

Fishing News
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Lowestoft firm's venture with Spanish

'Sir Fred' to fish Falklands

THE FORMER freezer trawler *Sir Fred Parkes* is to fish Falklands waters. Lowestoft owners Putford Enterprises Ltd. has sold the 240ft. trawler it bought four years ago from Boston Deep Sea Fisheries of Hull and she will fish squid and hake off the Falklands through a new company owned by Interpesco Securities Ltd. and Putford Enterprises Ltd.

Sir Fred Parkes, which has recently been engaged in guard ship duties during cable laying operations in the Channel, sailed to La Corunna, Spain, some three weeks ago to have modern freezing equipment installed and to be converted back to fishing.

The new company will have two directors from Putford Enterprises and Putford's George Catchpole told *Fishing News* on Monday that the company has had a lot of contact with Interpesco over the last six months selling former fishing and stand-by ships to it. It sold *Sir Fred Parkes*, but had been asked

Sir Fred Parkes



by Interpesco if it would like to retain a share, which it has now done.

Putford is "most impressed by the enterprise and initiative" of Interpesco's management and directors and the company said: "Putford's was not able to finance such a major project themselves and were pleased to link up with a Spanish company which had knowledge of the south Atlantic. Also, Interpesco can give the back-up which no British company is able to provide because there are no other British vessels in that area."

Sir Fred Parkes is expected to work under the British flag both in the south Atlantic and on the South African Shelf, but will never again fish in European waters.

It is unlikely she will even go to

Newfoundland or Labrador where she fished successfully in the past.

Putford owned a fleet of up to five fishing vessels and has fishing connections going back generations. It retained a share in *Sir Fred Parkes*, said Mr. Catchpole, because: "We just want to see what goes on in the South Atlantic. We just want to know what the prospects are."

The company would like to continue fishing from Lowestoft, but Mr. Catchpole said: "Prospects in the North Atlantic are not very good."

"We can't as a company invest in fishing boats at all. We see no opportunity that can justify investment in fishing at all."

Sir Fred Parkes is due to sail with a mixed UK/Spanish crew.

Angry Argentines stop leave for servicemen

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent
ARGENTINA suspended leave
for conscript servicemen yester-
day in an angry reaction to
Britain's planned imposition of a
fishing conservation zone around
the Falkland Islands.

The Soviet Union said the British
move would only hinder the search
for an Anglo-Argentine solution to
the impasse which led to war four
years ago.

In London, Foreign Secretary Sir
Geoffrey Howe has snubbed
Argentina's Foreign Minister by re-
fusing to let him come to Britain.

Dr Dante Caputo was to have

been part of a delegation of non-
aligned foreign ministers which
went to the Foreign Office last night
to press Sir Geoffrey about economic
sanctions against South Africa.

But the Foreign Secretary sent a
clear signal to Buenos Aires that his
presence in Britain was 'totally out
of the question' while Argentina still
refused to announce the formal end
of hostilities after the Falklands
War of 1982.

The Argentine Foreign Minister

was left to huff and puff in Buenos
Aires about Britain's 'warlike meas-
ures' in declaring the 150-mile con-
servation zone around the Falklands
to keep all foreign trawlers out ex-
cept those licensed to fish.

Labour's Foreign Affairs Spokes-
man Mr George Foulkes suggested
that the Government was seeking
an electoral bonus by creating the
zone, which he said could cause a
flare-up in the South Atlantic with
Argentina and Russia.

On BBC radio Mr Foulkes said:
'I would not be surprised if Mrs
Thatcher secretly would quite like
something to happen prior to the
next election.'

Sir Geoffrey dismissed the idea
that the Government was seeking
electoral advantage as 'an unworthy
observation.' He said he thought
there was 'not a very great proba-
bility' of any conflict with the
Russians, and he hoped Argentina
would see that the establishment
of the zone was responsible.

The news of the zone was wel-
comed by the Falkland Islanders
and conservation groups, all of
whom have been worried by over-
fishing.

By MALCOLM EVANS

THE Falklands are trying to change their image — to make the islands a tourist attraction.

Patrick Roper, of the English Tourist Board, said yesterday: 'Because of the war it's as if one's sole picture of Britain were to come from a task force landing on the Solway Firth in winter and marching on the Penines.'

The launch of a Falklands tourism brochure

The Falklands tell tourists: It's not all yomping here

was aimed at dispelling that 'Yomplimental Holidays' image, he said.

Wildlife will figure large on the itinerary of those willing to invest about £2,500 on the 8,000 mile trek to the South Atlantic.

'It is simply magnificent and very tame,' said Mr Roper, who showed a slide of himself being bitten by a baby elephant seal while on a recce for the Falkland Islands Development Corporation.

And he said: 'There is

plenty to do in the capital, Port Stanley.' He showed slides of a children's playground, an old wreck in harbour once used as a store and some small trees sheltering in the lee of the islands' small cathedral.

Tourists will make the 18-hour flight from RAF Brize Norton on TriStars, shared with troops and construction workers.

Six British travel firms are offering trips, usually lasting two weeks. Bookings for the new package tours start in the middle of November.

Holiday package to penguin paradise

by Roger Bray

THE war of words between Britain and Argentina over fishing rights around the Falklands has bubbled up at an embarrassing moment for the islands' infant tourist industry.

As Argentina was reported to be putting its armed Forces on alert over Britain's new 150-mile fishing limit around the Falklands, the islands were publishing their first glossy holiday brochure today.

They may not be over-endowed with Hiltons and Sheratons, and visitors are more likely to find themselves sharing the beach with penguins than sunbathers, but the islanders are determined to increase their income from tourism.

Today's new brochure contained a plea that the islands should not be misunderstood — not on account of the continuing dispute over sovereignty, but over the weather.

"Perhaps our poor reputation has come about because there are so many penguins and these are often associated with ice and snow.

In reality, it said, the weather was temperate and "not dissimilar to that of Britain — though slightly warmer in winter and slightly cooler in summer.

Wildlife

Summer is about to begin, and this is the islands' first real summer tourist season.

Six tour firms are offering holidays there with flights, taking about 18 hours, by EAF TriStar. The islands are expecting about 150 visitors next year.

Arrangements on offer inevitably include tours of the battlefield sites, but fishing, walking and horse riding are all recommended.

And then, of course, there is the wildlife. On the beaches, enthuses the brochure, you can get very close to sea lions or wander happily among breeding colonies of elephant seals.

The brochure costs £1 from the Falkland Islands Tourism Service, based in York.

The Argentines will see the move as another British attempt to consolidate their hold over the islands, coming hard on the heels of the new fishing limit.

A statement issued after meetings between President Raul Alfonsín, his Cabinet and the military chiefs of staff accused Britain of "aggravating tensions and conflicts in the area and provoking new ones."

Britain says over-fishing and "aggressive patrolling" by Argentina had made the exclusion zone necessary.

Argentina accused Britain of using the conservation of fishing resources as a pretext to justify attempts to extend its dominion over new areas and resources.

The Standard
30.10.86

Needs to be a good shepherd

PLENTY of sheep for a good shepherd in the Falklands but, apart from that, it's hard to think of any

parish that smacks more of banishment (except perhaps Bishop of the Arctic — yes, there is one).

The Reverend Gerry Murphy gives up his living at Sandringham shortly for the mine-ridden pastures of Goose Green and Christchurch in Port Stanley where he's to be the new Rector. But he, at least, doesn't think he'll be bored; rural life in Norfolk has taught him a thing or two about chopping wood and fishing he tells me.

The Queen, whose domestic Chaplain he has been, won't I think be going to visit him out there though the appointment was made by the Archbishop of Canterbury, presumably after consulting her. "When I was told I think I just smiled and wondered," says the 60-year-old priest whose wife Joy will be going too.

He'll be back after five years—"if I'm still alive," he adds just a touch balefully.

UK to conserve Falklands fish

By Colin Hughes and Isabel Hilton

IN AN abrupt shift in policy, the Government yesterday announced that it is to impose a 150-mile interim fishery conservation and management zone around the Falkland Islands. The zone will come into effect on 1 February 1987 when the new fishing season in the South Atlantic is due to commence.

Despite a huge increase in fishing by foreign vessels around the islands over the past three years, the Government had hoped to be able to protect the rich fishing grounds of the South Atlantic from over-exploitation by seeking a multilateral conservation and management regime through the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation.

However, announcing the decision in the Commons yesterday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, placed most of the blame for the failure to reach agreement on a multi-lateral regime on Argentina.

He said stocks were being severely depleted by overfishing, which had provoked widespread conservation concern. While the British Government had been seeking a collaborative agreement, the Argentines had started "aggressive patrolling" of their own 200 mile zone, Sir Geoffrey told the Commons.

During the summer Argentine

fishery vessels fired on a Japanese trawler, and sunk a Taiwanese trawler, killing one of its crew.

The Argentines had also undermined the attempt at a multilateral agreement by reaching bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, showing "an indifference to conservation needs, and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation," Sir Geoffrey added.

Sir Geoffrey's announcement was immediately praised by the Falklands Islands Office in London. "We have been trying to get this since 1977," said Derek Ogden, the head of the office.

The islanders had feared that overfishing of squid, hake and blue whiting was rapidly destroying the islands' best natural resource. This season more than 600 vessels, many of them from as far away as the Soviet Union, Japan and Spain, had been fishing around the islands compared with 250 in 1984.

The Falkland Islands government intends to limit the number of vessels permitted to fish within the 150 mile zone to around 200 next season.

It is hoped that as much as £20 million a year may be raised by

charging a licence fee to fish in the new zone.

Last night the Buenos Aires government rejected the British move saying that it was a violation of Argentine sovereignty.

In the Commons Denis Healey, Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman, accused the Foreign Secretary of embedding the British Government "still deeper in the quagmire of Falkland Islands commitment", making negotiations with the Argentines more difficult, and "reducing still further the miniscule minority of nations within the United Nations which support the British Government over the Falklands."

He questioned whether the Falklands' two fishery protection vessels and a light surveillance aircraft could use force in policing 70,000 square miles of sea, as the Government expects.

Several backbench Conservatives agreed with Opposition critics that the special dangers of patrolling in the tense South Atlantic environment might need stronger forces.

Sir Geoffrey countered by saying that the islands' civilian protection capacity will be supported by the Royal Navy garrison on the islands, which already had a duty to watch the larger 200 mile protection zone imposed after the Falklands war.

UK to create fishing zone around Falklands

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER, JIMMY BURNS AND IVOR OWEN

BRITAIN yesterday announced that it was to set up a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands. This could lead to a flare-up of the dispute with Argentina about sovereignty over the islands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that all vessels fishing within the area would need a licence from February 1, 1987, when legislation to be introduced by the Falklands Government would take effect.

The government of the archipelago is to use its own two fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft to police the zone. But Sir Geoffrey made clear that, if necessary, that the UK government would not hesitate to use British forces in the area "to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone."

The chief spokesman for President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina denounced the measure as "a new act of provocation." Mr Alfonsin called an immediate meeting with Mr Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, and defence chiefs.

The British government also came under attack from the Labour Party. Mr George Foulkes, foreign affairs spokesman in the Commons, called the move "an extremely provocative decision."

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, said the government was becoming embedded "still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

The new Interim Conservation and Management Zone is to cover essentially the same area as the existing Falkland Islands Protection Zone, from which all Argentine vessels without permission are excluded.

Sir Geoffrey made clear, however, that Britain could claim under international law, a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina.

"We are also confirming our rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf, up to the limits prescribed by the rules of international law," he said.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised that the reason for the government's decision was the concern at the rapid increase in fishing in the south-western Atlantic.

According to figures released by the Foreign Office, about 600 trawlers of various nationalities — most of them from the Soviet Union and other eastern European countries, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — fished in Falklands

Sir Geoffrey accused Argentina of having undermined that approach. It had embarked on "aggressive patrolling" more than 200 miles from its southern region of Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands.

Even more important, Argentina had concluded bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, through which it purported "to exercise jurisdiction that is, as a matter of international law, the entitlement of the Falkland Islands."

These agreements were incompatible with the multilateral initiative, Sir Geoffrey maintained. However, Britain remained ready to work for international arrangement and he had suggested to the Argentine Foreign Minister that they should review how Britain and Argentina could co-operate on fish conservation in the region.

Mr Foulkes had said that the British action raised "the horrific spectre of a clash between British and Soviet ships in the South Atlantic," but officials stressed that the Foreign Secretary had been given certain assurances on the subject by Moscow. The Foreign Office believes that the Soviet Union would not want to provoke incidents as the result of the decision.

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waters in 1986. This is compared with 485 in 1985 and only 250 in 1984.

The aim is to reduce the number of trawlers to about 200 for the fishing season of January to June 1987.

Sir Geoffrey stressed that the government had always considered the problem should be solved by international agreement. A study was undertaken at the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation in March 1985, through a British initiative.

Britain and Argentina fish for trouble in the South Atlantic

BY JIMMY BURNS

JUST FIVE MONTHS ago the announcement that Argentina had agreed to join Britain in talks aimed at establishing multilateral fishing agreements governing the Falklands appeared to signal not just a boost for conservation but also a considerable thaw in an otherwise icy diplomatic climate.

Yesterday's announcement by Britain unilaterally establishing a Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone runs the risk not only of not saving more fish but of also chilling the diplomatic climate again on the whole Falklands issue.

Behind the multilateral approach spearheaded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was the realisation that combination of a lack of regulation and overfishing in recent years had considerably depleted fishing stocks in the South Atlantic, endangering the survival of the Falkland's single most important natural resource.

Within the 150 mile protection zone set up following the war by Britain around the islands the number of trawlers, mainly from Eastern European countries, had increased from 250 in 1984 to 600 in 1986, with a total catch valued at over £50m a year.

Feasibility studies prepared for the FAO by Britain's Imperial Centre for Environmental Technology (known as the Beddington report) and by Argentina's National Institute of Maritime Investigation (Inidep) this year agreed that

the future of three principal species being fished in the region was at stake: the common hake, caught almost exclusively by Argentine trawlers within Argentina's exclusive economic zone well to the North of the Falklands; blue whiting caught mostly by Polish and Soviet factory ships within the Falklands zone; and squid caught mainly by Japanese, South Korean, and Polish trawlers both within and outside the Falklands zone and by Argentine trawlers in the north.

Both the Beddington and Argentine reports coincide in their assessments that the blue whiting is now being seriously overfished. It is a low-valued species but is caught mainly by the Polish fleet for converting into fishmeal.

However, Argentina's recent bilateral fishing agreement with the Soviet Union, which drew an angry diplomatic response from the UK, failed to satisfy the conservationists. The Soviet Union is committed to expanding its own livestock production and Polish fishmeal will be an important element in these plans. Moreover, the agreement only limits one catch for the first year to 208,000 tonnes, which is above the existing levels of Soviet and Bulgarian catches in the South Atlantic.

Yesterday's agreement, however, is unlikely to lead to any major improvements in stocks in the short-term. The British navy has already shown

itself unable to police with total success the *military* exclusion zone. By superimposing a fishing zone on the military zone without increasing substantially its naval presence in the area Britain risks the same slippage in control on conservation.

What yesterday's declaration is bound to do, however, is to aggravate the sovereignty issue. It will initially exclude Argentine trawlers from practically all the best fishing grounds in the South Atlantic at a time when the Argentine Government is under pressure to reconcile its ecological concerns with the need to boost the domestic fishing industry and assuage entrenched nationalist feelings.

Significantly the Inidep report extends its analysis to include a reference to the potential of the Argentine fishing fleet and what it alleges was the effectiveness of Argentine regulation prior to the 1982 Falklands War. Inidep implicitly reaffirms Argentina's claim to the Falklands and its surrounding sea, and the country's readiness to exercise effective policing over the entire area.

In recent months Argentina has intercepted a growing number of foreign boats operating in the South Atlantic. Britain, on the other hand, has come under intense pressure from the Falkland Islanders—who are seeking licensing revenue as well as conservation—to impose a territorial fishing zone. The scene seems set for diplomatic rough seas—and possibly even for gunboat diplomacy.

Falklands clamp

BRITAIN has announced new clampdown on fishing around the Falkland Islands following Argentine aggression which in one case led to the sinking of a vessel with loss of life. The Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe warned it was open to the UK Government to use armed force in appropriate circumstances, and rejected Opposition protests of becoming "embedded still deeper" in a Falklands quagmire.

Britain imposes limits on Falkland fishing

By David Adamson, Diplomatic Correspondent

BRTAIN is to impose controls on fishing in the 150-mile protection zone around the Falklands, because of what are seen as persistent Argentine attempts to erode British sovereignty and the failure of voluntary agreements to curb over-fishing.

What is officially known as the Interim Conservation and Management Zone will come into effect on Feb. 1. The Falkland Islands government will be responsible for policing the zone with an observation aircraft and two unarmed fishery protection vessels.

A foreign Office spokesman said last night that support from Royal Navy warships would be available if necessary.

Vessel sunk

In a Commons statement Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said Argentina had embarked on "aggressive patrolling" more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands. He cited the case of the Taiwanese fishing vessel sunk in May by an Argentine coastguard cutter with the loss of one life.

Equally important were the bilateral agreements Argentina made in August with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

These were interpreted in London as including the fisheries zone around the Falklands, even though Mr Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told Sir Geoffrey in September that they were not intended to prejudice British interests.

The new conservation area will be the same size as the existing protection zone around the islands. This is smaller than the usual 200-mile fisheries limit.

However, Sir Geoffrey said that Britain claimed the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a 200-mile limit, subject to agreement with Argentina on delimitation.

The islanders have been pressing for some time for measures to halt over-fishing of squid, hake and blue whiting.

There were 250 fishing vessels in the zone in 1984, and 600 during this year's season, according to British officials. Most of them came from Eastern Europe and the Far East.

Argentine rejection

The Argentine Government rejected the fishing zone. A Government spokesman said Britain's decision was an affront to Argentine sovereignty.—
Reuter.

Labour urges truce with Argentina

INITIATIVES to try to improve relations with Argentina were urged on the Government by Labour MPs in the Commons.

Mr GEORGE FOULKES, from the Opposition Front Bench, asked Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, to take advantage of the opportunity provided by a new Brazilian ambassador in London to re-open diplomatic relations with Buenos Aires.

"As it is more than four years since the ending of the Falklands War, it is regrettable we

do not have direct diplomatic relations with a basically friendly country," he said.

The issue was raised at Question Time by Mr ROBERT EDWARDS (Lab., Wolverhampton, S.E.) who told Sir Geoffrey:

No willingness

"If we can maintain diplomatic relations with Spain, who have a claim to Gibraltar, there should be no difficulty now that there is a democratic government in Argentina in restoring diplomatic relations with that country."

Sir GEOFFREY replied that

the Government had demonstrated repeatedly its desire for more normal relations, but the Argentine Government still showed no willingness to respond to the many initiatives taken by Britain since 1982.



"Oh dear, it was fresh only the other day — can we sell you something from the freezer?"

Britain imposes Falklands fish zone

The Guardian
30 October 1986

By Hella Pick,
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is to establish a 150 mile fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands from next February in a move to reassert its sovereignty over the disputed territory.

It will be known as the Falklands Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ) and corresponds approximately to the current Falklands Islands Protection Zone.

Britain's decision, forecast in The Guardian last week, is designed as a conservation measure, but is also intended as a fresh political rebuff to Argentina's claims over what it calls the Malvinas.

The Falkland Islands authorities will use their own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft to enforce the new regime. British forces on the

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islands will also be available to police the new fisheries conservation zone.

In a parallel move, the Government has also formally asserted its right, under international law, to a fisheries limit of 200 miles around the Falklands, except where it overlaps with the Argentinian zone.

Although there is little hope of an oil bonanza in Falklands waters, Britain has decided to confirm its rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf up to the limits prescribed by international law.

The decision, announced by the Foreign Secretary in the Commons yesterday, brought an immediate and angry response from Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, who said it would sink the Government "still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

Labour's Mr George Foulkes added that a high seas clash with the Soviet Union is now a "real possibility," because of a Soviet agreement with Argentina which allows it to fish within the 200-mile limit around the Falklands.

That agreement is one of the factors that triggered off Britain's move to establish its

own rights over the zone. Foreign Office officials yesterday expressed optimism that Moscow would accept the new situation and avoid provocative moves in the South Atlantic.

Sir Geoffrey said there was nothing irrevocable about yesterday's decision, and that Britain would remain open to multilateral arrangements to conserve Falklands fish stocks. "What we are doing is asserting, as is necessary for the maintenance of our sovereignty and for the preservation of our fish stocks in the South Atlantic, the jurisdiction to which we are entitled," he said.

The Falklands Islands representative in London, Mr Alastair Cameron, yesterday welcomed the Government's move, saying: "It will give us control over one of our major resources."

The Falkland Islands' authorities will now be able to sell fishing licences for the zone, which Mr Cameron said "will allow proper measures to be introduced for the effective conservation of the fishing that will play an important part in the continuing economic development of the Falkland Islands."

An Argentine government spokesman, Mr Jose Ignacio Lopez, said the decision was an affront to Argentinian sovereignty in the area of the disputed islands.

Argentina would "sustain our inalienable rights, maintaining the firm decision to bring this question to all international forums." It has taken several diplomatic steps since the military defeat to pressure Britain to discuss the islands' sovereignty.

Sir Geoffrey, in his statement to the House of Commons yesterday, indicated that the decision to impose unilaterally a fishing zone had been taken reluctantly and as a last resort. He blamed Argentina for "indifference to the Falklands conservation needs, and a preference for obstruction rather than cooperation."

There is a strongly-held belief in Whitehall that Argentina, more than any other country, has deliberately slowed down multilateral negotiations on a fisheries conservation regime for the Falklands, which are being conducted under the aegis of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation.

While Britain is not abandoning the negotiations, the Government has concluded that there is now no hope of achieving a settlement in time for the next fishing season, which opens on February 1.

Fishing, which until now has been unregulated except by voluntary promises that few countries have kept, has "had a serious impact on fishing stocks" in the south-west Atlantic, the Foreign Secretary told the Commons yesterday. "This has aroused widespread concern."

"From the outset, the Government took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis," he said. Britain had given "every support" to the FAO initiative. "In public and directly to the Argentine Government, I had made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions could and should be found."

Sir Geoffrey said that Argentina's actions "have undermined the multilateral approach."

The Government has indicated that the breaking point came when Argentina signed fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria in June. They were drawn up to advance Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Falklands, by including the 200 mile fishing zone around the islands.

Jeremy Morgan writes from Buenos Aires: Diplomatic observers said yesterday that the British decision had posed a dilemma for President Alfonsín.

Until now, Argentina has blamed Britain's policy of allowing other countries to fish around the Falklands for a growing over-exploitation of natural resources in the South Atlantic.

However, Buenos Aires has always refused to consider the multilateral fishing agreement proposed by London on the grounds that signing an accord might somehow imply that Argentina recognises that Britain had some rights in the region.

Noting that under Britain's plan, unarmed vessels will police the new fishing zone, a diplomat asked: "What is likely to happen when an Argentinian gunboat comes across a British patrol?"

Squid's out in South seas

WHEN the Guardian carried a report last week anticipating yesterday's declaration by Sir Geoffrey Howe of a unilateral fishing zone round the Falklands, one of the strongest pointers we received came not from diplomatic but from fisheries sources. And that was significant because it was from this hard-headed viewpoint that the present free-for-all has always seemed most scandalous.

If you are prosperous enough to go into the leading London seafood restaurant Manzi's and pay £4.50 for a few morsels of squid as a starter, the odds are that your dish was caught near the Falklands. But it reaches the British gourmet trade only at the end of a long, costly chain of international barter.

It would have been scooped out of the water by a Soviet, Taiwanese, Bulgarian, Japanese or South Korean trawler, swapped around the world fish futures market and finally supplied — in exchange for a disproportionately high weight of Scots mackerel — to a British wholesale importer who cannot buy British because Britain no longer has a deep-sea trawler fleet. The British importer's likeliest source would have been Soviet. That is also one of the reasons choice Scots mackerel is hard to come by and expensive in Britain.

This unforeseen legacy of the 1982 conflict infuriated not only conservationists but those sections of the fish trade which encountered it day by day. They knew that the hundreds of multinational factory ships and squid jigging vessels which swarmed into the South Atlantic every January at the start of the fishing season could only operate within the security and rescue fallback provided — in the world's only unrestricted rich fishing waters — by Britain's 150-mile naval, RAF and military Falkland Islands Protection Zone (FIPZ) established after the conflict.

The garrison's inshore Sea King helicopter patrols, costly in maintenance and flying hours, found themselves both reconnoitring the fleets and flying Polish seamen with peritonitis into Port Stanley for surgery. No costing for this involuntary extra role has ever been done because it would be too embarrassing.

But the big money made by the fleets can be estimated more authoritatively by their market. Last season they took their biggest catch, 381,000 tonnes of squid, blue whiting, and other fish saleable at a minimum value of £210 million from around the islands.

That figure — some other estimates put it much higher — is only just under half the total 1986/1987 cost to the British taxpayer of maintaining the Falklands garrison. The scale of the operation on the ground is remarkable. Berkeley Sound, the vast deepwater harbour where some of the jiggers transfer catches to freezer vessels, was like a city in illumination when I saw it at night last year.

Yet factors more crucial than money have begun to press. Penguins, albatrosses and other birds, as well as gourmets, eat squid; and the birds depend on it. At the end of last year's breeding season, with 650 ships active, hundreds of emaciated, underdeveloped young penguins were washed all over the islands. This year's season will be more closely and anxiously monitored than ever before. If results show that the food chain of the South Atlantic's miraculous wild life has been injured, the Government — and the Opposition parties whose specialists have taken not the slightest active interest in the issue — will have a heavy international case to answer regardless of yesterday's declaration of another acronym, FICZ, the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone.

Instead came Argentina's signing this summer of a fishing agreement with Russia and Bulgaria, in waters which include British claimed territory, coupled with a new Russian-built port facility at Bahía Blanca. Sir Geoffrey cited this yesterday as a principal cause for his decision, which was in fact governed as much by the failure of foredoomed and procrastinatory efforts to get a multilateral fishing deal through the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The zone will enable British trawlers to fish profitably against more subsidised foreign fleets. Revenue from licences paid by these fleets should raise the pace of development for human beings on the Falklands. But if you know these islands, you know that life for their humans will be incommensurately poorer if the wildlife which until now has always surrounded them has already been marred.

The Guardian
30 October 1986

By John EZARD

Falklands initiative put down to lack of Argentine co-operation

BY IVOR OWEN

BRITAIN'S decision unilaterally to impose a fisheries conservation area around the Falkland Islands over a radius of 150 miles was the result of Argentina's actions in undermining attempts to achieve a multilateral agreement, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons last night.

Most Conservative backbenchers made clear their support for his insistence that the increasing activities of Soviet and Bulgarian trawlers in the south Atlantic following the conclusion of the bilateral agreements with Argentina had obliged the Government to assert its jurisdiction over the fishing rights in the area concerned.

Sir Geoffrey flatly rejected the view of Mr Denis Healey, Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, that the unilateral imposition of the conservation area would "embed the Government still further in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

When pressed by Mr George Foulkes, another Labour front bench spokesman on foreign affairs, to say what would happen if the Soviet fishing

fleet moved into the new zone he replied that there had been indications that Soviet vessels would conduct themselves in a fashion "not inconsistent with British claims in the area."

Sir Geoffrey had some difficulty in convincing several Tory backbenchers, including Mr Keith Speed, about the adequacy of the arrangements for policing the new conservation zone.

For most of its circumference the conservation area will be co-extensive with the protection zone established after the Falkland Islands were recaptured from the Argentinians in 1982.

The Foreign Secretary explained that from February 1 1987 fishing within the conservation zone would be licensed by the Falklands Islands Government. The licensing would reflect conservation needs.

The Falkland Islands Government, he said, would use its own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft. Revenue and costs would be for the Falkland Islands Government.

Sir Geoffrey stressed: "Our forces stationed at the Falklands will continue to deter

Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone."

Sir Geoffrey said actions taken by Argentina which had undermined hopes of securing collaborative arrangements to deal with the widespread concern over fish stocks in the area had included:

- Aggressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands.

- Unlawful use of force by Argentina leading in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel.

Sir Geoffrey stated: "In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation."

He reaffirmed that the Government remained ready to work for a multilateral arrangement "which would still be our preference, just as soon as that can be achieved."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, agreed that in terms of fishing grounds and fishing stocks alone the Government was fully justified in establishing the new conservation zone and described the 150-mile area as "prudent."

Argentina accused**Falklands fishing zone set by Howe****By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter**

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, last night accused Argentina of aggression and obstruction, and announced the unilateral imposition of a strict 150-mile fishing zone around the Falklands.

In a move that will clearly worsen Anglo-Argentine relations, he told the Commons that while the Conservation and Management Zone was designed to stop serious overfishing by a number of countries, it had been caused mainly by Argentina.

The zone will be policed by two fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft, but Sir Geoffrey stressed that "the resources of the garrison remain available to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone".

The extent of the zone has been carefully set so that it does not intrude into waters that Argentina can claim fall within its 200-mile limit. But Sir Geoffrey also emphasised the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to its own 200-mile limit.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, claimed Sir Geoffrey's statement had embedded the Government "still deeper in the

quagmire of the Falklands commitment" and would make negotiations with the Argentinians more difficult.

But Sir Geoffrey claimed that the move had been made necessary by Argentinian intransigence in the face of heavy overfishing. Foreign boats fishing mainly for squid in Falklands waters had increased from 250 in 1984 to 600 this year.

He said that Britain had

Parliament**4**

hoped for a voluntary agreement and had initiated a study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in March, 1985.

