-back arrangement or a condominium.

Both countries promised in yesterday's statement to hold future discussions "against the background of the shared aim of overcoming all the differences between the two governments".

Sir Geoffrey emphasized that Britain would also maintain its commitment to honour the

wishes of the people of Gibraltar as enshrined in their 1969 constitution.

Señor Ordóñez, at a separate press conference, said satisfactory progress had been made at what would be one among a long series of meetings.

The two ministers are to meet again in London next year.

At his press conference, Sir Geoffrey evaded Spanish reporters' questions about when a written reply to the Morán proposals would be forthcoming from London.

Sir Geoffrey had earlier spent an hour with Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, devoted chiefly to Gibraltar.

Sir Geoffrey said Britain and Spain were now embarked on a "qualitatively new relationship" which provided the framework for managing the difference over Gibraltar.

But he could not announce any tangible results from his visit, such as agreement for joint use of Gibraltar's airport with Iberia, Spain's national airline, for direct flights between Madrid and Gibraltar.

The essential difficulty was how to devise civil aviation arrangement which take care of the two sides' differences over sovereignty, British officials said.

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, who was in Madrid, said that "certainly and for this generation and for the immediate future, Gibraltarians would have no wish to change sovereignty."

## Future of Falklands

From Mr M. R. Meadmore

Sir, Dr Owen is reported as saying (November 29) that the "UN Charter imposes an obligation on this country . . . to try to settle disputes by negotiation". His statement omits the qualifying clause in the relevant article 2 of the Charter, viz: "in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered". The clause shows respect for the tenet of general international law that there is no obligation to settle disputes.

Negotiations on all aspects of the future of the Falklands, which the UN General Assembly urges, would include the Argentine demand for the transfer of Falklands sovereignty without application of the Charter

principle of self-determination (reports, November 27 and 29). Negotiations of exactly this type in 1968 and 1977 were perceived at the time as endangering international peace and security, and justice (Franks report, paras 25 and 63). They are therefore not required under article 2 of the Charter.

The Argentine claim to the Falklands, the dependencies and British Antarctic territory is essentially a territorial one whose resolution is more likely in the International Court of Justice than through resolutions passed in the UN Decolonization Committee and General Assembly.

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. MEADMORE,  
8 Pennard Road, W12.  
November 29.

**Woodrow Wyatt**

## Falklands: law-law is better than jaw-jaw

Twice on the Radio 4 *Today* programme on Wednesday, Denis Healey condemned the government for being "isolated" at the United Nations over our opposition to a resolution about the Falklands. The proposal in question was that we should start talks with Argentina which would include "all aspects of the future of the Falklands". Clearly that encompasses sovereignty - something which this government has said is not open to negotiation. From Mr Healey's remarks, Labour clearly thinks it is.

Many countries which voted against us owe their existence to the British belief in self-determination. This right they are not prepared to allow to the 1,992 Falklanders, thus giving succour to the doctrine that small communities are fair game for any marauding aggressor.

The Falklanders have much to fear. It was all those talks about sovereignty, which began in 1968 and went on until 1982, which Labour wants to start again which led General Galtieri to believe that Britain would do nothing when he seized the Falklands. That Argentina is temporarily and shakily democratic would be no bar to new talks leading to the same end. Neither Labour nor the Alliance could be relied on not to give the Falklands away or defend them if attacked.

The Falklanders, now they have a splendid new airport, depend on Argentina for nothing, and before that only 5 per cent of their supplies ever came from Argentina. The Falklanders do not need Argentinian schools or hospitals and can fly to London in 16 hours, three times a week, against the one flight a week to Argentina which existed before 1982.

The cost of defending the Falklands is rapidly declining. From £684 million in 1984-85 it will be £300 million in 1987-88, including the cost of the airport. Those forces deployed in the Falklands (and they must be in training somewhere) are much more useful there than they would be waiting in Western Europe for a war which is not going to happen. No part of our defence budget is more cost-effective, and the budget would not be smaller if we stopped defending the Falklands.

Nor need the Falklands be a liability if we have the will to develop their assets. Under the sea on the Falklands side of the median line there are two basins which almost certainly contain very large amounts of oil. The Argentinians have allowed oil companies to explore blocks on

their side. We, for fear of annoying the Argentinians, have not yet had the courage to advertise blocks for exploration.

Then there are the fish. We have not declared an economic zone for fishing because the Argentinians would not like it. The Falklanders get nothing from the vast quantities now being fished around them by Poles, Russians, East Germans, Bulgarians, Japanese and almost anyone but the British. However, last month Argentina agreed to the Food and Agricultural Organization's invitation which provides for research under the FAO's supervision into what fish are there and what should be done to conserve and allocate them - a small step which could be more productive than talks about sovereignty.

A similar approach might be helpful over oil. If the Argentinians refused to acknowledge our right to explore and develop oil potential on our side of the median line after such an international step was taken, we would be on stronger ground in issuing licences for exploration. Argentina's threats to interfere with our operations would be meaningless as they know that we would retaliate.

Since 1908 Britain has explored and claimed large tracts of Antarctica. In 1959, to counter Argentinian and Chilean claims to British territory, we were signatories to the international Antarctic Treaty, to which countries with no territorial claims, like the US and USSR, adhered. The treaty has put into suspension all claims.

Nevertheless, it could be of great economic importance for Britain to have a presence in the area so that we can get a fair whack of any oil and other mineral wealth which technological advances may unlock during the next century. To vanish from the Falklands, South Georgia and other islands would be to renounce our share of a potential bonanza for our great grandchildren. Science fiction can, and probably will, become fact in Antarctica despite the extreme difficulties caused by two kilometres of ice on top of most of the land.

It is all a matter of will. It is well within our resources to defend the right of British subjects in the Falklands to self-determination and to our rights to the potential wealth of the region. That an occasional Argentinian president is democratic is no reason for handing him our property, particularly as we were recently at considerable pains to recover it when his predecessors stole it.

# Britain rejects Spain's Gibraltar proposals

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

BRITAIN yesterday implicitly turned down Spanish proposals for an eventual political settlement over Gibraltar.

However, Sir Geoffrey Howe, UK Foreign Secretary, and Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, Spanish Foreign Minister, agreed that talks on sovereignty should continue "through diplomatic channels."

The two days of British-Spanish talks here were the first time there has been any real discussion of Gibraltar sovereignty. But British officials said the talks on this central issue did not go beyond a form-exchange of positions.

Spain's Socialist administration made confidential proposals earlier this year, at first verbally and then in writing, for an interim settlement involving either an arrangement for Spain to lease Gibraltar back to Britain or for a condominium between the two countries.

The officials said that the premise on which these proposals were based—the final return of Gibraltar to Spain—was not ac-

ceptable to Britain. There was no question at the moment of considering any mechanism that led automatically to Spanish rule.

Sir Geoffrey emphasised Britain's commitment to honour the wishes of Gibraltar's population, as laid down in the preamble to the colony's 1969 constitution.

At the same time, the two governments agreed to try to speed up progress on plans to give Spanish airlines access to Gibraltar's airport—a key aspect of the co-operation talks which have been taking place since November last year.

The Gibraltar issue occupied the whole of Sir Geoffrey's second session of talks with Mr Fernandez Ordonez yesterday and was the main subject of a meeting earlier in the morning with Mr Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister. Sir Geoffrey described the talks as "useful" and "constructive," and said they took place in a "very cordial and relaxed atmosphere."



King Juan Carlos (left) with Sir Geoffrey Howe before yesterday's ministerial talks on Gibraltar



## Future of Falklands

*From Mr Eric Ogden*

Sir, I commend your cautious comments in your editorial, "Debating the Falklands" (November 27). Certainly your assessment of Sir Geoffrey Howe as "the safest hands in the South Atlantic" was confirmed when a strong delegation from my association and committee met him a few days ago, but he is not "well informed on fish".

We do doubt the accuracy of the information on which he bases his over-cautious approach to the need for the declaration of British fishing conservation and management zones around the Falkland Islands. We believe that the information provided by the Foreign Office

grossly underestimates the advantages of such action and greatly exaggerates the possible disadvantages.

Conservation of natural resources and fish stocks and the protection of the environment are challenges which should be put to Argentina and which she would find it difficult to avoid.

The time is long overdue for a British declaration that we will manage and conserve the natural resources of the south-west Atlantic in British conservation zones now.

Sincerely,

ERIC OGDEN, Chairman,  
The United Kingdom Falkland  
Islands Committee,  
2 Greycoat Place, SW1.  
November 27.

### ***Falklands visit***

Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, is to lead a delegation of MPs and peers to the Falkland Islands on Monday on a nine-day inspection of civilian and military establishments.

### **OAS CHANGES RULES FOR NEW MEMBERS**

The former British colonies of Guyana and Belize will be free to join the Organisation of American States in 1990.

OAS delegates in Cartagena, Colombia, have agreed that in five years the OAS would lift restrictions then bar membership to any country in territorial dispute with a member country.

Guatemala does not recognise the independence of Belize, formerly British Honduras, and claims its territory, while Venezuela claims a third of Guyana's territory. The Argentine delegate dismissed the possibility of future OAS membership for the Falkland Islands.

## MANOEUVRES ROUND THE ROCK

A picture of Gibraltar hangs in the office of Spain's foreign minister - a symbol of hope rather than expectation for the latest round of talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe which open today in Madrid. That is just as well, because the gap between effort and achievement which has undermined successive Spanish governments as they struggle to regain sovereignty over the Rock, is unlikely to be bridged this time.

The two governments started discussions on the colony's future last February, on the day that its frontier with Spain was reopened. A set of formal proposals were subsequently delivered to Whitehall by Madrid, and it is Sir Geoffrey's response to these which is now eagerly anticipated by ministers in Spain.

The two main proposals are understood to involve a lease-back arrangement, similar to that once discussed for the Falklands Island, and a power-sharing two-flag compromise, sometimes known in Madrid as the "Andorra solution." The difficulty faced by Britain in respect of either however is its commitment under the 1969 Gibraltar constitution, "never" to transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the people who live there. Moreover the Gibraltar lobby at Westminster will swiftly react to any slack interpretation of this promise.

Sir Geoffrey's counter-proposals are therefore more likely to consist of a series of confi-

dence-building measures involving tourism and cross-border cooperation. It is certainly true that if the wishes of Gibraltarians are ever to be diverted towards acceptance of the Spanish flag, measures of this kind will need to be introduced. The process should be easier now between two EEC partners but it is still likely to be a slow one. No-one can be sure how long the patience of the González government will stretch.

There are however two other areas in which progress might be made. One would involve bringing the Spanish government into a consultative arrangement - not dissimilar to that now agreed (if that is the appropriate word) for Northern Ireland. It will be argued that this is wholly inappropriate since Gibraltar does not contain a disaffected minority as does Ulster. But it might go some way towards allaying Spanish anxieties without any surrender of sovereignty. It would also in the long-term be a more effective way for Spain to win the confidence of those on the Rock. On the other hand again, it would need some skilful sales patter from Sir Geoffrey to convince the Gibraltarians that this is not the thin end of the wedge. And it is hard to see Madrid denying its long-term ambition.

The other area - and one in which some kind of success is more likely, is that of civil aviation rights. The Spanish want joint use of Gibraltar airport for their own airline

Iberia, and for the convenience of those wanting to fly from Madrid to Southern Spain just over the border. The term "Trojan plane" has already been coined by the suspicious Gibraltarians, and the construction of a second terminal for the use of Iberia alone, is as yet only a distant objective.

Should it be so? Sir Geoffrey is expected to offer some interim solutions to Madrid, one of which could involve transporting Iberia passengers from the tarmac into Spain by sealed coach. But this sounds a rather desperate compromise, and fellow EEC members should be able to work out something more satisfactory than that. In return Spain should be prepared to cooperate with Gibraltar's request to extend the runway into Spanish territory and to allow a safer air corridor for RAF planes using the Rock. (So far it has relaxed its overflying restrictions only for civil aircraft).

Britain has an obligation to Gibraltar. But the people of Gibraltar should be prepared to make concessions too in the interests of negotiating a settlement which will go some way towards meeting Spanish aspirations. Such an agreement too would be in their own interests, if indirectly, by helping González win the "yes" vote that he wants in next spring's referendum on Nato membership. Emotion over Gibraltar is deeply felt in Spain and voters would be more likely to take it out on the Western alliance if Britain remains obdurate in their eyes.

## First class to the Falklands

Sir, — May I refer your readers to this year's overseas last posting dates as published by Royal Mail International? If they intend to send an airmail Christmas card to Paris their deadline is today. However, if they are sending cards to the

Falkland Islands and Dependencies, they can relax: they have until December 12.

It's a small world, but clearly some countries are more equidistant than others.

— Yours,  
M. J. Copp.  
Sudbury, Suffolk.

# Wipe the Falklands' slate clean

**A**N ELDERLY Oxford rowing Blue sat the other day facing an Army major on the train to Oxford. Soon after leaving Paddington the two strangers fell into polite conversation. At Reading, the soldier finally got round to asking his companion, whose English betrayed a hint of an accent, if he happened to come from abroad.

"As a matter of fact I'm Argentine," admitted the latter uneasily. The major found this most interesting.

"I was in the Falklands only two days ago," he said, now properly introducing himself. He then fished out from his travel bag a pocket-sized landmine.

"This belonged to your lot," he added. "I defused it myself." They chatted amiably on, the deadly object dug from a bog at the end of the world passing hands in the compartment, while the train rolled on through the tranquil Thames Valley.

The two men got off at Oxford and exchanged cards, the major declaring himself glad not to have to return to the islands. They then went their separate ways; one to his home and family, the other to his old college and memories of the days when Britons and Argentines got on famously together.

Strange world, indeed, that Argentina should now share with Albania and North Korea the dubious distinction of not having diplomatic relations with Britain, and that such episodes should occur while the two countries remain "technically" at war with one other.

Three years ago, soon after the guns fell silent over Port Stanley, I was allowed to urge in this space that the victorious British should be magnanimous towards Argentina. The DAILY TELEGRAPH answered, in an accompanying leader, that the government could do no such thing. It also pointed out that it was for Argentina alone to work out her salvation.

But, whatever our divisions then, all that is in the past. What presses me now is the desire to see the fine old friendship that once bound together many Britons and Argentines restored while the opportunity is still there.

It might not seem the right moment to bring up the subject of the lingering Anglo-Argentine dispute so soon after the Anglo-Irish agreement—ripples of which have already reached Buenos Aires—and the latest round of UN badgering of Britain by Argentina on the question of the Falklands/Malvinas islands.

When I spoke the other day to Lady Young, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Latin America, it was made very clear to me that the British Government is still highly sensitive about the wounds of war which, almost three-and-a-half years on, have not yet healed. She stressed the

importance of restoring commercial and diplomatic links between our two countries, and reminded me that Britain has already made gestures towards Argentina, such as lifting financial restrictions, allowing Argentine goods back into Britain, reducing the protection zone around the islands from 200 miles to 150 miles, etc.—all of them measures which, however well intended, Argentine opinion regards as favouring British interests more than their own.

She also kept repeating to me that our two countries must restore confidence in one another over such peripheral matters before we can address the central issue of sovereignty and self-determination over which—let us all remember—one thousand young Britons and Argentines were killed.

But can the British Government really believe that our two coun-

**MAXI GAINZA**  
says it is  
time British  
and Argentine  
attitudes mellowed

tries can start restoring mutual confidence—winning back the old friendships—simply by having a few more diplomats and businessmen and the occasional athlete plying between London and Buenos Aires?

The British Government all too often forgets that we also suffered and felt wronged in the South Atlantic War. As the Franks Report showed, Britain was not free of the blame in prevaricating over the negotiations which successive Argentine governments conducted in good faith. There is among my countrymen, many of whom once looked to Britain as the exemplar of fairness and grace under pressure, a sense of deep disillusionment over events of the last five years.

As one who has always been an optimist about the chances of reconciliation I do not see, personally, any way forward in the restoration of that long-cherished friendship between our two peoples until both countries admit, or act as if they admitted, that there was wrong on both sides before, after and, yes, even during the war.

Doubtless, it is easier for President Alfonsín to denounce—as he has repeatedly done—the folly of his predecessors, than for Mrs Thatcher who led a victorious war effort. In any case, it became clear to me, after listening to Lady Young's careful Foreign Office-briefed views, that the British Government is not prepared to take political risks over the Falklands/Malvinas problem. Why then should I urge the Argentine government to do so?

Must we who pray for real peace therefore wait for an opposition party to come to power in Britain before such mutual acknowledgement of each other's rights, and forgiveness of each other's wrongs, is brought about? I hope not for Britain's sake, as Mrs Thatcher is still by far the best this country has. Nor do I hope it for Argentina because, as a nation, we simply do not have that much time in hand.

President Alfonsín has gone out of his way to play down the Malvinas issue to the electorate. But such is the Argentine conviction of the rightness of our claim to the islands—a claim which not even all Britons regard as childish or unfounded—that Alfonsín's nationalist opponents could seize upon it if ever the political situation deteriorates.



Of course, this might never happen. But the fact remains that the Malvinas cause, however much toned down by Alfonsín's Government, justifies the latter's non-aligned foreign policy which inevitably paves the way for further stealthy Soviet encroachment in Argentina. Already my country is heavily dependent on Russian trade and investment—almost as much as it was on the British earlier in this century. The Soviet Union buys the bulk of our grain harvests and is involved in several major hydro-electric projects at home. It also has some 150 trawlers "fishing" in the South Atlantic. Other Soviet-bloc nations have theirs, too, taking advantage of the current fishing free-for-all around the islands. Britain could still argue that the prospect of a "Sovietised" Argentina is all the more reason for her to hang on to the islands. But does anyone who holds the interests of the West at heart seriously wish this fate upon Argentina? And would the United States allow it to happen, simply for fear of upsetting the British?