But that study had been delayed by unco-operative fishing nations, while Argentina had embarked on an entirely different course.

It had patrolled aggressively within 200 miles of the Falklands, used force and on one occasion sunk a vessel, and signed fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria for waters extending into the 200-mile Falklands entitlement.

The Government had decided to establish the conservation zone from February 1 next year, the beginning of the fishing season.

Cabinet reported split in Buenos Aires**From Eduardo Cue, Buenos Aires**

President Raul Alfonsín unexpectedly cancelled a television address to the nation last night in which he had been expected to announce Argentina's response to the exclusion zone.

There was no official explanation as to why the presidential speech had been cancelled, but informed sources said that the Cabinet was split on how best to handle the matter.

In mid-evening the Government released a communiqué signed by President Alfonsín stating that the Government "does not accept the arbitrary

pretension of the United Kingdom to exert powers that belong to Argentina and to subtract from the national patrimony territory and resources that belong to it."

The brief communiqué appeared relatively mild in tone given the emotionalism that the Falklands issue raises here.

● **PORT STANLEY:** The declaration from London was welcomed enthusiastically here (Graham Bound writes). Mr John Cheek, a town councillor, said: "We are doing something we should have done a long time ago. We are claiming our rights."

The Times
30.10.86

Port Stanley welcomes fisheries protection

From Graham Bound, Port Stanley

The declaration of a 150-mile fisheries zone around the Falklands has been welcomed enthusiastically here although some have said that they would prefer a larger area.

Mr John Cheek, a Port Stanley Councillor, said yesterday: "We are doing something we should have done a long time ago. We are claiming our rights. Obviously we are very happy."

Although the new fisheries zone will be patrolled by two unarmed ships and a surveillance aircraft, naval vessels and aircraft will be called in if

any foreign vessel chooses to defy their authority.

The Falklands Governor, Mr Gordon Jewkes, has played down the presence of the military, but did not deny that they have a role to play. "If our sovereignty is challenged then the military element could, and I stress could, step in," he said.

The unilateral declaration is of very real economic value in the Falklands, where British aid has been essential over the last few years to invigorate an economy flagging with failing international wool prices.

Argentina accused

Falklands fishing zone set by Howe

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

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Falklands welcome	10

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"does not accept the arbitrary pretension of the United Kingdom to exert powers that belong to Argentina and to subtract from the national patrimony territory and resources that belong to it."

The brief communiqué appeared relatively mild in tone given the emotionalism that the Falklands issue raises here.

Until last night's statement, official reaction had been limited to a brief comment by the presidential spokesman, Señor José Ignacio López, who said Argentina would raise the issue in all international forums.

Falklands given unilateral fishing cordon

FISHING

The Government has unilaterally established a 150-mile fishing zone around the coast of the Falkland Islands, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced in a statement to the Commons.

At the same time, he said, they were declaring the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina.

There had been a rapid increase in fishing in the south-west Atlantic and the serious impact on fish stocks had aroused widespread concern. Accordingly a study was launched at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

From the outset Britain took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis. "In public", he went on, "and directly to the Argentine Government, I made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty could and should be found."

Some fishing nations had not co-operated with the FAO study and its preparation had been delayed. Pending completion of the study, Britain took steps by voluntary means to reduce the impact of the fishing effort.

He continued: "Argentina has pursued a different course, and the actions have undermined the multilateral approach.

- Argentina has embarked on aggressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands;

- Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel;

- Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria;
- Through these agreements Argentina purports to exercise jurisdiction that is a matter of international law the entitlement of the Falkland Islands;

- These agreements are incompatible with the multilateral initiative.

"In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation.

Fishing within the conservation zone would be licensed by the Falklands Government

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the Foreign Secretary had made a very serious statement which embedded the Government still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment.

The announcement was bound to make negotiations with the Argentine more difficult and reduce still further the minuscule minority of governments in the United Nations which supported the British position on this issue.

The Foreign Secretary had just announced the unilateral imposition of a fishing zone around the Falklands, something which he told the House on March 14 last year was not justified. Then he drew attention to the practical and political problems of policing such a zone, a zone which comprised some 70,000 square miles of ocean in part overlapping the zone already established by Argentina.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said it was in face of the action by the Argentine Government that the British Government reached the conclusion that a unilateral regime must be imposed this time.

The Government remained ready and willing to achieve a multilateral regime as soon as that might be possible. There was no question of the Government embedding itself deeper in a quagmire.

It was exercising, as was necessary for the maintenance of British sovereignty and the preservation of fish stocks in the south Atlantic, the jurisdiction it was entitled to exercise.

Policing the zone would be undertaken by a surveillance aircraft and fisheries protection vessels of the Falkland Islands Government. It was open to the Government to use armed force in appropriate circumstances.

Argentines 'still resist overtures'

The Argentine Government still showed no willingness to respond to the many initiatives Britain had taken to achieve more normal relations with that country, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

Mr Robert Edwards (Wolverhampton South East, Lab) described the Foreign Secretary's approach as "sad". It was vital that some encouragement be given to the new, democratic Government in the Argentine.

"If we can maintain diplomatic relations with Spain, who have a claim on Gibraltar, there should be no difficulty now there is democratic Government in Argentina in restoring diplomatic relations with them."

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that Argentina had shown no willingness to recognize the rights of the Falkland Islanders to have their own wishes respected.

"All the initiatives we have taken towards restoring normal relations have been rebuffed by the Argentine Government."

For instance, Britain had abolished financial restrictions, but Argentina had done it only to a limited extent.

Britain had proposed resumption of air links, without response.

Both Britain and Spain were members of the EEC and of the

Nato alliance. Britain was still a country against which Argentina had launched an armed assault four years ago.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C) said he had spent two weeks in Buenos Aires and did not think public opinion there was in any way anti-British.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said there was no doubt a great deal in that. Britain had initiated measure after measure to start normalizing relations but the Argentine Government repeatedly made clear that it wished to start discussions only on sovereignty.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said that if the financial terms were right the Falkland people would accept resettlement and, if not resettlement, certainly a change in sovereignty.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The whole House will have been astonished by the grisly spectacle of Mr Campbell-Savours speaking with such contempt on such a matter when we are trying to uphold the wishes of the Falklanders.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Financial Services Bill, Lords amendments, first day.

Lords (3): Education Bill and Salmon Bill, Commons amendments.

Falklands welcomes fisheries protection

**From Graham Bound
Port Stanley**

The declaration of a 150-mile fisheries zone around the Falklands has been welcomed enthusiastically here although some have said that they would prefer a larger area.

Mr John Cheek, a Port Stanley Councillor, said yesterday: "We are doing something we should have done a long time ago. We are claiming our rights. Obviously we are very happy."

"I expect a lot of diplomatic hot air from Argentina," he said, "but little more."

Although the new fisheries zone will be patrolled by two unarmed ships and a surveillance aircraft, naval vessels and aircraft will be called in if any foreign vessel chooses to defy their authority.

The Falklands Governor, Mr Gordon Jewkes, has played down the presence of the military, but did not deny that they have a role to play. "If our sovereignty is challenged then the military element could, and I stress could, step in," he said.

The unilateral declaration is of very real economic value in the Falklands, where British aid has been essential over the last few years to invigorate an economy flagging with falling international wool prices.

It is estimated that the sale of fishing licences, which will be fixed at an optimum number to avoid environmental damage, will raise around £6 million annually, of which £4 million will be spent on patrolling and administration.

Howe ends Falkland fishing free-for-all

BRITAIN called a halt yesterday to the fishing free-for-all around the Falklands.

A 150-mile conservation zone is to be imposed, banning all trawlers without a licence.

The move, announced in the Commons by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, will plunge Anglo-Argentine relations back into a cold war climate.

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

Economically it will be a severe blow to Russia and other communist countries who have been scooping up huge catches worth over £250 million a year.

Politically it could take the Falkland Islands to the brink of a fish war, since Argentina claims sovereignty over the waters—and used recent fishing deals with Russia and Bulgaria to endorse the claim.

The Royal Navy will not become involved in fishery patrols when the zone comes into effect in February, the start of the new season.

How to fend off any challenge is a major headache being left to the islanders, who will have one surveillance aircraft and two protection vessels to patrol the vast area.

In return they will be able to earn up to £6 million a year from licences for restricted fishing in the zone, famous for blue whiting and squid.

Two years ago foreign fishing vessels in the area numbered 250. More than 600 were spotted in the past season.

Britain had hoped to work out a conservation system by international agreement through the Food and Agricultural Organisation, but Buenos Aires stayed aloof.

Sir Geoffrey said Argentina had embarked upon 'aggressive patrolling' within 200 miles of the Falklands and opened fire on Japanese and Taiwanese vessels.

He assured the islanders: 'Our Forces will continue to deter Argentine aggression.'

Daily Mail

Parliamentary Comment

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The Left is also very keen to kiss and be friends with Argentina. So, indeed, is Sir Geoffrey. But, as he explained yesterday, whenever he calls round with flowers or chocolates they are all thrown back in his face.

Aggressive

The Argentinians may like us really. Several MPs said so, perhaps rightly. But they have odd ways of showing it, with aggressive patrolling and unlawful use of force near the Falklands, leading to loss of life and a sinking, and with treating Falklands fishing grounds as if they were their own.

Daily Express 30 October 1986

Britain warns Argentina

BRITAIN is prepared to use the armed forces against Argentina to protect the Falkland Islanders' fishing rights.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe made this clear yesterday when he announced a 150-mile exclusion zone for foreign trawlers from next February.

Having won the Falklands war Britain is not prepared to lose the peace by allowing the fishing riches to be pillaged.

By ROBERT GIBSON Political Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey told MPs: "It is of course open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed force in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands."

Argentina's "aggressive patrolling" of waters within 200 miles of the Falklands had forced the Government to take action.

"Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to

loss of life and the sinking of a vessel," said Sir Geoffrey.

Argentina had also agreed fishing deals with Russia and Bulgaria that had forced the Government's hand.

Britain is entitled to declare a 200-mile limit but the 150-mile zone includes the two main fishing areas and means a saving on men and resources.

Labour Foreign Affairs

spokesman George Foulkes said it was a "provocative decision" that "opens up the horrific spectre of a clash between British and Soviet ships in the South Atlantic."

Fishing within the zone will be licensed by the Falkland Islands government and could push its revenue up to £20 million a year—six times the present figure.

JOHN VOOS



"THOSE WHO serve the Queen, people like the Household Guards, must be prepared to go anywhere," said Canon Gerfy Murphy, who is rector of Sandringham, Norfolk, and as such is one of Her Majesty's Domestic Chaplains. He has just been appointed Rector of Christ Church Cathedral on the Falkland Islands, and expects to be there for five

years (Andrew Brown writes).

He looks forward to his new appointment, though he will not travel out there until March. The living has been vacant since April, when the Rev Harry Bagnall returned to a parish on Humberide. Canon Murphy, 60, believes that conditions in the Falklands will be "rather similar to the clergy's everywhere now in

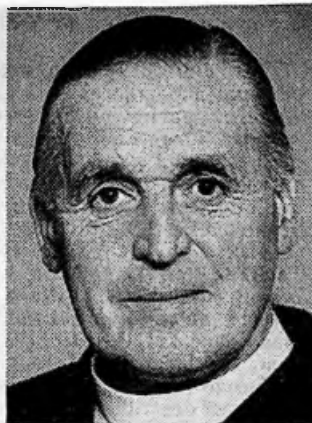
rural areas", and that it is only his wife who may find conditions there hard.

His present living is an amalgamation of eight parishes, with an average of 200 people in each. Although Canon Murphy served for many years as a chaplain to the forces, his flock in the Falklands will be largely civilian. The Archbishop of Canterbury has responsibility for the

Falkland Islands by a quirk of Church organisation. The cathedral in Port Stanley was part of the Province of the Southern Cone of America, which includes Argentina, between 1974 and 1977.

Canon Murphy said that "if there are any opportunities at all for a reconciling process one would hope to exercise that under the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

Daily Telegraph
28.10.86



Canon Gerry Murphy

Falklands post for Queen's vicar

By Richard Chartres
Churches Correspondent

THE Queen's Vicar of Sandringham, Canon Gerry Murphy, 60, is to be the next Rector of Christchurch Cathedral on the Falkland Islands.

Canon Murphy, who is a former Army assistant chaplain general, succeeds the Rev Harry Bagnall, who has returned to England to a job in Humberside.

The appointment has been made by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has had direct jurisdiction over the Falkland Islands since 1977, when links with the Anglican Diocese in Argentina were severed.

The new rector who is at present a domestic chaplain to the Queen, says that life in the Falklands will be "a dramatic change" after Norfolk. His new flock will include 1,900 islanders and tons of thousands of sheep in an area two-thirds the size of Wales.

Canon Murphy's "action man" past will help him in his new parish. He trained in the Irish Guards and played international rugby for Ireland before ordination. After more than 20 years as a chaplain to the Forces, he was appointed as the Bishop of Norwich's chaplain to holidaymakers on the Norfolk Broads. He moved to Sandringham in 1979.

Canon Murphy is married with five daughters. He expects to be installed in Port Stanley in March by Bishop Ronnie Gordon, bishop to the Forces

Galtieri on trial again

FORMER President Galtieri will be tried on human rights charges before the end of the year, according to reports from Argentina, **Isabel Hilton** writes.

The charges will include homicide, illegal abduction and torture, cases which occurred in the provincial city of Rosario under the dictatorship which followed the military coup of 1976.

The trial will be the third that Galtieri has faced since he quit the presidency in 1982. He is serving a 12-year sentence handed down by the army court which tried him and other junta members for the conduct of the war.

Alfonsin threatens anti-strike decree

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

IN THE face of a rising wave of strike action and growing economic difficulties, the Argentinian Government has announced it may introduce limitations on the right to strike by government decree.

The Labour Minister, Mr go Barrionuevo, after a long meeting with President Raoul Alfonsin on Thursday to discuss the latest series of strikes which have paralysed hospitals and disrupted train services, warned that if the Congress

does not approve "immediately" a package of new labour legislation being proposed by the government, "the executive power will have to take measures to resolve the situation."

He said that the labour situation in the country is worrying the government and that a government decree to regulate strike action, especially those affecting essential services, may be necessary.

The Congress is due to go

into recess at the end of October and already has a large backlog of legislative demands. Mr Caro Figueora, the under-secretary to Mr Barrionuevo, recently told foreign journalists that the government recognised it does not have an adequate majority to push through its labour reforms.

Next week another three-day strike is expected to paralyse the state-run hospitals in the capital and teachers throughout the country are to stage stop-

pages. University lecturers are planning strike action at the beginning of next month, also in pursuit of salary increases.

The General Confederation of Labour (CGT) is also mounting a series of one-day general strikes in cities throughout the country against the government's economic policy, which now seems likely to run into serious difficulties over government financing before the end of the year.

FALKLANDS 200-MILE LIMIT IN '87

THE MASSIVE fishing free-for-all which has been taking place around the Falkland Islands is expected to be under British control shortly.

Fleets from some 20 countries fishing in the area will receive a jolt when the British government announces its decision to impose a 200-mile limit within the next few weeks.

Foreign fleets could have to pay for the privilege of fishing around the Islands after a long free run. This could bring in licence fees which have been estimated at £25m a year if fishing remains at its current level.

Fears about the Falklands Islands have been fuelled by reports of stocks — mainly squid — being depleted and news of an agreement between Argentina and the USSR which would allow Soviet fleets into the area.

The 200-mile limit is likely to be imposed on February 1 next year and a co-ordinating group has been set up to work with the Falklands Islands government.

Peter Derham, chief fisheries inspector, is expected to assume a major role in establishing the new regime and he will probably pick his own team of three fisheries inspectors from MAFF to work with the Islands' government. He is also expected to be involved in the selection of crews for protection vessels and negotiate the contracts for these and the civilian aircraft.

It is understood Mr. Der-

ham will make a trip to the Islands as soon as ministers have announced the imposition of the 200-mile limit.

The Falklands government is likely to be strained by the extra workload the new regime will incur but this should be eased once the system is in full swing.

The UK government's decision to declare a 200-mile limit around the Islands reflects a major change of policy. For the last two years the Foreign Office has tied itself to the idea of a multilateral solution based on a report of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations.

The Rome-based organisation has been preparing a report on the fishery around the Falklands but this, expected in August, was deferred to mid-October. It is not now expected this month at all.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office told *Fishing News* that it stood by earlier comments that the 200-mile limit remains an option, but that the Soviet-Argentinian agreement hadn't affected the situation.

He also said that Britain was pushing ahead with voluntary restraint agreements. There have been discussions between Britain, the Falkland Islands govern-

ment and representatives of the Japanese squid-jiggers about this.

Falkland Island interests have wanted a 200-mile limit for some time. The suggestion that Mr. Derham would be going to the Islands to look at enforcement methods pleased Frank Mitchell, managing director of the Falkland Islands.

"He is very highly thought of by all of us, and I'm very glad if he's going down there," he told *Fishing News*.

The establishment of the limit would be satisfactory as far as the Falkland Islands government is concerned, says Alistair Cameron, its representative in London.

"We've expressed a preference for a unilateral zone and essentially that position has been continued," he told *Fishing News*.

"We had accepted the British governments line that it would pursue a multilateral solution through the FAO. But we always thought a unilateral zone was better.

"We think the time for unilateral action is long overdue. A multilateral regime would take a long time to establish."

He expressed doubts as to how well a multilateral solution could be made to work. "It would be a lengthy process towards a not entirely satisfactory solution."

Britain set to protect Falklands fish stocks

By John Ezard

PROSPECTS are strengthening that Britain will declare a 200-mile unilateral fishing limit around the Falklands from next February despite Argentine objections.

Some Whitehall officials expect an announcement to the Commons on conservation grounds as early as Monday next week. A number of those who would be most directly involved in a zone have been provisionally warned.

Unless the move is reconsidered at the last minute, the head of the Minister of Agriculture's sea fisheries, Mr Peter Derham, is expected to fly to the Falklands to supervise setting up the scheme.

A large British firm, Marr Seafoods, of Hull, is ready to buy 14 vessels to exploit the zone as soon as one is declared. Foreign trawlers would then be charged licence fees, which would be used for Falklands development.

The crucial factor in reversing three years of Government reluctance to declare a limit, despite the hundreds of millions of pounds worth of fish being taken every year by multinational factory fleets, is believed to have been the fishing pact announced in July between Argentina, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

The Foreign Office yesterday declined to confirm or deny the project. It said this was "one of the options" available. But it reaffirmed its support of efforts to get voluntary multilateral fishing restrictions through the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation in Rome.

An FAO report on the prospects for this approach was expected to reach Whitehall this month but has been delayed until the end of the year. The Foreign Office said that, since this would be too late for the start of the South Atlantic fishing season in January, the Government was already trying to negotiate voluntary restrictions by fishing nations.

Divorce bill delayed

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina's controversial divorce bill is unlikely to be debated in the Senate until next year.

The Vice President, Mr Victor Martinez, who chairs the Senate, said it would not be possible for the bill to be considered before ordinary ses-

sions in Congress closed at the end of this month. Debate is unlikely to resume until the next ordinary sessions in May 1987.

The delay is seen as a temporary victory for the Catholic Church and the Argentine right wing. The divorce bill is supported by an estimated 70 per cent of the population.

Sale of Falkland airport plant

An auction of thousands of tons of contractors' plant used to build the Falklands Airport is to be held in Liverpool. More than 1,000 items, including dumper trucks, stone crushers and conveyor systems, are expected to realise about £10 million.

Inside information

THE Eastbourne Parliamentary Club reported in its newsletter last month:

"The next meeting will be at the Queens Hotel, Eastbourne, on Friday October 5. The guest speaker will be Sir Rex Hunt CMG, former Governor of the Falkland Islands, of whom a short biological note is attached."

Argentine bishops in clash over divorce

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

THE CONFLICT over divorce in Argentina between the State and the Catholic Church hierarchy has intensified after several bishops refused to allow communion and confession for legislators who have voted in favour of introducing divorce.

The Divorce Bill, being promoted by the ruling Radical Party, has already been passed overwhelmingly by the Chamber of Deputies. It still has to pass the Senate before it can become law, and according to leading Senators backing the bill, there is little chance of it being debated before the legislative period closes at the end of the month.

Government hopes to have the Divorce Bill passed in 1986 have thus been dashed and further debate in the Senate is unlikely until May next year, during the next legislative sitting, and only after the visit of Pope John Paul II to Argentina in April.

The refusal to give communion to the legislators is being seen as a deliberate attempt by the Church to influence the debate.

The Argentine Episcopal Conference, to which all bishops belong, discussed the strategy last month, but it was not until last week that three bishops announced that they would refuse communion and confession to the deputies.

According to Monsignor Carlos Galan, Secretary General of the Episcopal Conference, the measure is not binding on all bishops but "is simply a suggestion to bishops who want to remind deputies who are members of the church and who have voted in favour of divorce, that they have made a mistake and as such would have to make a public retraction before accepting Holy Communion."

One of the more outspoken bishops, Mons. Jaime de Nevares, criticised his colleagues. He said such serious sanctions had never been adopted before "even when many military people and civilians during the military government committed terrible violations against human rights."

A recent opinion poll showed over 70 per cent of the public to be in favour of divorce, a figure which has climbed from 65 per cent at the time the Radical Party took power in December 1983.

Falklands equipment under the hammer

By Ian Hamilton-Fazey,
Northern Correspondent

FOR SALE 160 Volvo trucks, 160 Leyland Land Trains, 100 Land Rovers, assorted dumper trucks, stone crushers, fire engines and tarmac layers. One careful owner. Items much travelled but scarcely used.

In all, there are more than 1,000 items to be auctioned at a sale in Liverpool which is claimed to be the biggest of its kind in Europe. The equipment is in pristine condition—some unused—because it was intended mainly as a back-up.

It was difficult to get spares to the building site concerned—on the Falklands. The plant was used for building the island's new airport. It is all redundant now and owned by Truck and Machinery of Dublin, which bought it to sell on.

Ritchie Brothers, North America's largest auctioneers, has been called in to handle the sale, which its experts expect to raise more than £10m.

The gigantic, no-reserves-allowed auction, will be held in the Liverpool freeport some time before next March.

The plant from Stanley will be landed directly into the freeport, so enabling VAT and import duty to be deferred until the items pass through the dock gates. Foreign buyers will be able to ship their bargains straight out and by-pass taxes and duties altogether.

The local man in charge will be Mr Roger Rimmer, managing director of Boundary Plant, Liverpool, which has close links with Truck and Machinery.

With shipping services provided by Swaine Freight, a local cargo agent, the auction is expected to give a fillip to the ailing Merseyside economy.

Church sued in divorce law row

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The leadership of the Roman Catholic church in Argentina is facing legal action as a result of its recommendation earlier this week that MPs who voted for the legalisation of divorce should not be allowed to take Communion.

A lawyer has filed a suit accusing the church hierarchy of interfering with legislative activity, while Vice-President Victor Martínez called the episcopate's suggestion improper. "Personally, I think there must not be any measure of this sort; nothing that could be interpreted as intolerance or pressure."

The lawyer, Pedro León Riso, of Buenos Aires, filed a suit as a private citizen before a federal judge, Amelia Berraz de Vidal, saying the episcopate had violated laws against interfering with MPs' performance of their duties.

"We find ourselves facing an unacceptable foreign interference — that of the Vatican state — in private affairs of the Argentine nation's people," Mr Riso's suit said.

A bill to legalize divorce was approved on 20 August by 177 to 35 in the House of Deputies, despite bitter opposition from the church. The measure is now before the Senate, with no indication when action will be taken. The Permanent Commission of the Episcopate, after meeting last month, sent a message to the country's bishops, recommending that they deny Communion to deputies who voted for the bill.

The Argentine Catholic Information Agency, run by the church hierarchy, disclosed the message. In a commentary on Monday, the agency quoted the message as saying that the

deputies "have failed in their duties as Catholics and have caused a grave scandal, and in order to participate in the Sacred Eucharist in the future they must first make a public retraction of the sin they committed".

The agency said the message "has no political connotations and is not a form of pressure".

On Tuesday, the secretary-general of the episcopate, Mgr Carlos Galán, said the message was not an order, but "a suggestion". Only one bishop, Raúl Casado, of the north-western province of Jujuy, has so far said he will abide by the commission's recommendation.

Another bishop, Jaime de Navares, of the south-western province of Neuquen, said he will still give Communion to the deputies.

Bishops return to the fight against Argentine divorce bill

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina's rightwing Catholic bishops have returned to the attack against plans to introduce divorce, with a threat to congressmen who backed a bill two months ago.

A lifting of the outright ban on divorce was approved in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the National Congress, in August. Since then, the bill has stagnated in the much more conservative senate.

The church's expected counter-offensive now appears to have arrived, with the Permanent Episcopal Council telling priests they should not give communion to deputies who voted in favour of the bill.

The council, the Church's ruling body in Argentina, "suggested" that priests should refuse the sacrament to deputies favouring divorce unless they publicly retracted "the

sins committed" by voting in favour of divorce.

This "suggestion" apparently reflected disagreement on tactics among the bishops. Hardliners who tried to take the issue on to the streets in the middle of the year are said to be urging excommunication for pro-divorce deputies.

However, a priest who supported allowing divorce to be applied to civil marriages was suspended "without time limit," even though he stressed that only a marriage in church was valid for baptised Catholics. The priest, Father Jose Amado Aguirre, says he prefers to "die putting up with punishment and censure from the Church" rather than deny his views.

One Catholic deputy, whose bishop had already said she and others who voted for divorce would be refused mass, insisted that she voted for all Argen-

tines and not just a creed.

The Senate has yet to debate the bill, yet alone vote. The delay is seen as an attempt by ageing rightwing Peronists, who outnumber the Radicals in the upper house, to force President Raul Alfonsin to take a stand on the issue.

President Alfonsin circumvented that ploy by extending the ordinary sessions of Congress by one month at the end of September, but he may shortly have to do so again.

Indirectly, the President has already entered the underlying fray about the extent of the Church's power, by issuing a discussion document on constitutional changes. These include a clear separation of state and church, and lifting the ban on anybody but a Catholic being elected President. However, he has consistently maintained that divorce is an issue for Congress.

Doing without

Buenos Aires (Reuter) — The Argentine Roman Catholic Church has said it may deny sacraments to congressmen who voted in August to legalise divorce, unless they publicly retract their "sin".

Argentina tries to whip the banks into line

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

IN AN atmosphere heated by banking scandals, fears of insolvency and charges of fraud against a recently replaced Central Bank directorate, the Argentine lower house of Congress reopened its debate yesterday on a new banking law.

Tension in the financial sector began with the arrest on 19 September of officers of the Banco Alas, ranked 33rd in Argentina, in a £70m export credit fraud. The case stunned the local banking community both because of its size and because last year, the Banco Alas purchased 15 branches from the Banco San Miguel, whose owners include the recently replaced Central Bank president, Alfredo Concepción.

In quick succession three other cases of maladministration, if not corruption, surfaced, including the headline-grabbing indictment of Mr Concepción's entire Central Bank board. Among those charged were the current under-secretary for price controls, Ricardo Mazzorin, and the tax bureau chief Mr Marcelo Dacorte, both leaders of an aggressive young-turk wing of the governing Radical party.

Financial analysts insist that the impact of the fraud and maladministration claims have been exclusively political. The financial sector remains serene, they argue, pointing to the fact that the black

market dollar exchange rate has not reacted and that no major movement of bank deposit funds has been registered.

But if the scandals have politicised the question of bank reform, the Congress debate on a new financial entities law promises to politicise it further. Three proposals are being considered, one submitted by the government, one by the Peronist opposition and one by the right-wing Centre for a Democratic Union party.

The government's proposals would define banking as a public service, strengthen the supervisory powers of the Central Bank, make the currently operating non-institutional market completely illegal, restrict banks to those operations clearly spelled out in the law, force the transformation of financial entities into banks and limit the deposit-taking capacities of foreign banks to the volume to their operations in foreign trade credits.

The government faces heavy opposition in its attempts to bring the banks under control. The two principle national banking associations have published critiques of the bill, focusing on what they claim is its onerous and misguided regulatory aspects, disincentives to innovation and discrimination against foreign banks.

The law would replace a deregulatory 1977 banking reform which paved the way for a decade of free-wheeling and high-profit activity and led to a spectacular spending spree in the Seventies.



Poppy Day: Simon Weston, the former Welsh Guardsman badly burned by the bombing of the landing ship Sir Galahad at Bluff Cove during the Falklands War, inaugurating a miniature Garden of Remembrance at the Royal British Legion's headquarters in London yesterday. Crosses planted there by members of the public will be transferred to Westminster Abbey as part of the Poppy Day appeal.

MICHAEL DAVE

Cuba visit

PRESIDENT Raul Alfonsin arrived in Havana yesterday beginning the first official visit by an Argentine head of state to revolutionary Cuba. President Fidel Castro greeted him in a welcome that included a 21-gun salute and crowds of cheering Cubans. — Reuter.

MICHAEL DAVIE

notebook

Media and MoD tango to war

HERE, at last, is the ultimate example of neurotic secrecy in Whitehall. For sheer comic absurdity, I would say it ranks above even the injunction imposed by the High Court and the Court of Appeal at the behest of the Government, whereby *The Observer* is forbidden to publish certain information about MIS that it has published already.

Valerie Adams, in her late thirties, is one of the small but growing body of female defence experts. Her father was in the Royal Air Force. She read English at the University of Sussex from 1969 to 1972; she then joined the Civil Service, in the Ministry of Defence, where, despite a general feeling among the senior civil servants that defence matters are not really suited to women, she worked successfully for 10 years.