---

Before meeting Lady Young I had believed that moves over joint British and Argentine fisheries patrols in the South Atlantic could form the basis for renewed trust and co-operation—the trust which flows from successful co-operation—between our two countries. Now I am not so sure, as it would demand from politicians courage and initiative on a par with that of those who went to war on their behalf. Still, if this idea can help prevent that the major's son and my Oxonian friend's son should one day face each other somewhere less safe than in a British Rail compartment and with something more dangerous than a defused landmine, I urge the British and the Argentine governments to give it a thought.

---

*Mazi Gainza was born in Argentina and educated in London and Oxford. For many years his family have owned and edited the Buenos Aires conservative daily LA PRENSA.*

## UN votes for wider Antarctic powers

By Simon Tisdall

Third World attempts to gain a bigger say in the running of Antarctica have received a boost following votes by large majorities at the UN General Assembly in favour of international control of the continent's minerals and expanding the scope of a UN study of the region.

The UN votes, which also demanded the removal of South Africa from the 18-country group which administers the continent under the Antarctic Treaty, mark the ending of the consensus approach to the issue, first tabled at the UN in 1983.

Nonaligned countries, led by Malaysia, claim that Antarctica and its so-far largely untapped resources are the common heritage of mankind.

But the 18 treaty countries, including Britain and the US, say that the treaty has proved

an outstanding success in keeping Antarctica demilitarised, encouraging scientific research, and freezing territorial disputes.

According to one British official, treaty members were under no obligation to accept the votes. "The view of the consultative parties is that the UN is moving outside its powers and competence in trying to tell us what we should or should not do with the treaty," the official said. Under the treaty, South Africa had an obligation to participate; attempts by the UN to remove it were therefore meaningless, the official said.

Despite the attitude of the treaty powers, pressure for changes in the way Antarctica is administered may be expected to increase. The treaty is open to review in 1991, although a review conference can only be requested by one of the 18 consultative parties.

## Men and Matters

spectrum.

But the 65-year-old former chairman of the Manpower Services Commission succeeds, it seems, more than most in getting under the Government's skin.

He got his knighthood in Mrs Thatcher's first New Year's honours list — a fact which the Prime Minister probably finds as irksome now as the fact that he headed the Crown Appointments Commission which recommended Dr Robert

to social neglect.

Further warnings about inadequate training and rising unemployment followed—and early in 1982, Norman Tebbit, then Employment Secretary, replaced O'Brien with the more politically congenial Lord Young.

O'Brien was given the part-time job of chairman of the Engineering Industry Training Board. But as he approached retirement earlier this year, he emerged again as chairman of the all-party Employment Institute, set up in opposition to the Government's employment policies.

Now, with the Archbishop — whose views on most things from the Falklands to the handling of the miners' strike have caused annoyance in Downing Street — O'Brien is back with more criticisms.

A prominent Church of England layman, he has taken a lively personal interest in inner city social work since an early involvement with the National Association of Boys Clubs.

The report which has so upset the Government, he asserted, yesterday, was "in touch with reality."



"I'm not saying it's Marxist, bishop—but there is a tendency towards the church militant"

Runcie's name to her as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Politically, she has found the two of them a bit of a trial ever since.

Within six months of being knighted, the normally cool, restrained and deliberate O'Brien was making a forthright protest about cuts in the MSC which, he said, would lead

### Critics' corner

Sir Richard O'Brien hardly fits in with the "Marxist" epithet hurled by some anonymous Government minister at his report for the Archbishop of Canterbury on Britain's inner cities.

O'Brien, I would guess, stands in the Social Democratic quarter of the political

American states meet

## Bogotá finds support for Cuba's re-entry

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Cuba's readmission to the Organization of American States is to be proposed by Colombia during a three-day extraordinary meeting of the body which opened yesterday in the Colombian city of Cartagena.

The meeting was formally opened by Colombian President Betancur, whose Government also planned to propose a number of reforms to the OAS charter, despite expected opposition from the United States which was represented by the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

Cuban membership of the OAS has long been opposed by Washington, but the Colombian proposal is supported by Mexico, Peru, and Nicaragua, and they will find further

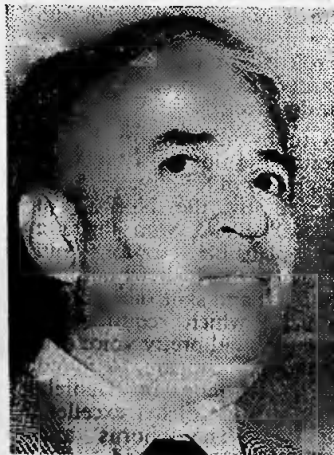
support from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Ecuador whose governments have responded cautiously but positively to recent overtures from Havana to improve relations.

In particular the declarations of President Castro of Cuba on the Latin-American foreign debt crisis - the debtor nations simply cannot pay it off, he says - has struck a receptive chord in many parts of the region.

Central America was also set to occupy considerable time at the meeting, but there was obvious irritation over the absence of Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, who is currently visiting the Far East.

Some observers predicted that the absence of Father D'Escoto could paralyze the already-stalled Contadora peace initiative in Central America, since all the Contadora group countries (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama) are represented at Cartagena, as are the members of the newly-formed Contadora support group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay).

At the opening session Colombia reportedly criticized Mr Shultz for charges he had made before arriving that the Colombian terrorist group, the April 19 Movement (M19) has links with the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua. Mr Shultz was bluntly told that he had no right to speak for Colombia.



President Betancur: to initiate reforms

# Argentina sets its sights on low inflation and higher growth, reports Jimmy Burns

## Alfonsín starts round two of economic reform

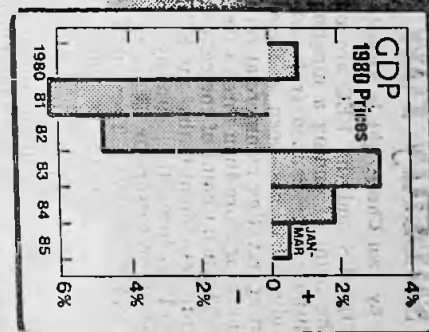
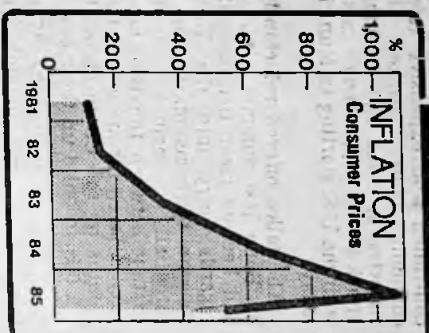
SIX MONTHS after announcing currency reforms and a sweeping freeze on prices and wages to end hyperinflation, the Government of President Raúl Alfonsín is poised for a no less ambitious second stage. It aims to put Argentina firmly on the path to economic growth, without sacrificing its achievements so far.

In June, when prices were increasing by an average of 1 per cent per day and industrial activity had ground virtually to a standstill, the Government was left in no doubt that the expansionist policies of its first year of democratic rule had to be temporarily abandoned.

Today, in spite of pressure from the unions and some businessmen, the Government's underlying philosophy is that lower inflation and growth need no longer be mutually antagonistic and, indeed, that its political survival relies on the two being complementary.

Officials are currently putting the final touches to the 1986 budget, which they describe curiously as "not expansionary." The private assumption is that the annual inflation rate will be cut from this current 532 per cent to 30 per cent and that 4 per cent real growth can be achieved, a growth that the recession seems to have bottomed out.

The early success of the June changes, known as the Austral plan after the new currency which replaced the peso, were achieved with little hoarding



or bottlenecks, and without serious labour unrest. They have inspired public confidence in the Government's ability to manage the economy.

Revenue, which in the months previous to the Austral plan had been undermined by widespread tax evasion, has increased by 3 per cent of gross domestic product while curbs on public spending have brought about savings equivalent to 5 per cent of GDP.

The budget deficit has fallen from 12 per cent of GDP to 4 per cent, and next year's budget will aim to reduce this to 3 per cent.

The Government is aiming to maintain a sense of collective sacrifice in a country where

successive governments have traditionally awarded privileges to specific social groups.

The clampdown on tax evasion will be reinforced by punitive interest rates on non-payment and more rigorous inspection in the banking sector and stock exchange.

But the Government has grounds for optimism in that some sectors of industry are taking advantage of the more stable price structure to tighten up on marketing and improve product lines. Restocking has led to the reabsorption of labour laid off in August.

The private sector, however, is still being hit by high domestic interest rates. Officials privately concede that the credit

policy is necessary to maintain stability of the local foreign exchange markets. The Austral plan has generated confidence, but has not entirely cured the Argentine view that speculation is the best means of survival.

A more complete recovery is likely to be dependent on two factors—the Government's willingness and ability to push ahead with structural changes in the economy, and the leeway Argentina is given on repaying its \$48bn foreign debt.

Argentine officials believe that the initiative announced by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, should be allowed to provide the necessary context for success on both fronts. This assumes that future loans would not be made conditional on the Government having to take measures considered contrary to the national interest. The lifting of import tariff barriers, for instance, would leave domestic manufacturers such as car makers dangerously exposed, officials argue.

Key reforms being contemplated however include a major rationalisation of the Argentine banking system following the collapse earlier this year of the Banco de Italia y Río de la Plata. But closures and mergers involving up to 100 banks in an oversized financial sector may provoke the Government to approach the World Bank for financial support in retraining some of the 20,000

personnel that could be affected.

The Government is also looking to international lending agencies to help smooth the way for the privatisation of a number of failed companies absorbed during the former military regime.

As a result of a continuing drop in commodity prices and recent flooding in agricultural areas, the Government has revised downwards its trade surplus forecast for next year to about \$3bn, compared with the \$4bn estimated for 1985. Officials estimate Argentina's borrowing needs will be similar.

Interest payments of about \$5bn on its foreign debt, equivalent to about 60 per cent of export earnings, have been written into next year's budget and any idea of a moratorium on payments is strongly discounted.

Growing pressure from other major debtors such as Brazil and Mexico will almost certainly mean that Argentina drives a hard bargain with its commercial creditors when it resumes full debt talks in advance of the expiry of its current International Monetary Fund agreement in March.

Officials warn that the 4 per cent growth target is unrealistic without external flexibility. They believe that President Alfonsín cannot count on continuing support for the Austral plan at home without more light at the end of the tunnel from abroad.



# EEC split on reform dims early optimism

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

Initial guarded optimism over EEC reform and the future shape of Europe began to evaporate last night as leaders at the Luxembourg summit ended the first day seriously at odds over achieving a full internal market and the free movement of people and goods across their frontiers.

There were reports that although West Germany and France were moving towards agreement, Mrs Margaret Thatcher was becoming increasingly irritated with lengthy discussions on the definition of the Common Market. This raised fears of another "volcanic eruption" by Mrs Thatcher of the kind which

The officials emphasized that there was still time today to reach agreement. The summit was moving at a snail's pace, they said, but "perhaps a fast snail".

Italy remained in the forefront of those pressing for maximum reforms, with Denmark, under parliamentary pressure to retain the status quo, taking an even stronger "minimalist" line than Britain.

M Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, said that to produce a mere facelift would be a masquerade. The summit host seems confident they have found enough common ground to avert the kind of disarray which undermined the Milan summit.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday moved significantly towards the French concept of Europe as an area without frontiers, a broad definition regarded with great suspicion by Mrs Thatcher as legally imprecise. The Prime Minister is demanding safeguards for Britain, fearing that open frontiers would endanger essential British controls over immigration, drugs, terrorism, and animal, human, and plant diseases.

British officials said other EEC states were beginning to accept that Britain and the Irish Republic constituted a special case because of their island status.

There is hope of agreement on a text laying down the principles of co-operation on European foreign policy, and the summit is expected to issue a statement welcoming the impetus given to arms talks by the Geneva superpower summit.

Officials said the recent UN vote on the Falklands, in which some of Britain's partners took Argentina's side, had not clouded foreign policy co-operation. Mrs Thatcher saw the episode as "water under the bridge", even though she had felt badly let down at the time.

West Germany also shifted its total opposition yesterday to enshrinement in the Treaty of Rome of European monetary cohesion, again leaving Britain isolated among the big three. Bonn has also softened its insistence on maintaining high environmental and industrial standards when trade barriers come down.

A small bomb thrown from a passing car exploded near the summit centre yesterday, rattling windows and causing mild panic. Eyewitnesses said the bomb a small crater in the motorway embankment outside the centre. The attackers sped off after throwing a special bomb, which failed to explode.

A British spokesman said Mrs Thatcher had been "aware of the bang". There have been 13 bomb attacks in Luxembourg over the past year and thousands of police and troops are guarding the summit.

reduced the last summit at Milan to ashes.

Mrs Thatcher arrived in Luxembourg in what officials described as positive mood, saying that Britain hoped for a "reasonable package" of reforms. A range of reform measures has been elaborated by preparatory meetings of foreign ministers over the past six months.

But yesterday the Prime Minister was losing patience at the way the summit appeared to be getting bogged down in complex textual analysis of the kind she felt ought to have been left to advisers rather than heads of government.

Britain remains opposed to changes to the Treaty of Rome unless they can be shown to enhance the EEC's efficiency. Summit officials said that in addition to disagreement on the internal market and the concept of a "Europe without frontiers" there was no progress on the proposed harmonization of EEC taxes, which Mrs Thatcher is resisting.

## FOLLY OF FALKLANDS POLICY

From Viscount MONTGOMERY  
OF ALAMEIN

**S**IR—The final paragraph of your first leader (Nov. 29) suggests that, despite Britain's defeat at the United Nations over the Falklands, there is little to be done.

No one expects the sovereignty issue to be solved in the near future but unless we are prepared to get round the table and talk about the problems which divide us from Argentina, as we do with every other nation, including Soviet Russia, we will become more and more isolated.

Has anyone considered the amount of diplomatic time, effort and goodwill that must be consumed securing support around the world for a palpably unsound policy? This folly has now been exposed by the overwhelming majority for an innocuous resolution.

The UN was invoked in our support at the time of the South Atlantic conflict, we cannot turn the UN on and off just when it suits.

It may be premature to start detailed negotiations which give rise to expectations of an early finite solution, but the reopening of some dialogue with Argentina, nearly four years after the conflict, is long overdue.

Obviously, any discussion must include recognition of the islanders' interests although it does not seem sensible for their wishes to remain paramount, which effectively gives a veto to any possible change of status.

The re-establishment of diplomatic relations, regarded by some as an objective rather than as a useful channel of communication, should be the first step. It must be remembered that there are many issues that unite Britain and Argentina and only one that is divisive.

The leaders of the main opposition parties have all had meetings with President Alfonsín, and the initiative has passed from Government hands. This is no party political matter, but one in which commonsense should prevail.

The Geneva Summit has demonstrated

that world opinion is in favour of dialogue. Britain should follow, or become guilty of intransigence.

MONTGOMERY OF ALAMEIN  
House of Lords.

### Unchanged claims

**S**IR—A shaky understanding of logic and recent history shown by those MPs (Parliamentary Report, Nov. 29) who opposed Britain's stance in last month's United Nations Falklands debate seems to cloud their chance of successful future office. By contrast, your leader showed exemplary insight.

The 107-4 result in favour of Argentina was, as you say, arrived at on the basis of each country's notional self-interest rather than a weighing up of the real issues involved.

It is useful to add that because negotiation is a UN principle—which is qualified somewhat in Article 2 of the Charter—the 11 abstentions can fairly be seen as a vote against the Argentine motion.

One fact of the debate, clearly reported, was the statement by the Argentine Foreign Minister that discussion of sovereignty (which means an insistence on its transfer and a concomitant change in South Georgia etc.) would be included in negotiations. It is absurd, or to quote Mrs Thatcher, "bonkers," of the Labour party spokesman on the Falklands to assert otherwise.

Dr Owen, too, ignores the facts. The difference between President Alfonsín and the junta notwithstanding, Argentine territorial aims have remained unchanged since 1965, when a democratically elected radical government started the process in the U.N. for the cession of the islands, irrespective of both the interests of the islanders and the status of the Argentine claim. The time-scale for cession, which President Alfonsín announced last year, is as short as it was in 1977.

On becoming Foreign Secretary in that year, Dr Owen pursued the Crosland policy of negotiation on all aspects of the future of the islands while reserving our position of sovereignty.

It is a policy which, under Argentine pressure, collapsed then and which he espouses today: but it may be popular.

M. R. MEADMORE  
London, W.12.

# HOME NEWS

## Highland laird plans Falklands air link with Chile

2.12.85  
By ANDREW McCALLUM  
Chief Reporter

KNOYDART'S polo-playing joint laird, property dealer Mr Philip Rhodes, is awaiting clearance for his latest venture, a civilian air service between the Falkland Islands and South America.

If he gets this off the ground — and he's confident he will — it will be the first such link since the Falklands conflict.

Twice-divorced Mr Rhodes, 42, one

of whose wives was Argentinian, would like everything settled before the end of the year.

At his West Highland estate yesterday he said: "Someone is going to get a service airborne soon and I want to be that person."

He revealed that a London property company, Mountleigh, was funding him in the proposed enterprise. An estimated 200 passengers a month would be carried initially to and from the Falklands and Chile.

Also involved is a Gatwick-based air charter company, which would provide

a BAC 1-11 for the route between Port Stanley, Puento Arenas in South Chile and then on to the capital, Santiago.

Fare and flight details await an agreement with Chile's civil aviation authority, which Mr Rhodes will fly out to conclude as soon as possible.