Having left the Civil Service of her own accord, she subsequently undertook research for the House of Commons Defence Committee. She is now attached to the small but well regarded Department of War Studies at King's College, London, whose head is the judicious Professor Lawrence Freedman.

Mrs Adams — her husband works in the Ministry of Defence; they have two small children and live in an outer suburb of north London — has published articles about arms control and biological warfare. Her talents have been publicly praised by Professor Freedman.

Now it may be recalled that during the Falklands War much bad blood welled up between the Ministry of Defence and

various news organisations. The reporters with the task force complained bitterly about the lack of facilities, the inadequacy of the public relations officers on the spot, and the inconsistent censorship. Back home, those responsible for the conduct of the war complained with equal bitterness about the irresponsibility of newspapers and television. Some genuinely believed that the media were inadvertently helping the Argentines.

The only point on which all concerned agreed was that matters could have been handled better. Many members of the public felt the same, remembering the regular sight on their TV screens of the lugubrious Mr Ian MacDonald, the Ministry of Defence spokesman, reading out very slowly and carefully his uninformative daily news bulletins.

Transcript incident

A month after the war ended, the Ministry accordingly invited a number of universities to submit proposals for a study of 'the relationship in time of armed conflict between newspapers and other media and the Ministry of Defence, including the armed forces.' King's College put in a proposal that was accepted. Valerie Adams, with her inside knowledge of the Ministry, was the obvious person for the work.

The sources were voluminous: newspapers, videos of television programmes, TV scripts. Besides, Mrs Adams, assisted by Professor Freedman, carried out a number of interviews; General Sir Jeremy Moore and Sir Frank Cooper,

permanent head of the MoD during the conflict, were among those interviewed.

But Mrs Adams needed more than interviews from the Ministry. Obviously, one prime area that had to be researched was the relationship between what the Ministry told the media and what the media actually reported to the public.

She therefore asked the Ministry for transcripts of all attributable on-the-record statements made by official Ministry spokesmen, while the war was on. At first, the Ministry ignored her request. Then it was claimed, in a letter dated 13 June 1983, that the statements 'were not available in written form.' Mrs Adams persisted.

Finally, at the end of April 1984, over a year after she had put in her first request and only two months before her study was due to be completed, she was given transcripts of some, though not all, of the statements. No explanation was offered of how some of the transcripts had suddenly become available. And this was for a study specifically commissioned by, and for, the MoD.

Mrs Adams is a woman of spirit. Her study, as submitted to the Ministry, was 120,000 words, with a full scholarly apparatus of footnotes. Her text commented on the Ministry's policy of saying as little as possible, and then a footnote described the incident of the transcripts. The Ministry tried to persuade her to suppress the footnote, she told me last week. They wanted to keep their own secretiveness secret.

But Mrs Adams's researches

reveal much more than the neuroses of the MoD. Her text has now been shortened to 80,000 words and published by Macmillan, after an inordinate delay, as a book called 'The Media and the Falklands Campaign.' For once, an academic has written something about the media that is worth reading.

The subject is serious and complex, since it is about the balance between the interests of security and the requirements of democracy. Mrs Adams's conclusion is that, in this particular case, the balance was probably about right, since each side has complained so vociferously about the other.

This does not mean she is not critical of news organisations as well as the Ministry. In conversation, she says she was perhaps over-credulous when she started her investigations. What she found turned out to be 'less straightforward and less honourable' than she expected: 'like a novel by that man, what's he called, Jeffrey

Archer. Not that his novels are like life but that life is like his novels, I suppose. Dreadful thought!'

She quotes Derek Jameson, former editor of the *News of the World*, as saying that what sold papers was 'war and bingo.' A TV man explains that television used military experts, senior retired service officers, not so much to inform the public as to provide 'atmospherics.' She was appalled to learn about the way reporters went knocking on doors in their search for bereaved families. She catches out Brian Walden and a military expert expertly discussing how our troops would advance on Port Stanley using helicopters, when there was not the faintest possibility of any such thing happening.

She was particularly disconcerted to discover an embarrassingly wide gap between the stated principles of the media and their actual practice. She gives one example of media behaviour that she finds 'quite extraordinary.'

During the war, Sir Frank Cooper gave an unattributable briefing to journalists and evidently manipulated them into thinking that the task force was about to start intermittent raids, when in fact it was about to launch a full-scale invasion.

The media were furious that they had been misled by the Cooper briefing. But Mrs Adams thinks they brought it on themselves, through their passion for speculation and guesswork. 'They'd done all sorts of forecasting, and identified possible sites for the landings.'

Hit-and-run raids

There had been some suggestions about hit-and-run raids like the one at Pebble Beach. It was fixed in the minds of the Press that this was how it was going to work. They knew the troops were waiting at sea. They knew they were going to have to do something. The question was: what?

'Cooper had one of his briefings. He was asked what was going on. The House of

Commons was only given the part of the briefing in which he made very general remarks. But the Press next day was full of predictions about hit-and-run raids. The media were so hungry they were willing to swallow whatever the Ministry said. Cooper didn't plan it; he simply saw a good opportunity. Obviously, what the Ministry wouldn't say was that there was going to be one great big vulnerable landing.'

In spite of all this, when, after the war, the House of Commons Defence Committee asked to see a transcript of this briefing, the news organisations concerned flatly refused.

Mrs Adams finds it hard to square this denial of information to the people's elected representatives with the clarion calls made by the media about the people's right to know. She quotes two especially ringing statements: the BBC proclaiming that its 'function in this crisis was to provide the maximum amount of truthful information to the public,' and ITN talking eloquently about

the 'full flow of accurate information being an essential part of a democratic society. This proposition should be not just grudgingly accepted but warmly embraced.'

As Mrs Adams points out, what is implicit in this incident is that the media were prating about the people's right to know, when what they really meant was that they should be empowered to decide what information the public are to receive.

So Mrs Adams can't get at the full truth of this famous episode, because the media—not the Ministry—won't allow it.

Mrs Adams thinks the system could be improved and frustrations reduced, if the Ministry made available as much information as possible (instead of as little) within clearly defined guidelines, such as not giving advance information on operations. Talks are in progress now between the Ministry and the media, though only an optimist would expect much to come out of them that will benefit the public.

Mrs Adams shows that news management went on during the war, but that it takes two to tango. The same happens in peacetime, she points out; 'Bernard Ingham in Downing Street, or another Frank Cooper in our ritualised system, gives an unattributable briefing and everyone knows where the news comes from except the poor old punter. The system means that the Government can disseminate information without actually saying so. That's where you get into the management of news.'

What is she up to now? Writing a book on chemical warfare. 'If people ask you what you do, and you say you're writing a book about chemical warfare, it's a real conversation-stopper.' Chemical warfare was one of the things she worked on when she was in the Ministry.

After I heard Mrs Adams's ludicrous story about the transcripts, I telephoned Mr David Davies in the Ministry of Defence press office to ask a) if the story was true and b) if the Ministry could explain its behaviour. He said he would 'get back' to me. So far, no dice.

Tebbit wants Falkland spirit on home front

By James Naughtie,
Chief Political Correspondent

The Conservatives' image could best be improved if the Government adopted a warlike approach to domestic issues reminiscent of its Falklands spirit, Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, said last night.

Mr Tebbit said the character of the Prime Minister and the party had been seen at its most positive during the Falklands war because the Government had identified a clear objective which it accomplished.

Referring to current issues, he said: "I call them wars. They are wars almost in some cases, like the war to solve the muddle of the rates. Now that's a very clear one — and when people see that it is being done and we are the only people that can do these things, then the image changes again."

He was responding, in an interview on Channel 4, to a Gallup survey taken after the end of the Conservative Party conference showing that many of those questioned doubted the Government's "caring" quality, which was one of the conference themes.

Thirty-seven per cent of Conservative supporters questioned, did not accept that

ministers understood their problems.

In the sample of about 1,000 as a whole, 52 per cent did not believe that government policy was helping to solve Britain's economic problems and 62 per cent—against 27 per cent—did not accept that the health and education services would improve if the Tories stayed in office.

Mr Tebbit put his faith in an aggressive image for the Government, and admitted that it had been damaged during the Westland affair.

He made it clear that he believed the Government should present a traditionally Thatcherite image of strength.

He said that the Tories' best tactic is to present the election run-up as a straight fight between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and to ignore the SDP-Liberal Alliance.

Mr John Moore, the Transport Secretary, joined Mr Tebbit in claiming that last week's conference demonstrated a new Tory confidence. He said in a speech in Bolton: "Different parts of the Tory party now recognise that they have far more in common than perhaps they realised."

Argentina may press Falklands claim

BY JIMMY BURNS

ARGENTINA may have been provided with an added forum to press its claims to the Falkland Islands after its election this week to the 15-member United Nations Security Council, according to diplomatic sources in New York.

From January 1 next year it will be chief spokesman for Latin America on the council, replacing Trinidad and Tobago for a two-year term.

It is the first time since 1971 that Argentina has sat on the committee. Its election by

unanimous secret ballot among member countries underlines its growing prestige in international affairs.

In London yesterday, the Foreign Office played down the significance of the election, suggesting that, if anything, this responsibility would compel Argentina to be more impartial over the Falklands.

Nevertheless, the election appears to stem from a growing recognition in the UN, particularly in the non-aligned movement, of the role played by

Argentina not only in seeking a peaceful settlement in the Falklands but also on issues such as nuclear disarmament, apartheid and regional debt.

In Buenos Aires, the move will almost certainly be celebrated as a diplomatic achievement after years of hostility from the security council.

In 1982, the council was convened at the instigation of the UK to condemn the Argentine invasion of the Falklands

NL



Alfonsín award

Strasbourg (AFP) — President Alfonsín of Argentina (left) was presented with the Council of Europe's human rights prize in a ceremony here yesterday — the first time the award had been made to an individual.

President Alfonsín was awarded the prize for his efforts to restore normalcy in Argentina on becoming the first civilian president after the reign of the military junta between 1976 and 1983, when around 10,000 people are said to have been killed or to have disappeared.

Argentina wins Security Council seat

**By Our United Nations
Correspondent**

Argentina was yesterday elected as a member of the Security Council, and will serve with Britain on the 15-nation body from the beginning of next year. The two countries have not resumed normal diplomatic relations since the Falklands war.

Elections to the Security Council are by secret ballot in the General Assembly, and Argentina received an overwhelming 143 votes, only one behind Zambia, which fills the African seat.

West Germany, Italy and Japan, the World War Two axis powers, were also elected to serve two-year terms on the council. The new members replace Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, Denmark, Thailand and Madagascar, who leave the council at the end of this year.

Falklands Facts

Dear Sir,

Your correspondent Tam Dalyell (8 October) lays claim to great knowledge on all Falkland matters. He must therefore have been aware that the Islander, whose "reported" comments caused him such offence, had been arrested, imprisoned, interned, and mentally and physically abused by the Argentine invaders in 1982.

Certainly some Stanley stores sold food to starving Argentine soldiers (an example set by his Scottish forebears with their English invaders) but more than one Argentine squaddie had generous help from Islanders with food and coffee during the freezing nights of the winter occupation.

Mr Dalyell chose to ignore the majority opinion of the Falkland Islands, best expressed by Mr Terry Betts, the Chairman of the General Employees Union, who said simply: "The relatives of a brave pilot should come in peace to bury their son with dignity and honour. They should be treated with respect whilst amongst us in the Islands. We hope that as we live in peace with them, their Government will leave us in peace in our own Islands."

Maybe Tam will note that this week the Falkland Families Association (the relatives of those who made great, and the greatest, sacrifices to defend the Falkland Islanders) met the father and sister of the Argentine pilot. Privately and quietly. Peace and reconciliation is more likely to come from them, than from Tam's prejudice and tirades.

Sincerely,
ERIC OGDEN
Chairman, The Falkland
Islands Association

London SW1
8 October

Diplomatic service

The trouble with rhetorical questions is that they can backfire, as the American ambassador to Buenos Aires, Frank Ortiz, discovered while talking to hard-pressed President Raúl Alfonsín. He has been persuading the Argentine leader not to be too hard on the military, whatever part they may have played in the country's notorious "dirty war", when thousands were tortured and killed. "Why do you think we have never had a military coup in the United States?" he asked, to drive home his point. "That is simple," replied Alfonsín. "In Washington, you have no US ambassador."

Argentina on UN Council

United Nations (Reuter) — Argentina, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Zambia were yesterday elected by the General Assembly to two-year terms on the 15-member Security Council, beginning 1 January 1987. They will replace Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, Denmark, Thailand and Madagascar, which step down at the end of the year.

Tim Coone profiles the Argentine leader due to be honoured today

Human rights award for Alfonsin

THE European Prize for Human Rights, due to be awarded by the Council of Europe to President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina today, has never before been given to an individual.

Such an honour reflects the remarkable way in which the Argentine leader in just three years has restored his country's democratic image, and returned it to the level of prestige and credibility it deserves.

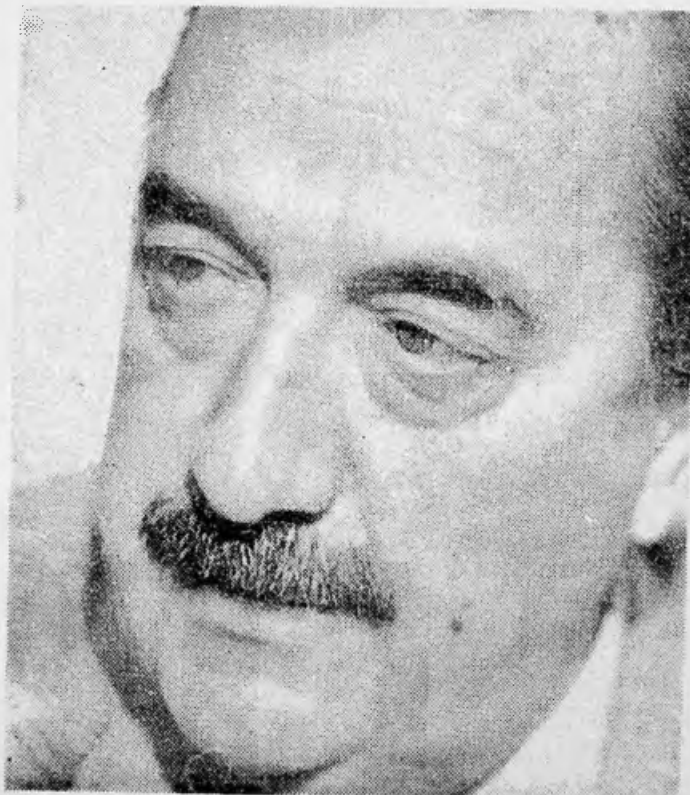
Just 10 years ago, Argentina and its rulers had become synonymous with political violence, totalitarian rule and human rights abuses. The military coup of 1976 traumatised society and left indelible scars which today are only just beginning to heal.

More than 8,000 people, mostly political activists or their relatives, "disappeared" during the period of military rule, abducted by armed squads linked to the military and security forces. The true figure may be even higher as many people were too terrified even to report the abduction of a friend or relative.

President Alfonsin's achievement, unprecedented in Latin America, has been to head a civilian government with no traditional base of support within the armed forces, and place nine military rulers on trial for their conduct in the "dirty war."

Five of them are now serving long prison sentences and the three military leaders responsible for the disastrous 1982 war with Britain over the Falkland Islands are also in prison.

Mr Alfonsin delivered his election promise to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations by starting at the top of the chain



President Alfonsin . . . overcame totalitarian rule

of command. Trials are now proceeding against higher-level subordinates in the military and police.

An intense debate continues within the Government, the ruling Radical Party and the Opposition, over how far down the chain of command the trials should go. "Obedience to orders" is the escape clause that the lawyers of both serving and retired junior officers facing charges are trying to use to absolve their clients from blame.

Opponents of the argument and especially the families of

the "disappeared," say that a political and moral principle has to be safeguarded: that military officers must obey the laws of the country and not those of their superiors when the two come into conflict. It is a delicate political issue, over which President Alfonsin himself has been ambiguous.

The President does not enjoy the same level of prestige at home as he does abroad. After three years in office he is in the middle of an economic crisis, and faces many diverse and powerful vested interests which view his liberal Government

with suspicion and at times outright hostility. Some groups have much stronger ties to the military than the ruling party.

His Government has removed the military from the front line of politics, but their presence behind the scenes is still detectable, and Mr Alfonsin's speeches are constantly filled with exhortations to national unity so as to consolidate Argentina's nascent democracy.

His vision to modernise Argentina will not be achieved overnight. His party recently launched a political initiative to forge alliances for midterm elections to the Congress and regional governorship next year, and to push legislation through Congress this year.

An important constitutional reform is on the legislative agenda, to create a Prime Minister to head the Government, alongside a President who will head the state.

At the beginning of the week, President Alfonsin said that his own political ambitions were not to seek re-election. He also stated that there will be no amnesty for the military leaders guilty of human rights violations.

No-one doubts that somewhere down the chain of command the trials will have to stop, and that decision will have to come from President Alfonsin himself, before his term of office ends in 1989.

The European prize coming now is therefore a fitting international recognition for a statesman who has achieved what five years ago would have seemed impossible in Argentina. At the same time, it will provide moral support in the battle against opponents at home during the difficult period ahead.

Falklands changes?

BRITAIN is reviewing the situation on the Falklands fishery and it looks as if she is re-negotiating voluntary restraint agreements with Far Eastern interests for the forthcoming season.

Representatives of Japanese squid-jigging interests have recently been in the Falklands and London to discuss next year's operations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Foreign Office and the Falkland Islands government. Reports suggest that the Japanese want to increase their fishing effort around the islands next year.

"I can confirm that representatives of the Japanese

company OSA, the biggest squid-jigging company in the world, have been here after meetings in the Falklands," Frank Mitchell, managing director of the Falkland Islands Co., told *Fishing News* recently. "They have been discussing conservation measures that might be taken in the next year."

Britain remains committed to the multilateral approach through a report being prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, a body with which all involved countries have co-operated — including Argentina.

However, the report has been delayed on a number of occasions; it is now expected during October.

The question of declaring a

200-mile limit around the Falklands remains under review. A Foreign Office spokesman said this week that as Britain claims sovereignty over the islands, it can do this at any time.

However, this option was unaffected by the recent agreement between Argentina and the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, he said. This purports to give access to the Falklands waters as well as the legitimate Argentine zone.

In the meantime, there is a possibility that Britain may want to reduce the number of squid-jiggers operating in the area to around 35 in anticipation of any conservation measures the FAO report may suggest. Last year there were 53 jiggers there.

NC

Tim Coone describes the damage done by a parallel market

Argentina grapples with bank reform

THE FINANCIAL centre of Buenos Aires is as busy and frenetic as any of the world's major money markets. The sums that pass through it may not be as great but are of a scale which reflect the country's size as an important world producer of beef and grains and a semi-industrialised nation of 30m people. Nonetheless, ask any economist in Argentina where reform is most urgently needed in the economy, and the answer will probably be the banking system. The reason is that the system has failed as a means of mobilising domestic savings and channeling them into long-term investment.

A first step towards improving the system has been taken by a measure seeking to eliminate the flourishing parallel financial market in Buenos Aires. It has been met with cautious optimism by bankers and businessmen — cautious, because the results take time to manifest themselves, and because Argentinian money market operators are remarkably adept in outwitting those who try to regulate them.

At the beginning of the month the new Central Bank directorate (executive board) issued a decree permitting banks and authorised financial institutions to reward any future increases in deposits at competitive interest rates with only 3 per cent reserve requirements on any deposits over 8,000 Australes (US\$734,000).

Until now, deposits have been

subject to 72 per cent reserve requirements while interest rates have been largely controlled by the Central Bank. The tightness of credit available under this system, implemented in 1982, encouraged the development of a flourishing parallel market, known as the inter-company market because of its origins, involving company-to-company loans. Free of reserve requirements, it has been able to compete keenly with the legal banking system through substantially lower "spreads."

The high level of reserve requirements was imposed to control the money supply growth effects in the economy caused by the country running a strong balance of payments surplus from 1982 onwards — itself used to service the mushrooming foreign debt.

Shift of focus

The Central Bank however, through rediscounts to large state and private companies, the Government and regional banks (which are the main financiers of local governments) became the biggest lender in the financial system. At an Argentina banking conference in August, Mr Jose Luis Machinea, the new Central Bank president said that the rediscounts represent 50 per cent of the total deposits in the system.

Mr Machinea's first major reform will therefore shift the focus of lending away from the

Central Bank and the parallel system, back to the formal banking institutions. Yet tougher regulations will be needed.

The spectacular export-finance scandal centred around the directors of Banco Alas, the small co-operative bank, which defrauded the Central Bank of \$100m over the past year and a string of banking collapses in recent years, the most spectacular of which was the Banco de Italia in 1985, have made that need abundantly clear.

Mr Alfredo Concepcion, the previous Central Bank president, has not yet been publicly questioned as to how such a fraud managed to slip by unnoticed during his presidency. He is also now accused of involvement in fraud or criminal negligence by the State Prosecutor for Administrative Investigations, in another case involving rediscounts to a small private bank. He was a political appointee of President Alfonsín and the repercussions may eventually be felt at the highest levels of government.

An overhaul of the banking regulations is proposed in a new law which is to receive its first hearing in Congress this week. The draft being put forward by the Central Bank outlaws the parallel financial system, and vests the monetary authorities with considerably greater powers of supervision, investigation and control than at present.

The proposals have already

run into opposition though. The Foreign Bank Association in Argentina has protested at discriminatory measures which will require its member banks to maintain twice the level of minimum capital as local banks. Local bankers complain that the new regulations will be excessive. Profitable out-of-book operations, many in the parallel market, will now become more difficult to conceal.

Tighter control

Meanwhile, tighter control of money supply targets will sharply reduce future Central Bank rediscounts and the availability of on-lending in future debt renegotiation packages, according to Mr Eilbaum, the new director of the Central Bank. Long-term finance will therefore be even harder to obtain in the immediate future.

Government hopes are that the financial reforms and economic stabilisation will create the conditions for the development of a long-term capital market. According to Mr Eilbaum, "Our first priority is to institutionalise the financial system through the reforms. The second is to control inflation. Our economic policy has to concentrate on the latter because if we don't control inflation, there is no hope of a long-term capital market ever emerging in Argentina. If we do not develop such a market, there is little prospect for long-term growth."

NZ

Alfonsin gives backing to bankers accused of fraud

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

FORMER BOARD members of Argentina's Central Bank, who were accused of fraud at the beginning of the week by the State Prosecutor for administrative investigations, have received a message of unequivocal support from the Argentine Government.

Two of the board members are in President Raul Alfonsin's economic team: Mr Marcelo da Corte, the director of the country's tax system and Mr Ricardo Mazzorin, the Secretary for Internal Commerce.

Mr Carlos Becerra, the Secretary General of the Presidency, a close personal adviser to President Alfonsin and a key figure in the ruling Radical Party, said on Tuesday evening: "The Government gives its most absolute support and solidarity to all the boards of the Central Bank since the assumption of the constitutional government in December 1983. It has the

most absolute confidence in the moral and ethical integrity of those who have had the responsibility to manage the highest credit authority in the country."

He went on to say, however: "This does not imply from any point of view, the interference of the Government in the affairs of the State Prosecutor. The Justice Department will have the last word."

The State Prosecutor office also named Mr Alfredo Conception, the former president of the Central Bank, and Mr Leopoldo Portnoy, the vice-president. The former was a political appointee of President Alfonsin. The accusations are the most serious yet to have been made against existing or former members of President Alfonsin's Government.

Financial reforms, Page 37

Soviets will honour Argentine grain deal

MR RAUL ALFONSIN, Argentina's president, said yesterday that his talks in Moscow this week have yielded a Soviet promise to purchase 4m tonnes of grain from Argentina in 1987 to make up for purchases Moscow has failed to make this year.

Under a trade agreement signed last January, the Soviet Union had agreed to buy 4.5m tonnes of grain a year until 1990, but the Argentine Economics Ministry said in July that Moscow was not going to meet the agreement, although Argentina had purchased Soviet electric turbines, train equipment and other goods.

"The Soviet Union has stated that what the Soviet Union did not buy in 1986 will be purchased in 1987," Mr Alfonsin said.

He noted that the Soviet Union intends to be self-sufficient in grain by the time its agreement with Argentina expires in 1990, and indicated that the two countries are therefore exploring alternative areas for bilateral trade.

One project under discussion, he said, is a Soviet-financed chemical fertiliser plant to be built in Argentina.

Mr Alfonsin said he and his party, which included several Argentine businessmen, also discussed sales of sugar cane to the Soviet Union.

NC

Senior bankers in Argentina accused of fraud

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

THE ENTIRE former board of Argentina's Central Bank — including two current members of the economic Cabinet — have been accused of fraud by the Argentinian state prosecutor for administrative investigations.

The alleged fraud involves the cancellation by the Central Bank in 1985 of a debt owed by the Banco del Buen Ayre, a small private bank, which resulted in a loss to the Central Bank of some Australes 7m (£4.5m).

The two cabinet members named in the suit before the Federal Court are Mr Marcelo de Corte, the director of the country's tax system, and Mr Ricardo Mazzorin, the Secretary for Internal Commerce, both formerly senior officials at the bank. In addition, Mr Alfredo Concepcion, the former president of the Central Bank, Mr Leopoldo Portnoy, its vice president, and four other directors and directors of the Banco del Buen Ayre are named in the suit.

Mr Concepcion along with his board of directors resigned from the Central Bank at the end of August after a long-standing dispute with other members of President Raul Alfonsin's economic team over monetary policy and attempts

to bring inflation under control. The uncontrolled level of Central Bank rediscounts to other banks in the financial system was a particular source of tension with Mr Juan Sourouille, the Economy Minister, and his deputy, Mr Jose Luis Machinea.

Mr Machinea took control of the Central Bank, bringing in a team of technocrats. He quickly tightened monetary policy and promised far-reaching reforms of the financial system.

In the middle of September, following investigations into export financing operations, a fraud involving \$110m (£77m) was uncovered by the Central Bank which had been authorised by members of its former administration to issue rediscounts to the small provincial bank of Banco Alas. At the time Mr Machinea warned that the investigation would be pursued "up to its ultimate consequences."

Mr Concepcion was a political appointee to the Central Bank, and is an old political ally of President Raul Alfonsin. The latter is on a four-day visit to the Soviet Union and is not expected to speak on the issue before his return to Buenos Aires at the weekend.

N.C.

Jimmy Burns examines a human rights report setting out man's inhumanity to man

Amnesty's gruesome chronicle of horror

PROponents of a rational response to the nuclear arms race may take comfort in the argument that thanks to the "bomb" the world has been saved from a world war since 1945.

But this means little to the many thousands of ordinary people that today continue to suffer the consequences of man's inhumanity to man on a no less horrific scale than Belsen or the prison camps of Burma.

"Thousands of people are in prison because of their beliefs. Many are held without charge or trial. Torture and the death penalty are widespread.

"In many countries, men, women and children have 'disappeared' after being taken into official custody. Still others have been put to death without any pretence of legality: selected and killed by governments and their agents."

This gruesome chronicle of contemporary horror is contained in the latest annual report of Amnesty International released yesterday.

Its 363 pages covering human rights violations of one kind or another worldwide, from Madrid to Peking is a timely reminder—in a week when the superpowers are locked in mutual recrimination and claim holier than thou status over the other—that terror is not necessarily the preserve of a particular ideology or political system. It is usually simply the product of

a lack of magnanimity by the powerful towards the weak.

Amnesty has in the past made as many enemies as friends. Military dictatorships have accused it of being a Marxist stooge, Marxist states dismiss its "woolly Western liberalism," even relatives of the victims sometimes feel that Amnesty does not do enough to bring down governments.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Britain's Prime Minister and scourge of the Galtieri junta during the Falklands war, will not exactly be pleased to find that yesterday's report devotes as many pages to the human rights violations of the security forces in Ulster as it does to the seamier side of life in Chad, Thailand, and Libya.

Since October 1982, 31 fatal shootings by security forces in Northern Ireland have been reported. Some of these killings "took place in conditions compatible with allegations that they were deliberately planned," according to Amnesty.

In past years, there have also been governments who have accused the organisation of interfering in their internal affairs by simply raising the human rights issue.

The 128 countries in the report are listed in alphabetical order. Just before the "United Kingdom" is the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" where ill-treatment in prisons, corrective labour colonies and psychiatric institutions, are a

"special focus of concern" for the organisation.

In November 1984 Amnesty wrote to the Soviet authorities urging an amnesty for all prisoners of conscience and a sweeping programme of legislative reforms.

Five months later, the authorities declared an amnesty "to mark the 40th anniversary of the ending of

On the surface, the US gets off lightly in the report. The five-page section on the country produces little evidence of widespread repression of political rights or mistreatment of prisoners. It focuses instead on the continuing use of the death penalty for criminal offences.

Nevertheless, Washington does not emerge exonerated. In the sections on Central America, where US advisers are alleged to be instructing anti-Marxist forces Honduras and El Salvador are accused of torture and "political killings."

"Whoever the perpetrator, Amnesty International condemns as a matter of principle the torture or execution of prisoners by anyone" the report states.

In El Salvador, President Jose Napoleon Duarte has maintained, as have his predecessors, that victims in the countryside have been abducted or killed by the armed opposition, or had been members of or supporters of the opposition who had died in armed confrontation with the military.

However, Amnesty states that, as in previous years, "the majority of reported abuses against non-combatant civilians had been inflicted by forces under the authorities control."

Elsewhere, Switzerland, along with other European democracies, it reprimanded for failing to condemn objectors to military service. In Afghanistan, there have been reports of extrajudicial executions of

civilians, and systematic torture and ill-treatment by the local Soviet-trained State Information Service of people suspected of supporting armed opposition groups. In Chile and Paraguay, human rights violations seem to have become a part of life, as well as death.

Amnesty claims that human rights groups are growing worldwide and international human rights law is being strengthened. Twenty-five years ago, when Amnesty was launched, there was no international convention against torture. Now more than 40 governments have signed a United Nations torture convention which goes far beyond a simple stand on principle.

In South Africa, one of the more than 100 countries which have not signed Amnesty reports less hope than gloom: 90,000 imprisoned in 1985 under the so-called pass laws which restricted the movement of blacks; another 8,000 subsequently detained under state of emergency powers; and last, but not perhaps by no means least, the case of detainees in Port Elizabeth and Protea Police stations in Soweto.

They were subjected to the "helicopter." Not a sanctions bust but a form of torture in which the victim is "handcuffed at the waist and ankles, hung upside down on a pole inserted behind the knees, spun around, and beaten."

Amnesty International Report 1986, 5 Roberts Place, London, E.C.1. £7.95 post free.



Guardian 15 October 1986

Battlefield earth for poppy appeal

SOIL from the Goose Green battlefield on the Falkland Islands is to form a special part of this year's Remembrance Day poppy appeal.

Together with soil from battlefields in France, including the Somme, the earth will be used in a garden of remembrance at the Royal British Legion's headquarters in London's Pall Mall.

Times Wednesday 15 October 1986

War soil on show

A commemorative display of soil from the Somme and the Falklands opens next week at the Royal British Legion's headquarters in Pall Mall, London.

The public will be able to buy a cross or poppy and plant it in the earth as part of this year's poppy appeal.

Legion officials are visiting Arras, France, today to collect a hundredweight of soil taken from Second World War battlefields.

A similar quantity was collected last week from Goose Green, in the Falkland Islands.

Independent Wednesday 15 October 1986

Falklands soil

Soil from the Falklands battlefield of Goose Green is to form a special part of this year's Remembrance Day poppy appeal. Earth from the Falklands and battlefields in northern France will be used for a mini-garden of remembrance at the British Legion's London headquarters in Pall Mall.

Independent Wednesday 15 October 1986

Talks delayed

Moscow (Reuter) — Talks due yesterday between Mr Gorbachev and Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín were apparently postponed as the Kremlin leader prepared to address the nation on television.

Alfonsín to discuss
summit in Moscow

Alfonsín to discuss summit in Moscow

By Isabel Hilton
Latin America Editor

PRESIDENT Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina arrived in Moscow yesterday for a four-day state visit, the first of an Argentine president in office to the Soviet Union.

As President Alfonsín left Madrid yesterday for Moscow, Argentine diplomats said he would raise the failure of the Reykjavik summit with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Argentina is one of the founders of the Delhi Group of Six Non-Aligned countries which have called on the superpowers to halt nuclear testing. The summit adds a political note to what was essentially planned as a trade visit to Argentina's most important trading partner. In the past few years, the USSR has taken 80 per cent of Argentina's grain exports and 40 per cent of her other exports.

In return for the £3.4bn of Argentine exports to the Soviet Union, the Russians only manage to £135m of exports in return. The Russians are keen to equalise the

balance, but have limited scope for doing so in a country which needs the hard currency that grain exports earn and is short of ready cash for the kind of construction project that Russia could offer. The Russians are prepared to tolerate the imbalance because of the importance of grain supplies: Argentina has proved a reliable supplier, whoever is in power.

One potential construction project is still under negotiation: the Russians hope, as part of a recently negotiated and controversial fishing treaty, to undertake the improvement of Atlantic coast port facilities.

The fishing treaty, currently before the Argentine parliament, gives the Russians the right to fish in Argentine waters, including those claimed by Argentina inside the British 200-mile exclusion zone. The treaty may conflict with British attempts to limit fishing around the Falklands by negotiating quotas on a multi-lateral basis with interested governments. The volume of fish to be taken by Russian vessels has yet to be settled.

Argentine protest at fishing pact

Buenos Aires (Reuter) — As President Alfonsín of Argentina began a visit to Moscow, fishermen protested against fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, the state news agency said.

Fishermen in Mar del Plata went on a 14-hour strike saying the accords carried a serious risk for sovereignty because resources would be exploited without control.

Daily Mail
14 October 1986

Falklands folly

I WAS amazed at the way our Foreign Office appeasers allowed the Argentinian to attend his pilot son's funeral in the Falklands.

Certainly Sir Winston Churchill advocated magnanimity in victory, but he did not say 'grovel'. Compassion is one thing, but the VIP treatment quite another — such as £2,000 of taxpayers' money on the helicopter ride. The islanders' comment of 'disgraceful' rightly sums up this episode.

(Mrs) M. W. NICHOLS,
Oxford Road,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

Argentine talks make progress

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

British MPs claim to have made progress with their Argentine counterparts in private meetings on the fringes of an international parliamentary conference, but events there suggested the two sides were still some way from speaking the same language.

"We are inching forward to a better understanding," said Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury and the head of the British delegation to the 76th Interparliamentary Union meeting in Buenos Aires last week.

Mr George Foulkes, the Labour shadow spokesman on foreign affairs, added that the Argentine response had been "friendly and positive" at all levels. A meeting with Argentine congressmen on Friday was "very constructive."

Even so, the Argentine congressmen at the conference put forward and secured a harshly-worded amendment on the Falklands in an umbrella resolution on South Africa, Namibia, and decolonisation.

The text proposed by the Argentinians "strongly reaffirmed the rights of the Argentine Republic to obtain restitution" of the disputed islands. It also required Argentina and Britain to renew negotiations and "condemned and demanded the dismantlement of the United Kingdom's military bases" and the "cessation of all military activity in those territories."

The resolution, which included an apparent sop to the British with a "recommendation" to take into account the interests of the Falklanders, was passed with 608 votes, 144 abstentions and 157 against.

Paul Elman adds from Madrid: President Raoul Alfonsín yesterday reiterated Argentina's determination to recover the Falkland Islands from Britain, but by peaceful methods.

During a visit to Madrid on his way to Moscow, President Alfonsín said: "We are determined to recover them by peaceful means and little by little. In Britain the need to sit down and negotiate is being accepted."

Argentinian meetings point to better relations with Britain

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

HIGH LEVEL contacts made in Buenos Aires between the British Labour Party and the Argentinian Government during the past week have prepared the ground for a rapid improvement of relations between Britain and Argentina in the event of a Labour victory at the next general election.

Two Labour Front Bench spokesmen on foreign affairs, Mr George Foulkes MP and Mr Donald Anderson MP, met with Mr Jorge Sabato, the Argentine Foreign Minister, for three hours last Thursday evening in what Mr Foulkes described as a "remarkable informal meeting."

"Ways were explored as to how, in the event of a Labour government coming to power, confidence-building measures could be rapidly implemented

that could lead quickly to a normalisation of relations and negotiations on the future of the Falkland Islands.

"I am more confident than ever that a solution can be found which would be acceptable to Britain and Argentina as well as to the Falkland Islanders," he said.

The two Labour MPs had been attending the 76th Inter-parliamentary Union Confer-

ence in Buenos Aires, as part of a nine-man British Parliamentary delegation from the Conservative and Labour parties.

Labour Party policy on the Falklands is to discuss the sovereignty issue with the Argentinian Government "without preconditions but also without prejudgments on the outcome of the negotiations," said Mr Foulkes.

The confidence building measures might include some form of arrangement in which Argentina would formally agree to cease hostilities and Britain would agree to discuss sovereignty and lift the 150-mile protection zone around the islands.

Conservative members of the delegation also commented favourably on their contacts. ● Argentine President Raul

Alfonso told reporters yesterday he detected flexibility on the part of Britain in the dispute over the Falkland Islands, Reuter writes from Madrid.

"The basic issue is that we have been unable to get Britain to the bargaining table," he told a news conference in Madrid. "They now seem to be opening up to the idea of a dialogue on this problem."

MPs agree agenda on Falklands

From Eduardo Cué
Buenos Aires

British and Argentine MPs agreed over the weekend on a four-point agenda for discussions next spring at a meeting designed to break the four-year-old freeze in relations between their countries.

Although the two delegations cannot negotiate, the development was seen as a positive step by Conservative and Labour members of the British delegation who travelled here for a congress.

"It's generally my impression that we are inching forward to a better understanding because the climate is getting warmer," Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury and the delegation chairman, said on Saturday.

The two groups agreed to discuss the 1985 United Nations General Assembly resolution that urges both countries to discuss all aspects of the Falklands dispute, but which does not mention the issue of sovereignty, the possibility of establishing a joint British-Argentine Commission to continue contacts, the restoration of diplomatic relations, and steps to prepare public opinion in both countries for a possible compromise agreement.

Conservative and Labour members of the nine-man delegation emphasized that they had not bowed to Argentine demands to discuss the sovereignty of the Falklands.

The agreement to set an agenda came at an informal session between the British and Argentine delegations to the Inter-Parliamentary Union congress.

On Saturday the group adopted a strongly-worded resolution introduced by the Argentines re-affirming Buenos Aires' claim to the Falklands, South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands.

IN BRIEF

UK 'flexible' on islands — Alfonsín

Madrid (Reuter) — Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín told reporters yesterday he detected British flexibility in the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

"The basic issue is that we have been unable to get Britain to the bargaining table," he told a news conference in Madrid. "They now seem to be opening up to the idea of a dialogue on this problem."

In Buenos Aires, the World Interparliamentary Conference backed Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and called on both nations to begin talks on ending their dispute.

The Daily Telegraph, 13th October Monday.

Double first for Alfonsín in Moscow

By Our Buenos Aires Correspondent

President Alfonsín of Argentina will be the first head of state to meet Mr Gorbachev after the Iceland talks. Also the first Argentine leader ever to visit the Soviet Union, he is due in Moscow today for a four-day visit.

His discussions are expected to focus mainly on economic issues after Moscow failed to comply with the terms of a five-year grain supply pact, renewed in January.

The pact stipulated that the Soviet Union would buy a minimum of 4.5 million tons of coarse grain, not wheat, a year, but so far, orders have totalled barely 500,000 tons.

New fish war looms in the Falklands

by James Adams
Defence Correspondent

THE British government is expected to announce a 200-mile fishing exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands next month. It is expected to precipitate a diplomatic clash with the Argentinian government and the Soviet Union, which has been given the right to fish inside the new exclusion zone by Buenos Aires.

A decision depends on a report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, expected later this month, on a possible multilateral accord, including Argentina, that would limit fishing. Publicly the government has said it hopes the organisation will come up with a workable agreement but privately this is seen as unlikely.

"The recent statements of the Argentinian government about fishing around the Falkland Islands cast serious doubts about its willingness to agree a multilateral approach," said Alastair Cameron, the Falkland Islands' government representative in London.

An existing voluntary agreement limiting the number of fishing vessels operating in the area includes only Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. The British government is trying to extend that agreement but it is unlikely that boats from the Eastern block, which account for 80% of the fishing vessels, will agree to any voluntary restrictions.

Once the exclusion zone is announced, a system of licences for vessels operating inside the zone will be introduced. The system will increase the income from fishing from £1.25m to at least £6m.

Fish taken from the waters around the Falklands is valued at between \$300m-\$400m a year and fleets from Russia, Poland, Taiwan and Bulgaria, among others, netted an estimated 381,000 tons in the first eight months of last year, compared with 349,000 tons in the whole of

1984. There is concern that fish stocks are being rapidly depleted and the Falklands' single most important natural resource will soon be destroyed.

Since late last year there have been negotiations at the United Nations on a multilateral approach to conserving fish stocks and improving the islands' income from fishing but these have made little progress.

Then, in July it was learned that the Argentinian government had signed a new fishing agreement with Russia and Bulgaria. Argentina considers the waters around the Falklands to be part of its territory and so the new deal includes fishing rights in territory the British government considers its.

At the same time, the Russians have negotiated access to ports in Argentina for their fishing fleets and the Buenos Aires government has asked the Russians to build a new port facility next to the large naval base at Bahia Blanca.

"The Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic all run together in strategic importance and the Argentinians are pursuing a very aggressive nationalistic policy on what they say is their territory," explains Lord Shackleton, who has been lobbying for the establishment of a fishing exclusion zone.

It has not yet been decided exactly how the exclusion zone will be enforced. Discussions have been taking place for some months between the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Agriculture. The MoD is anxious not to take on the new responsibility at a time when their presence in the South Atlantic is being reduced and the cash for such an operation is not available.

The Ministry of Defence favours a policing system run by the Ministry of Agriculture which in turn has floated the idea of buying a new fleet of fishery patrol vessels to be based in the Falklands.

The Falklands and humble pie

From Sir Rex Hunt

I MUST correct Jock Bruce-Gardyne's assertion (October 5) that the Falklands "adventure" could have been avoided because Nicholas Ridley had already secured the acquiescence of both the Argentines and the Falkland Islanders to a lease-back solution. I escorted Mr Ridley around the Falkland Islands in November, 1980, and I can state categorically that all the islanders whom he met expressed their opposition to lease-back.

Mr Ridley suggested three possible options: lease-back, condominium or a sovereignty freeze. He explained that these were only ideas and that he would welcome any others that islanders might have; he wished to know what they thought before he made any approach to the Argentines. Acknowledging that they needed time to think, he said that he looked forward to having their considered views before the next round of talks with the Argentines in February, 1981.

The islanders' elected representatives gave Mr Ridley their answer in January, 1981, in the following Legislative Council resolution:

"While this House does not like any of the ideas put

forward by Mr Ridley for a possible settlement of the sovereignty dispute with Argentina, it agrees that HMG should hold further talks with the Argentines, at which this House should be represented and at which the British delegation should seek an agreement to freeze the dispute over sovereignty for a specified period of time."

REX HUNT.

(Governor, Falkland Islands, 1980-1985)
Old Woodside,
Broomfield Park,
Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Polo sticks to a loyal ban

by VICTOR SMART

A BAN ON Argentines playing polo in Britain is to be prolonged for a further year—the sixth season since the end of the Falklands war.

Major Ronald Ferguson, father of the Duchess of York, and 11 other stewards made the unanimous decision behind closed doors at Hurlingham Polo Association, the game's ruling body.

The ban has become a potentially embarrassing anomaly. Even the Hurlingham officials concede that England has recently competed against Argentina in far more momentous sporting events. These include the soccer World Cup in Mexico and the hockey World Cup at Willesden last week when England won 2-1.

But Brigadier Peter Thwaite, chairman of the polo association, said: 'There is still sensitivity about the issue among some people such as widows of the servicemen killed in the Falklands war.'

The Prince of Wales's fondness for playing a few chukkas makes the problem acute. As Colonel-in-chief of the Welsh Guards, who suffered severe Falklands casualties, Prince Charles has privately warned that he would withdraw from the game if the ban were lifted.

Falklands sinking sparks safety concern

TAIWANESE fishing director Tryone Lee visited Hull owners J. Marr this week to discuss plans for squid jigging off the Falklands next season.

Marr is expected to send its stern trawler G. A. Reay to the Falklands to spearhead an expanded mother ship operation, creating 150 to 200 jobs.

However, with the planning of next season's operations well under way, the sinking by the Argentinians of the Taiwanese ship *Chiann-Der 3* with loss of life last season is causing concern about the safety of ships fishing off the islands — especially as the Navy did

not go to the crew's aid despite repeated Mayday calls.

When *Fishing News* asked the Ministry of Defence why no assistance was proffered to the Taiwanese boats at the start of the incident, it was told that the Navy had scrambled Sea King helicopters to assist and had asked the Argentine warship *Prefecto Derbes* for permission to do so — and been told, in the words of a spokesman, to

There is no doubt that the Navy did attempt to help the survivors after the *Chiann-Der 3* had been sunk but information provided by islanders listening to the transmissions show that the incident had been going on for a long time by then.

The MoD won't comment on this. "We're not prepared to go further than the statement made in Parliament," said a ministry spokesman.

Falkland Islanders listened in to the radio transmissions to follow the incident which began at 9.15am and the Argentinians sank the *Chiann-Der 3* at 2.20pm.

Their first transmissions said that they were in the Falklands protection zone. However, they had left it after the agreement of a conservation deal four days earlier.

In his statement to the Falklands legislative council two days later, Commander British Forces, Air Vice Marshall Kemball, said that no

attempt was made to intercede with the Argentinian warship *Prefecto Derbes* because she was in international waters.

But the Argentinians had attacked the Taiwanese boats on the grounds that they were fishing in her 200-mile zone — a claim based on a zone extending from the islands, not the mainland.

It is this that has alarmed some British observers who feel that, as the UK does not recognise the Argentine right to establish a fishing zone around the islands, their attack on the Taiwanese boats was an act of aggression and the Navy should have responded to the Mayday call.

Eric Ogden, chairman of the Falklands Islands Association, says: "The disturbing part is that British forces were on exercise 10 miles from the incident."

J. Marr reacted with alarm to the incident when it happened. "Quite frankly, as an operator, I was appalled. An unarmed vessel, which was doing no harm to anyone, was sunk as a political gesture," says Marr's Jimmy Hind. J. Marr then realised that such boats were not necessarily going to be protected by the Navy.

"We've approached the foreign office on our interests in the Falklands. We've had a number of meetings with them. I think

they're being as helpful as they can bearing in mind their rather tenuous position," says Mr. Hind.

"I don't think they were fully aware of the possibilities down here. I think it's fair to say that they're aware of what we're doing now, and its positive aspects. Unemployment is a sore problem for this government."

But Mr. Hind does say that he would want the boats to have some protection.

● A report is still being compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, which has been looking at a mutually-agreed policy for the South Atlantic fishery.

Daily Mail
10 October 1986

Letters Page

Rites and wrongs

IT WAS heartening to read that Isaias Gimenez was given VIP treatment in the Falk-

lands when he came to bury his son.

As for the soldier who asked 'Who won the war?' the answer is that nobody ever wins when we resort to war to settle our differences. If we can forgive and love our enemies, something good can still be salvaged from the Falklands disaster.

MARGARET GUERVURO,
Tristram Road,
Bromley, Kent.

... Would it not have been better to let Gimenez's funeral go ahead without so much publicity?

Will the same attention be paid to the military honours funeral next week of Pilot Officer Charles Barber at RAF Finningley? Like Gimenez, he was found recently in the wreckage of his aircraft, only this time a wartime Spitfire which crashed in Sussex.

**ANDY SAUNDERS (Director
& Curator),**
Tangmere Military Aviation
Museum, Chichester.

Independent Friday 10 October 1986

'Restore links'

Buenos Aires (AFP) — A British delegation of Labour and Conservative MPs attending an international meeting here called for the restoration of relations between Britain and Argentina.

Falklands visits hope by father

An Argentine father who went to the Falkland Islands last weekend to bury the recently-found body of his fighter pilot son, hopes to return to the Falklands with an organised group of other Argentine relatives of men killed in the 1982 conflict.

Senor Isaias Gimenez, who had talks at the Foreign Office in London, said he was seeking permission for the identification of 123 Argentine soldiers in unmarked graves, visits by next of kin and a return to the mainland of the remains of dead servicemen.

The Times Thursday 9 October 1986

GALSWORTHY - On Tuesday October 7th, at Southmead hospital Bristol, after a short illness, Sir Arthur Norman K.C.M.G., aged 70. Dearly loved Husband of Jean, Father of Anthony and Robert and Grand Pa. of Andrew, Carolyn, Victoria and Meggie. Private cremation on 9th October. Memorial Service, at St. Christophers, Lympsham, at 12 noon, on 8th November. No flowers please, but donations to Royal British Legion, C/c Douglas Hannah, Rectory Farm, Lympsham, Somerset.

Falklands policy defended

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

British MPs yesterday defended the principle of self-determination for the Falkland Islands before a meeting of world parliamentarians in Buenos Aires.

Faced with a resolution proposed by Venezuela claiming that self-determination was not relevant to the Falklands dispute because the territories had been "snatched" from another country, the Conservative MP, Sir Geoffrey Rippon, warned the meeting not to adopt "double standards."

Describing the Venezuelan motion as "quite extraordinary," Sir Geoffrey said that if the same argument was applied to Latin America, much of the continent would have to be returned to the indigenous Indians.

"Let's not be too legalistic," he said, arguing that many of the families in the Falklands had been there longer than "most Argentinians in Argentina."

The Falklands issue was raised on the margins of a debate dominated by independence for Namibia and action against apartheid in South Africa. Sir Geoffrey said that Britain was "desperately anxious" to resume its "normal friendly relations with Argentina."

But he warned it was not fair that self-determination should not be applied to the Falklands because it only had a tiny population.

Answering Sir Geoffrey, Mr Luis Leon, a nationalist from President Raul Alfonsin's Radical Party, said that self-determination in the case of the Falklands was "a fallacy at this stage of development of international law."

Argentine union crusader takes on Alfonsín

Falklands fleet for auction

THE massive plant fleet which helped build the Falklands airport goes up for auction next week in Atlanta, Georgia. Auctioneer Ritchie Brothers expects more than 1,000 bidders to turn up for the event which is expected to raise \$15 million.

At least 93 items are Caterpillar machines (like the excavator pictured here in the Falklands), while the rest include Dynapac and Bomag rollers and Grove cranes. A second auction, to include Volvo articulated dump trucks, British Leyland Landtrains and other European equipment, will be held early next year in the UK.

Ritchie Brothers claims to be the leading auctioneer of construction equipment in the US. It has offices in Britain and the Netherlands, and reckons to take 30 per cent of the annual billion-dollar industrial equipment auction business.

Tim Coone explains the background to today's strike

Argentine union crusader takes on Alfonsín

MR SAUL UBALDINI, leader of Argentina's trade union movement, is an uncharismatic and quietly spoken man. But his decision to call a nationwide general strike today, the seventh since President Raul Alfonsín came to power, shows the strength of his opposition to the Government's policies.

It is the 16-month-old Austral plan, with its deflationary incomes policy and its commitment to continue servicing Argentina's foreign debt that particularly annoys Mr Ubaldini.

His fight against the plan has become almost a crusade, to be pursued with the same determination and sense of purpose with which he opposed the former military dictatorship.

"We do not want confrontation for confrontation's sake," he says. "What we want is a change in economic policy."

Mr Ubaldini's rise to power at the head of the CGT generally recognised as Latin America's most powerful trade union movement is a somewhat enigmatic one. He is rooted in the Peronist political movement and its party the "Justicialistas, but is not part of the party machinery. This is dominated by the metal workers, and traditionally was controlled the CGT.

His political inclinations are those of a left-leaning Christian Democrat rather than a socialist and he identifies closely with the blue collar workers. He emerged from the sidelines in the late 1970s when he was the leader of a small and almost insignificant brewery workers' union.

His uncompromising attacks on and confrontations with the military governments of the time, while other trade union leaders were trying to negotiate deals with the regimes earned him the respect of the rank and



Mr Ubaldini . . . enigmatic

file as well of his fellow trade union leaders.

By the time democratic rule was restored in 1983, he had become leader of the more militant faction of the CGT. The defeat of the Peronists in the 1983 elections further strengthened his position within the union movement against its traditional leaders which controlled the more moderate faction. He later succeeded in uniting the two factions and subsequently assumed the leadership.

His control of the CGT is not, however, totally unchallenged. Elections are due in November, in the first delegate conference of the organisation since the military coup of 1976. Whereas Mr Ubaldini's position as Secretary General is virtually unchallengeable, the share of power in the directorate of the CGT is expected to change.

The traditional Peronist union leadership led by Mr Lorenzo Miguel of the metal workers' union can be expected to carry some 40 per cent of the votes. This group negotiated a separate wage agreement in

July with the Government not involving the CGT, which resulted in the postponement of an earlier general strike call by Mr Ubaldini.

The fissure is being exploited by the Government, for although Mr Ubaldini has officially severed negotiations between the CGT and the Government, Mr Miguel is continuing contacts.

Over the past decade, the ruling Radical Party, with its support rooted in the middle class, has made important inroads into the trade union movement especially among the growing white collar sector comprising bank workers, teachers, health workers and state employees.

The Government's problem is that the state employees have been the hardest hit by the Austral Plan. The bank workers are also afraid of redundancies through recently announced Government plans to streamline the country's inefficient banking system.

Mr Ubaldini's campaign against the Austral Plan is therefore likely to continue to win union support in the face of the Government's determination not to back down and its attempts to divide the CGT.

Mr Armando Caro Figueroa, the subsecretary of labour and one of the architects of the Government's labour policy said in an interview: "The economic policy of the Government will not be determined by the CGT, and although it is not immutable, the central features of that policy will not be changed."

Nobody expects the stoppage to cause the fall of the Government, but an escalation of industrial action in the coming months planned by the CGT will include further national stoppages, sectoral strikes and workplace disruptions by individual unions. A hot summer is in prospect.

Falkland Islanders criticised

Dear sir,

Your leader "A decent man buries his son" suggests a role for the Red Cross in meeting the wishes of bereaved Argentine families. I hope British and Argentine government politicians will endorse your view.

In my opinion, Sir Geoffrey Howe was quite right to grant military honours for the burial of Lieutenant Gimenez.

The people who emerge with maximum discredit from the Gimenez Affair are the complaining Falkland Islanders. The truth is that British and Argentine lives were sacrificed because of the intransigence of narrow-minded, curmudgeonly, ungenerous, self-centred people who torpedoed any constructive proposal from Labour or Conservative governments for more than half a century.

Ironically, some of the Falkland Islanders complaining most loudly about military honours for Gimenez have, like one-sixth of those living in the Falklands, massive amounts of Spanish blood in their own veins.

Moreover, from books such as *Los Chicos de la Guerra*, we now know the extent to which many Falkland Islanders were happy to trade with the Argentine occupying forces and take commercial profit during the occupation.

It is high time that the Falkland Islanders' tail ceased to wag the British dog and that Mrs Thatcher buries her pride and gets down to negotiation with President Alfonsin.

Yours sincerely,

TAM DALYELL

MP for Linlithgow (Lab)

Linlithgow, Scotland
October 7

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Labour MPs George Foulkes (left) and Andrew Faulds confer with a fellow delegate at the Buenos Aires Inter-Parliamentary Conference. The British team hopes to discuss the diplomatic stalemate over the Falklands with Argentine colleagues during the six-day meeting.

Argentine torture trial

BUENOS AIRES — Day after day, witnesses file into an Argentine civil court to tell their stories of being kidnapped, tortured and beaten under the nation's former military government.

In a previous trial, five members of the country's military junta, including two former presidents, were convicted of human rights abuses and sentenced to jail terms ranging from four and a half years to life. Now the people who carried out their orders are on trial.

"We're moving down the line," said attorney Horacio Méndez Carreras. "The direct appliers of torture are on trial now, the people who had the electric cattle prod in hand," he said, referring to a device used in the military government's "dirty war" against alleged subversives.

**From Roger Atwood
of Reuters**

For the past four weeks, retired General Ramón Camps and six other former police officers have been on trial for scores of human rights violations. Witnesses have described in agonising detail how they were tortured in what they say were secret detention centres.

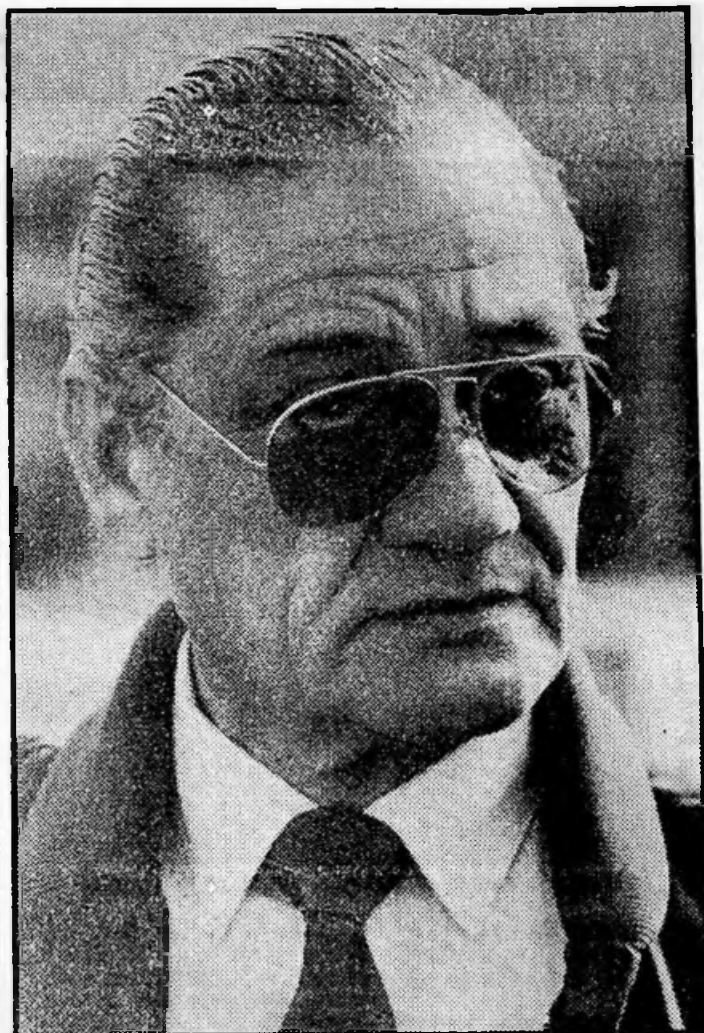
One witness testified that he was tortured for 10 hours at a time. Another said a cellmate told her she was tortured while giving birth and one man said he was tortured regularly for six years in various secret jails, sometimes with plastic bags wrapped over his head and tied at the neck while he was bound to a chair. He said he twice saw General Camps visit the torture centre.