The Chilean embassy is enthusiastic about the proposed link says Mr Rhodes, and he is confident that because of Chile's "open air policy" the take-off won't be long delayed.

It will cost about £80,000 to get an aircraft based in the Falklands.

Both the British Foreign Office and

the Department of Trade, which deals with civil aviation, have given the planned link their blessing, says Mr Rhodes.

At present civilians wanting to go to South America from the Falklands had to travel by boat.

"The deal will probably mean a joint Chilean and British company, it will be a totally commercial operation, nothing whatsoever to do with any military, but we will be looking for government subsidies from Britain."

"It wouldn't be particularly profitable but politically it would be a

vital link between the Falklands and a South American country.

"This is one the Government needs. If it come off it will be a very good and useful thing."

Mr Rhodes, who knows South America well, added: "The Chilean Government seems to be saying 'yes' and the Argentinians are apparently turning a blind eye to it."

Shadow foreign affairs spokesman Mr George Foulkes recently called for an arms embargo on Chile, in protest against the military dictatorship of General Pinochet.

*The Glasgow Herald 2 Dec 1985*

El Pais     Monday 2 December 1985

The article is written by journalist Martin Prieto based in Buenos Aires. It speaks of the euphoria in Argentina about the resolution voting at the UN. The journalist comments especially on the light in which Argentina is seen by the rest of the world: from being the invader and a military dictatorship, Argentina now appears the victim with the Falkland Islands built up as a military fortress backed by a great power. Prieto states that the anger in Britain is obvious: mention is made of Britain's statement of fulfilling its obligations to the Falkland Islanders. However, it is admitted that the UN resolution will have no practical consequences.

The last column deals with the military trial of the Generals; the tone is derogatory and puts the blame of the invasion on the individuals involved...

**SALLINGBURY LIMITED**

25 Victoria Street  
Tel 01-222 0762

London SW1H 0EX  
Telex 268456 Sally G.





Los tres miembros de la Junta Militar argentina que perdieron la guerra de las Malvinas, durante el consejo de guerra (de izquierda a derecha, el almirante Jorge Anaya, el general Leopoldo Galtieri y el comandante de la Fuerza Aérea, Basilio Lami Dozo).

## Euforia en Argentina por la resolución de la ONU para negociar sobre las Malvinas

MARTÍN PRIETO, Buenos Aires

Todos los medios de información argentinos destacan, exultantes, la cuarta resolución de las Naciones Unidas desde la guerra de 1982 que insta al Reino Unido y a la República Argentina a iniciar conversaciones para resolver sus diferencias sobre los archipiélagos australes del Atlántico Sur. La diplomacia radical administrada por el canciller Dante Caputo, abandonó la postura anterior, fijada en una "disputa de soberanía", ampliando así sensiblemente su base de apoyo internacional.

En la votación del miércoles 27, 107 naciones estuvieron por la apertura de negociaciones entre Londres y Buenos Aires que incluyan "todos los aspectos sobre el futuro de las islas Malvinas"; 41 países se abstuvieron y cuatro —el Reino Unido, Omán, Belice e islas Salomón— votaron en contra.

La resolución, largamente trabajada por la diplomacia argentina, fue presentada inicialmente por siete países —Argelia, Brasil, Ghana, India, México, Uruguay y Yugoslavia—, a los que posteriormente se sumaron Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Panamá y la República Dominicana.

Por primera vez desde la guerra del Atlántico Sur, cuatro Estados de la Comunidad Económica Europea —Italia, Grecia, Francia y España— abandonaron su solidaridad con el Reino Unido —o su abstención— para sumarse a una

iniciativa deseada por los argentinos. Miembros de la Commonwealth (la comunidad británica de naciones) como Canadá y Australia, han votado también contra los intereses diplomáticos británicos.

De fuentes de la cancillería argentina ha trascendido que en las horas previas a la votación en la ONU se produjeron contactos indirectos argentino-británicos a través de diplomáticos suecos; y un "encuentro accidental" entre funcionarios de ambos países.

La resolución, por supuesto, importante en cuanto significa el punto de inflexión favorable a Buenos Aires en la batalla diplomática.

La democracia argentina ha logrado en este aspecto lo que deseaba: desprenderse de la imagen agresora de la dictadura militar y recuperar la discusión en su fase anterior a la demencial invasión de

las islas por el entonces jefe de Estado teniente general Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri.

Obviamente la resolución aprobada por las Naciones Unidas carecerá de traducción práctica pero el enojo británico es fácilmente detectable.

Se diluye la imagen de unas Malvinas meramente defendidas e invadidas por una dictadura militar prepotente y criminal, y emerge la contraparte de la situación: unos archipiélagos australes erigidos en fortaleza militar, presuntamente nuclearizados mediante submarinos y sobre los que

reclama suavemente su derecho histórico una democracia pacífica y débil, que ya había firmado la paz con Chile por otros diferendos territoriales, y que en lo último que piensa es en agredir a alguien. Argentina ha pasado en cuatro años de victimaria a víctima.

### Londres contra la ONU

El Gobierno británico acusó el jueves 28 a las Naciones Unidas de no respetar el derecho de autodeterminación, "uno de los principios fundacionales" de la organización, y manifestó que el resultado de la votación sobre las Malvinas "no afectará a su determinación de cumplir su compromiso" hacia los habitantes de las islas Malvinas (Falkland para los británicos).

La reacción británica a la resolución de la Asamblea General, que insta al Reino Unido y a Argentina a iniciar conversaciones sobre "todos los aspectos" del futuro de las Malvinas, fue hecha pública el jueves 28, poco después de conocerse el resultado de la votación, por medio de una declaración oficial del secretario del Foreign Office, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Al mismo tiempo, fuentes oficiales británicas han expresado a EL PAIS el "desencanto" de Londres por la votación favorable a la resolución por parte de varios países europeos aliados del Reino Unido.

Francia, Italia, Grecia y España —que también tiene un problema de descolonización pendiente—

votaron en contra de las tesis británicas. La República Federal de Alemania, cuyo canciller, Helmut Kohl, se reunió el miércoles con la primera ministra Margaret Thatcher, votó en contra de la resolución. Las fuentes informantes expresaron a este periódico la "contrariedad" del Gobierno británico por "la totalidad de la votación".

### Consejo de guerra

Entretanto en Buenos Aires, prosigue a puertecorrida —para los periodistas— el Consejo de guerra contra los responsables de la derrota en la guerra. Los descargos más resonantes han sido los del ex presidente Galtieri y el general Mario Benjamin Menéndez, quien gobernó las islas durante la ocupación argentina.

Galtieri —genio y figura hasta la sepultura— reivindicó la invasión en un alegato patrioterico olvidando inteligentemente sus debilidades físicas, profesionales, intelectuales, estratégicas, políticas y diplomáticas, subiéndose prontamente al caballo del general San Martín, libertador de Argentina, Chile y Perú.

Mario Benjamin Menéndez, el gobernador de los archipiélagos que pasaba horas, durante la batalla, escuchando los partidos del Mundial de Fútbol de España por su radio de campaña, decidió no posar de héroe y acusar al gobierno militar de Galtieri de todos sus despropósitos e imprevisiones en el Campo de Marte. Y a la hora de la verdad, sin logística, sin parque, con material obsoleto para enfrentar a las fuerzas de tarea británicas, sin apoyo naval y sin perspectiva de una acción diplomática que secundara su resistencia en Puerto Argentino, optó por rendirse para evitar más muertos.

No obstante sus más que ciertas exculpaciones, el general Menéndez no pasará gloriosamente a la historiografía militar. Cuando Fidel Castro recibió al entonces canciller argentino Nicanor Costa Méndez, descubrió en su despacho un gran mapa de las islas Malvinas sobre una pequeña escala. "¿Qué clase de general es?", preguntó al líder cubano. "Pues un hombre del interior, un cabecita negra, un hombre del pueblo, modesto". "No, yo lo que quiero saber es si es de los que pelea", repreguntó Fidel.

Y Menéndez —para qué nos vamos a engañar— y aunque hiciera lo más sensato rindiéndose a Jeremy Moore, no es de los generales que pelean.

Viernes 29 de noviembre



## Alfonsin and Sarney give Baker plan qualified backing

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA AND Brazil at the weekend dubbed the Baker plan for dealing with Third World debt as a "positive" if "insufficient" step forward, but called for a deepening of "political dialogue" and a more far-reaching strategy for solving the region's problems.

The qualified endorsement of a moderate approach to Latin America's debt of more than \$350bn (£238bn)—avoiding explicit talk of moratoriums but hinting at hard bargaining in the months ahead—emerged at the end of a two-day summit between Mr Raul Alfonsin, the Argentine President, and Mr Jose Sarney, his Brazilian counterpart, in the border town of Foz de Iguazu.

The statement by two of the region's major debtors is likely to set the parameters for a meeting in Montevideo in two weeks' time of the Cartagena group of Latin American debtor countries, during which a common response to the Baker initiative is expected to be formulated.

In a 16-page joint statement covering various aspects of international and bilateral relations, including Central America and the Falklands, the two presidents again urged a reduction of interest rates and a lifting of protectionist barriers while forcefully reviving the ideal of an integrated Latin America to increase the region's bargaining position.

"There is an urgent need for Latin America to reinforce its power to negotiate with the rest of the world," the final document said.

The most significant practical result of the meeting was the establishment of a joint working committee to discuss ways of increasing bilateral nuclear co-operation, including the possible creation of a local system of mutual safeguards to allow the region greater autonomy from international supervisory agencies, such as the International Atomic Energy Association.

Argentina, in particular, has always argued that existing international non-proliferation treaties provide industrialised nations with an unfair advantage and that the restriction in the supply of nuclear equipment and material inhibits the development of economically viable nuclear programmes in the Third World.

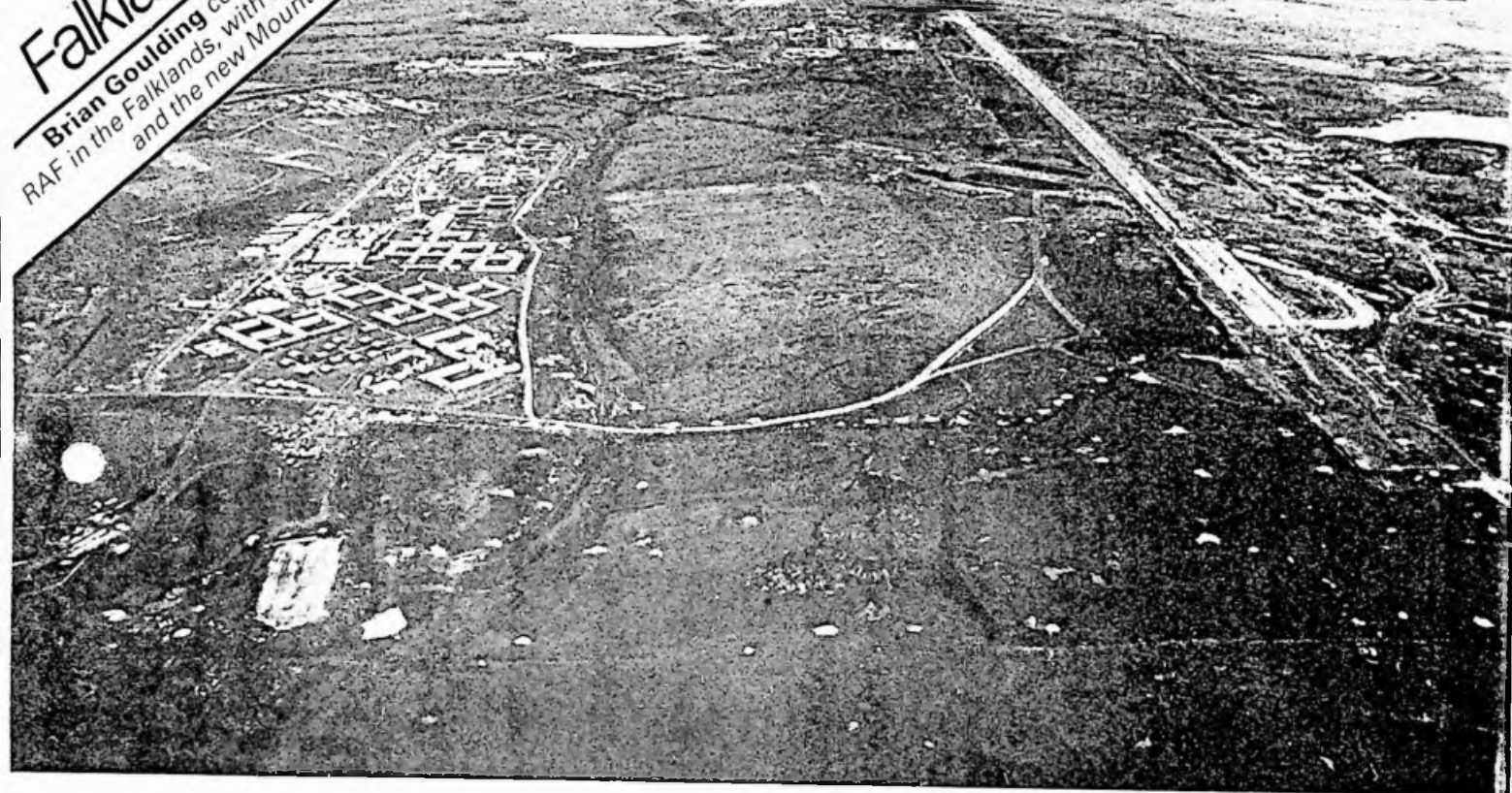
● Mr Paul Volcker, US Federal Reserve Board chairman, said Washington would work with Latin America to achieve sustained growth and thus tackle the region's debt problem, *Reuter reports from Caracas.*

"Our role is to support growth and open markets and to work with Latin America to set the stage for more efficient growth policies," Mr Volcker said on Saturday.

Mr Volcker flew in after a visit to Argentina.

**RAF in the Falklands (Part 2)**  
 Brian Goulding continues his account on the RAF in the Falklands, with a look at the Hercules Flight and the new Mount Pleasant Airfield

# Mount Pleasant Airfield



**Above:**  
 An aerial view of Mount Pleasant Airfield seen in early-1985 when the main 8,500ft runway was nearing completion; the path of the 5,000ft cross runway can be discerned centre right. The first divot was cut on 31 December 1983 and the first landing took place only 16 months later. Photo: MoD

## Hercules: 1312 Flt

THE author was to spend two fascinating days with the 'Hercdet', or 'Alberts.' The unit was manned by a mixture of Nos 24 and 30 Squadron crews, who share all duties, whether tanking, maritime patrols, fighter affiliation, supply/support (including of units on South Georgia). The aircraft complement is of modest size,

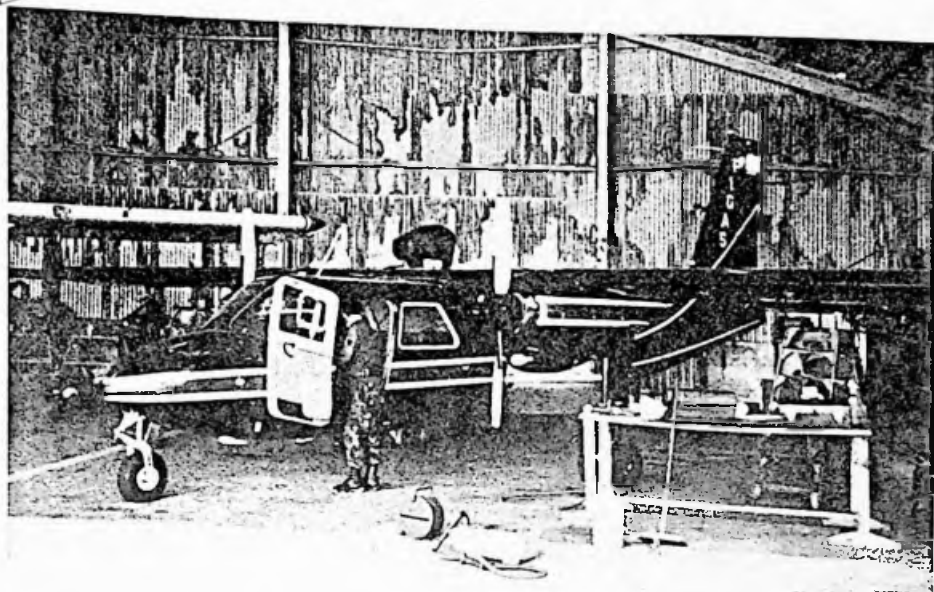
tanker and freighter, with equal numbers of aircraft and crews. The Airbridge C-130 and its crew can also be called upon by the detachment in emergency when at the Stanley end. One aircraft and crew is permanently on QRA when not flying other tasks. There are no regular crews made up on the parent squadrons while operating from their home base at Lyneham, but at Stanley, each crew stays together throughout the four month tour.

The crews work a 20 day cycle, then one day off, flying two, three, and sometimes more sorties daily (plus doing QRA duty), averaging 80/90 flying hours per month. It is intensive and demanding. There are no 'spare bods' to replace ailing crewmen, who even fly with colds, within reason.

These men are certainly not playing at it, and responsibilities are taken very seriously by everyone involved. The same can be said of the groundcrews, too, who have no spare capacity. The rate of serviceability is exemplary, and this applies to all types of aircraft, not only the Hercules. There are no hangars large enough to take the 'Hercs', so all servicing is done in the open on the exposed apron, sometimes in ferocious winds, rain, and snow.

**Below:**  
 Over typical Falklands terrain — Hercules C1K XV213 of 1312 Flight refuels a Harrier GR3 of 1453 Flight (since disbanded), while a Phantom FGR2 of No 23 Squadron looks on. Photo: RAF Stanley





*Left:*

'There is no public transport on the islands other than the Islanders of FIGAS (Falkland Islands Government Air Service) which fly a regular schedule round the settlements.' Maintenance being carried out on the FIGAS Islander in the old hangar at Stanley.