General Camps was then police chief of Buenos Aires province and human rights activists say he set up a network of secret centres where torture was routine and where people were held for years without charge.

The armed forces called elections in 1983 when their public support evaporated after defeat in the Falklands War. President Raul Alfonsín won the elections on a promise to bring human rights violators to trial. His supporters call the trial of the former junta commanders one of the biggest achievements of his presidency.

With government-appointed lawyers handling the prosecution, General Camps and the other defendants went on trial on 16 September. The prosecution and defence have called 355 witnesses.

Guardian Tuesday 7 October 1986



PARENT'S PLEA : Mr Isias Gimenez, who made a plea at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, yesterday for more of his fellow Argentinians to be allowed to visit the graves of their sons in the Falklands. He had returned from attending the funeral of his fighter pilot son shot down in 1982

Picture by Martin Argles.

Pilot's father to help others

ISAIAS GIMENEZ, the father of the Argentine pilot who was buried last Saturday in the Falkland Islands, said last night that, for him, a chapter had closed. "When I saw my son buried, and when I saw the spot on Blue Mountain where he had crashed, four years' of searching were over," he said. "Now I must think of the other families."

He brings back three things from his visit: a fragment of his son's plane, the Argentine flag which draped the coffin and his son's pistol, presented to him by the British forces on the island. He also brings, he said, warm memories of his reception there. "People came up to us in the street to shake hands and treated

us with great kindness," he said, denying reports that the islanders had objected to his presence.

Mr Giménez and his daughter, María Carolina, are the first Argentine citizens to be allowed to visit the islands since the Falklands war in 1982. While he was in the islands, Mr Giménez asked the governor, Gordon Jewkes, to request an interview with Foreign Office officials on his return to London this week.

Mr Giménez plans to present three requests: that arrangements be made to identify the 122 unidentified Argentine war dead buried in the islands; that a visit to

the graves be arranged for other relatives, using a more direct route than his own 34,000-mile journey via London; thirdly, he is seeking to arrange, through the Red Cross, that families who wish to do so may transfer bodies to Argentina.

The British have offered to repatriate the bodies in the past, but the official Argentine position is that they are already on home soil, since Argentina claims sovereignty over the islands.

"There has been so much misunderstanding on both sides," Mr Giménez said. "It's important that people understand each other, then perhaps governments will follow."

Editorial comment, page 16

By Isabel Hilton

Daily Telegraph Tuesday 7 October 1986

Argentine protest

Argentina has complained to the United Nations that one of its fishing boats was harassed by a British aircraft last Wednesday in waters "under Argentine jurisdiction."

Guardian Tuesday 7 October 1986

Cocaine haul

ARGENTINE police yesterday seized 70 kilograms of cocaine and arrested eight drug traffickers, police sources said. "The quantity of the merchandise indicates that this was an international operation, and that the drugs were destined for export to the United States and Europe," said a police source.

Traffickers have lately begun smuggling cocaine from Bolivia into Argentina by shipping it down the Pilcomayo and Bermejo rivers in rafts, hidden in the bellies of fish or in water-tight bundles.

—Reuter.

A decent man buries his son

FOR the Argentine father, Mr Isaias Giménez, there were two moments last Saturday which brought a painful personal journey to an end. The first was the burial on the Falklands of his son, Miguel Ángel Giménez. The second, the moment when he saw for himself the peak of Blue Mountain where his son's plane crashed in 1982.

For the last four years, he has sought single mindedly, to discover exactly what happened to Miguel Ángel. He has resisted with dignity the pressures on him to allow his quest, and those of the other families he represents, to become one more national grievance, an occasion for patriotic indignation against the British. It is entirely appropriate that the British Government has allowed him to become the first Argentine citizen to set foot in the Falklands since the war.

But, though Mr Giménez has been allowed to complete his personal rites, he returns to London with further requests to make of the British Government. He wishes the same privilege to be extended to other parents who have never seen their sons' graves. He also hopes that the British Government can find a way of identifying the unidentified dead and of helping those parents who wish, as he did, that their sons might be brought home for burial.

The British Government has stated no objection to the return of the bodies, but the project has foundered on the disposition of both Governments to treat the matter on a government to government level. The British will repatriate the bodies if the Argentine Government will

agree. Argentina refuses to ask. The result is stalemate, since the Argentine Government is afraid that Argentina's highly vocal patriotic lobby will accuse it of conceding a millimetre of sovereignty. For them, the war dead are already interred on Argentine soil in the "Malvinas". To talk of "repatriation" is treason.

Mr Giménez, who treats it as a private matter, is to propose that the Red Cross be invited to unblock the diplomatic impasse by acting on behalf of the families for the "transfer" of the bodies. He hopes thus to avoid putting President Alfonsín on the spot and to give the families the consolation of burying their dead where they wish and mourning them as they choose.

President Alfonsín is a humane and reasonable man who opposed the war in 1982, when few of his fellow politicians dared to. He has manoeuvred with skill and courage in the very narrow margins that the clashing forces of Argentine political life impose on him. He is trying to create in Argentina a strong civilian state on which the kind of military regime which invaded the Falklands can never again impose its will. For that alone he deserves our support.

If the intercession of the Red Cross would allow him to permit the return of the bodies to Argentina, then this country should grasp the opportunity to demonstrate our humanity and help to grant the wishes of Mr Giménez and his friends. It says nothing about the future of the islands to insist that the dead, and their families, be treated decently.

Daily Mail
7 October 1986

Daily Mail COMMENT

Magnanimity

ONE can understand the feelings of the Falkland Islanders as an Argentine pilot was buried with military honours. They have neither forgiven nor forgotten the invasion of 1982, and this was one of the invaders.

Equally, one can understand the motives of the authorities. This was a bridge-building exercise. There were no negotiations, no talk of sovereignty; just an act of compassion.

One of the few redeeming features of war is the respect shown for an enemy who dies honourably in the line of duty. Allowing an Argentine father to shed tears at the grave of his son was very much in that tradition.

Winston Churchill said: 'In victory: magnanimity.' The Falklands war is over, and the victors have to live in the same world as the vanquished. This act of magnanimity could be seen as a first, hesitant step on the road to reconciliation. Bitterness takes a long time to die, and resentments still smoulder. But the small gesture of that burial does us no discredit.

TODAY
6 October 1986

Father in Falkland grave row

From PATRICK WATTS
in East Falkland

GRIEVING Argentine father Isaias Gimenez cloaked his son's Falklands funeral in controversy last night.

He denied Ministry of Defence allegations that politicians in Buenos Aires had refused to accept the body of his pilot son Miguel for "political reasons".

He also refuted claims that Argentina has consistently declined offers to have its war dead flown home for burial on the mainland.

Mr Gimenez, 55, and his daughter Maria, 24, travelled 32,000 miles via London to be at his son's graveside in Darwin. The Foreign Office approved the visit on compassionate grounds.

Maria, a lawyer, said it was her mother's wish that her brother be buried on the Falklands.

Mr Gimenez said his historic visit should pave the way for other Argentinians families to bury their dead.

No man is an island

THE Foreign Office was absolutely right, in political and humanitarian terms, to allow Mr Gimenez to travel to the Falklands to attend the funeral of his son, killed while on active duty for Argentina.

If any other courageous Argentine parents wish to defy their government by visiting their sons' graves, we hope the Foreign Office will similarly grant permission.

The only sour note in the whole affair was introduced by some of the islanders. We hope that the objectors to Mr Gimenez's visit are in the small minority, because it would be depressing to believe that the Falklanders are so mean-minded, so petty and so lacking in compassion and humanity as to deny a father the simple right to be at his son's graveside.

One of the island's leaders criticised the visit as a "political stunt". We do not understand what he means. If there is any political consequence, it can only be to Britain's, and the Falklands' advantage.

Argentina has not emerged with any credit from the Gimenez visit. It is a great pity that the islanders could not have conducted themselves with greater dignity and understanding.

Falklands discussed

The thorny question of the Falkland Islands, claimed by both Britain and Argentina, will be raised when almost 1,000 parliamentarians from round the globe gather in the Argentine capital today to discuss armed conflict and colonialism, **Reuter reports from Buenos Aires.** The Falklands dispute has been included in a draft agenda for the 76th Inter-Parliamentary Union conference, according to Mr George Foulkes, a UK Labour MP.

Times Monday 6 October 1986

Parliamentarians to discuss Falklands

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

Six hundred MPs from more than 100 countries begin a week-long meeting here today with the Falklands as a key topic of discussion.

The bi-annual meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is scheduled to take up the Falklands issue as part of a broad debate on colonialism.

Other topics on the agenda include apartheid in South Africa, Namibia and the Middle East.

The head of the British delegation, Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury, told *The Times* that any real progress on the Falklands issue "requires a move on the part of the Argentine Government, Parliament and people to show they are good neighbours. Argentina needs to be less macho in this matter."

He refused to specify what these steps might be.

● **PORT STANLEY:** Flight-Lieutenant Miguel Angel Giménez, an Argentine pilot killed in the Falklands War, was buried at the weekend with British military honours in the presence of his sister and father, the first Argentines allowed on the islands since the 1982 war (Reuter reports).

Señor Isaias Giménez and his daughter, María Carolina, brushed tears from their eyes as six British soldiers and six British airmen fired three shots over the grave of Señor Giménez at Darwin cemetery, where 236 other Argentines killed in the war lie buried. After the service they were given 10 minutes alone at the graveside.

Father denies return of body was vetoed

By Patrick Watts in Port Stanley

SEÑOR ISAIS GIMENEZ, the Argentine father who has travelled 32,000 miles to attend his son's burial in the Falklands, has emphatically denied Defence Ministry allegations that for political reasons the Argentine Government refused permission for his son's body to be returned to Argentina.

He also denied British suggestions that the Government of President Raoul Alfonsín had consistently refused to accept back the bodies of 236 Falklands war victims, killed during the 1982 conflict and now buried in the Argentine cemetery at Darwin, 60 miles from Port Stanley.

Señor Gimenez, 55, a financial consultant, from the province of Entre Ríos, said that he had always wanted to attend his son's funeral on the islands, whatever the travelling involved.

The British Government has always insisted that its agreement to the request by Señor Gimenez and his daughter Maria Carolina, 24, was made purely on "humanitarian grounds", given the Argentine Government's refusal to accept back the body of Lt Miguel Angel Gimenez, who was found on a remote mountain top in his crashed Pucara just over a month ago, four years after the conflict.

'Felt no anger'

Señor Gimenez, who is president of the National Commission of Parents and Relatives for the Disappeared in Argentina, of which his daughter is secretary, has been campaigning since 1983 for more information about Falklands war victims. On his way back to Argentina, he plans to spend a week in Britain talking with various organisations, and to meet Mr Des Keoghane, who is chairman of the British-based Falklands Families Association.

Senorita Gimenez, a lawyer, said that her mother "wished Miguel to be buried in the Falklands". She and her father "felt no anger towards the British or Argentine Governments for the death of her brother. He was a professional military person with a job to do."

Visits 'acceptable'

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said last night that Britain had made it clear on a number of occasions that it would facilitate the repatriation of Argentine dead under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A visit to the islands of bona fide next of kin organised in the same way would also be acceptable. Argentina had not responded.

It is understood that the Argentine Air Force, in a communiqué, told Señor Gimenez not to pursue the return of his son's body and made it clear that the motivation for this was political.

Argentina to join Britain at U.N.

By Michael Kallenbach at the United Nations

BRITAIN and Argentina will be forced to put aside their differences over the Falkland Islands and face each other at the United Nations Security Council table from the beginning of next year.

Argentina has been chosen as the Latin American candidate for the 15-nation body and will replace Trinidad and Tobago for a two-year term. Elections for new council members take place on Oct. 16.

At the same time, the new-look council should mean that Japan, West Germany and Italy join Britain, France and the United States to give it an unusually strong Western presence.

Some observers see it as ironic that Japan, West Germany and Italy, known as the Axis powers which began the 1939 War, will for the first time be sitting together around the horse-shoe table which was founded in the devastation of that war.

Zambia backed

Today the former Axis powers are considered key nations in the Western alliance and their presence on the Security Council will be welcomed by the democratic governments represented at the U.N.

Zambia, one of the so-called front-line states, is the African candidate chosen to replace Madagascar. The other five non-permanent members whose term expires at the end of 1987 are Bulgaria, Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Argentina has not served on the council for about 15 years and its U.N. diplomats are eager to prove to their British counterparts that despite differences over the Falklands, "there still remain a great deal of things in common."

Bring all the bodies home, urges father

By a Correspondent

Mr Isias Gimenez, father of an Argentinian pilot buried in the Falklands, said in Darwin, in the Falklands, yesterday after seeing the grave that "at some time in the future, when all the bodies have been identified, and all the bereaved parents in Argentina agree, they would like the bodies to be returned to their homeland."

Mr Gimenez, who is president of the National Commission of Parents and Relatives for the Dissappeared in Argentina — his daughter is secretary — has been campaigning since 1983 for more information about Falklands war victims.

He plans to spend a week in Britain talking to various organisations, and meeting Mr Des Keoghane, chairman of the British-based Falklands Families Association, before returning home.

His daughter, Maria, a practising lawyer, told reporters that "her mother wished Miguel to be buried in the Falklands." She said her father

"felt no anger towards the British or Argentinian governments for the death of her brother. He was a professional military person with a job to do."

The burial service for Miguel Angel Gimenez, at the Argentinian cemetery in Darwin was "an emotional occasion, which affected me profoundly," said Mr Gimenez. The solemnity of the military funeral pleased him, he said.

Father and daughter showed visible emotion when the blue and white Argentinian flag was removed before the coffin, was gently lowered into the ground by four soldiers from the King's Regiment, who wore black armbands.

The 12-man firing party, comprising members of the Kings' and the RAF, fired three volleys over the grave while the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a bugler.

Large wreaths of fresh flowers of all colours, given to the bereaved father and daughter by the dean of St Paul's Cathed-

ral when they laid a wreath at the British memorial at the cathedral last week, decorated the graveside at Darwin.

Later, left alone in their solitude, Mr Gimenez and Maria put flowers upon many of the 233 graves, picking out in particular some of the 122 on which is written, on a plain, white wooden cross, the words, "An Argentine soldier known unto god."

The Gimenez were "overjoyed" to find in the cemetery the name of Mario Aquilino Gracia Canete, whose mother in Argentina has for four years been seeking information on his whereabouts.

After the service, Mr Gimenez and Maria were taken by helicopter to Blue Mountain to view the wreckage of the Pucara aircraft in which Miguel Angel crashed. They are taking back to Argentina part of the propellor and harness he was wearing at the time.

In a final message before leaving for England, where they are due to arrive today, Mr Gimenez and his daughter



Maria Gimenez:
flowers on Falklands graves

talked of the "great spirit of solidarity which existed between people. It does not have frontiers, only boundaries."

The attention they had received in Britain and the Falklands had been marvellous, they said.



JOHN EDWARDS reports from Darwin

Bleak salute

AS SOON as they had buried the Argentine pilot, the military and Foreign Office people here had to take to the trenches to save themselves from the fury of the Falkland Islanders.

The verbal crossfire almost lit up the sky.

'If I hear any more about this, just a single word, then I think I'm going to be sick,' was what Jimmy Alazia, one of Port Stanley's leading businessmen said afterwards.

The pilot, Lieutenant Miguel Angel Gimenez, who didn't make it over the top of Blue Mountain in his Pucara after stranding British troops on May 28, 1982, was put in a grave in the Argentine cemetery at Darwin. His was grave number 237.

His father, Isidoro Gimenez, the first Argentine to set foot in the Falklands since the war, stood next to the grave, touching tears from his eyes.

No enemy officer had ever received such a send-off. Giant helicopters whirled in dignitaries from Stanley. Others landed with the highest-ranking British officers on the island. The Commander-in-Chief, Rear Admiral Kit Layman, arrived with a black armband and all his braid flashing in the cold, brilliant sunshine.

Scatterings of colonels and majors stood around with their heads down.

Struggling

It was an extraordinary showpiece in the middle of nowhere watched in the distance by long-haired sheep and wild geese pecking the wind-burned soil.

'I told you, don't say any more,' Mr Alazia said. 'They've asked a man down here for his son's funeral. That's OK. They've treated him like a prince. There was no need for that.'

One of the customers in the store he runs said she wondered how the mothers of dead soldiers in Britain feel about all the fuss.

Lieutenant Gimenez had been one of a flight of six Pucarans sent to blast British troops struggling across open moorland before the great assault on Goose Green.

Three of them were brought down by excellent shooting of Blowpipe missiles and machine guns. Gimenez probably caught a burst, turned to go for base in Stanley but ploughed into the last ridge of Blue Mountain.

Daring

You could see the wreckage everywhere.

Someone who was there at the time said it was a sight he wouldn't forget. It all happened just after we heard of the death of Col H. Jones'. Until his death, Gimenez had been one of the pilots fording it around the bar of the Upland Goose Hotel each night, talking about their daring deeds.

For the past few days his father and sister, Carolina, have been put up by the British-appointed Air Marshal General of the Falklands, Michael Gaher. They flew to the funeral in a \$2,000-an-hour helicopter paid for by the British Govern-



A moment's private grief for a lost son and brother... Isidoro Gimenez and his daughter Carolina at the graveside in the Falklands' Argentine cemetery.

They asked a man down here for his son's burial. That's OK. They treated him like a prince... there was no need for that?

Also among the mourners was one of the most senior Foreign Office agents here, First Secretary Paul Whiteway.

The Last Post was played by an Army bugler. The notes waivered over the bleak cemetery, battered by a frozen wind from the South Pole.

Rear Admiral Layman saluted stiffly. British troops stood icily to attention. A firing party shot blanks over the grave. No one attended from Goose Green, just across the creek. 'I suppose they still have bad memories of the Argentines,' someone said.

The Argentines looked homes in Goose Green and home fith in them. 'Non, two miles away, British soldiers held ready to be put on an old enemy's grave. A WRAC had one of them in her arms. Mr Gimenez, a shy and unemotional man, said it was hard

Falklands since General Menendez surrendered.

'Don't mention it in here,' a man behind the bar at The Globe pub in Stanley said later. 'If it had to happen the family should have been brought in without fuss and got out the same day.'

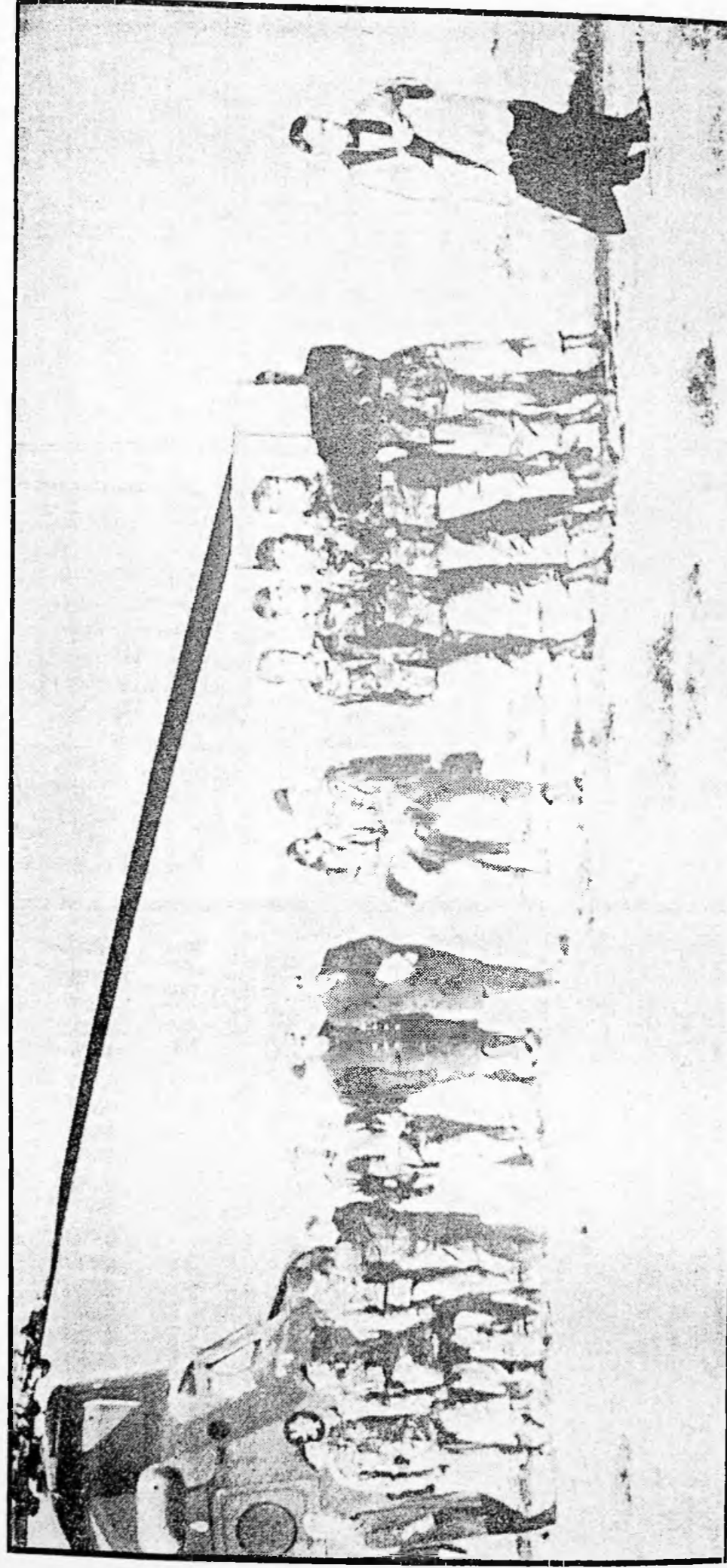
'Listen,' another man said, 'it took a year for the British to let the families of their dead come down here to see the graves. The Argentines were down here in three weeks and got treated like royalty.'

When the funeral was over, Rear Admiral Layman strutted away to his helicopter, full of pomp. A Defence Ministry Press officer tried to lay down a screen to prevent him being questioned. Only one got through to the Admiral.

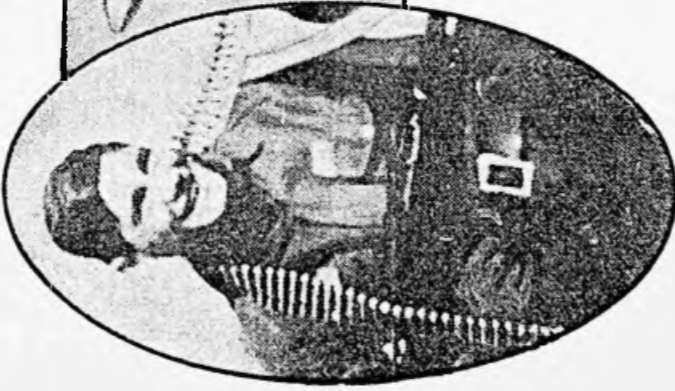
What is your view of this situation? he was asked. He stopped dead at the steps of the helicopter with everything on his mind.

on the VIP funeral that is angering the people of the Falklands

to Yesterday's Enemy



Full military honours for the old enemy... a priest leads the solemn procession to the windswept cemetery.



Before the war... the smiling young pilot poses with a machine gun for a light-hearted picture. Above, a Pucara like the one in which Gimenez met his death.



PICTURE: PAUL FIEVEZ

'I don't discuss such matters at the graveside during a soldier's funeral,' he replied, as if he was saying something for history.

And he was a huge distance from the graveside.

Mr Gimenez stayed some time at the graveside. It was at the end of the line, right next to Conscripto Juan F. Rava and in front of a nameless soldier: 'Known unto God.'

Feelings

The helicopter taking Mr Gimenez back to Stanley made a final pass over the cemetery. Then it changed course and flew over Blue Mountain. Mr Gimenez looked down on the wreckage of the Pucara. The cockpit section was burned out

and dug into a wall of boulders. The plane had missed clearing the mountain by about ten feet.

'It was a beautiful ceremony,' Mr Gimenez said after landing. 'The British military could not have been kinder to me. I am very grateful to everyone in your Foreign Office and here in the Malvinas. Thinking of one word to describe the whole episode, "Disgusting".'

Mr Pitaluga is chairman of the Falklands Sheep Owners Association. This is about as big as you can get here.

He thought he was expressing the feelings of most Falklanders when he said: 'I dislike intensely the way this whole thing has been stage-managed, without taste or without thought for people's feelings.'

'If I were a British relative of a dead soldier I think my blood would be boiling.'

Mr Pitaluga said the Falkland Islands Council had agreed terms for the burial but these had been 'altered and tailored to suit the occasion.'

Resisted

Lots of things were making him angry, he said.

'Remember that the British relatives had to shout and argue before anybody moved to let them in to see their loved-one's graves. Even then, in certain quarters in London, it was resisted.'

'The Argentines seem to be accorded much better treatment. And they are still the enemy. They won't even sign a peace treaty.'

After all the officers had queued to shake his hand, Mr Gimenez and Carolina stood quietly near the helicopter speaking softly to each other.

Then a car arrived to take them for a nice dinner with the Attorney General.

Daily Mail
6 October 1986

001, licensed for goodwill

OUR new Man In Havana Andrew Palmer, who used to be the FO's Falklands chief, always does things in style. He has handed over the Embassy's custom-made white Daimler, with its prized 001 diplomatic plate, to the Cubans as 'a gesture of goodwill.'

Having had it replaced by the FO with a Jaguar, Mr Palmer thought it would be 'jolly nice' to present the Daimler to the car museum in Havana. Mayor Fernandez Mell promises it will have a prominent place alongside the Buick once used by the legendary Che Guevara.

THATCHER REBUKES MINISTER

By NICHOLAS COMFORT
Political Staff

THE Prime Minister yesterday reprimanded Mr Jock Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for sending a private letter to a financial journalist criticising the operation to recover the Falklands.

When Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982, Lord Bruce-Gardyne, then a Treasury Minister, was less than gung-ho about Britain's campaign to rescue the islands, fearing potential disaster. A private letter spelling out his fears— leaked to the *New Statesman*— caused a storm. In this extract from his Ministerial memoirs he tells how he came to write the letter and how Mrs Thatcher reacted to the leak.

THE DAY I WAS FORCED TO EAT HUMBLE PIE...

IN CURRENT POLITICAL jargon, and under all political dispensations, the Treasury is inevitably the "driest" of Whitehall departments. For "dampness" is nowadays defined by reference to a scale of relative enthusiasm for State expenditure, and regardless of the labels of the politicians, whether they be Socialist, Social Democrats or Tories, the Treasury will always be against it, since it has to raise the cash to meet the bills.

But for the same reason there is one cause which is normally espoused by those politicians identified with "dryness" which has few friends in the Treasury: defence. For the Treasury (like other Finance Ministries around the globe) long ago discovered that if defence spending is given free rein then other fields of spending with more obvious sex appeal to the electorate—health, welfare, education, roads—become far more resistant to restraint.

In 1979 the Government had publicly endorsed a call from Nato for member-countries to increase their spending on defence by three per cent per annum over and above the going rate of inflation, and was determined to set a good example. Furthermore, when the network of "comparability" Commissions and review bodies for

public-sector pay was dismantled in 1980, a special exception was made for the Armed Forces (and the police).

As a result, by early 1982 defence spending had grown by more than two-thirds in three years: significantly faster than the overall rate of growth of public expenditure. The Treasury was not remotely reconciled to this rake's progress (as they saw it); at each annual public spending exercise successive Chief Secretaries were put up to try to get the "three per cent real growth" commitment expunged from the record. But until the second Election victory had been safely gathered in 1985, all their powers of advocacy failed to shift the Prime Minister.

Against this background, the Argentinian invasion of the Falklands at the beginning of April, 1982, hit the mandarins of the Treasury as a particularly vicious stroke of fate. They knew, by bitter experience, that when war breaks out their normal criteria of good housekeeping go to the wall for the duration. War, like high heaven, "rejects the law of nicely calculated less or more." Furthermore they had every reason to recall that the nearest modern precedent for the Falklands expedition, the Suez crisis in 1956, had provoked a run on sterling which had led the then Chancellor, Harold Macmillan, who had been one of the most vociferous advocates of

military action, to advise his colleagues to call it a day.

So there was an atmosphere of foreboding at the Treasury Chambers. Among the Ministers there were additional reasons for dismay. By the early spring of 1982 there were the first faint signs that the painful medicines applied in 1979-81 were beginning to show results. The Treasury, having borne the brunt of the opprobrium for stern financial policies applied hitherto, was looking forward to reaping some reward. And now—as we saw it—all our hopes were put in jeopardy by a wild adventure in the southern seas.

We also had a special reason for feeling that it could have been avoided. For our colleague, the Financial Secretary Nicholas Ridley, in his previous incarnation as Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had secured the acquiescence of both the Argentines and the Falkland Islanders to a deal whereby formal sovereignty over the islands was to be conceded to the Argentines, while British rule would be maintained in practice on a "lease-back" basis. This compromise had then provoked a noisy, if quite unrepresentative, explosion on the back-benches in the Commons, and the Government had lost its nerve.

The popular, although scarcely comforting, analogy at the time was with Suez. I could not get out of my

mind what seemed to me a far closer historical parallel: a much more painful one. Eighty years before, another seaborne expedition had been despatched around the globe to recover stolen territory: the Russian expedition to Port Arthur. When it arrived at its destination it had been blown out of the water by the occupying power, Japan. If that were to be the fate of the Falklands expedition, it would assuredly be the end of the Thatcher Government.

Undoubtedly the immediate reaction in the grassroots to the Falklands expedition was one of pride and relief—the "walking tall" syndrome. But it was fragile. It was easy to detect the unease just below the surface. An almost bloodless victory would indeed be marvellous. But were there to be substantial loss of British lives it was all too clear that the game would be perceived as not worth the candle.

SO ON the Falklands the Treasury, so long the Praetorian Guard of the Thatcher Administration, was perceived to have gone "wet." At one of the Prime Minister's briefings for Ministers outside the Cabinet, one of my colleagues asked her about hazards to the pound. On the contrary, she replied, the pound was holding up most resiliently. At this point I found my eye caught. "Isn't it, Jock?" I gulped. "So far, Prime Minister." There was a predictable explosion. "So far? What d'you mean, 'so far'? What's the matter with the Treasury?"

Happily, within weeks the expedition force was safely landed, and our spineless fears proved groundless. They cost me dear. Ministers regularly leak and are regularly leaked against. The latter was my fate.

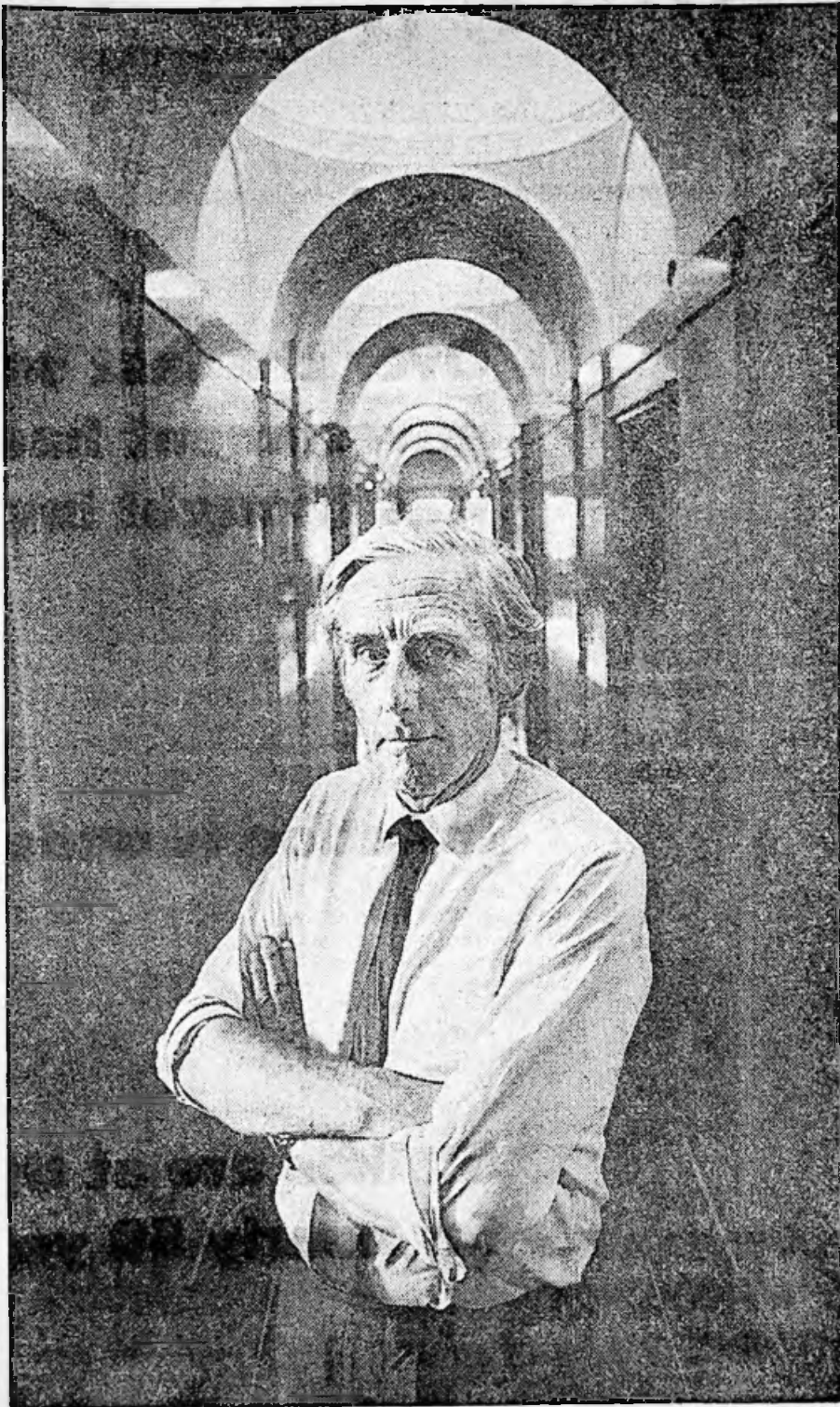
One afternoon towards the end of May, 1982, free of an official lunchtime date in my diary, I had escaped by bike to that gregarious watering-place the Garrick Club. While I was having a pre-lunch drink at the bar, my erstwhile Fleet Street colleague Peregrine Worsthorne of *The Sunday Telegraph* came up to me. "Splendid letter of yours in the *New Statesman*," he said. "I very much agree with you." "Oh, good," I replied. And then did a double-take. I rushed after him. "What letter? What the hell are you talking about?" He produced a copy of the Left-wing weekly, hot off the newsstands, drawing my attention to an item prominently displayed on an inside page.

"No biffing cause" was the headline. Beneath was an extensive quotation from a letter. "I think I'd dispute your claim that you've got to have a very good cause to go to war. I don't think the cause matters a tuppenny damn. All that matters is the stomach for the fight. The Kaiser in 1914 had given us far less cause to go to war than Hitler in 1939. Yet I suspect we marched into battle with twice the zest in 1914.

"The problem, I suspect, on this occasion, is that the travellers on the Clapham omnibus do not have the stomach for the fight. So biffing the Argies is fine. Being biffed by the Argies is a mug's game. But it's got nothing to do with causes or morality. I don't think it ever really has."

I recognised the letter at once. Six weeks earlier, after emerging from hospital and a minor operation, I had been entertained to dinner by Samuel Brittan, the Economics Editor of the *Financial Times* and a very old friend. On the morning, a couple of days subsequently, when I came to pen a thank-

Extracted from "Ministers and Mandarins: Inside the Whitehall Village" by Jock Bruce-Gardyne, to be published on October 16 by Sidgwick & Jackson at £10.95.



"You write too much," the PM told me

Pictures DEREK RIDGERS

your letter for my dinner Sam happened to have published in the *Financial Times* a heated denunciation of the Falklands expedition from an essentially pacifist viewpoint. So I had added a postscript to my bread-and-butter letter commenting on his article. This was it.

It was a Thursday. My first thought was that the Prime Minister would be facing Questions in the Commons that afternoon. If Peregrine Worsthorne had read the *New Statesman*, then so might others. I dashed to the telephone and called my Private Office. They had better get on to 10 Downing Street immediately, advising them to acquire a copy of the *New Statesman*. Yes, alas! The letter was genuine. How it had got to the *New Statesman* I had no idea—except that it had presumably been stolen.

For a few brief hours I clung to the hope that that might be the end of the matter. The circulation of the *New Statesman* is, after all, derisory: and Prime Minister's Questions had come and gone without a mention of it. My hope was quickly dashed. As the evening wore on my telephone began to ring and ring. The national Press and TV were on to a story. It was at that point that a fresh, and even more horrendous, thought occurred to me.

Six weeks before, following the reoccupation by British personnel of the base-camp in Antarctic South Georgia which had first been seized by Argentina, I had been asked for my comments by my local weekly newspaper in Knutsford (whose editor, for reasons best known to himself, never missed a chance to cross swords with me). Clearly it was no time for half-measures, and I had produced a "land of hope and glory" article which would have done Horatio Bottomley proud. The contrast between it and my private letter to Sam Brittan (written almost simultaneously) could not have been more flagrant. I thought it was high time for me to ring my constituency agent, and warn her what lay in store.

THE FOLLOWING day was, I suppose, among the more unpleasant of my life. It started early. The door-bell rang at 7 am. My wife opened the door to be confronted with a reporter and a photographer from the *Daily Mail*. I decided to play possum as long as I could. A quick perusal of the morning papers offered no relief. I was headline news in most of them, with ample references to the doubtful joys of "biffing Argies."

Then when, at 8.40, my official car arrived to collect me, the *Daily Mail* was still in attendance. Bulbs flashed. The engaging young reporter told me that his Editor had instructed him to offer me a full page in the next day's *Mail* to present my considered view of the Falklands campaign. To which I replied that I wasn't born yesterday, whatever appearances at that moment might suggest.

At the Treasury my telephone rang steadily. An early caller was my constituency agent, with the news that the honorary secretary of the local British Legion had announced—to the local Press—that if I was going to put in an appearance at the annual church parade and service for the Mayor of Knutsford, which just happened to be due that weekend, then the British Legion would not do so. That spelled Trouble. Then there was a call from one of the senior Parliamentary lobby correspondents—to inquire whether my head was to be called for on a charger. Surely not, I replied: you surely could not be fired because somebody stole a private letter and passed it to the Press? "Don't count on it," was the encouraging response. "I have the impression that the knives are out."

Considerably shaken, I called some

Ministerial colleagues. I was advised to seek an early meeting with the Prime Minister, at which I should offer up my cards—when with any luck the offer would be rejected. I did as I was told, and a meeting was duly arranged at No 10 that afternoon.

The Prime Minister was both generous and understanding. "You write too much," she told me—a charge to which, in the circumstances, I could not do other than plead guilty. But she wouldn't hear of resignation. With the help of her Parliamentary Private Secretary, Ian Gow, I drafted a statement to the effect that the stolen private letter reflected no more than a passing brain-storm, which in retrospect I realised had totally misjudged the public mood. This was generally interpreted—understandably—as a craven climb-down. I was in no position to explain that my earlier published comments on the recapture of South Georgia would have left me with no choice even if Downing Street had not desired a public retraction of the views expressed in the stolen letter.

The mandarins were full of sympathy and understanding. So were almost all my Parliamentary colleagues, from both sides of the House of Commons. They knew, or could very easily imagine, what I was going through.

There was, however, one surprising sequel. Some 10 days later the Finance Bill was working its way peaceably through its Committee stage on the upper floor of the House of Commons. We were due to be sitting late. The rest of the Commons had packed up early. So when I came down to the Members' dining room for a bite of food during the dinner break, one of the larger tables in the middle of the dining room was already full with my colleagues from the Finance Bill Committee. Otherwise the room was almost empty.

Convention in the Members' Dining Room has it that unless you have a special reason to dine in solitude you usually join colleagues at a table where a place is available. Immediately adjacent to the door was a table with a solitary diner: Edward Heath.

So far as I could recollect, we had not exchanged a sentence since the summer of 1974. Yet he was now staring at me. So I asked if I could join him. "By all means": he sounded almost welcoming. "And how did it come about," he asked me as soon as I had taken my place, "that your very sensible views about this Falklands affair found their way into the public prints?" I had to confess I could not enlighten him.

THERE WAS one further sequel which is perhaps worth recounting in the light of the current debate about the rights and wrongs of "leaking". In the autumn of 1983 I was bidden to appear on the weekly Parliamentary programme on Channel Four TV which at that time was hosted by Peter Jay, an old friend and colleague and sometime Economics Editor of the *Times*. The day before, the *Times* had published the statement made to it by Cecil Parkinson's former mistress, Miss Sarah Keays, which had effectively ended that Minister's career. That was not the subject of our programme, but inevitably it occupied our attention while we waited to go on the air.

Peter Jay asserted that, had he been Editor of the *Times*, he would have told Miss Keays that if she had anything to say she should release it to the Press in general through her solicitors, when he would consider publishing it down-page on page 4. "And when your proprietor discovered—as he no doubt would—that you had been offered it exclusively," I challenged him, "and that you had spurned it, he'd have had your guts for garters." "Maybe," was Peter's magisterial reply. "But that is still what I would have done."

So would he have published my stolen letter? It turned out that the editor of the *New Statesman*, Hugh Stephenson, was an old friend of his—and that he had been consulted before Stephenson published it. His advice had been that Stephenson had first to satisfy himself on three counts. Was it genuine? Did it concern a matter of genuine public interest? Had he come by it lawfully? If he could give affirmative answers to all three questions, he would be fully entitled to publish it.

Lawfully? Stephenson could hardly have imagined that either I—to whom the legal copyright belonged—or Sam Brittan had authorised disclosure of the letter. But then Peter Jay's own former newspaper had performed a similar role when it had published, not so long before, a copy of a private letter from Denis Thatcher to the Secretary of State for Wales.

Long before these events the Falklands affair had reached its triumphal climax. Ministers could not just breathe again: they could begin to plan the second Thatcher Government. And Whitehall swiftly adjusted its sights accordingly.

If I could not bask so comfortably in the reflected glow from Port Stanley, neither could the Treasury. It had to contemplate the bills. There was an open-ended commitment to replace the ships and aircraft lost and damaged in the battle; and this, and the cost—running to hundreds of millions of pounds a year for years ahead—of turning a remote bunch of islands in the South Atlantic into a suppliable fortress, had to be added to the existing projections of the defence Budget. Yet at the same time the Treasury was expected to draw back the share of national resources pre-empted by the State below the levels inherited in 1979.

It says much for its departmental perseverance that the squandering of hundreds of millions a year on so curious a purpose did not lead to a complementary burst of spending on more electorally appealing causes nearer home. Not like the days of Lord Stockton.

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NEXT: When it was "Yes, Minister" — "No, Minister"

Falklands VIP protest

PROTESTS among Falkland Islanders that an Argentine businessman was given an official VIP welcome to impress the Buenos Aires Government when he arrived for the funeral of his pilot son at Darwin yesterday were rejected emphatically in Whitehall.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Mr Isaias Gimenez and his daughter, Carolina, 24, the first Argentines to visit the Falklands since the 1982 war, were dealt with correctly and their trip was arranged for humanitarian reasons.

The spokesman also denied that instructions to give Mr Gimenez a "one star VIP grading" such as would be afforded to a junior minister were sent from London to Ascension Island and Port Stanley.

But Mr Gimenez appeared to

By **NORMAN KIRKHAM**
Diplomatic Correspondent

be astonished at the elaborate arrangements. He was greeted by the Deputy Commander at Ascension base at 4 a.m. before flying on in an RAF TriStar to Mount Pleasant airport.

There, Mr Paul Whiteway, a First Secretary from Government House, was waiting to chauffeur Mr Gimenez and his daughter to Port Stanley.

His son, Lieutenant Miguel Angel Gimenez, whose remains were discovered recently in a crashed Pucara aircraft, was buried with full military honours yesterday. Rear Admiral "Kit" Layman, Commander British Forces, was present.

Mr Gimenez and his daughter each paid £800 for the round trip to the Falklands via Britain because there are no transport

links between the islands and Buenos Aires.

Mr Robin Pitaluga, a former member of the Falklands legislative council, protested that the father and daughter were likely to be interested in military intelligence. Other islanders said yesterday that too much fuss had been made.

● Far from moving closer to Argentina, Britain is becoming involved in a dispute over fishing conservation around the Falklands after reports that Buenos Aires has granted Russia and Bulgaria licences to fish close to the coasts.

Britain is now expected to consider declaring a new fishery protection zone because of doubts that a proposed conservation scheme under auspices of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation will prove practicable.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne—P12

Father's requiem for a pilot lost in the Falklands

by Amit Roy

THREE minutes alone by his son's grave was all that Isaias Gimenez had after his 17,000-mile odyssey to the Falklands islands from Argentina via RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

It was his daughter, Maria Carolina Gimenez, who placed the lone wreath by her brother's grave. The wreath had been brought specially from Britain. It is spring in the Falklands and the daffodils are bursting into bloom, but there are not enough flowers in the islands to make a wreath.

On a bleak hillside overlooking Darwin, the remains of Lt Miguel Angel Gimenez, were laid to rest yesterday. The 28-year-old Argentinian pilot was killed on May 28, 1982, when his Argentinian Air Force Pucara crashed into the Blue Mountain in the heat of battle.

Yesterday, in the bright spring sunshine, the father could see the mountain where his son had died. He and his daughter, given special permission by the British government to attend Miguel's funeral, thus became the first Argentinians to set foot in the islands since the guns fell silent more than four years ago.

Both father and daughter retained control, but behind their dark glasses — the wind in a temperature of 39deg F can be cutting — their eyes were moist. "I am calm but inside me I have my own sorrow and my heart is bleeding," Gimenez remarked later.

Miguel was buried with full military honours. His coffin was taken off a Chinook helicopter wrapped in a blue and white Argentinian flag. As the coffin was gently lowered into the ground, the flag was gently taken off to be handed to his father. Six officers from the King's Regiment and six RAF personnel fired a volley of shots.

A bugler sounded the Last Post and then Reveille. Miguel's place was in the Argentinian cemetery, alongside 236 of his countrymen. Beside him was a grave of an Argentinian, "Known only unto God". When Gimenez returns to London, he wants to talk to Lady Young, the Foreign Office minister, about exhuming the graves of 130 Argentinians who are still unidentified.

Yesterday, the Falkland islanders, who are unhappy about Gimenez being allowed to visit the islands, were conspicuous by their absence. Only one elected councillor, attended. Present was the commander British Forces Falklands, Rear Admiral Kit Layman. The service was conducted by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Augustine Monaghan. "Help all nations to work for peace so that all men may live as brothers," he said.

Gimenez and his daughter were taken by helicopter to lay another wreath in the Blue Mountain where

Miguel's plane had crashed. They were probably unaware that a political storm had burst even as the funeral was taking place.

A prominent islander, Robin Pitaluga, who claimed to reflect the views of most of the islanders, accused father and daughter of being Argentinian spies and the Foreign Office in London of near treachery.

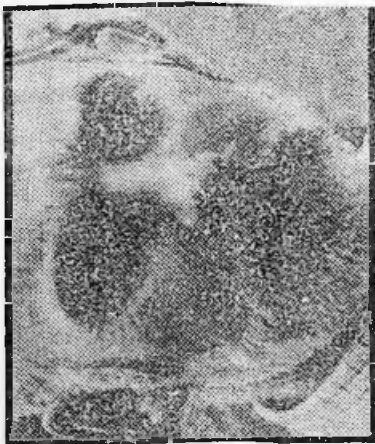
In Britain this produced an angry response from Tom Dalyell, the Labour MP who has been sharply critical of Mrs Thatcher over the sinking of the Argentinian cruiser, the General Belgrano. "This shows yet again just what a narrow minded, curmudgeonly, ungenerous lot the task force was sent out to defend."

He said he had written to the foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, asking him to begin discussions with Argentina and pointing out "the opinions of the Falkland islanders should certainly not be paramount".

Pitaluga hit back calling the funeral "a political stunt. It is a testing of the waters, masquerading under the term humanitarian".

But the Falklands governor, Gordon Jewkes, who did not attend the funeral, insisted the opposition of the islanders should not be exaggerated. He was backed by a trade union leader, Terry Betts, who insisted: "We practice what we preach: democracy and human rights."

Drama is radical—or it's dead



The BBC's decision to postpone a play about the Falklands by Ian Curteis (left) has reopened the bitter debate about bias in drama. Hugh Hebert reports

TO INHERIT a hot seat is one thing. To find half of Fleet Street under it, wielding blow-lamps, is a bit different. So welcome the BBC's new chairman. The precise facts about the dispute between the playwright Ian Curteis and the BBC—and in particular Peter Goodchild, its head of television plays—are difficult to disentangle, mainly because the BBC's initial answer to Curteis's allegations was inadequate.

Still, briefly: Ian Curteis had been commissioned to write a play about the Falklands War more than three years ago. This week the story broke that the play—originally scheduled for next April, the fifth anniversary of the Argentine invasion—had been postponed; Curteis claimed this was because he had refused to alter his extensively researched script in ways that he believed falsified the record.

He said Goodchild had asked him to cut scenes that showed Mrs Thatcher writing personal letters to the families of men killed in the Falklands; a scene of her in tears at the garden at Chequers; and another of her swathed in black in the Commons in mourning for the dead of HMS Sheffield. But Curteis's most serious allegation was that Goodchild was trying to persuade him to rewrite crucial War Cabinet scenes to show Ministers taking military decisions with one eye on the next general election; and that when he refused to do that, the BBC cancelled the production.

The BBC's response to these charges has been extremely muted, but boil down to a total refutation of the idea that Goodchild tried to influence the political slant of the play, and a state-

ment that the play was postponed because to screen any play dealing with serving Ministers during the run up to a general election would be "irresponsible."

Curteis told me that he had not wanted the dispute to become public at all. "My strategy was to wait for the new chairman of the BBC to be appointed and then to put it in his hands. But Cedric Messina (who was to produce the play) told an MP, who told Norris McWhirter. McWhirter phoned me and said it was my public duty to make the facts known, and I thought that if he had half the story he had better have the whole story."

Cedric Messina has declined to comment on this account, though he says it's a splendid play and he still hopes to produce it. Anyway, the result was an article in *Free Nation*, which is published by the rightwing Freedom Association. And in no time at all the BBC's enemies in Fleet Street were baying for blood again.

Leaving aside the flurry of claim and counterclaim, there are significant issues here. Charles Wood's letter, published in the *Guardian* today, expresses one of his personal worries about the affair, but he also told me that if what Curteis says is true, he would be very concerned about the principle involved. And it's clear that writers, of whatever political persua-

sion, are always going to resist pressure to change their work from whatever direction.

Curteis has described his play as "a celebration of what this nation achieved only five years ago." He does not conceal his belief that the British action in the Falklands was right.

"A theme I brought out in the play was that the public mood was not a sudden upsurge of jingoism of an empire in decline, but another emotion which we as a nation have always felt strongly—which is not putting up with aggressors—opposing aggression by force. That theme for some reason

remains what he sees as an attempt to get him to change the viewpoint while still presenting it as his play.

But it's also clear, in the Curteis case, that there is a personal element. Curteis twice pointed out to me that Goodchild — who is relatively new in the job — was "not a drama man". And one of his complaints is that Goodchild appeared to be acting without Messina's knowledge. Would he have been surprised if Messina (with whom he has worked often before) had raised the same issues? "Cedric would be perfectly entitled to raise with me any subject he likes... I wouldn't have been shocked." He was, however, clearly shocked that the suggestions were made in the way they were. Though Goodchild has maintained that the exchanges were entirely amicable.

There is certainly some evidence of a change of mood over the past few years in BBC drama. One producer of many years' experience told me that "they are no longer interested in stories, they're more interested in stances, in attitudes." But then drama, television, stage, wherever, has gone way down that road anyway, and maybe television is just catching up. Though you wouldn't know it from great swathes of the schedules.

The intriguing thing about these successive attacks on so-called Left

wing bias in the BBC — starting with Monocled Mutineer — is that they have all been about plays. In 1984-5 drama accounted for 3.2 per cent of all the hours of television the BBC produced. The Monocled Mutineer row was about whether Bleasdale's fiction misrepresented events of more than 60 years ago. And the row itself was set off by an article in the Daily Mail about Mr Julian Putkowski's decision to dissociate himself from the series — an article about which Mr Putkowski has now complained to the Press Council.

There is a real difficulty in dramatising from research, and the closer in time the events the worse it becomes. I suspect it's also made more difficult by the form of faction itself, by the erosion of the frontiers between real events, documentaries about them, and fictions deriving from them. The fly on the wall documentary itself raises false expectations of the drama of reality. The reconstructions of Cabinet meetings staged by Granada maybe have the same effect.

Curteis and Wood have both plainly felt that because the events they are writing about are so close, their obligation to be accurate is the more intense.

Wood now fears, as his letter makes clear, that both plays may be cancelled. I very much hope that both will be produced, and be damned to the condescending idea that the voter does not know the difference between drama and fact. And to the extraordinary idea that 3 per cent of television output, even if it were all political from start to finish, might swing the election. Drama is radical or it is dead.

seemed to embarrass him (Goodchild)." says Curteis. "There is a scene at the end where the Prime Minister rounds on Pym, who has been saying it is criminal in this day and age to set about killing people over these little islands, and she loses her temper and expounds that theme."

"Couldn't this be a rather partisan theme to explore in the run up to a general election?" "All plays are partisan," says Curteis. And he sees no reason why he should not propound this view of events providing he give the other side of the argument, which he insists he does. His complaint

A Falklands war film that plays it straight

Sir, — Some time ago I wrote a film about the experiences of Robert Lawrence, MC, in the Falklands and after. With him and others I have tried to have my screenplay made into a film, and at last the BBC has agreed to a production.

The screenplay, Tumbledown, was very carefully written with the full cooperation of Robert Lawrence and his family. I avoided any political stance, concentrating on the courage of Robert Lawrence in the Falklands, when recovering from his terrible wound, and not least when recounting his feelings honestly and accurately.

This carefully written film has in the past few days been labelled "anti-establishment" (Evening Standard, September 30) and the antithesis of the sentiments expressed by Ian Curteis, whose film drama about the Falklands has been postponed by the BBC.



My own attitudes to war and to the Falklands conflict have been quoted as indicative of the attitude of the script. Nothing could be further from the truth, but I fear that Tumbledown will now bear another label apart from "left-wing... subversive... anti-establishment" (Daily Mail, September 30); it will become "the film the BBC put on instead of the

Curteis play," with all the obvious implications.

There is also in my opinion, a real danger that the BBC will cancel our film altogether to show its new broom "lack of bias," regardless of the fact that I have taken great pains to present no bias whatsoever. Charles Wood.

The Manor House, Milton, Oxfordshire.



Senor Isais Gimenez from Argentina who is to attend his son's funeral in Port Stanley today with his daughter Maria.

Falklands guard as Argentines fly in

By Patrick Watts in Port Stanley

TIGHT security accompanied the arrival in the Falklands of the Argentine father who is to attend his son's funeral this afternoon. Two armed Phantom aircraft escorted the RAF Tristar carrying Senor Isais Gimenez and his daughter as it landed at Mount Pleasant Airport.

Fully-armed soldiers were posted at strategic hidden points and barricades were visible at the main gates to the airport.

A police escort accompanied the Government House Land-Rover in which Senor Gimenez, 52, and his daughter Maria Carolina, 24, a lawyer, travelled to Port Stanley. They are the first permanent residents of Argentina to visit the Falklands since the end of the 1982 conflict.

Their request to attend the funeral was granted by the British Government and approved by a majority of the Falklands Legislative Council members after the Argentine authorities refused to have the body of Lieut. Miguel Angel Gimenez, returned to his homeland.

The Argentine Government refused to accept the body of Lt. Gimenez back in their country because it says a burial in the Falklands is a burial on Argentine soil. To move Lt. Gimenez would be "a recognition of British sovereignty over the islands".

A Foreign Office official, accompanied by an English teacher who teaches Spanish in Falkland schools, met Senor Gimenez and his daughter at the airport.

A military spokesman insisted that measures taken by the British forces were no more than "ordinary military vigilance in what is still an operational theatre".

Argentina has not declared a formal cessation of hostilities since the 1982 conflict.

The two Argentines are expected to leave the Falklands tomorrow.

Argentine pair had travelled 15,000 miles to reach the Falklands via Britain, as all links between the mainland and the dispute islands were cut at the end of the conflict.

Islanders' hostility

Despite passport problems, arguments about who should pay his fare, hostility from some islanders and having to defy his own country's military opposition, Senor Gimenez from the northern Argentine town of Cordoba, has overcome all the difficulties to be present at the funeral.

Lt. Gimenez will be buried with full military honours and the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, Rear Admiral "Kit" Layman, will be present at the funeral.

Mr Robin Pitaluga a former member of the legislative attacked the presence of Argentine relatives at the funeral. If these people really are true relatives... they are more likely to be military intelligence people who should not be allowed near the strategic airport at Mount Pleasant or the Falklands generally", he said.

Red face over a Falklands war leak

WHEN Argentina invaded the Falklands, Jock Bruce-Gardyne, then a Treasury Minister, was less than gung-ho about the campaign to rescue the islands. He feared potential disaster.

His private views caused a public storm when a confidential letter in which he spelt out his fears was leaked to the *New Statesman*.

Why, and in what circumstances, did he write the offending letter? And how did Mrs Thatcher react to the leak? In *The Sunday Telegraph* tomorrow, in an extract from his forthcoming ministerial memoirs, Lord Bruce-Gardyne tells the story of the storm and how he was forced to eat humble pie.

Board backs play decision

By Dennis Barker

The BBC board of governors has supported the management decision to postpone the Falklands war play by Mr Ian Curteis, who claims it was dropped because he would not alter it to make it more unsympathetic to Mrs Thatcher.

In a letter received yesterday by Curteis, the acting chairman of the board of governors, Lord Barnett, said the board had discussed the issue last Thursday. It had considered Mr Curteis's letter claiming that he had been asked to distort the historical facts.

Lord Barnett writes: "I do not have anything to add to the director-general's decision which, given the sensitivities of

a pre-election period, the board endorsed before your letter was received."

The BBC says that it has not dropped the play but only postponed it until after the next general election, because portraying existing government ministers in a pre-election period would be an "unacceptable dramatic risk."

Lord Barnett adds in his letter that if Anglia TV, which says it would be interested in the play, wishes to approach the BBC, it should get in touch with the director-general, Mr Alasdair Milne.

The BBC has the rights on the play for another 18 months. Mr Curteis said yesterday that he would now get his agent to investigate the copyright posi-

tion, to see if the BBC would relinquish the rights earlier.

He went on: "I think it is a BBC-type play and ideally I would like the BBC to do it. They would do it extremely well — the BBC is its natural home."

"But Anglia is one of the best in ITV, and have done many plays of mine before, so if it was done there it would be jolly good."

Mr Curteis said he was disappointed that Lord Barnett had not inquired about the circumstances of the decision not to go ahead with the play.