*Photo: A. J. Goulding*

*Below:*

Refuelling scenes — viewed from the small hose outlet of the Hercules C1K, a Sidewinder-equipped Phantom of No 23 Squadron replenishes its tanks...

*Bottom:*

... and a Harrier GR3 follows suit.

*Photos: Brian Goulding*

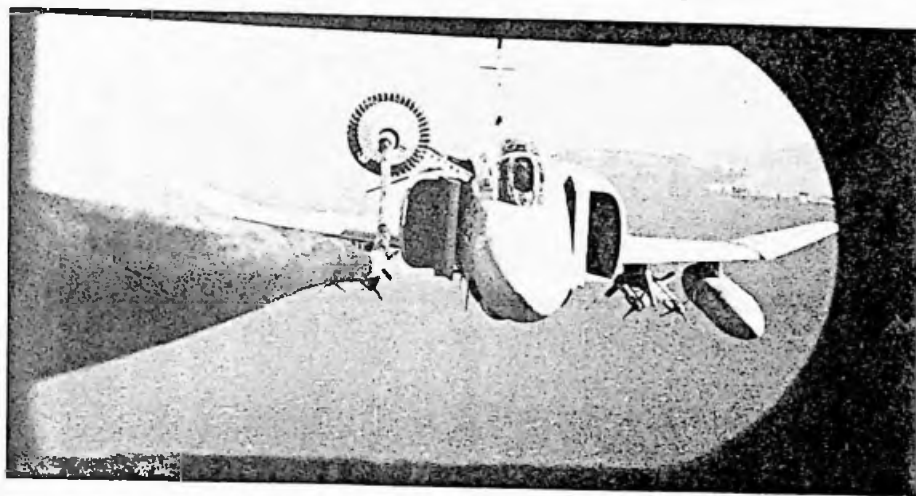
Air and groundcrew seem to have a particularly close rapport, and the latter get to fly if they wish, duty rosters permitting. Not all the groundcrew are directly off Hercules squadrons. One flight systems technician to whom I spoke was based at Valley on Hawks. He'd been on Hercules 10 years ago, and had undergone a two week refresher course at Lynham before coming to Stanley.

A first-hand look at the 'Hercs' duties in the Falklands was given by two sorties — a maritime patrol, and a tanking mission, both with Flt Lt Bill Akister and crew. For the morning MR sortie, 'check-in' at the crew room (which carries the sign 'The Albert Hall') was at 09.00hrs. As usual I had thumbed a lift up to the airfield from Stanley, this time in an army Bedford. There is no public transport on the islands other than the Islanders of FIGAS (Falkland Islands Government Air Service) which fly a regular schedule round the settlements. One is therefore wholly reliant on service and contractors vehicles. Giving of lifts is an unwritten rule, and at no time did I have to wait more than a couple of minutes to be picked up.

For the MR sortie, there was no formal briefing. The crew had done it many times before. Flt Lt Bill Akister was obviously a very senior pilot; co pilot was Flg Off Paul Oborn, a New Zealander in the RAF; nav-Flt Lt Ian Shields, who I had met previously on a Vulcan squadron; flight engineer — Flg Sgt Dave Dodd; and air loadmaster — Sgt Sam McDonagh who had remustered fairly recently from the RAF Regiment. The task was to patrol the exclusion zones, midway between the partial and total circles of 75 and 150 miles respectively, taking the aircraft to within 120 miles of the tip of Argentina.

At just gone 10.00hrs, XV203 lifted-off on a scheduled 3½ hour flight round the Islands, generally at 800ft, changing course 10deg every 10min or so on our 'great circle'. A close watch is kept on the small radar screens of pilot and navigator, the standard Echo 290 set, but which has proved itself very useful for picking up even the smallest of vessels. Any shipping contacts are closely scrutinised from very low-level, logged, reported, and any strangers photographed by the loadmaster

DECEMBER 1985



using a Canon AE1 out of the cockpit side windows. Weather reports are also passed at regular intervals.

The first checkpoint was Beauchene Island some 40 miles south of The Falklands, within reach of small boats or helicopters from the South American mainland, so it is visually surveyed very thoroughly from extremely low-level, keeping a wary eye open for birds which are an ever-present hazard. No sign of life other than the wild variety, the single hut on the island being carefully checked out before course was resumed. It was very quiet, with no contacts, so I was permitted to try my hand at flying the Hercules in the captain's seat with Bill keeping a watchful eye from behind. With its powered

controls, and instant response, it felt little different from the light twins, such as Seminole or Bonanza, and is a delight to handle.

Down at 800ft, above a fairly heavy sea, and some low cloud about, it was unusually quiet, with no contacts on radar for half an hour. What had happened to the foreign fishing fleets normally to be found? (Russian, Polish, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish). The weather was improving as XV203 ploughed on when, suddenly, the captain spotted a contrail, above and well to the west. He obviously considered it unusual enough to report instantly. Seldom have I seen the calm of a flight deck changed so rapidly as certain orders were received, and the aircraft's task was altered

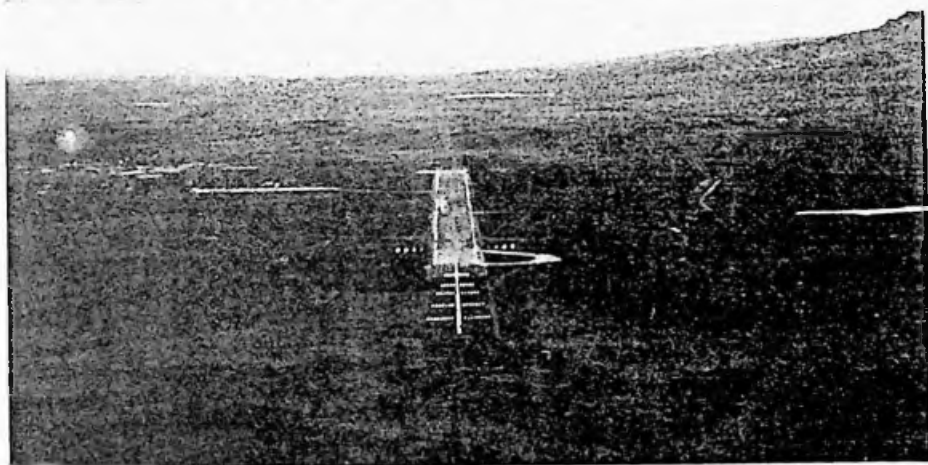




**Above:**  
The author (left) with Flt Lt Bill Akister (centre) and co-pilot Flg Off Paul Oborn after a MR sortie in Hercules XV203 of 1312 Flight.

**Above right:**  
The 40-mile journey from Stanley to the new Mount Pleasant Airfield took several hours. Part of it was across country and several times the Mercedes 'CV' had to come to the aid of the Land Rover.

**Right:**  
Final Approach to Mount Pleasant Airfield on the inaugural flight on 1 May 1985. The photograph was taken from the flightdeck of RAF TriStar ZD952 of No 216 Squadron.  
Photo: Sqn Ldr M. J. Cawsey



to that of reserve tanker. I had examined the large grey fuel tanks in the hold as we boarded the aircraft, 27,000lb of fuel always available for contingencies. And this was to be one of them, it seemed!

The atmosphere on the flightdeck was intense. Several times I was asked to unplug my headset, as there were obviously things coming over the air I should not hear. But it was certainly a 'panic', and a big one at that, judging by the urgency with which we were ordered to change course, and climb to our allotted tow line position. It was known that an Argentine naval exercise had taken its forces close to the exclusion zone boundary, and that certain probing tactics might be tried; but whatever it was, it had been too close for comfort and had apparently justified a full scale scramble, about which the station was abuzz for a couple of days.

After half an hour or so we were released, calm returned, and the seemingly more mundane MR task was resumed. There was much more shipping traffic now to be seen, mainly large fishing vessels; a Chinese freighter; a huge, red Nassau-registered drilling ship — Penrod 96; all of which were logged and photographed. Further round was a RN frigate with two Wasps operating nearby.

The cloud was thickening as XV203 completed a circuit of The Falklands, and it was fairly turbulent as co-pilot Paul Oborn brought the Hercules in to land smoothly in a gusty 25/30kts crosswind, pulling up with plenty to spare on what had looked a disconcertingly short runway on final approach.

The next day, same crew, same aircraft, this time a tanking mission. Take-off was at 09.30hrs. and there would be time to spare before establishing the tow line, so the captain decided on a low-level navex to take us to the rendezvous, which was to be Pebble Island, at the northern tip of West Falkland, some 90 miles from Stanley.

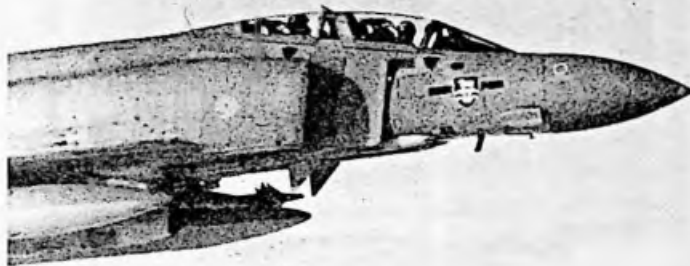
The crews seem to have a reasonable degree of autonomy in deciding such things, and make the most of their opportunities to practice certain skills. Low-level it was, too, on a brilliantly sunny, crystal clear morning, our shadow seemingly bigger than the aircraft itself, rushing along the green and grey terrain at 230kts. Bluff Cove and Fitzroy Inlet flashed by, blue, windswept water just below the wing and the red and white prop tips. Across a white beach, with hundreds of penguins; East Cove, and the Merchant Providence; MPA to the right and slightly above us with its huge clouds of white dust as we followed the contours to the south of it. Ahead, a dozen or so buildings — Goose Green, the largest town I'd seen outside of Stanley. A quick snap and it had gone. Bill dropped the Hercules down even lower as we reached the Falkland Sound between the two islands, looking for a small gap in the cliffs on the far side which would let us into A4 Alley, down which the 'Argies' had flown to attack the British ships. There it was, dead ahead. Bill tipped the Hercules on its starboard wing tip, and through we went, with the aircraft being hauled round in the steepest

of climbing turns to avoid the sheer green hill just inside the gap, up into the Alley itself, with hills rising well above on both sides, quite close in. Really thrilling stuff this. Not much room for error. Might be bounced by a Phantom or Harrier I'd been warned. A Herc can sometimes out-turn a Phantom at low-level, but not a Harrier! We come to the top end of the Alley, pop over the hill, down to the Sound opposite San Carlos. Then, the hills ahead and climb to 4,000ft, all quite and calm up there after the bumping, bouncing, twisting ride.

There is time for a stooge along the tow line pattern, and in such perfect conditions, the whole of The Falklands are visible, everywhere very green and blue. Surely those stories about the weather can't be true? I'm assured it can change in minutes. We head east, and our customers appear off the port wingtip — two grey Phantoms of No 23 Squadron.

The Air Loadmaster looks after the refuelling equipment, and Sammy called me down the back to watch the hose pay out from the huge drum on the rear ramp. Once the first Phantom had successfully 'prodded', I was allowed to crawl up the ramp, the drum only inches from my shoulder and head, just managing to lean far enough across to look through the small hose outlet, keeping a wary eye on any sideways movement of the hose which occurs if either aircraft yaw. There isn't much room to wield two cameras — hold them sideways, press and hope. No 1

AIRCRAFT ILLUSTRATED



leaves us, replenished, the hose winds itself further out as he disengages. No 2 moves in. It's all very tense, with Sammy keeping a close eye on things. Then — bang — he's engaged first go, and the drum takes in the slack with a rumble. The Phantom looks so close, bobbing gently along behind, streaming grey vortices from its wingtips. A few more photos, getting cramp in the twisted position, slide backwards down the ramp, carefully avoid the drum, scuffing shoes, grazing elbows; then a few shots of the other Phantom from the side window as it rides alongside waiting for its partner. A few moments later with 9,000lb of fuel dispensed in about five minutes, they are gone. What an experience. Time to return to base.

But it's not over yet. The Hercules gets another call to stand by for more custom, and — lo and behold — two Harriers appear for a top-up as we set up a tow line racetrack pattern just north of Stanley, out over the sea. What a bonus this is! Another trip to the back, scramble up the ramp, a few photos of the first Harrier taking on its fuel, then back to the cockpit to see its partner off the port wing. The pilot sees my hand signals and obligingly positions himself side for my cameras before he, too, drops back for a top-up.

We land back at Stanley after 2½ hours of really thrilling flying — everyday stuff to the Hercules crew, of course, but not to me.

That was to be the end of my fixed-wing flying, at least until the return Air Bridge, which does the northbound Stanley-Ascension run in 11½/12hrs without in-flight refuelling, helped by prevailing southerly winds. Until then, however, I had another couple of days' flying to come, this time in helicopters. More of that anon.

#### **Mount Pleasant Airfield (MPA)**

Two days were spent visiting the new airfield which was being made ready to accept the first TriStar proving flight, then two months away. The official opening by HRH Prince Andrew on 12 May was well reported in the media. At the time of my visit the five mile centre section of the 30-mile road linking MPA with Stanley was still under construction, which meant a long, bone-jarring detour over the roughest of tracks across open country in a Land Rover driven by a newly-appointed

civilian police chief of the islands, Supt Ken Greenland. Ken had previously done a tour down there as Provost Marshal. We stuck to the rules and went in convoy with another vehicle, a Mercedes 'CV' driven by the then current Provost Marshal, Maj Mike Collier, RMP. The precaution was a wise one, as several times his CV had to come to the rescue of the Land Rover. The journey took 3½ hours and brought home the sheer emptiness and bleakness of the Falklands. The route taken both ways was, in effect, that which the southern sector of the land forces had to take after the landings. Their difficulties must have been immense, the countryside alternating between peat bog and rocks, virtually impassable by vehicles in parts, with not a tree or hedge in sight; and the weather then was far less pleasant than the glorious sunshine with which we were blessed. Stopping for a break on a ridge overlooking Bluff Cove and Fitzroy, it was pointed out where the *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad* had been caught by the Argentine bombers with such tragic results. There were other landmarks of the war to be seen as the 'convoy' tortuously progressed, towards MPA, which was marked by a huge permanent white cloud on the horizon from many miles away, the dust from the earthworks. The new airfield is indeed an impressive project, and one cannot but marvel at the achievement of its creation within a mere twenty months from a greenfield site. Like many I have to ask: to what avail? It is difficult to accept that it will enhance the future of the islands, though it will obviously facilitate military logistics for as long as that need exists. Whatever the merits or otherwise of the decision to build MPA, the project will rank as one of the world's major, perhaps not volumetrically, but certainly logistically and in speed of creation from conception. It has been an epic indeed for all involved, reflecting the very best of British initiative and endurance, and recreating the old pioneering spirit. For that is what those first men ashore at South Cove were — pioneers in the truest sense. The staff appointed were picked for just that. The time scale from the end of the war to the opening of MPA is quite incredible in this day and age. Bearing in mind the stated cost of the project —

*Above left:*  
**VIP flight to MPA: ZD952's flightdeck with Defence Minister, Mr Heseltine, in the co-pilot's seat. Left is the aircraft's captain, Flt Lt Marsall, and right is flight engineer Sqn Ldr M. J. Cawsey.**  
*Photo via Sqn Ldr Cawsey*

*Above:*  
**Escorting the inaugural TriStar flight to Mount Pleasant Airfield was No 23 Squadron Phantom FGR2, XV495.**  
*Photo: Sqn Ldr Cawsey*

£276million for the airport and nav aids, plus £119million for the Army facilities and new port (Sept '84 prices) the government, and its Property Services Agency (PSA), moved with great alacrity. So did the contracting consortia of Laing-Mowlem-Amey Roadstone (LMA) (airfield) and Wimpey-Taylor Woodrow (WTW) (army sites). The major decision to build a new airfield rather than develop Stanley was taken only four weeks after the Argentine surrender, and the MPA project was announced about a year later — 27 June 1983 on completion of survey and a site selection by a small party of PSA, Army, and RAF experts.

To describe the chosen site as 'green field' (to use civil engineers' parlance) is an injustice: it is a mixture of peat bog, rock, and water holes about five miles from the coast, lying on a flat plain halfway between Stanley and Goose Green. There were no roads, ports, or any other sort of facilities outside Stanley. The only sign of civilisation for many miles was a small, white derelict shepherd's hut at the crest of the featureless, windswept tract, known as 'Mount Pleasant House'. It provided a modicum of shelter for the recce team, and the name of the new airfield. Nearby were ample supplies of rock and stone to meet construction needs; other than water, however, every commodity needed for the new creation has had to be brought out from England, estimated at over ½million tons.

The advance party of PSA and construction companies' personnel and their prime movers arrived off East Cove late October 1983 in the ship *Merchant Providence*. It took three weeks to establish a very basic jetty to which the vessel could be secured to act as living quarters and working base from which everything could move out-





**Above:**  
TriStar ZD952 on the apron at MPA and in front of the 'TriStar' hangar as it is known. There is plenty of evidence of unfinished earthworks.

Photo: Cpl Readshaw/RAF Brize Norton

**Right:**  
A fine shot of TriStar ZD952 taking-off from MPA on a training/calibration flight.

Photo: Cpl Readshaw/RAF Brize Norton



wards, including the heavy plant needed to make some sort of road up to the airfield site. This task alone, four miles over virgin peat and bog, often in the most atrocious weather conditions (despite it being 'summer' in the Falklands) gave a good indication of what lay in store. By Boxing

Day 1983 the track had reached March Ridge, the southern boundary of the new airfield, of which the first sod was cut on the last day of 1983, 24 hours early! It took six months to establish decent living quarters for the pioneers, and enable them to escape the dreadful conditions aboard *Merchant Providence*, and to create the labour camp to accommodate up to 2,000 workers and staff.

The construction task has been enormous: some 2½million tons of excavations on the airfield, 30ft deep in places to get to bedrock; 1½million tons of filling; plus about half those quantities for the road to Stanley. At MPA there will be 100,000 square metres of buildings when all phases are complete. Phase 1 (an operating airfield with main runway of 8,500ft, power station, air traffic control facilities and landing aids, airfield lighting, main hangar, half apron area, usable road to Stanley) was ready on schedule, just 22 months after placement of the contract by PSA; a feat little short of miraculous. In the brochure issued to commemorate the opening of MPA, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime

Minister says of this achievement: 'I pay tribute to the skills, efficiency and determination of everyone involved in building Mount Pleasant Airport. This is a triumph for which both Government and private industry can take credit. It speaks volumes for what the British construction industry is capable of achieving in difficult conditions around the world. It will also bring renewed assurance to people of the Falklands Islands'.

The remaining work on the second runway (5,000ft) and associated airport facilities is due for completion early 1986, with the army works following by early 1987. The 'facilities' will include some permanent accommodation for servicemen, including, it was said, a school. So — who knows — there may be longer term postings ahead, perhaps even 'accompanied', though quite what attractions there would be for dependants were not too obvious. The journey from MPA to Stanley is still a long haul — two hours by RAF coach limited to a strict 15mph along the as-yet unmetalled road (and likely to

remain so for some time I suspect). The attractions of Stanley, too, may be described as rather basic. Whether any sort of tourist trade develops remains to be seen, but it seems somewhat unlikely.

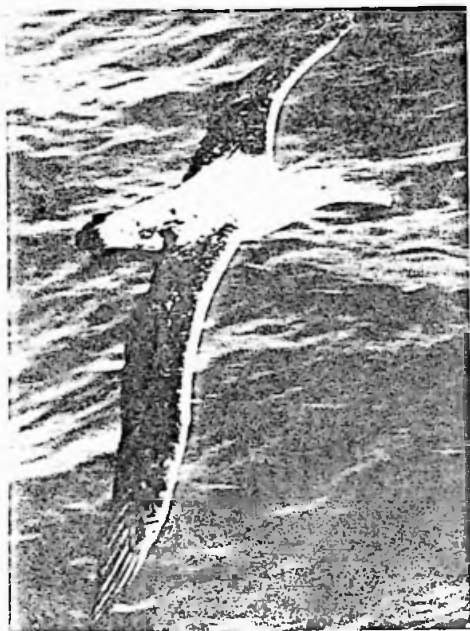
On completion Mount Pleasant will be capable of accommodating a population of 10,000 (compared to Stanley's 1,000, and the islands' total of only 1,800). It will be entirely self-sufficient, with its own power, water, and sewage plants, plus shopping and leisure complex. What will be its role in, say, 10 years' time, I wonder?

It will be a while yet before aircraft maintenance and handling facilities at MPA are complete, and in the meantime, the Phantoms and Hercules will soldier on at Stanley. It is assumed that Stanley itself will gradually return to light civil use, plus perhaps some helicopters, but this looks likely to be some time away yet. For the present, it must surely be one of the busiest military airfields in the western world, and certainly one of the most interesting and exciting I have been privileged to visit.

*To be continued*

AIRCRAFT ILLUSTRATED

## Bird Watching



*The Wandering Albatross*

UNTIL recently the South Atlantic in general, and the Falklands in particular, were best known for their wildlife, but nobody had done much about studying it away from the great concentrations at the breeding-places on land.

The development of increased naval activity in 1982 obviously presented a useful opportunity to learn more about what happens when the animals disperse to feed at sea, and at an early stage the Royal Naval Bird-watching Society (RNBWS) circulated a request for observations.

I had long ago tried to get to the antarctic and then to South Georgia to study the birds. I was frustrated first by National Service and then by impending fatherhood. I have now tried again with more success and inherited all the RNBWS back notes.

The observations, were originally organised by Lt M.D.R. Kelly RN, and have been developed by Radio Officer Bill Curtis and Yeoman of Signals Jan Bewsher among others in the RFA.

Basically regular counts of the number of birds seen at sea during successive periods of 10 minutes for several hours a day are made. This determines the average density of birds and what they are doing in different parts of the ocean.

In the process we have been working out the distance to which southern seabirds

## Society In The South Atlantic

disperse from the breeding places to feed, and the routes by which summer visitors such as the Great Shearwater reach the northern hemisphere. A preliminary summary of the results will be found in the RNBWS journal *Sea Swallow* for 1984.

Our observations usually covered a well-known route off West Africa, where it was recognised that many seabirds gather in an area of upwelling. In the South Atlantic, where few observations had been made before, we found many northern seabirds wintering in what appears to be a rich but little-studied fishing ground.

Several new species were added to the list for Ascension. The tropical South Atlantic was rather birdless until we came to the cooler water at about 30 degrees South.

Here there were some astonishing concentrations of thousands of prions, small grey birds, which feed upon plankton growing in the area. We found further concentrations, this time including many albatrosses, in areas of upwelling off the edge of the continental shelf east of the Falklands and around South Georgia.

There has been a good deal of speculation whether recent military activity in the area has led to undue disturbance of the wildlife. We found that the military authorities have in fact imposed such strict conservation measures in the Falklands that it has become quite difficult for even serious naturalists to reach many sites!

A certain amount of damage has been caused where the grass has accidentally been set on fire and some disturbance may be caused by low-flying aircraft, but they did not seem severe.

It is impossible to summarise in detail everything recorded, but we hope in time to produce a fuller account, and would be grateful for any further observations. These should be sent to the Royal Naval Bird-watching Society.

Dr W.R.P. Bourne



No. 3 DECEMBER 1985

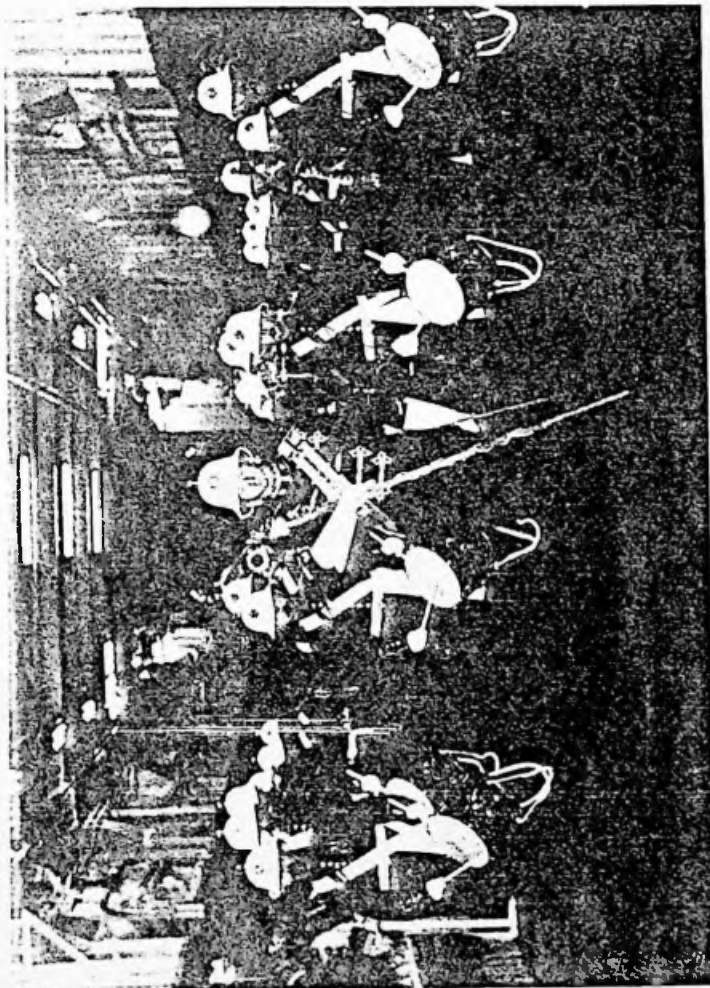
# Gunline

GUNLINE — THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

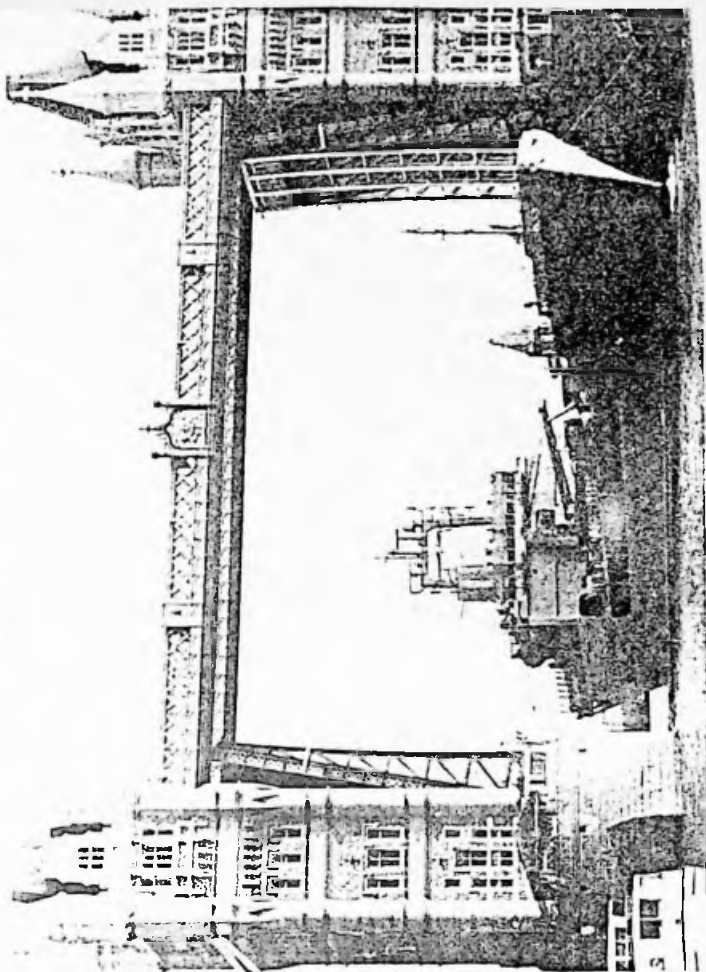
PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY

## RFA Sir Tristram

### Berths Pool of London



The Royal Marine Band entertaining guests on board RFA Sir Tristram at the fund raising cocktail party.



AFTER 15 months being rebuilt at Tyne Shiprepairers Ltd, RFA Sir Tristram berthed in the Pool of London on Monday October 14. With a Sea King on her after flight deck and a Royal Marine static display on the vehicle deck, she passed through Tower Bridge (above) and berthed on HMS Belfast. So began the vessel's five day stay in the Capital.

The ship was open to the public for the next two after-

Cont. 1



Thursday October 17 was the busiest day of the visit. In the morning, 28 Defence correspondents attended on board for the weekly brief. This included a specially prepared presentation on the RFA given by Captain Dickinson OBE which included a recently completed eight minute video of the *Sir Tristram* rebuild. A further presentation on Amphibious Warfare was given by Commodore Larken DSO (COMAW) and Brigadier Beverley OBE.

At lunch time Miss Jenny Agutter, currently starring in "Breaking The Silence" at the Mermaid Theatre, conducted the grand draw. A list of winners is given on page 5. The photo (below) shows Chief Officer Roger Robinson-Brown thanking Miss Agutter with a ship's crest.

Later in the day Major

General Braggins presented to the ship a signed print of the LSLs in the Falklands on behalf of the Royal Corps of Transport.

In the evening, a fund raising cocktail party was held in the ship's tank deck and more than 400 people attended. A staggering £16,755 was raised enabling Captain Butterworth, President of the *Sir Galahad* Lifeboat Appeal, to present a cheque for £141,000 to the Deputy Chairman of the RNLI, Vice Admiral Sir Peter Compston KCB.

The Royal Marine Band of the Commander in Chief Fleet then marched on playing the RFA march. For the next half an hour the tank deck was filled with the richness of stirring music. Then quite suddenly the lights were dimmed, and with just the RFA ensign spotlighted 'Sunset' was played as the flag was lowered. Thus the highly successful evening was brought to a close.

The next day *Sir Tristram* slipped quietly from her berth and headed back to Portsmouth.



## Battle honours

RFA *SIR TRISTRAM* was presented with her battle Honours on October 2 by Mr Tony Kemp, Director of Supplies and Transport (Ships and Fuel).

Following the ceremony, Mr Harry Wilson Production Director gave, on behalf of Tyne Shiprepairers Ltd., a number of gifts. These included a set of pictures, a number of tankards and he is shown here giving Captain Green the fused metal remains of Purser Dave Tooze's safe. What was once £323 in coins is now encased in glass. Never to be legal tender again.

## Rex Hunt returns to UK on Sir Geraint

WHILE RFA *Sir Tristram* has been basking in her butterfly glory in the Pool of London, having at last shaken off the long chrysalis of rebuilding, another knight of the Round Table has been quietly helping to close one of the last chapters in the book of events that opened on April 2 1982.

On 2 Nov. 1985, RFA *Sir Geraint* (Captain J.R.J. Carew, RFA) arrived at Portland from the Falkland Islands with her distinguished passengers, Sir Rex and Lady Hunt — on their way home to retirement after a long and dedicated career in the Colonial Service and five and a half never-to-be-forgotten years as Governor of the Falkland Islands.

The departure of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Hunt from Port Stanley was attended with due ceremony in which RFA *Sir Geraint* played her part. Luckily the weather was fine by anyone's standards — clear blue skies and a gentle south westerly breeze scarcely enough to ruffle the feathers on a Governor's hat.

At 1500 on Sunday October 13 having driven slowly through Port Stanley for

the last time in the maroon London Taxi that serves in lieu of a Rolls Royce for the Governor of the Falkland Islands, and having spoken their many farewells, Sir Rex and Lady Hunt arrived at the Public Jetty.

There, Sir Rex inspected the Guard of Honour drawn from all three services, took the Royal Salute and then, to a fanfare sounded by buglers of the First Battalion Light Infantry, he and Lady Hunt boarded the FI Government Tender *MV Forrest* for a last look at Stanley from the harbour.

The procession down harbour, escorted by the FI Patrol Vessel HMS *Protector*, was greeted by a 17 gun salute from the battery on Victory Green and a flypast by two Islander aircraft of the FI Government Air Service which were in close and faultless formation.

Returning to the vicinity of the Public Jetty, *Forrest* came alongside RFA *Sir Geraint* lying at the buoy a few hundred yards offshore and there, to the 'Alert' sounded by a (borrowed) bugler and with the Governor's own Flag breaking at the starboard yardarm, Sir Rex and

Lady Hunt were welcomed on board by Captain Carew.

With scarcely time for them to reach the bridge, *Sir Geraint* slipped, turned and in line-ahead formation with *Protector* leading and *Forrest* bringing up the rear, all three ships turned north through the Narrows and out of harbour.

As *Sir Geraint* herself passed through the Narrows the RAF gave a last, and perfectly timed, salute as two Phantom jets screamed over the ship from the south in low level formation, broke, and with after-burners on climbed vertically until they were out of sight. A final wave to the school children of Stanley, all embarked in HMS *Protector*, and the cruise home had begun.

Speaking later as he was dined on board in the Wardroom, Sir Rex said that he could not think of a more suitable way of returning to UK or indeed of a more relaxing way to round off his final and so unexpectedly eventful tour of duty.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service is proud to have been called on and wishes Sir Rex and Lady Mavis Hunt a long and contented retirement.