He said: "I am sad that the governors have so little concern for the proven public disquiet it has caused and that they

merely close ranks without any form of inquiry.

"I had expected some form of inquiry because it does raise some key issues."

Mr Curteis claims that Mr Peter Goodchild, a head of BBC television drama, said that if the play was to go ahead scenes would have to be inserted showing Mrs Thatcher in a less favourable light, while keeping those scenes which already did so.

The BBC counter claims that what took place between Mr Curteis and Mr Goodchild were only the usual "creative discussions" about the script.

Mr Goodchild has said that Mr Curteis's version of their meeting is a travesty.

Hugh Hebert, page 12

NEWS IN BRIEF

Falklands funeral security

TIGHT security accompanied the arrival yesterday of the first Argentinians to visit the islands since the end of the 1982 war.

Mr Isais Gimenez, aged 55, and his 24-year-old daughter Maria, are to attend the funeral today of his son, Lieutenant Miguel Gimenez, whose body was discovered recently still strapped in the cockpit of his aircraft wrecked in the hills above the capital, Port Stanley. Two Phantom fighter aircraft escorted the RAF TriStar carrying the pair as it landed at Mount Pleasant Airport while armed soldiers were posted at strategic points.

Barricades were visible at the main gates to the airport. A police escort accompanied the Land-Rover in which father and daughter were travelling to Port Stanley, 30 miles from the airport.

A military spokesman insisted that measures taken by the British forces were no more than ordinary military vigilance in what was still an operational theatre.

Argentina has still not declared a formal cessation of hostilities since the 1982 conflict.

Falklands shock at Argentine's VIP treatment

HE CAME TO BURY HIS SON

EXCLUSIVE

From JOHN EDWARDS in Port Stanley

ISAIAS GIMENEZ arrived in the Falklands yesterday—the first Argentine to set foot in the islands since the war.

He came to bury his son. But the red carpet treatment he received shocked some islanders and left the businessman himself almost speechless with astonishment.

The Foreign Office, desperate to build bridges with Argentina, gave him a one-star VIP grading—the same as a junior Minister, an admiral, a general or an air commodore.

It meant the deputy commander of the Ascension Island base and his wife got up at 4 a.m. to entertain him and his 24-year-old daughter Carolina during a refuelling stop.

For the 20-hour journey, there were first-class seats on an RAF TriStar, a visit to the flight deck to meet Squadron Leader Peter Young and his crew, and, finally, a memento—a signed flight plan and route map.

Mission

Some of the soldiers sitting less comfortably in the back of the TriStar said it was 'the same old story'. 'Who won the war?' was how one put it.

Mr Gimenez, a hire car businessman from Parana in Argentina, had won Foreign Office permission to be allowed to see his son's burial at Darwin. Lieutenant Miguel Gimenez was an Argentine Air Force Pucara pilot shot down on Blue Mountain outside Goose Green where an hour earlier Colonel H. Jones, VC, had died heroically.

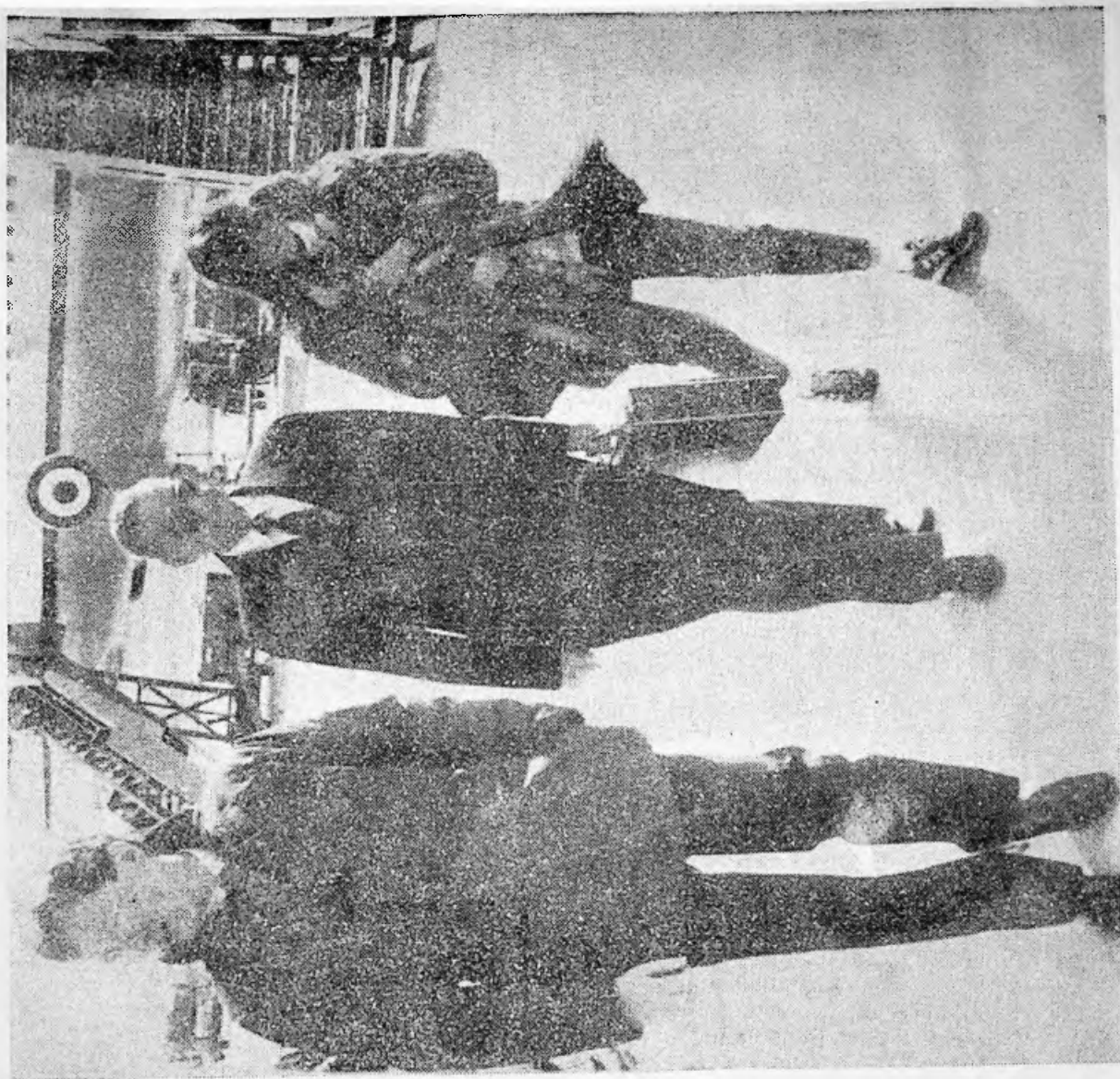
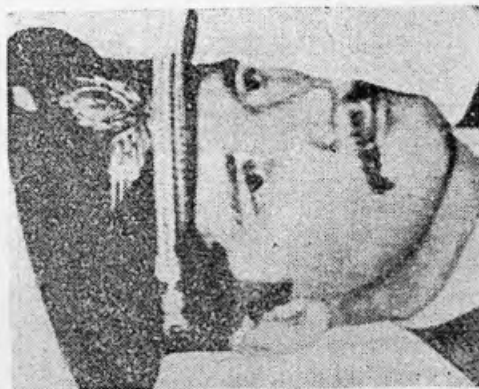
Gimenez had been on a strafing mission over British troops planned down before the fall of Goose Green. When his plane and body were found in a high ravine three

Miguel Gimenez: Shot down

weeks ago Mr Gimenez said he wanted to be at the burial.

A British soldier travelling to an outpost for a three-month tour of duty said 'Nobody can say much about him going to see his boy's funeral. But all this fuss they're making is way over the top.'

Mr Gimenez's first sight of 'the



A diplomat escorts Mr Gimenez (centre) and his daughter

Picture: PAUL FIEVEZ

cont.../...

VIP guests of the RAF



The Argentines meet Squadron Leader Young (centre right) and a crewman

Argentina's welcome

Continued from Page One

Malvinas,' as he always called them, was the snow-dabbed mountains around Tumbledown and Two Sisters. There was more snow on Blue Mountain. 'It is not quite what I thought,' he said. 'It looks very bleak and forbidding.'

Before the TriStar landed at the new and officially secret £500million airfield outside Port Stanley, Mr Gimenez scribbled a statement with a silver pen. His daughter read it out when they disembarked. 'I feel very emotional being able to set foot on this soil and having the privilege to be the first Argentine to do so since 1982,' she said on his behalf.

RAF Phantoms screamed low overhead on patrol. Paul

Whiteway, who said he was First Secretary at Government House, greeted Mr Gimenez on behalf of the civilian governor and chauffeured him to Port Stanley. He even had a police escort.

Whiteway was filled with importance at this huge task which had been given to him. The Falklands is such a great diplomatic post a man in the foreign service could go straight from here to Outer Mongolia.

British reporters and photographers with Mr Gimenez and his daughter were originally banned by the airfield commander, Group Captain Johnson, from photographing his arrival.

It was said he did not want anything to upset the

Argentines. So he cancelled the Press arrangements made by the Ministry of Defence.

But later officialdom relented and photographs were allowed with the Argentines' arrival restaged for the record.

Mr Gimenez said he was 'totally surprised' at the welcome he had been getting everywhere. 'I didn't expect the military to put on such hospitality for me,' he said.

Lt Gimenez will be buried in a cemetery in Darwin today alongside 233 other Argentine soldiers and airmen.

Mr Gimenez said he had been given a wreath to put on his son's grave. 'By some official in London'.

Falklands play claims denied

By Our

Television Correspondent

Mr Peter Goodchild, BBC Television's Head of Drama Plays denies in a letter to The Daily Telegraph today that he asked the author of a major film drama on the Falklands War to make political changes to the script because it was "too one-sided".

The author, Mr Ian Curteis, has claimed that the drama was dropped because of his refusal to "falsify" crucial war Cabinet scenes. Mr Goodchild describes the claims as "a travesty".

Mr Goodchild's letter—P16

BBC and the Falklands play

SIR—Ian Curteis reportedly claims that during a visit to his home on July 7 to discuss his Falklands play I suggested that he rewrite the script because it was "too one sided." He also claims that I asked him to cut a number of scenes involving the Prime Minister. His version of that meeting is a travesty of the events.

He had invited me to his home in Gloucestershire to talk about a number of projects including the Falklands play. After the meeting we both wrote to each other.

Our two letters, which crossed in the post, each recorded our understanding

of the outcome of the meeting described by Mr Curteis as "very good." Referring to the Falklands play I wrote to him:

"We discussed certain points about the script which need to be addressed before we can go ahead with production. In particular I expressed concern that we should put the largely military activities of our war cabinet into more of a political context—a context reflecting such doubts, fears and opposition as there was.

"This was the main point. We discussed some aspects of characterisation but these will come up for discussion between yourself and the producer."

In his cordial letter Curteis minuted our discussion as follows:

"We agreed I should look into certain matters in the text, when the producer, director, and I got to that stage of things. They are, in short-hand: (i) consciousness of the political consequences of war (ii) consciousness of a coming election (iii) Galtieri's origins and rise to power (iv) more doubters should be heard."

These two accounts are remarkable for their agreement. They both reflect a meeting which explored situations and characterisations to produce as full and rounded a view of events as possible.

Four days later Mr Curteis chose to reinterpret this professional artistic discussion as a political one and now claims that I had asked him to cut scenes showing Mrs Thatcher as "womanly and caring" and "to add scenes critical of the government."

This implies asking for changes for political reasons. I categorically deny having asked for any such changes.

PETER GOODCHILD
Head of Drama Plays, BBC.

ROYAL AIRFORCE NEWS
3 - 16 October 1986

Bathtime at Mt Pleasant



UNTIL RECENTLY there were only two baths available at Mount Pleasant, one in the Station Commander's accommodation and the other in the Medical Centre. Sgt Dave Allen, the SNCO I/C EETEC challenged his fellow members of Aircraft Support Flight to produce another before his departure back to UK.

As you can see the Flight rose to the challenge and the photo shows Sgt Allen in the first "Jacuzzi" made from an old fuel tank, surrounded by members of ASF.

The "Jacuzzi" is available to anyone else at Mount Pleasant at very reasonable rates (WRAF FREE!).

Falkland pilot funeral

Relatives of an Argentine pilot, killed during the Falklands conflict, left Britain last night to attend his funeral. They will be the first Argentines to set foot on the islands since 1982 (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Señor Isaias Giménez and his daughter, Maria Carolina,

left RAF Brize Norton to bury Flight Lieutenant Miguel Angel Giménez, whose body was found in August this year.

His Pucará fighter was shot down in May 1982, crashing on the remote Blue Mountain, 40 miles from Port Stanley. He will be buried on Saturday at Darwin cemetery.

Argentine bank fraud discovery

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

A SECOND suspected bank fraud in a week has been uncovered by Argentina's Central bank. Operations of the private bank, Banco Pringles, based in Buenos Aires, were taken over by the central bank on Wednesday after irregularities amounting to Australas 12m (\$12.8m) in export financing were discovered.

Banco Pringles is one of the smallest banks in the Argentine banking industry, having deposits of only Aus 5m at the end of May. None-the-less Central Bank rediscounts had been authorised to the bank to finance what are now suspected to be fraudulent export operations, according to a Central Bank spokesman.

Daily Mail
3 October 1986

Father's tribute

THE Argentine who is on his way to the Falklands to see his pilot son buried laid a wreath at St Paul's in memory of the British dead.

Argentine funeral in Falklands

By Robin Gedy
Diplomatic Staff

THE FATHER of an Argentine airman killed in the Falklands left Buenos Aires yesterday on a 30,000-mile trip via London to attend his son's funeral and become the first Argentine to visit the islands since the 1982 war.

Senor Isias Gimenez, whose son's body was discovered recently on Blue Mountain, 40 miles from Stanley, arrived in London with his daughter last night and will leave for Port Stanley from RAF Brize Norton tonight.

The pair are paying £800 each for the round trip, a concessionary fare otherwise only offered to people with a "close association with the Falkland islands."

Since there are no transport facilities between the islands and Argentina, Senor Gimenez, 55, is taking 72 hours for a trip which before the war would have meant a 5½-hour flight. With his daughter he will be allowed to stay two days.

The body of Lt Miguel Angel Gimenez was found in a remote area near the remains of his crashed pucara aircraft. Its 40 American-made 2.75 inch rockets were intact under the wings.

Rear-Adm "Kit" Layman, the British forces' commander, will attend the pilot's funeral.

Falkland mourner

The first Argentinian to officially visit the Falklands since the 1982 war arrived at Heathrow airport last night on a 34,000-mile trip to attend his son's funeral.

Senor Isias Lenin Gimenez (right) and his daughter, Maria, aged 23, will leave RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, tomorrow as guests of the RAF.

Senor Gimenez, whose son died when his Pucara aircraft crashed in May 1982, was given permission to go to the Falklands on humanitarian grounds.



Softy, softy

GONE are the days, it seems, when Falklanders only locked their doors to keep out the occasional stray sheep. The islands' 11-strong police force, faced with an unprecedented upsurge in the crime rate since the influx of troops and construction workers, has just appointed its first detective.

John Adams, a 35-year-old Falklands police officer who is now being trained in the art of detection at the Bishopgarth police school in Wakefield, Yorkshire, is no stranger to action and danger on the normally peaceful islands. Before joining the Port Stanley-based police, he was a Royal Marine, and fought at Mount Harriet during the Falklands war.

But, he admitted to me yesterday, life on the islands was usually "pretty slow." "My duties so far have included investigating a complaint about noisy sheep, keeping an eye on a two-man picket line of local fishermen and even, on one occasion, stopping the traffic to allow a procession of ducks to cross the road," he added.

Argentina in bank reform

BY PETER MONTAGNON IN WASHINGTON

ARGENTINA yesterday announced changes in its banking regulations designed to strengthen commercial banks at the expense of the unregulated parallel banking sector.

The move will allow the central bank to keep tighter control on money supply and credit expansion, and is seen as part of the tougher approach to monetary management adopted by Mr Jose Luis Machinea, the Bank's new president.

The measures include a sub-

stantial reduction in reserve requirements on deposits in Argentine banks. New deposits with a maturity of more than 90 days will be freed from such requirements.

A small reserve requirement will be imposed on bankers acceptances and commercial banks will also be permitted to lend against the security of government-backed bonds. Both activities were previously the preserve of the parallel financial sector.

DAILY MAIL/WORLD WIDE SPECIAL on an Argentine father's sad Falklands pilgrimage to his son's grave

• No distance would have been too far. You can't measure love in miles •

From WILLIAM LANGLEY in Paris
THE FUNERAL journey had taken Isaias and Maria Gimenez 8,000 miles and yesterday they weren't even halfway there.

'No distance would have been too far,' said Mr Gimenez. 'You can't measure love in miles.'

To reach his son's grave in the Falklands, Mr Gimenez, with Maria his daughter, must fly all the way from Buenos Aires via Paris to London, then from RAF Brize Norton all the way back to the South Atlantic. They will do the same in reverse to go home. Arriving wearily in Paris yesterday, he said: 'As soon as I knew my son's body had been found it became imperative to make this journey. The real problem has not been distance but people. We are pioneers, but it has not gone down well in some quarters.'

Obstacle

Argentine air force pilot Miguel Gimenez died on May 28, 1982—the day after his 28th birthday—when his ground attack Pucara crashed in the remote East Falklands after a combat mission. The aircraft, with Miguel's body inside, was found only last month—and his father vowed to become the first Argentine to visit the Falklands since the conflict.

Maria, 24, said: 'There was never any official notification of Miguel's death, and

MIGUEL THE SPORTSMAN WHO DIED

THE first time Angel Miguel Gimenez met the British was on an Argentine rugby field.

A promising student with a passion for sport, he was 17 when he was picked for a regional squad against a touring British team in 1971.

His other passion was air-

craft, and he finally chose the air force in preference to starting a legal career.

After Argentina's military coup in 1976, he endured the horror of his father being thrown out as governor of the Bank of Entre Rios and jailed for a year on trumped-up charges of embezzlement.

Despite his connection with the ousted Peronist Government, the Junta had made Lt Gimenez a flight instructor by the time of the Falklands conflict.

He was on a mission from Port Stanley harassing British troops when he reported instrument problems. That was the last contact

in the way families do we hoped somehow he might still be alive. When the discovery was made, my father said we mustn't give a damn about politics, we must go to the funeral.'

The biggest obstacles were put up not by the British, but by the Argentines, who turned down Mr Gimenez's request that his son's remains be brought back to his home region of POarana, 250 miles from Buenos Aires.

The Argentine government said it did not want him to go to the Falklands to bury his son there, either. Letting relatives of war dead visit the islands—with British permission—allegedly compromises Argentina's claim to sovereignty.

The authorities in Buenos Aires refused to allow the relatives direct transport to the islands, just 400 miles offshore—even though Whitehall indicated it had no objection. Eventually the family obtained

permission to fly on the RAF 'air bridge' between Brize Norton and Port Stanley. Their £1,600 fare was raised by sympathisers in both Britain and Argentina.

'One day I hope it will be possible for the families of all Argentinians who died to visit the islands, freely,' said Mr Gimenez. 'If we can show that we feel grief in the same way that British families feel it, something may have been achieved.'

Return

The bodies of most Argentines who died in the war have already been returned to the mainland. Although British relatives have been allowed to visit graves, the Gimenezes will be the first Argentines. The governor of the Falklands, Gordon Jewkes, will not be attending the funeral but the commander of the British forces on the islands, Rear Admiral Christopher Layman, will be there.

Anglia offer to produce Falklands war play

By Dennis Barker

Anglia Television offered yesterday to produce the play by Ian Curteis about the Falklands war which the BBC has postponed because, Mr Curteis alleges, he would not alter it to make it more unfavourable to Mrs Thatcher.

A spokeswoman from the Norwich-based company said: "It is possible, we would certainly like to do the play, but we don't know whether it will be possible to do or not until we know the contractual position with the BBC."

The playwright said yesterday that the BBC had the rights for two years from the time he delivered his script in April.

The BBC said: "We have already made it clear that our position is that we have made a decision to embark on the production, subject to script, after the next general election."

Mr Curteis says he refused to cut out scenes which showed Mrs Thatcher as a caring woman, while retaining things showing her as hard and domineering. He also said that references to the electoral effect of the war were sought.

He disputes the BBC explanation that the play had to be postponed because showing a Prime Minister and cabinet in the run-up to a general election was an unacceptable dramatic risk.

Mr Curteis said that on June 2 Mr Alasdair Milne, the director-general of the BBC, had assured him that the coming election would not be a valid reason for such action.

He went on: "This major production was cancelled because I refused to comply with an attempt to falsify recent history in a particularly ugly way."

Daily Telegraph Wednesday 1 October 1986

Anglia bids for Falklands film

By Harvey Lee

Television Correspondent

ANGLIA Television yesterday said it was prepared to make the Falklands War film shelved by the BBC, after its author refused to add scenes critical of the Government.

Sir John Woolf, 72, a founder of the ITV company, has asked Mr Ian Curteis to send him a copy of his script after reading about the BBC's refusal to make the factual play with a General Election pending.

However, the BBC holds television rights to the piece until April, 1988.

"If the BBC wanted to part

with the play, we would certainly be interested in making it. Ian Curteis has been a friend of Anglia Television for many years. We would look at the work purely as a piece of drama and would not dream of making any political decisions about it," a company spokesman said.

Mr Curteis has written two major dramas for Anglia.

He claims his three-hour Falklands film, due to be shown in April on the fifth anniversary of the war, was halted because of his refusal to comply with script changes which would have shown the War Cabinet taking military decisions with a General Election in mind.

Mr Curteis yesterday dis-

missed as "wholly misleading" the BBC's reply that the script was merely a first draft and that the play could not be televised in the run-up to an election because it portrayed Mrs Thatcher and front bench politicians.

"The play was already in its fourth draft when Mr Peter Goodchild, the Head of Plays, came to see me about making changes," he said.

SUBAQUA SCIENCE

SAA EXEC
DIVE BOVISAND

DIVEMASTER
COURSE

DIVE
FALKLANDS

STUDLAND BAY

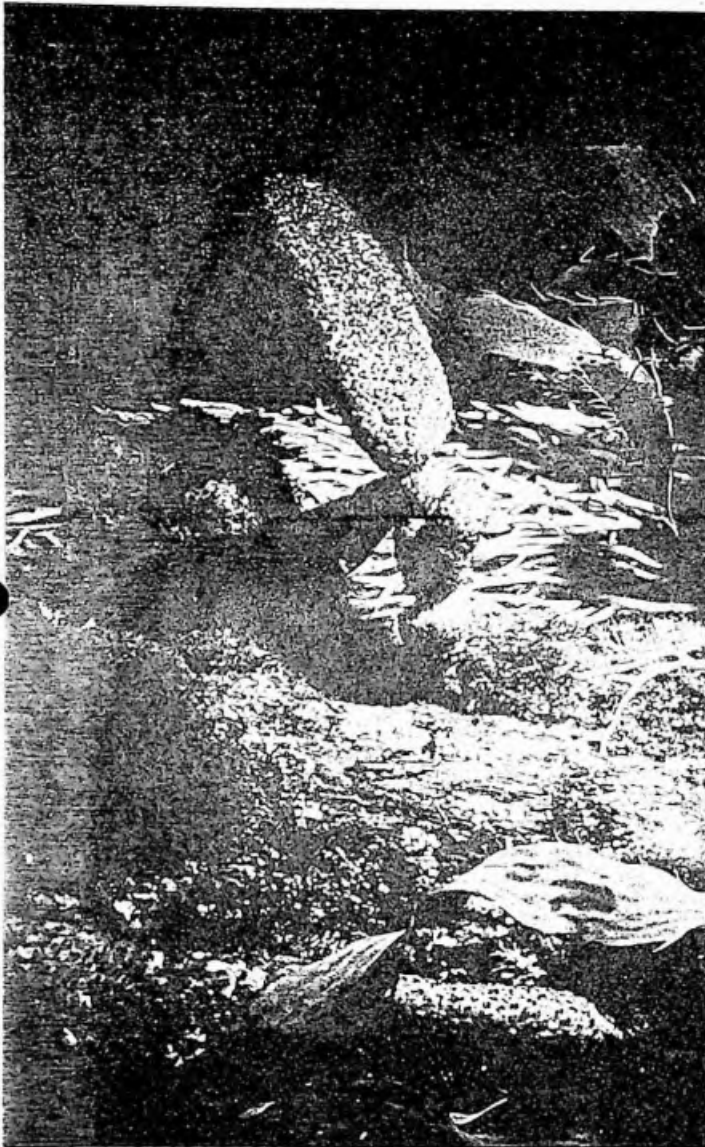
GOZO AND
AUSTRALIA

Get out and get under with the SAA
Your complete guide to Diving

The Official Magazine of the
Sub-Aqua Association

DIVE THE FALKLANDS

AND THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL FIND....



A typical Falklands wreck, the John Kelley, covered in marine growth.

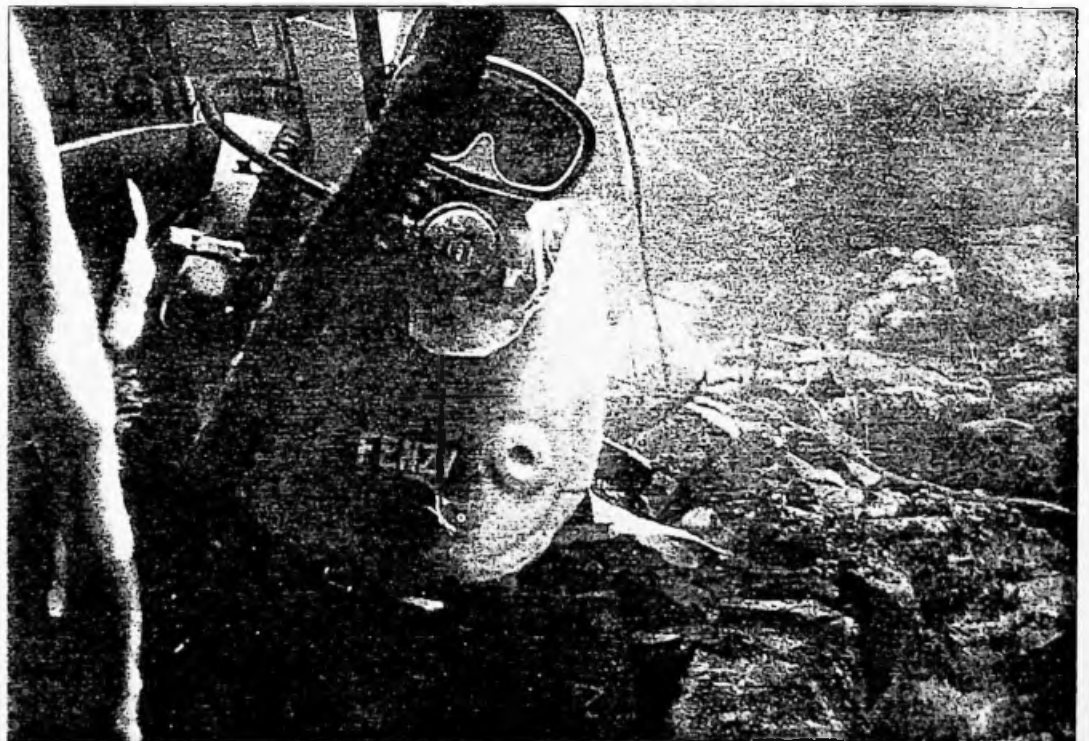


Divers on surface prior to a dive in Falklands. Note large kelp growth. (All photos by David Eynon who runs the Dive Centre)

THE FALKLANDS TRIP IS ON
Diving in the Falklands? It can and will be done!

Specialist tour operator, Twickers World, is featuring a 17 day itinerary diving the many wrecks around the islands. If not diving, view the amazing wildlife and enjoy the Falkland summer. The itinerary includes, Port William, Sea Lion Island, Pebble Island, Kidney Island and Volunteer Point.

Departure date set for Saturday 08 November 86 from R.A.F. Base Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Cost of £2,450.
Rana Anderson for details on 01-892 7606.



Wreck of Barque Conquistadora with cargo of copper ingots — 1863

Alfonsin clears 'dirty war' men

by Maria Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires

AFTER months of threats, the Argentinian armed forces have managed to stop judicial proceedings against 1,300 of their members who had been accused of brutal crimes during the junta's "dirty war" against alleged subversives.

This week, President Alfonsin will put forward a bill to introduce a partial pardon for the accused. Rather than take the political risk of a full amnesty, the government will introduce the pardon by halves.

During the next 60 days, penal action will be abolished for those members of the armed forces who have been accused but not yet summoned to give evidence.

This covers all 1,300, except nine condemned generals, led by Jorge Rafael Videla, who have been accused of "aberrant crimes",

and military fugitives.

In return for this partial amnesty, the government has asked the armed forces for an act of contrition for crimes committed during the dictatorship years. But army chiefs say that this is impossible as the armed forces are still proud of that traumatic era.

The only concession gained by the government is that, in future political speeches, officials will choose their words more carefully when vindicating their actions in the war.

Human-rights groups have called the new bill "shameful." But the main friction will be within the government itself, as many of Alfonsin's ministers consider that the bill "violates ethics", and is merely a euphemism for a general amnesty.

If the bill is passed, almost all those wanted for questioning about 12,000 people who went missing during the "dirty war" will stay free.

Argentina paves way for divorce

From Roger Atwood
of Reuters

BUENOS AIRES — The Argentine Supreme Court yesterday gave approval to a separated man to remarry, effectively legalising divorce in a controversial decision that could affect millions of people.