December, 1985

95p

# Ships

monthly

New Warships for Old

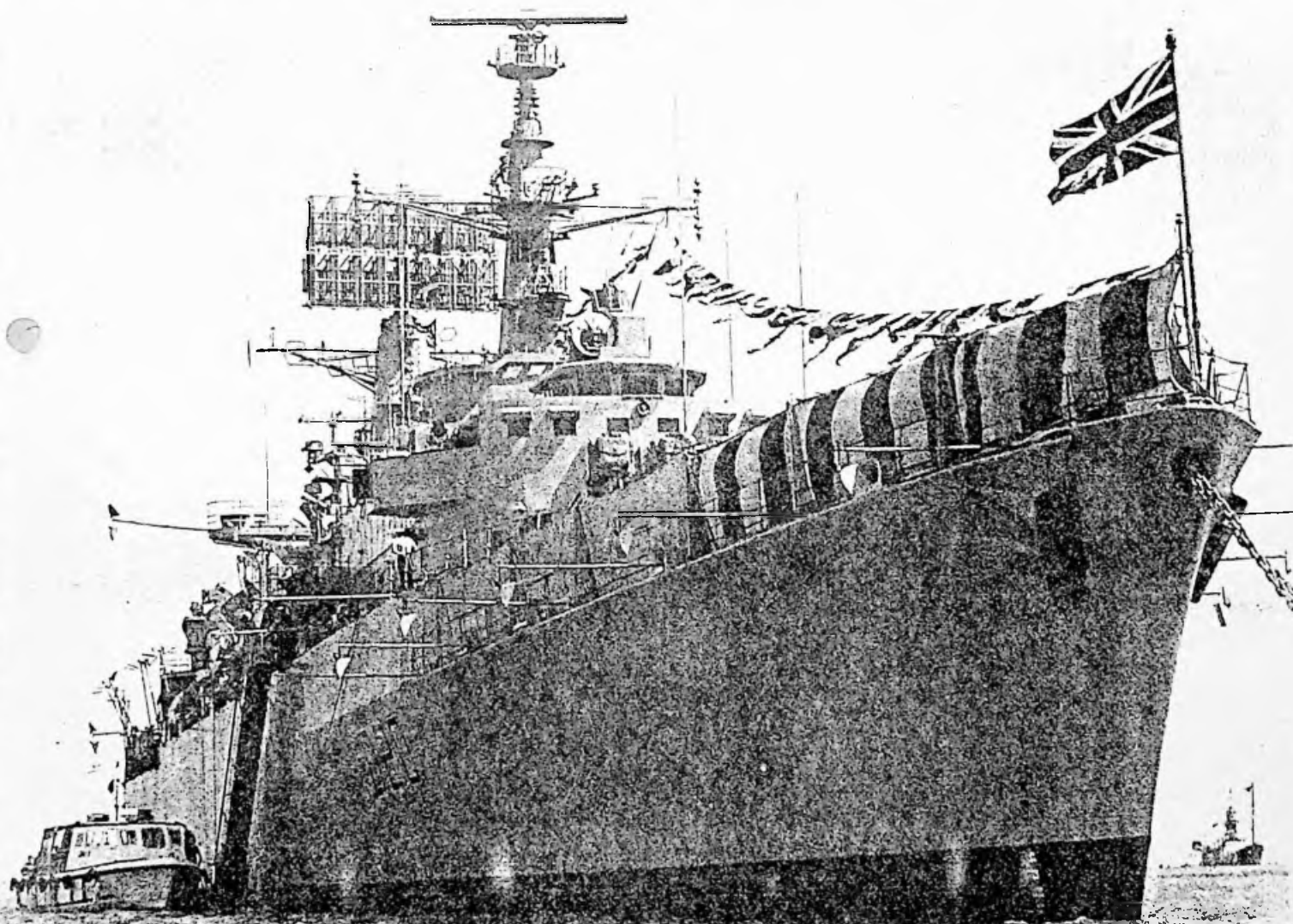
Coast Lines History

Troopship *Keren*

Ferry Fleets Updates

Under Sail

Cruise Ship Review



# Troopship “Keren”

*Captain A. W. Kinghorn describes the former North Sea ferry “St Edmund’s” work in the South Atlantic*

The first *Keren* had been the first *Kenya*, a BI cargo liner of 1930, and the second *Kenya*, of 1951, was twin sister to the second *Uganda* which became running mate to the second *Keren* in the trooping service between Ascension Island and the Falklands as a result of the 1982 South Atlantic Conflict. This string of coincidence is remarkable in that there has never been any direct relationship between the two troopships other than that. *Uganda* remained with P & O in her old BI colours, chartered by the Ministry of Defence, who own the *Keren* outright.

*Keren* (I) became HMS *Keren* in September, 1941 after a two month spell as HMS *Hydra* following conversion to an infantry landing ship (large) in which role she carried numerous smaller landing craft used for assaulting enemy-held beaches. She won battle honours at Diego Suarez (Madagascar) 1942, North Africa 1942, Sicily 1943 and South of France 1944. Eventually she became Sitmar Line's famous emigrant liner *Castel Felice* well known to thousands of New Australians who sailed in her from war-torn Europe to their new homeland. She was removed from the Navy List in 1948 and the name *Keren* lapsed until March, 1983 when Sealink's *St Edmund* was bought by the Ministry of Defence (Army) and placed under Blue Star Ship Management after a brief sojourn as HMS *Keren* in which the Royal Navy took her to sea from the Tyne, whither she soon returned to complete her refit. She has worn the Red Ensign proudly ever since, being unique in that she is an MOD-owned vessel under private civilian management and operation. Blue Star won the management contract on open tender.

But why *Keren*? In 1941, before the British could bring full weight to bear upon the enemy threatening Egypt and the Suez Canal, it was first necessary to clear the Italians out of Eritrea. Not only were they a thorn in the flesh to the British southern flank but they were actively disrupting British shipping in the Red Sea out of the port of Massawa. A concerted attack from the south on the town of Keren was to be the answer, fought hard and long on both sides, a bloody conflict which resulted, after eight weeks of mountain warfare — attack and counter attack — in the British entering Keren. The battle was not the last of this campaign, fought largely by colonial troops with British and Italian officers respectively, but it was decisive. The Italians never fought so determinedly again, so the Battle of Keren, 2nd February to 27th March, 1941 paved the way for British victory in North Africa, and ultimately for Allied victory in Europe four long years later.

Since becoming the second *Keren* (albeit MV, not HMS) the former *St Edmund* has made 27 voyages north and south between the Falklands and Ascension, covering over 90,000 miles carrying almost 18,000 passengers, mostly military but including many Falkland Islanders and merchant navy crews. Her only break from this service was a return to the Tyne in May, 1984 for a rapid refit at Smith's Ship Repairers, North Shields, a job completed well inside allotted time.

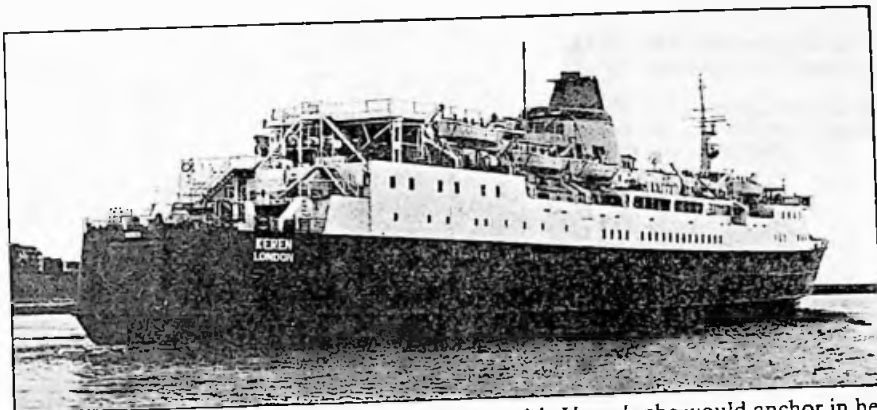
Golf Uniform Kilo Bravo as her signal letters and callsign have it, was built at Cammell Laird's, Birkenhead, ship number 1361, registered at London as Ship No 504 in 1974. The keel was laid 23/2/73, she was launched as *St Edmund* 13/11/73 and delivered for service on the night run between Harwich and the Hook of Holland 19/1/75. Gross tonnage is 8,987.38, nett tonnage 4,697.41 and displacement 7,990 tonnes. Deadweight is 1,555 tonnes and her block coefficient is 0.5652 on an overall length of 426ft 9ins (130.07m) maximum breadth of 74ft 2½ins (22.62m), depth 24ft 1½ins (7.6m) and draft 17ft 0½ins (5.196m). Her maximum breadth includes heavy belting, a feature of most short sea ferries and very useful in her South Atlantic employment which involved coming alongside quays and ships without tugs or pilots, often in strong wind.

Propelling machinery consists of four 4 cycle Stork Werkspoor 8TM410 marine diesels, diameter 410 x 470mm, each 5,050bhp, clutched to twin shafts each carrying a 3.35m diameter constant speed controllable pitch propeller. Both shafts revolve inwards (ie port clockwise, starboard anticlockwise viewed from astern) and a rudder is fitted abaft each propeller. Main engines together with a Lawrence Scott 900hp 1070A Kamewa bow thrust unit are controlled from either of three pedestals, wheelhouse and port and starboard bridge wings, and make for a very handy, manoeuvrable ship which can turn in her own length and park like a Mini. It is customary for the master to operate the controls when manoeuvring in and out of port, with a wheelman steering in the wheelhouse and an officer operating telephones and walkie talkie, and writing the all-important Bridge Movement Book, which is transcribed into the deck log but always taken into account itself should there be an Official Inquiry. At sea, two Denny Brown fin stabilisers effectively dampen roll and these are locked in the retracted position out of use, when the bow thruster is in use, a wise precaution guarding against damage. (The bow thruster is used only in harbour, and coming alongside with stabilisers extended could prove embarrassing!) As *Keren* she retained her Sealink green topsides but changed the funnel colour to yellow with black top.

As *St Edmund* she operated the six-hour run across the southern North Sea carrying in her time thousands of civilian passengers and also many British troops on furlough — not a few soldiers now in the Falklands recall crossing the North Sea in her *St Edmund* days. Thus she plied her lawful occasions, a typical short sea ferry with two car decks and bow and stern ramp doors, until Galtieri's forces invaded first South Georgia, and then the Falklands in 1982. She became ‘STUFF’ — a Ship Taken Up From Trade, one of the sixty-six which included passenger liners, tugs, trawlers, tankers, repair ships, a cable vessel, general and refrigerated cargo ships — and car ferries. At this time she was still owned by Sealink, chartered by the Ministry of Defence. She carried British troops south, then, after the surrender, Argentine troops back to Argentina,

SHIPS MONTHLY

The *Keren* soon after her conversion from the Sealink North Sea Ferry *St Edmund* — April, 1983. (Ken Lubi)



including the Argentine commander, General Menendez (Sealink Gives You Freedom!). Returning to the Falklands she took up a static role as accommodation ship for troops, one of three, the others being *Rangatira* (Union Steamship Company of New Zealand) and *Baltic Ferry* (Townsend Thoresen).

It may be worth explaining here that the little town of Stanley lies on the southern shore of Port Stanley, an East-West lying harbour, almost five miles long by half a mile wide at its broadest, only saved from being an inland lake by The Narrows which lead out of the north-east side into Port William, slightly larger but similarly shaped, which opens east into the South Atlantic. *St Edmund* was the most westerly of the three accommodation ships. When they took up their role there were at any one time up to six quite large ships anchored in Port Stanley which surprised many of the inhabitants who had not realised their harbour was deep enough. Outside The Narrows in Port William were more ships — mostly too deep of draft to enter Port Stanley where the maximum depth is around 22 feet — tankers and supply vessels with an unfortunate ammunition ship lying furthest east of all, rolling at anchor in the ceaseless swell.

Now that the Falklands have returned to almost normal, most of these ships have gone. The three accommodation ships were gradually replaced during 1983/4 by three "Coastels" — accommodation blocks floating barge-like, moored with chains close to the shore by which they are connected with road ramps; all three situated at the far eastern end of Stanley Harbour, near the small lagoon known as the "canache", which is a derivation of careenage.

When first "taken up from trade" *St Edmund* was fitted with a large helicopter deck, big enough to take Chinooks, those twin-rotored port-holed monsters which would have saved much "yomping" had not so many of them been sunk in *Atlantic Conveyor* when she went down on 25th May, 1982 with Captain Ian North and eleven of his men, victims of an Exocet missile. *St Edmund's* bow visor was welded shut before she sailed south in 1982 and has never been used since but her stern door was used all the time. When she entered the post-

conflict trooping service with *Uganda* she would anchor in her old spot in Port Stanley and lower the stern door, enabling troops to embark and disembark by Mexefloat, those ubiquitous flat multi-section barges with twin outboards aft — so useful for such work — if not the height of comfort for passengers on a cold, wet, blustery day!

Early in 1984 yet another marvel came to the Falklands — the floating port. Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System, "FIPASS" for short, of course, in these initial dominated days (alias the Flexiport) came out in sections and was assembled west of the Coastels connected to the shore by a road bridge able to take heavy lorries. A road was constructed to connect these new establishments with Stanley and, now, to the new Mount Pleasant Airport thirty miles away over the hills. FIPASS came complete with roll-on roll-off section at its easterly end, warehouses, offices and machinery spaces and does, in fact, prove effectively that the concept of Mulberry Harbour 1944 lives on. When one stands on its steel quayside almost surrounded by containers recently offloaded from one of several ships alongside it is difficult to believe that this whole structure is afloat, capable of being taken elsewhere when no longer required here.

Once FIPASS was opened in April, 1984 by Major General Keith Spacie OBE, CBFFI — Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, *Keren* was able to berth alongside making operations much simpler. On two occasions, because the FIPASS wharf was already full of ships, she berthed stern-to with both anchors down leading ahead, at right angles to the quay in what is known as a Mediterranean Moor — ships having tied up thus in the ports of the tideless Mediterranean since the Old Testament. More usually *Keren* has berthed port side to the quay with her stern up to the protruding ro-ro section.

She has played her part in various military exercises but mostly her voyages have been straight trooping runs taking about a month per round trip. Her crew averaged eighty, mostly catering department, and she also carried permanent military staff with an army major as Ship's Commandant in

*Keren* Mediterranean-moored at the FIPASS facility, Port Stanley, with the RFA *Sir Lancelot* conventionally berthed alongside. (Author)







*Left — RN 'Wessex' helicopter landing on Keren's flight deck off Ascension Island.*



*Below — Bunkering from the British tanker British Esk, Clarence Bay, Ascension Island. (Author's photographs)*

charge. Being a North Sea ferry her amenities were limited ("Where is the swimming pool?" was a question we had to reply to with — "Alas madam, there isn't one".) but at least she provided every passenger with a cabin, mostly two-berth or single, which was appreciated by the troops who had to live in dormitories in "the other ship". Nine days at sea was no hardship for anyone and the stabilisers certainly reduced seasickness.

The armed forces of the crown are adept at providing entertainment and many a concert has been put on to an enthusiastic audience. The Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm from Culdrose, Cornwall even treated us to a Floral Dance, as put on in Helston, Cornwall each year. Brave men in top hats and frock coats (made from chart paper painted and ragbag oddments) danced gracefully with fair maidens dressed ravishingly in haute couture and gumboots. All these "damsels" had enormous bosoms and most sported beards! After dancing to "that tune" through the ship the way was led to 'C' Car Deck which had become a fairground with hoopla, coconut stalls, penguin racing, cake weight guessing — everything; an effort which, with a few other smaller schemes, pulled in over £400 for charity. There was rifle shooting and tugs of war, darts and deck hockey — life was never dull. In heavy weather passengers were escorted in small parties to the bridge and watched open-mouthed from the wheelhouse the whole wild panorama of the South Atlantic Ocean in majestic mood, from ringside seats. Almost miraculously, the storm abated in time for the ship's Remembrance Day Service, on Sunday, November 11th, a moving ceremony held on the afterdeck attended by over 600 troops, civilians and crew members, while two albatrosses wheeled in the ship's wake.

At Ascension there is no proper port, ships lie off at anchor when weather permits and passengers came and went by helicopter. Ascension has long been a base of the Cable and Wireless Company and undersea cables radiate from it like spaghetti. Many are still in use, many more are not, being old and disused, and it is commonplace for a ship to hook one up on its anchor when the time comes to weigh and depart. On such occasions the practice is to pass a soft manila rope round the hooked cable (a man goes over the bow on a bosun's chair to do this) and hang it off, then lower the anchor. With a bit of luck, the cable then comes clear. Sometimes it is a longish job especially if a swell is running.

Ascension is a fascinating clump of rugged rock in the

South Atlantic almost mid-way between Brazil and West Africa; an old volcanic heap of brown clinker first discovered by the Portuguese navigator João de Nova Gallego on 20th May, 1501, Ascension Day. The British established a garrison of Royal Marines there in 1821 when it was thought the French might be about to mount an escape bid from Ascension to spring Napoleon Bonaparte from St Helena — where he was imprisoned after Waterloo in 1815. The marines remained until 1922 building Georgetown with its church and barrack square, its houses and, interestingly, its concrete rain catchments up Green Mountain where the drizzly damp climate makes the scenery a pleasant oasis above the parched brown rocks.

#### **Relics of the Sailing Navy**

In Georgetown there are many relics of the old sailing navy — rope walks and rigging lofts and turtle ponds concreted to hold water, for turtles are another of Ascension's delights and mysteries. Why would a turtle want to swim 1,200 miles from the coast of Brazil just to lay eggs on Ascension? Wideawake airport, named after the Wideawake Tern, which nests in large colonies called 'fairs,' became the world's busiest for a few days in 1982, coping with traffic of an almost exclusively military nature. Another spot well worth seeing, even if it only fills one with pity, is the Bonetta Cemetery, a tiny twenty grave plot in the most inhospitable rocky cinder-like terrain where lie the mortal remains of those who died of fever a century ago. When a ship came in with yellow fever aboard (usually from West Africa) the sufferers were appointed desolate habitation at the aptly named Comfortless Cove, one mile from Georgetown. Food was left at an appointed spot, the carrier then firing a gun as dinner gong before retiring quickly in case he too became a victim. Even those who recovered were not allowed back in town but eked out the remainder of their lives caring for the sick. Apparently, there were several such cemeteries on Ascension, but Bonetta is now the best preserved.

So — having disentangled our anchor from the seabed debris we head south for the Falklands. *Uganda* was somewhat slower than *Keren* and as the speed of a service, like the speed of a convoy, is governed by the speed of the slowest ship, *Keren* usually had a day or two in hand each voyage which enabled us to slow down and save fuel. It could be that we were directed, first, to San Carlos Water, just a hundred

SHIPS MONTHLY

miles by sea from Stanley, at the north-western corner of East Falkland, where the returning British landed. We would go alongside an anchored tanker to take fuel (still called bunkers), in the now silent inlet, so like the English Lakes — hard to realise that this was "Bomb Alley" only three years previously, through which screamed Argentine aircraft with their deadly loads; or that the derelict old frigorifico over in Ajax Bay was Surgeon Commander Jolly's hospital, the Red and Green Life Machine where every man, British and Argentine, who came in alive went out alive — no mean feat under the attack conditions prevailing at the time!

Our ship anchored near the buoys marking HMS *Antelope's* grave. Blue Beach cemetery was close by — where Colonel H. Jones VC and his comrades slept in peace — a touchingly beautiful cemetery maintained by those who manage the nearby farm.

Up anchor and down Falkland Sound then, where fabled wrecks containing hoards of Chilean copper ingots lure the brave and hardy to fit out salvage expeditions back in Stanley; to Fox Bay, where our Gemini rubber boat took us to visit the gentoo penguins. To Stanley next, that now familiar little town with its neat houses, brightly painted corrugated iron roofs, red-roofed brick-decorated grey-stone cathedral, and the little white Catholic chapel of St Mary which the author remembers seeing in silhouette from the harbour against the flaring glow that dreadful night of 9/10th April, 1984 when the hospital caught fire, killing more civilians than had died in the conflict.

But the new Mount Pleasant Airport, a truly remarkable feat of British enterprise and civil engineering has been opened by Prince Andrew and the wide-bodied jetliners have, at a stroke, rendered yet another troopship redundant.

Where next? *Keren* became an accommodation ship for a while, alongside FIPASS, providing bed, breakfast and evening meal for news reporters (sent out to cover the Great Opening of Mount Pleasant Airport). Detachments of troops, paras and gurkhas among them, waited with us to deploy elsewhere. She also was "Mother *Keren*" to one of our submarines at a buoy in Port Stanley. The submariners were delighted to savour *Keren's* space and comfort, for even a modern submarine is cramped by comparison!

Where next? The answer came soon. "You are going to South Georgia!"

I should say here that many of us had been wanting to go to South Georgia for the previous three years — since we heard there was a chance! In the conflict's beginning many went there, not least the *Queen Elizabeth 2*, though, because of her size, she only anchored on the submerged ridge outside King Edward Cove, in Cumberland Bay. Now, *Keren* was to go there, alongside the wharf if possible, to deliver much needed stores for the British Garrison.

Having borrowed a line-throwing gun (though not the helicopter requested!) *Keren* sailed from Stanley for the last time, after a lap of honour round the harbour attended by many who had helped to make our time in Stanley so pleasant, including Sir Rex and Lady Mavis Hunt, those two wonderful people who have become epitomized as representing The Falklands Spirit. Out through The Narrows for the last time, appropriately enough in a blizzard, passengers were disembarked into the tug *Irishman* (a Falklands veteran, she it was who went after the smouldering *Atlantic Conveyor* through the fog, eventually followed an oil slick, found her, took her in tow, and only lost her when she sank on the way back to the Falklands).

*Keren's* first appointed task was to go to Bird Island, South Georgia and take off from the British Antarctic Survey hut a British scientist who had broken a collar bone. But when we arrived off Bird Island rags of cloud tore at the snowy mountain peaks and such a SW swell ran into Bird Sound that launching our boat would have been disastrous. Instead, our

doctor was able to speak to the scientists in the hut by radio telephone and find that the patient's fracture had been correctly set and was healing. *Keren* then turned out of Bird Sound (NW South Georgia) and headed for Grytviken, in King Edward Cove, off Cumberland Bay, where we arrived, next daybreak, through floating ice in the form of small bergs which were called, meteorologically, growlers and bergy bits.

These growlers are old, almost transparent, ice carved from glaciers. Awash, they make poor targets for radar. Indeed, when day dawned, calm, fine and clear, bathing the snow-clad mountains in a rosy glow, we discovered that although our two radars had picked out the larger bergs and bergy bits, the growlers had escaped notice and could have caused damage had we struck one. Extra lookouts had been posted all night. Although South Georgia (the same latitude south as Carlisle is north) is little south of the Falklands, which enjoy a temperate climate not unlike that experienced on the north-east coast of England, the 726 miles on a course of 100° true (East by South) from Stanley to South Georgia take a ship through the Antarctic Convergence Barrier, and into, climatologically, the Antarctic. Temperatures plunged below zero, for this was winter.

#### Grytviken — Ghost Town

The vessel slowly entered King Edward Cove, a tiny almost circular inlet surrounded by 2,000-foot snow-covered mountains. At the far end lies Grytviken (Pot Cove in Norwegian, from the try pots of the early sealers) . . . now a ghost town, complete with white wooden church, "kinema" and the whale factories which flourished, then died when, in the early 'sixties, there became suddenly no market for whale products. Modern ecologists may claim victory here but the stark facts are that whaling in the south ended when it did only because the profitability ended. The whalers left, expecting to return, but never did.

Grytviken is like a shore-based *Mary Celeste* with jobs waiting to be completed, stores waiting to be unpacked. On this strange little scene of man's folly, the awesome snow-clad mountains look down with immense disdain. Opposite Grytviken, on King Edward Point, is Discovery House, a green three-storey, red-roofed building housing troops and scientists, with a few scattered buildings and a wooden wharf, at which I intended to moor *Keren*, Mediterranean fashion, and discharge, in a couple of hours, a consignment of provisions. The line-throwing gun was used to get our first mooring rope ashore. In pleasant weather our pre-arranged plan went smoothly — too smoothly, for no sooner had our stern door been lowered to the quay than all hell broke loose!

It was as if the elements were outraged at this North Sea ferry having the temerity to enter their domain. Katabatic winds of hurricane force screamed at us from, it seemed, all angles. Our stern door was immediately raised and secured, and after five more attempts at berthing, all unsuccessful, *Keren* clawed out into the centre of the cove and re-anchored. She then meekly worked her cargo ashore through the stern door, via the ship's motor boat, her crew pitching in with a will that cheered one to see.

A force ten blizzard blew all that night, but anchors held and it was almost as though the elements felt we had passed the test, for the next day dawned in unearthly calm and beauty, which lasted until we sailed the following morning. Everything, including the ship, lay under a thick snow mantle, and next night under the full moon, every detail of every mountain was mirrored to perfection in the glassy waters of the cove. By the time we sailed, King Edward Cove had frozen over and seabirds walked and slipped like tipsy sailors on the ice — but our anchors came up without trouble and we moved out, marvelling at the green of the glaciers' edge, headed north towards Ascension, and Portsmouth.

↓ ↓ ↓

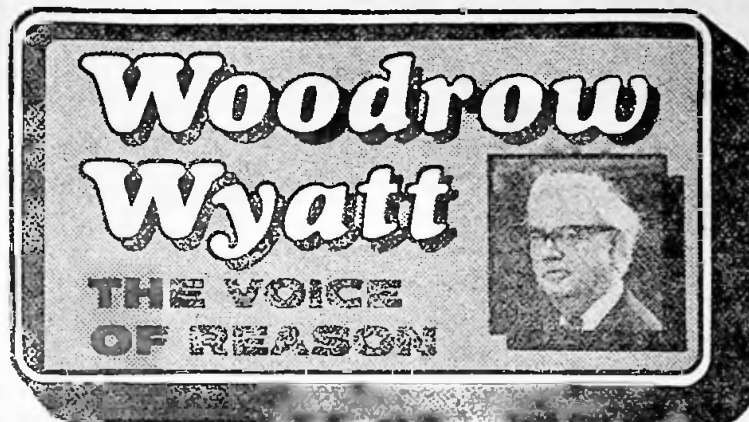


### **Falklands tourism**

THE SUPERB WILDLIFE of the Falkland Islands can again be seen by tourists, thanks to twice-weekly British Airways flights. A number of tourist centres are being developed by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation and the British Tourist Authority, with an emphasis on the main wildlife attractions — penguins, petrels, albatrosses and seals.

Information is available from the Falkland Islands Office, 29 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL (01-222 2542).

News of the World  
1st December 1985



# FALKLANDS VOTE IS SO ABSURD

IN THE middle of the last century the Americans stole Texas, New Mexico and California from Mexico.

A few Argentinian trespassers left the Falklands some 20 years earlier. They'd only been there five years. Argentina then waited 100 years to demand the Falklands.

They were discovered by the British 300 years ago. Spain ruled Argentina until 1816.

In 1771 Spain formally declared that the Falklands were British.

We have occupied and cultivated them over 150 years. No Argentinians in sight.

Yet the USA had the cheek to vote against Britain last week at the United Nations.

The demand was that we should enter into talks with Argentina on "all aspects of the future of the Falklands." That includes sovereignty.

The USA was supported by 106 countries. It's

absurd. The Americans wouldn't return the vast lands stolen from Mexico.

We stole nothing from Argentina. The capital at Buenos Aires is 1,200 miles from the Falklands.

Five hundred years ago the Orkneys and Shetlands belonged to Norway and Denmark. Lerwick in the Shetlands is the same distance from Aberdeen as it is from Bergen in Norway — 180 miles.

Should we start negotiations with Norway and Denmark about their future? Both countries have far more right to those Scottish islands than Argentina has to the Falklands.

Or maybe we should try to get a UN resolution for France to discuss returning Calais.

Our lily-hearted want Argentina to enslave the unwilling Falklanders.

They bleat that Argentina now has a democratic government. I give it another five years at most before a new military dictator appears.

Faint hearts moan about the cost of defending the Falklands.

Well, it's coming down fast. From £684 million in 1984-85 it will be £300 million in 1987-88.

And that includes the cost of building the new airport. This will bring considerable prosperity to the Falklands.

The Falklands are the gateway to Antarctica. Within 100 years, technology will unlock untold

wealth from the region, much of which is owned by Britain.

Without the Falklands our descendants would lose that inheritance in minerals, coal and oil. It will be badly needed when North Sea oil runs out.

Argentina and the United Nations should be told to buzz off. And Britons anxious to give away British people and territory should belt up.

We didn't defeat the Argentinians in 1982 in order to give them the Falklands. Are the sacrifices of our fighting forces to be pointless?

The Mail on Sunday, December 1, 1985

**From KATE WHARTON, sailing with Greenpeace**

Four men  
set out for  
a perilous  
year-long  
vigil to  
save the  
Antarctic  
for  
mankind



INTO THE UNKNOWN: The Greenpeace leaves Auckland

Pictures: STEVE BENT

# Voyage of hope to the lost world

Cont.../

I HAVE just set sail with Greenpeace on the South Seas.

And I have become the first British journalist allowed aboard since the French sank the Rainbow Warrior in July.

But our destination is not France's nuclear testing grounds at Mururoa Atoll.

We are bound for the winter wilderness of the Antarctic on a voyage more dangerous than the one that killed a Greenpeace member — and crucial for mankind.

For Greenpeace is challenging the superpowers' arrogant assumption that this white wonderland belongs to them and not us.

To keep the world informed of what is happening in this most secret part of the globe, four men are to establish a base there for a year. This will entitle Greenpeace to membership of the Antarctic Treaty.

### Memorial

As I write, our ship is pitching and tossing in a Force 10 and the Tasman Sea towers above the mizzen mast. We are five hours out of Auckland, New Zealand, heading for the Ross Dependency, an uninhabited dot 4,000 miles away.

The mission was planned long before the French Secret Service blew up Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour. But Greenpeace chairman David McTaggart told me: 'That act of terrorism changed us for ever. Never again can we assume our lives will be safe.'

'This trip will be the best memorial to Fernando Pereira.'

McTaggart, a sturdy, native-born Yorkshireman, is sailing as a lowly engineer. Eighteen other men are aboard, including Gerry Johnson, who will



CREW: Laura Mitrani, Gerry Johnson and Pete Wilkinson

lead the base team, and team co-ordinator Pete Wilkinson.

The only other women are cook Mary Hyde, from Kent, and Dr Laura Mitrani.

All are concerned about what will happen to the last great untouched areas of the globe when the Antarctic Treaty comes up for review in 1991.

McTaggart explained: 'The treaty imposed a moratorium on mineral exploitation but if the superpowers cannot reach an agreement, anything can happen.'

'The dangers are that something like an oil slick in this region could affect the world's ecology. But if we establish a base here for a year, we have the right to membership of the Treaty on a consultative basis — the only non-governmental, non-financial interest represented.'

The venture — the biggest in Greenpeace history — has cost £700,000 so far. But the satellite communications and helicopter have been loaned by an American TV company.

David Walley, an Aberdeen councillor and experienced pilot, was phoned one day out of the blue and told to buy a helicopter.

'Then they asked if I wanted

to join the expedition,' he said. 'I couldn't wait to say yes.'

Temperatures on Ross Sound rarely rise above freezing point — even in the summer. And with the wind chill factor added, winter temperatures fall to minus 52 degrees.

Small wonder that the right clothing is vital. Each crew member's outfit costs £350, including £70 for boots alone.

Gerry Johnson is a 26-year-old muscleman from the Falkland Islands. This will be his eighth trip, but the White South is in his blood. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather have all been before him.

### Courage

'It's beautiful', he says. 'It's so clean and there's a marvelous silence.'

Dermot, one of the ship's engineers, who comes from Birmingham, said: 'One danger is white-out', he said. 'All definition goes through lack of contrast. It's frightening.'

The world can say Greenpeace is naive. But who can deny its courage in taking on the conservation fight to preserve that long white night called Antarctica?



## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# Falklands: time to talk

THE DAY when Britain's only supporters in the world are Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands, is a day for wondering whether Britain has already become a fourth-rate country. Last week, these were the only three countries which voted with Britain against a motion at the United Nations calling for negotiations with Argentina on the future of the Falklands. The motion, which was submitted by Argentina's Latin American friends, was careful to exclude any demand that the negotiations should include sovereignty. But Britain refused to notice that it was being offered a branch sprouting with olive leaves. As a result, Britain was humiliated in the vote.

The prime minister's refusal to poke her eyes above the parapet of Fortress Falklands is costing Britain dear. The country is close to losing all the international sympathy it had at the time of the Falklands war; and the cost of maintaining Fortress Falklands is running at over £300m a year when defence spending is under great pressure. Yet Argentina now has a democratic government, and General Galtieri is about to be jailed for his decision to invade the Falklands. President Alfonsín has been exploring possible avenues of compromise with British opposition leaders. He has also chopped defence spending sharply and sold off part of Argentina's fleet by advertising cruisers in *Le Monde*. Even Britain's defence chiefs believe that there is now no military threat to the islands because, even if it wanted to launch another invasion, Argentina does not have the military capability. Yet still Mrs Thatcher refuses to budge.

She believes that Argentina would inevitably raise the issue of sovereignty in any talks, and that since there is no room for compromise on that, there is no point in talking at all. This may sound logical; in fact, it is foolish politics. Sovereignty need not be a stumbling block to better relations. Over Gibraltar, seemingly irreconcilable Spanish and British claims to own the Rock have been defused by giving Spaniards more rights to live and work there. Over Ulster, the Anglo-Irish agreement gives Dublin some say in the affairs of Northern Ireland, without abandoning Ulster's right to self-determination.

The right approach on the Falklands now is to open negotiations with Argentina about practical steps to improve relations. These talks should explore the possibility of an agreement to resume trade, to reduce the radius of the 150-mile exclusion zone so that Argentine ships can fish there, to start air services between the islands and the mainland, and to allow Argentine citizens to visit the Falklands. In the meantime the two countries can explore the possibility of a compromise on sovereignty (perhaps by providing for an international trusteeship), as Britain and Spain are doing, in theory, on Gibraltar. Such exploration may eventually prove abortive, but at least let the two countries now end their enmity.

President Alfonsín has probably gone as far as he dares in making conciliatory moves towards Britain: even though he is still immensely popular at home, he cannot ignore the danger of a military coup. The initiative, therefore must come from Mrs Thatcher. Britain's prime minister feels that any compromise on the future of the Falklands would betray the memory of the 255 British troops who died in the war. But they died in a just war that had to be fought in the cause of defending a country from unprovoked aggression; they did not die to make Britain and Argentina enemies for ever. Mrs Thatcher's determined single-mindedness helped Britain to win the Falklands war. That same quality is now in danger of ensuring that Britain loses the peace.



# Argentina secrets case surprise

**UNPRECEDENTED** use of an obscure clause of the Official Secrets Act will be made tomorrow when committal proceedings open against Mr Peter Galvin and four other men accused of providing spares last year for the Argentine navy.

Mr Galvin, head of the CAS spares firm at Luton, Beds, is not charged with helping an enemy, under the espionage sections of the Act. Instead, he is charged with conspiring to help a foreign power, under a clause—thought never to have been used before—of the controversial Section 2.

The clause makes it illegal to pass on government information about military equipment 'to any foreign power.'

Mr Galvin is also charged with receiving two engine manuals, one of them obsolete, in breach of the Official Secrets Act. The charges have been authorised by Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General.

Mr Galvin's lawyer, Mr Brian Raymond, said last night: 'Having failed miserably with the Ponting case, and losing their nerve over the Cathy Massiter MIS case, it is astonishing to find the Government once again trying to use this discredited Act.'

The case involves a vast cache of spares for Britain's obsolete Vulcan bombers, which have Rolls-Royce Olympus engines. Worth millions of pounds, they were sold by the Ministry of

Defence in 1983 for scrap, for £38,000.

The Crown says that Mr Galvin's firm bought the scrap last year, after previous Argentine navy attempts to buy engine spares on the British black market had been thwarted by police.

Intermediaries with defence contacts were used to get hold of Olympus engine manuals (and also obsolete Tyne engine manuals) stamped 'Restricted.' They were loaned from an MoD library in London, and an RAF library at RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk.

The manuals were used to identify parts, the Crown says, and key spares were then flown to Hamburg in a private plane,

in July last year, to be sold to Argentina for large profits.

Other turbine blades and bearings, worth up to £1,000 each are alleged to have been stolen directly from the MoD spares store on the Rolls-Royce premises at Ansty, near Coventry, where £38 million-worth of government equipment is kept.

Rolls-Royce refuses to sell spares to Argentina on government instructions, but the men have not been charged with breaking that arms embargo.

Last week, Mr David Stott, the head of another firm, Skytrade International, was jailed for four years for corruption and handling stolen goods. Skytrade had been stealing engine parts from Rolls-Royce at Ansty for more than seven years to sell to the Iranian, Danish and Argentine navies.

by DAVID LEIGH

# Far and away it's a working holiday

MOST PEOPLE in the Royal Navy will have the opportunity of spending Christmas at or near home but, as usual, some find that duty takes them far and wide at the festive season.

For men afloat in the South Atlantic there will be a Christmas "present" of a free three-minute telephone call to families at home in the UK, courtesy of the Fleet Amenities Fund.

## Endurance

Among the naval presence down south will be the "resident" craft and a range of vessels on South Atlantic deployment, including RFAs and the frigates Scylla and Achilles. HMS Endurance is expected to be in the South Georgia area.

There will also be ships away from home both East and West — including HM ships Newcastle and Jupiter (engaged on Indian Ocean patrol), and HMS Apollo (West Indies guardship).

Survey ships away will include HMS Hecla, which hopes to be in Rio, and HMS Hydra in Mombasa. Some submariners will also be on duty, including Polaris men.

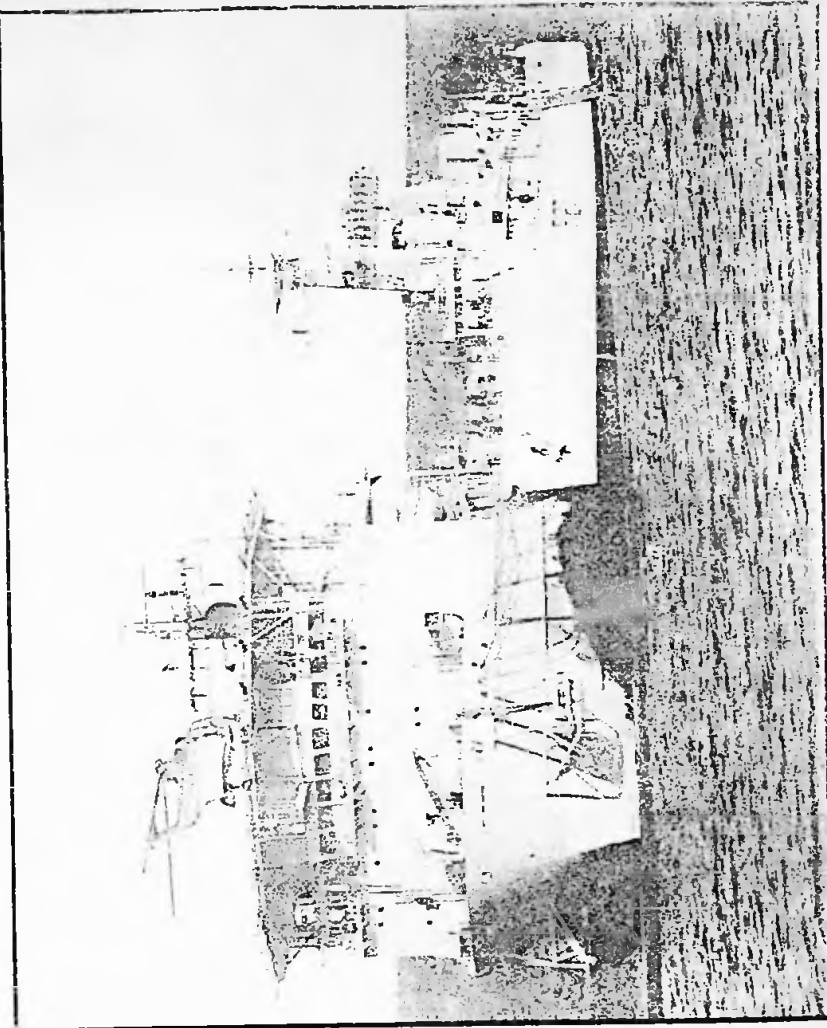
## Penelope puts on sparkling display

FRIGATE HMS Penelope made sure that Guy Fawkes Night was celebrated in spectacular fashion by the people of Port Stanley.

Anchored in Stanley's inner harbour, she staged an impressive fireworks display for the islanders. Several hundreds of pounds worth of fireworks were set off in a half-hour display designed specially before she left for the South Atlantic by a fireworks manufacturer.

Meanwhile, at home, the Penelope acquired a new pin-up in her absence. Alison Scott of Lytham, Lancs., has succeeded Sarah Parks to the title of Miss HMS Penelope.

The acquisition is one of the benefits enjoyed by the ship through her links with Guardian Royal Exchange, and among the judges at the beauty contest finals in London was Capt Paul Sutermeister RN, currently serving in the Ministry of Defence.



HMS Penelope lies alongside the forward repair ship RFA Diligence in San Carlos Water. The helicopter on the Diligence's flight deck is an S61 on charter to the Ministry of Defence.

## AT YOUR LEISURE 2

# Corporate view of the Falklands War

IN THE three and a half years since the Falklands War, a plethora of published accounts by observers and participants has filled bookshop shelves.

Some of the earlier volumes, thrown hastily together to feed the hunger for information in the immediate wake of the conflict, achieved little more than to climb on to the bandwagon. Several volumes have, however, been erudite, authoritative and revealing, laying myths to rest and raising new facts to light.

Now comes *Operation Corporate — The Story of the Falklands War, 1982*. Apart from the obvious link, this book by Martin Middlebrook is aptly titled in that it coalesces much of the information which has dribbled out from British and Argentine sources since the Peace of Stanley.

## 'Humbug'

The reader who is looking for important revelations may be disappointed, but Mr Middlebrook's flowing blow-by-blow narrative does give an adequate picture of events.

And on at least one matter he does not shirk from expressing his opinion: He sees criticism of the decision to sink the Belgrano as "humbug."

He states: "If the War Cabinet or Mrs Thatcher or Admiral Fieldhouse had failed to act and if the Belgrano and her escorts had come over the Burdwood Bank that night and loosed off a

salvo of Exocets and hit Hermes or Invincible or other ships, the British loss of life would have been enormous, the task force would have been crippled, public opinion would have been baying for resignations and courts martial and the Falklands would still have been occupied by the Argentinians."

His cool reasoning on the Belgrano issue does, however, tend to contrast with his view of events when he indulges in speculation about that enduring mystery of the conflict — the crash-landing of a Sea King on Chilean territory.

His remarkable hypothesis is that the aircraft was a deliberate "plant" to disconcert the Ar-

gentines and to get them to chase their own tails.

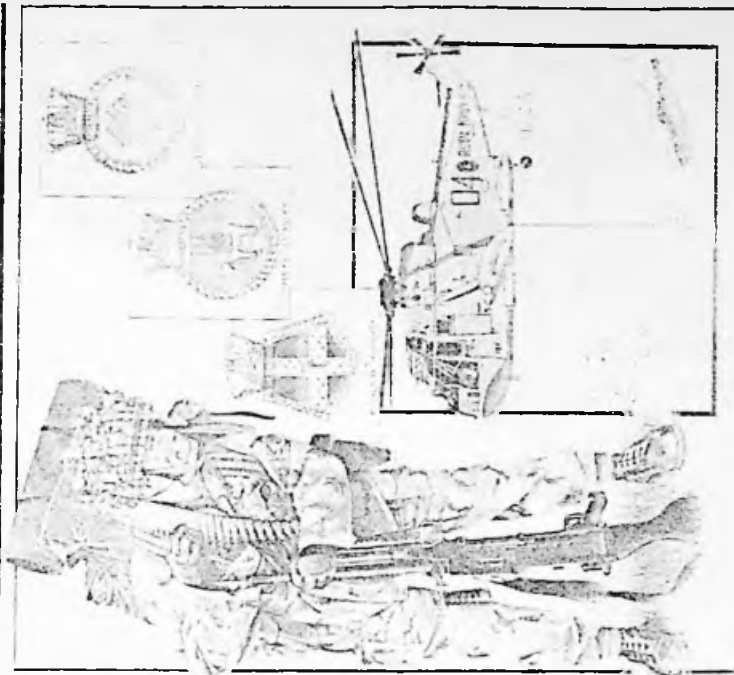
Whether the British would have sacrificed a valuable Sea King and risked its crew in a mission of such unpredictable returns and outcome is highly debatable.

## Colour guide

If the full facts are ever made public — perhaps in decades to come — it is conceivable that theories such as Mr Middlebrook's may be viewed as perceptive. But it is far more likely that they will share the fate of many an Argentine Mirage.

A colourful guide to the

Illustrations from "Falklands Armoury," reproduced on the dust jacket of Blandford Press's volume on the weapons, webbing, insignia and trophies of the Falklands War.



forces and weapons of the Falklands War is presented by *Falklands Armoury*. Employing photographs and cutaway drawings, the volume gives easy-to-understand guides to the interiors of such weapons as Seacat, Exocet and Milan, and describes how they are used.

This 104-page, large format volume also packs in details and illustrations of ships, aircraft, vehicles and ground forces, lists units and vessels and displays insignia — including ships' badges.

"Operation Corporate" is published by Viking (price £12.95). "Falklands Armoury" is published by Blandford Press (price £9.95).

# Break-dancer on the beat



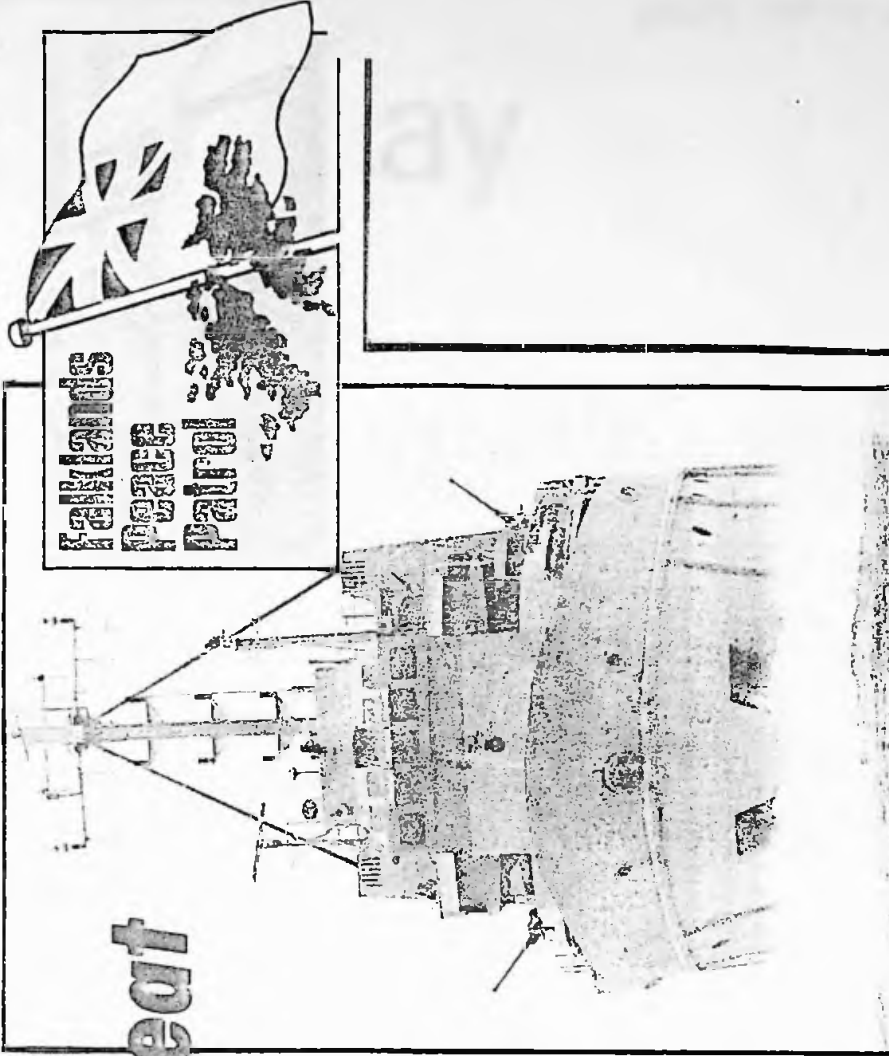
**COULD this be the break-dance champion of the Falkland Islands?** RO(G) John Melkie has found a novel way of using the broad acres of the Falkland Islands patrol vessel HMS Sentinel.

Here he has persuaded some of his shipmates to join him in a little fun-dancing to music emanating from his

powerful "boogie box" placed strategically on the after deck.

The Sentinel, pictured right breasting the South Atlantic swell, is the "flagship" of the FI Patrol Squadron which includes the smaller vessels HMS Guardian and HMS Protector.

All three, under the overall leadership of the commanding officer of the



Sentinel, Lieut.-Cdr. Tim Burne, are used mainly for coastal surveillance in search of possible intruders.

But the FIPVs are also called on to fulfill tasks as ferries and troopships — the latter proving an interesting experience for the soldiers as the vessels roll at the slightest pretext.

Since the ships commissioned,

many distinguished visitors have called on the squadron, including Lord Shackleton; the Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt; the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Vice-Admiral Sir John Woodward, the former Governor of the Islands, Sir Rex Hunt and Lady Hunt; and the Flag Officer First Flotilla, Rear-Admiral Robin Hogg.

# Herald may give her name to rock

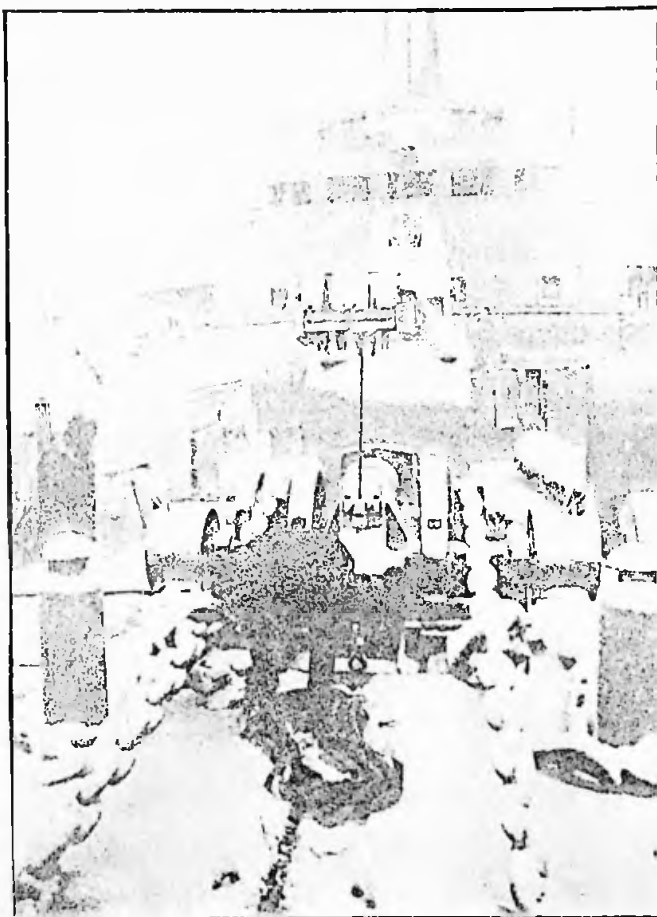
SURVEY ship HMS Herald is well on her way to making her mark permanently on the Falkland Islands. Subject to Admiralty assent, a 100-yard ridge in Byron Sound will be named Herald Rock.

The ridge, which is exposed at low tide, is unmarked on charts made more than a century ago, but it did not escape the notice of the Herald. The ship has discovered many rocks during her three-month

deployment, but the ridge in Byron Sound was the biggest surprise.

Now the Herald's commanding officer (Cdr. Bill Frisken) has asked MOD Navy to allow the ridge to be named after the ship. Permission will not be granted until further research has been carried out, but hopes are high that the request will be considered favourably.

HMS Herald, due to return to Plymouth on December 2,



HMS Herald's fo'c'sle party work during a snowfall.

cont...



Cont.

ended her 1985 surveying season with work in West Falkland. That task involved the landing of a 20-strong camp party who worked in conjunction with two surveying boats and the chartered vessel mv Forrest.

During a last visit to Port Stanley before her return, the Herald fielded her rugby XV against a team from the Army

266 Signal Squadron, winning 24-0.

On the way home, the Herald traversed the Patagonian Canals, where it was warm enough and calm enough to play a deck hockey knockout tournament on the flight deck. Among the South American ports visited on the return voyage was Valparaiso in Chile.



All set for a snowball fight ashore . . . from left, LAEM Steve Bone, MEM(L) John Buffone, MEM(L) Mac McGrath, S(SR) Tony Roy, WEM(O) Pete Simmons, MEM(L) Scouse Quinn and AB(SR) Ken Smith.

## Christmas duty ships arrive

AMONG the most recent arrivals in the Falkland Islands are the frigates HMS Scylla and HMS Achilles and the fleet tanker RFA Blue Rover. They reached the patrol zone in mid-November and their deployment will span Christmas.

Before they left, the Scylla and Achilles took part in Exercise Autumn Train, the Scylla became the first winner of the new Fleet Communications Trophy and celebrated her first year at sea since her major, mid-life refit.

In that 12 months she steamed 25,000 miles, crossed the Arctic Circle, fired a Seawolf missile in the Mediterranean and used her mid-ship RAS points for the first time.

On her way to the Falklands the frigate stopped off at Gibraltar for rest and sport — and the presentation of the Communications Trophy by the Flag Officer Second Flotilla, Rear-Admiral William Thomas.



## Poignant visit by Sir John

FOR the first time the man who led the Royal Navy Task Force to victory in the South Atlantic views the completed war memorial at Blue Beach Cemetery, San Carlos.

Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Vice-Admiral Sir John Woodward, was a rear-admiral at the time of the Falklands War and was making his first visit to the islands since the conflict.