The ruling in favour of Juan Sejean angered Catholic church groups, which have waged an intense campaign against divorce proposals in Congress.

Mr Sejean brought the suit last year. His fiancée, Alicia Sejean, who uses Mr Sejean's name though they have been legally barred from marrying until now, brought a separate suit to dissolve her own marriage.

"We will marry legally now, but in fact nothing will change for us. We've been living together for a long time," Alicia Sejean said after the ruling. The couple have a daughter, and he has two children from his previous marriage.

"I am as much a wife and a mother as any other. There is no reason our child should be denied the full legal rights of any other," Alicia Sejean said. She can only marry Mr Sejean if the court rules favourably on her suit.

The nation's highest court declared unconstitutional a law which prohibited people from remarrying after winning a legal separation. Politicians estimate that up to two million of the country's 30 million people are living together out of wedlock, and opinion polls have shown wide support for a law allowing remarriage.

The Supreme Court ruling set a precedent which will make it easier for couples to obtain permission from lower courts to remarry. The main effect of the ruling could be to put pressure on Congress to pass a fully-fledged law legalising divorce.

The lower house of Congress passed a divorce bill by a wide margin in August, but it was delayed in the Senate after the church leadership called on the country's bishops to deny Communion to all legislators who had voted for the bill.

Fishing solution?

Buenos Aires — Argentina is studying the possibility of applying aspects of the Antarctic Treaty to resolve the fishing conservation dispute with Britain in South Atlantic waters, according to the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, (Eduardo Cué writes).

A convention established under the Treaty monitors all marine resources in Antarctic waters while putting aside all conflicting claims to sovereignty in the Antarctic. According to reports here, the United States first suggested the idea of using the convention as a model to resolve the controversy.

[Faint text from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper, including a table with columns for 'Year' and 'Percentage of total catch'.]

Falklands licence fees set

DETAILS of licence fees for vessels fishing the Falkland Islands' 150-mile EEZ next year have been finalised by the islands' government this week.

A flat rate of £195 per GRT for squid-jiggers has been set for the period February 1 to June 30, 1987, for the area north of 51° 20'.

Trawlers will also be licensed per GRT per season and will be allowed to fish in

any of the four area season combinations (see table).

Two Humberside trawlers chosen for the fisheries protection role around the islands have been renamed *Falklands Desire* and *Falklands Right*, and are expected to go on trials in a week's time.

A small patrol boat will back up the protection vessels, covering transshipping

operations in Berkeley Sound.

The entire Falklands operation is being financed by the islands' government, mainly from transshipping fees, said the ministry's chief fisheries officer, Peter Derham.

Alastair Cameron of the Falklands Office in London told *Fishing News* last week that the Islands' government is not anticipating political problems in the EEZ. "It's a

conservation and economic problem as far as we're concerned," he said.

He added that countries with a historic record fishing the islands would be considered under the new licensing system. Of Spain's declaration of support for Argentina, he said it was "unfortunate that Spain had to make such a strong statement but it might be possible to differentiate between politics and economics." Business is business, said Mr. Cameron, and if Spanish firms apply for a licence "we'll give them due consideration."

He said preference for EEC countries applying for licences would be a matter for the Commission to decide. "It's up to the EEC to apply for an EEC allocation of licences," he said.

Mr. Cameron said the advantages of licensing are that it will give the Falklands government access to details of fishing activities and the state of the resource. "Logbooks will have to be kept and people will have to apply for licences every season so we can make a proper assessment."

Powers of Falklands fishery officers will be similar to those of the fisheries ministry in the UK.

● The prospect of clashes off the Falklands when Britain applies a 150-mile fishing limit next February was raised by the BBC TV programme *Panorama* on Monday.

While there has been a rush for licences to fish the area since the announcement of the conservation zone, the declaration has outraged and inflamed Argentina which believes foreign fleets are being licensed to fish in their own waters.

Spain, says *Panorama's* reporter Gavin Hewitt, supports the Argentines and has warned that they would not recognise the zone. The Russians have been difficult when Navy ships had been patrolling Falklands waters.

The 150-mile zone overlaps Argentine waters and is being adjusted to ensure there are no serious incidents at sea with patrol vessels. However, the sinking of a Taiwanese vessel in May and a deal on fishing between Argentina and Russia forced

the government to set up the fishing zone.

Foreign secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told *Panorama*: "As far as fishing people are concerned, they want to see an orderly method of patrolling fishing in the South Atlantic."

"I have discussed it with my Soviet opposite number, Mr. Shevardnadze, and he understands our anxiety that the agreements they have made with Argentina should not impact on the areas under Falklands British control."

"It is just because of the incidents in which Argentine vessels have attacked trawlers of other nations that we want to get a multilateral regime there. We have only a unilateral one because of the

FISHING NEWS
28 November 1986

failure on their part to respond. We would like nothing better than an orderly method of controlling fishing in the South Atlantic."

Some 500 vessels are estimated to earn a total £200m. a year in Falklands waters and the captain of a Polish factory ship backed moves to restrict the fleet. He thought the Polish government would buy licences.

Panorama had film of *Coastal Pioneer*, the small ex-Grimsby boat now studying inshore waters off the Falklands. John Williams of Fortosier Ltd., which is operating *Coastal Pioneer*, said he is hoping to see a strong presence from the British fishing industry and immigrant British fishermen coming to the South Atlantic.

Area		Seasons 1987
(a)	North of 51° 20'	February 1 to June 30
(b)	South of 51° 20'	February 1 to June 30
(c)	East of 60°	July 1 to December 31
(d)	West of 60°	July 1 to December 31

In each of these areas the rates will depend on the size in GRT of the trawler. The following rates apply:

GRT	Rate per GRT per season in £ sterling
(a) Up to 499	85
500 to 999	70
1,000 to 1,999	45
2,000 to 2,999	30
More than 3,000	15
(b) Up to 499	90
500 to 999	75
1,000 to 1,999	50
2,000 to 2,999	35
More than 3,000	15
(c) Up to 499	78
500 to 999	66
1,000 to 1,999	42
2,000 to 2,999	30
More than 3,000	12
(d) Up to 499	72
500 to 999	42
1,000 to 1,999	36
2,000 to 2,999	18
More than 3,000	12

FISHING NEWS
28 November 1986

Falklands crab interests buyers

VAN SMIRREN is involved in the marketing aspects of the project to develop the inshore crab fisheries around the Falklands. It says that the project, being undertaken by the Grimsby-based company Fortoser Ltd., is progressing well.

Hilary Van Smirren said that test marketing of the product to potential buyers had aroused "considerable interest", although the company is anxious to avoid creating too big a demand which present supplies would not be able to satisfy.

"We want to keep a low profile until we build up stocks and put the finishing touches to the product, such as getting the packaging right," said Mrs. Van Smirren.

The small red crabs are boiled and frozen whole in the Falklands and then have a six-week sea journey to the UK, where they are processed and packaged.

They are being sold in frozen crab meat packs similar to the Canadian king crab products and the main market will be the quality

catering market, said Mrs. Van Smirren.

Although similar to the Canadian king crab, the Falklands red crab is not quite the same to handle and the processing has still not been perfected. The product will be officially launched at the London-based International Food Exhibition next February.

Marr ships in for repairs

J. MARR AND SON — one of the few owners to survive the deepsea trawling industry's run-down on Humberside — has hit a patch of mechanical problems with its remaining fishing ships.

Marr expanded into seismic survey and oil-related work and there was a recent demerger from one company run by two cousins into two separate companies.

Alan Marr operates wet fish stern trawlers from Hull and they land in Hull, Aberdeen and Germany after fishing home waters for most of the year, with some trips to the Norway coast.

At present the 129ft. pair team of *Idena* and *Norina* is in dock after a six-day broken trip. Winch failure on *Idena* has caused a delay of a few days.

The 151ft. *Jacinta* has been receiving attention to her engines in Hull after a trip of 1,700 kits landed in Germany to gross £57,000.

Speaking to *Fishing News*, fishing operations manager Frank Knight said: "Recent mechanical problems and limited fishing operations do nothing for our future profitability. If market prices hold, then things should improve."

The only Marr ship at sea is *Armana*, which recently fitted Scanmar catch control equipment to improve the vessel's fishing potential. "Anything that increases the catch rate of our vessels is to be advocated," said Mr. Knight. He added that the skipper is satisfied with the equipment, although only one trip with it on board has been completed so far.

J. Marr and Son recently

applied for grant assistance to build new vessels and the company is without doubt one of the UK's most successful fishing enterprises investing in a number of wide-ranging business interests.

However with the oil industry taking a dive, it may be that the company will increase investment in fishing.

Andrew Marr International, which demerged, has fishing interests mainly in partnerships with smaller vessels through its agency Peter and J. Johnstone in Aberdeen.

Marr Seafoods has also been very successful for the company and mounted a Falkland Islands operation for squid. Its world-wide connections for fish products led the company to its joint venture with the Japanese. The Falkland Islands fishery will again be pursued by Marr next season.

"We hope to have at least 20 vessels chartered by autumn, for squid," said a Marr spokesman, adding: "We also will be investing in a joint venture operation with our Japanese partners."

Other fishing interests include the two freezer trawlers *Westella* and *Kirkella* which, although British-registered, spend most of their time landing into Dutch ports.

There is no doubt that both Alan and Andrew Marr have their futures firmly in fishing with a wide range of interests from engineering and fish processing to fishing vessel management. The combination makes them among the leading fishing businesses in the UK.

Fish deal sought

The Common Market Commission said yesterday it had begun negotiations with the Falkland Islands authorities over fishing rights for EEC vessels within the exclusive fishing zone announced by the Government earlier this month.

Punishing ourselves over the Falklands

SIR—You concede (leader, Nov 26) that we have neither the will nor the ability to defend the Falklands indefinitely. Why then must we be patient with Mrs Thatcher? Are Prime Ministers and Presidents the only people who don't occasionally have to admit they've been mistaken?

Mrs Thatcher's sticking-point is not, of course, "self-determination"—a "commitment" which becomes more painfully dishonest at every repetition—but the relish she finds in "punishing the aggressor".

Sir Geoffrey Howe was explicit on Nov 25: "We were discussing sovereignty before the invasion—they can't expect us to go back to that now as though nothing had happened".

Why not? Where was the virtue in military victory, unless to enable us to get back, with more vigour and determination than ever, on to a well-considered and constructive course?

By allowing General Galtieri, despite his defeat, to make us shelve that policy *sine die*, whom are we punishing? The General? But he's had his punishment. The Argentine people? But Dr Alfonsín has been President already for three years, and is talking the friendliest good sense. Why are we punishing ourselves, and all our friends, and doing so grievous a disservice to the Falklanders?

ERIC JACKSON
Loughton, Essex

Falklands vote in the UN

UK unshaken by Argentine success

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The British Government remained determined yesterday not to be influenced by the huge majority in Argentina's favour in the United Nations General Assembly vote on the Falklands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, treated the 116-4 vote as an annual ritual devoid of practical import.

There was no mood to accept criticism that the majority might have been closer to last year's 107-4 but for the unfortunate timing of Sir Geoffrey's announcement of an interim fishing protection zone around the islands.

Coming just four weeks before the General Assembly debated Argentina's motion, the announcement was seen by some countries as a hardening of British resolve on Falklands sovereignty.

Whitehall has always insisted that the zone was strictly a measure to conserve rapidly dwindling fish stocks, unrelated to sovereignty.

As to the timing, the sources said that the zone, which comes into effect in February, had to be announced in October to allow time for fishing nations to apply for licences before next year's season starts.

Although efforts were made to drum up support before the

UN vote, especially among Britain's EEC partners, the result was a foregone conclusion. The loss of support from The Netherlands, which joined four other EEC nations which voted against Britain last year, was the main disappointment.

The attitude of Britain's former supporters has been that enough time has passed since the 1982 war for Britain to adopt a more magnanimous attitude. There is a widespread assumption that Britain will compromise sooner or later for financial reasons and that international pressure may accelerate the process.

A further reason for the heavy defeat lay in the superficially mild wording of the resolution, which calls for negotiations with an open agenda. This enabled traditional allies, including the US, to argue that no one could be against talks. However, Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin has made it clear that an "open" agenda would include sovereignty.

Beyond the feelings of frustration with Whitehall's stand lay a wider dissatisfaction with British foreign policy. In the political trade-offs which determine UN voting patterns, Britain is increasingly seen as having little to offer.

UN vote silences Alfonsin critics

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

NEW BILATERAL fishing agreements in the South Atlantic and a strengthening of the Argentine Government against its critics will be the most likely outcome of Tuesday's United Nations vote on the Falkland Islands dispute.

Mr Federico Storani, the head of the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Argentine Congress and a policy adviser to President Raul Alfonsin, said the vote "will leave us quite free to sign new bilateral fishing agreements."

Argentina signed fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria earlier this year which include the fishing grounds around the Falkland Islands. This was the principal factor precipitating Britain's decision in October to impose

a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the islands, and to lay claim to the marine and sea-bed resources up to a 200-mile limit.

This week's UN debate followed an almost month-long diplomatic offensive by Argentina against the British measure. The increase of nine votes in favour of the UN resolution, which makes an implicit call for negotiations on sovereignty, is seen in Buenos Aires as a highly successful result and a blow for right-wing domestic critics who have questioned the bilateral fishing accords.

A total of 116 countries voted in favour of the resolution, 34 abstained and only 4 voted against. The shift of two West European countries — Norway and the Netherlands

— from abstention to a "yes" vote is seen as particularly significant and representative of the growing criticism and isolation of the British Government's stance rejecting any negotiations on the sovereignty issue.

President Alfonsin "is very pleased and very much in agreement with the successful performance of the Foreign Minister in the United Nations," according to a Government spokesman.

Argentina has been negotiating with Japan and Spain for several months to sign bilateral fishing deals similar to those with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Talks are also taking place between Argentine and Polish fishing companies with a view to future bilateral deals.

Congress hedge their bets on the Falklands

How to alienate the Falklands

SIR—World opinion as expressed in the United Nations is demanding that the United Kingdom negotiate with the Argentine. A solution exists which would satisfy the United Kingdom's demand over sovereignty. It lies in applying the principle of the Anglo-Irish Accord to the South Atlantic Islands. There would be a solemn accord between the Argentine and British Governments.

1. It would include an undertaking that there would be no change in the status of the islands without the consent of the people.

2. It would establish a joint secretariat in Port Stanley.

3. The British Government would undertake that it would do its utmost to accommodate the expressed views of the Argentinians over security, political and cultural matters.

4. Joint efforts would be made to improve co-operation between all the armed forces of the two countries especially in the enforcement of fish conservation.

The advantages of this agreement are so plain to see that I do not have to enumerate them all, but I do want to emphasise one in particular. The Falkland Islanders would—like the Ulster Unionists—feel totally betrayed and would with any luck, become alienated from the United Kingdom. Can this Government resist such an attractive arrangement?

Viscount BROOKEBOROUGH
Colebrooke, Co. Fermanagh

Contras hedge their bets on the Falklands

UNDAUNTED by the latest revelations in Washington, by the certain damage to their already suspect international credibility, the Contras tried their hands this week at some foreign policy.

The Falklands seemed a good place to start. Who, Contra leaders agonised, should they pronounce in favour of, Britain or Argentina?

They debated the matter for an hour and wisely decided, as Voltaire did when invited on his deathbed to renounce the Devil, that this was no time to make unnecessary enemies.

The subject arose at the instigation of the vice-president of a two-day conference of the Contra leadership which ended here in first-class hotel in the Costa Rican capital on Tuesday. Wilfredo Montalvan, who belongs to the Nicaraguan Social Democrat Movement in Exile, proposed that the conference sends a message of support to the Argentine Government over its claim to the Falkland Islands. Mr Montalvan also suggested some strong language condemning Britain.

If the stated objective of the conference was to give the Contras a more plausible international image in their CIA-organised efforts to overthrow the government of Nicaragua, Mr Montalvan argued, then where better to take a stand than on one, maybe the one, issue on which all of Latin-America is in agreement.

Taken completely by surprise at the proposal, absorbed as they were in preparing the minutiae of domestic policy for that elusive day (elusive, apparently, to all but themselves) when they seize power from the Sandinistas, no one in this gathering of anti-Communist Nicaraguan exiles appeared at first to raise any objections.

No one, that is, until Donovan Brautigan of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region, formerly a part of the British Empire, leapt to the Crown's defence. It would be rash to antagonise Britain, Mr Brautigan argued.

"What we need instead," he said, "is a well-orchestrated propaganda campaign to bring all the English peoples on our side." A Contra solidarity organisation based in Britain called "Free Nicaragua" was not far from achieving just that, Mr Brautigan said, pleading with the conference not to throw away such a golden opportunity.

Spurred by Mr Brautigan's words, other conference factions now began discovering objections to the original proposal. Some noted that any measure of Contra support for Argentina would hardly be a suitable response to the position of President Alfonsín, who has made very clear his opposition to the Sandinistas' overthrow. Others pointed out that, while only too delighted to back any condemnation of the Soviets or Cubans, Britain was a powerful

US ally and as such would be best left alone.

Finally putting paid to the whole idea Enrique Pereyra of the Constitutional Liberal Party in Exile, said the conference should put on record the great affection and gratitude felt for the Argentine people as a consequence of the crucial assistance and training which, he recalled, the Galtieri junta gave the Contra fighters in the early days of their struggle. But, Mr Pereyra declared, all in all Mr Montalvan's motion would be best shelved and discussed another day.

Mr Montalvan, chastened, said he would abide by the majority decision, though not without noting, a little enigmatically, that "much prudence should be exercised as it is the future of the Nicaraguan people that is at play here."

Seeking an analysis of this latest in the series of Falklands debates, I spoke to Mr Pereyra later in the conference corridors. An English-speaking Miami-based exile, he said: "I tabled the motion because it was stupid. It would have had no impact on the Argentine Government. They're communists."

Argentina hails Falkland vote but Caputo under fire

PRESIDENT Raul Alfonsín yesterday hailed the United Nations vote calling for negotiations between Argentina and Britain as a show of world support for Argentine democracy, and he praised the work of his controversial foreign minister, Dante Caputo. "I think it demonstrates... to what extent the rest of the world is with us," President Alfonsín told reporters. "Our foreign policy is in good hands."

The UN General Assembly on Tuesday adopted, by a vote of 116 to 4, a resolution calling for negotiations, without limit on the agenda, between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands. There were nine more votes in Argentina's favour than on a similar resolution last year.

The British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe made it clear that the result would not change British policy. Speaking in a television interview, Sir Geoffrey repeated Britain's offer to negotiate everything but sovereignty. Asked about Britain's diplomatic isolation on the issue, he said it was understandable that Britain's allies, who had not undergone the trauma of the war, did not share Britain's view that the events of 1982 precluded sovereignty dis-

By Isabel Hilton
Latin America Editor

cussions. "That makes sense to me," he said, "and I am sad that the UN does not understand it more clearly."

But even as President Alfonsín hailed the UN vote as a major victory and praised the efforts of Mr Caputo, the Argentine foreign minister came under virulent attack at home from a wide range of critics for his conduct of foreign policy.

From the right, Mr Caputo — always suspect for being an outsider to the diplomatic establishment — is under attack for annoying the United States and leading Argentina too close to Moscow. In spite of the US support, both in the Organisation of American States and the UN, for Argentine resolutions on the Falklands, the United States is believed in Buenos Aires to be offended by Argentine criticism of President Reagan's policy toward Nicaragua and alarmed by what it sees as Argentina's drift towards Moscow.

Argentina, according to one leading right-wing political commentator, "has been left virtually

at the mercy of Soviet aid."

Mr Caputo has also been heavily and publicly criticised by some distinguished former diplomats. Oscar Camillon, a former foreign minister and ex-ambassador to Brazil, has repeatedly attacked what he calls the lack of *realpolitik* in Mr Caputo's strategy.

The opposition to Mr Caputo, has reached cabinet level, according to reliable reports. The education minister, Mr Julio Rajneri is reported to have presented the President with a report cataloguing errors of judgement by Mr Caputo and advocating an explicit pro-US realignment. It is, the press has been quick to point out, the first time that the foreign minister has been contradicted from within the government's inner circles.

Mr Caputo has been foreign minister for three years and was President Alfonsín's closest electoral adviser during the 1983 election campaign. He may well survive the attacks, but there is no doubt that he has been damaged. It is unlikely that nine additional votes in the United Nations will do more than postpone a merciless re-examination of the basis of Mr Caputo's diplomatic strategies.

Falkland futures

You expect a punchbag to be punched. Equally, you expect a British diplomat, striving to defend HMG's Falklands policy before the UN General Assembly, to lose heavily. Punchbags get punched. HMG soaks up punishment. So, what's new? The General Assembly can uphold Argentinian motions of ever more feline and artful phrasing by ever more thumping majorities. But nothing happens as a result. Britain just carries on pouring cash and concrete around Port Stanley. No fresh negotiations take place. The words filling the Assembly chamber bear no relationship to events on the ground. If you simply shrug off last night's humiliation, then nothing fundamental has changed.

In the short run, certainly, that is true.

And no one, for sure, can prophesy what the long run will bring. But every once in a while it is sensible for politicians to contemplate statesmanship: for the Falklands — a human issue, a finite problem of human beings — now requires that missing element: the statesmanlike perspective.

Mrs Thatcher (and thus a rather grungy Foreign Office) could not be clearer. Whilst the Prime Minister draws breath in Downing Street, there can be no question of discussing the sovereignty of the islands with Buenos Aires. That is non-negotiable. And no negotiations whatsoever, as a contrary matter of fact, are possible as a result. Very good. Clear enough. The 1,400 or so indigenous islanders know where they stand. Britain is backing them.

But wait a minute, for Whitehall's rock-ribbed resolution has obvious limits. It applies only whilst Mrs Thatcher chooses Downing Street rather than Dulwich. And if any party but the Conservatives should shortly gain a slice of power, it applies not at all. The Liberals, the Social Democrats and Labour are already variously committed to a negotiated settlement with Argentina. Indeed, the military savings from that deal are a written assumption in Labour's defence spending plans. And all three of those parties know that sovereignty will be a part of the equation.

So Mrs Thatcher — standing up for the islanders — offers no real permanency. Quite the reverse. She cannot even commit a successor Conservative government (who might, more carefully, weigh the Foreign Office's covert inclinations towards settlement). And what, then, becomes of the islanders? At a stroke they step back through a time warp: not valued citizens of the world, with rights to be defended at any costs, but the disregarded of the sixties and seventies — the people, who, a mere half decade ago, a Tory government under Mrs Thatcher was prepared to see transferred to the Argentine flag.

This paper has, on occasion, been accused of treating the rights of the islanders too lightly. The precise opposite is the case. We do not care much about the alleged mineral wealth that may one day emerge from the barren scrub of the Falklands, nor about the contentious fish in the seas around. Any economic argument for hanging on was surely disposed of by the Thatcher government when it (pre-invasion) decided to hand over the islands. Market forces for disposal. But we are deeply com-

mitted to fair and honest dealing for the Falklanders. There are only a few of them. One English village's worth. Whitehall has no faith in their future. Successive Labour and Tory administrations have demonstrated that lack of faith in their talks with an undemocratic Argentina. When Mrs Thatcher goes (with the UN drip-dripping disapproval) then the islanders will once more be pawns. They want one thing. The right, for them and for their children, to live quietly and peaceably on the Falklands. Such a right is clearly negotiable with Mr Alfonsín now. He said it again yesterday. The agenda — from leaseback to UN trust status — has never been wider or more possible. But if that opportunity is lost (and Argentinian democracy has been lost many times before) then the islanders' futures become infinitely less certain. The only certainty (drawn from history) is that Whitehall will one day try to sell them out. Britain, for a short while, can offer the Fortress. But all who care — or think they care — about the traduced, shuffled, invaded islanders should ponder the mortal brevity of that guarantee. Riffle again through the Franks Report, and remember the cowardice and infirmity of a British political system which did not want the Falklands but had problems saying so. A statesman, in such circumstances, would take a flak and seek an agreement which made long-term sense for the islands. But all we have, alas, are politicians, vowing eternal backing (until at least next May) and declining to secure the one thing the 1,400 faraway innocents most need.

UN backs Argentina on talks

BY OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA WON a resounding diplomatic victory in the continuing Falklands dispute when the United Nations general assembly yesterday voted by 116 to four, with 34 members abstaining, in favour of a resolution that called for the opening of negotiations with Britain on the future of the territory.

It was the biggest total of affirmative votes on the question since it was first taken up at the UN in the wake of the 1982 war.

Only Belize, Oman and Sri Lanka joined Britain in opposing the resolution which Sir John Thomson, the British delegate, said was one-sided because it endorsed the Argentine position to the detriment of Britain's stand.

"We are prepared to discuss everything but sovereignty," he said. "Argentina refuses to discuss anything unless sovereignty is on the agenda."

Sir John told members that what they faced were two irreconcilable points of view that could not be wished away by voting for a resolution that supported one side and opposed the other.

His statement was interpreted as meaning that, despite the appeal by so many UN members, Britain would remain adamant in refusing negotiations with Argentina as long as that country insisted that its claim to sovereignty was the main issue.

As last year, France, Greece, Italy and Spain voted for the resolution. Among the other European Community members, the Netherlands, which abstained last year, switched its vote to the Yes column. Britain's other partners in the Community, with New Zealand, abstained. The US, Australia and Canada voted in favour of talks.

The debate was enlivened by accusations from Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, that Britain was guilty of "aggressive behaviour" in declaring a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the Falklands.

Sir John rejoined that the area was dangerously overfished and that Mr Caputo had chided Britain only last year for not having paid enough attention to conservation.

In London, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's Foreign Secretary, expressed disappointment. "This vote will not weaken our determination to uphold our commitment to the Falkland Islanders; to work for better relations with Argentina," he said in a statement.

He said Britain remained ready to discuss with Argentina practical ways of building confidence between the two countries.

Ever-widening strategic web around Fortress Falklands

Sir,—In his rejoinder (November 22) to my letter linking the Falklands/Malvinas dispute to the larger, "frozen" dispute about Antarctic territory, Martin Ince seems to be saying that we should ignore the wider strategic issues and act as if the problem were really the (relatively) simple one of legal sovereignty. In contrast, I feel that failure to take account of crucially relevant strategic issues can lead only to spurious remedies.

In fact, the strategic issues are even more complex than those already stated in my letter. A new book with the chilling title *Zones of Conflict: An Atlas of Future Wars* (J. Keegan and A. Wheatcroft) shows how the Falklands/Malvinas, with other British-controlled islands in the region, dominate the Drake Passage which links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

These authors call this the

"hidden key to Fortress Falklands" and regard it as even more important than the Antarctic connection. They note that in the long term British, Argentine, and US interests in the Drake Passage coincide. I suspect, however, that this perspective will be available only after Argentina receives solid assurances about its share of the probable Antarctic "goldrush." It has no other way out of debt.

The solution to the Falklands/Malvinas problem must take account of this web of interests.

For what it's worth, I think that the best steps toward a non-violent solution lie in joint sovereignty coupled with gradual Argentine immigration and social ownership of the Falkland Islands subsidiary of the Coalite and Chemical Co plc.—Yours,

Kevin Donaldson.
Eastcourt Avenue,
Earley, Reading.

Argentina wins vote

From Jane Rosen
in New York

The UN General Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly adopted an Argentine resolution calling on Britain and Argentina to negotiate "all aspects" of the Falklands Islands dispute, which would include the sovereignty issue.

The vote was 116 in favour to four against with 34 abstentions. Many of Britain's close friends, including the US and France, supported the resolution. Belize, Sri Lanka and Oman were the only countries to join Britain in opposing it.

During the debate on the resolution, many diplomats attacked Britain for unilaterally imposing the 150-mile fishing zone around the islands. Others criticised Britain for failing to show any degree of flexibility on the Falklands issue.

Leader comment, page 12

UN votes against Britain

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Britain was again defeated by an overwhelming majority yesterday when the United Nations General Assembly called on it to negotiate with Argentina on the future of the Falkland Islands.

The resolution, the fifth passed by the Assembly, received 116 votes — nine more than last year. Britain was joined only by Belize, Oman and Sri Lanka in opposing the resolution. There were 34 abstentions.

The European Community was split, with France, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands and Spain voting for the resolution, while Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal abstained. The United States and Canada voted in favour.

Britain refuses to discuss Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the territory, while the Argentines insist that this point must be on the agenda.

Britain suffers defeat over Falklands

By Michael Kallenbach,
United Nations Correspondent

BRTAIN again found itself virtually isolated over its Falklands policy and yesterday suffered a crushing diplomatic defeat when the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed an Argentine resolution, 116-4, with 54 abstentions.

There was an additional blow to Britain as it witnessed one of its European allies, the Netherlands, swing to the Argentine side by joining France, Greece, Italy and Spain in casting a yes vote.

The only countries to side with Britain were Belize, Oman and Sri Lanka. The remaining EEC countries, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, and West Germany adopted a common position of abstaining.

The vote marked an unexpected increase for Argentina, which has exploited Britain's recent decision to impose a 150-mile fishing zone around the islands, in an attempt to win more votes. It also means that Argentina's position over sovereignty is strengthened in any future negotiations with Britain.

Yesterday's vote saw the Solomon Islands, which last year voted with Britain, abstain and Sri Lanka, which abstained in 1985, vote with Britain. Last year, the Argentine resolution was adopted 107-4, with 41 abstentions.

During the two-day debate, Britain argued that the Argentine resolution was partial in that it prejudged the outcome of any future negotiations over sovereignty. In addition, Britain's U.N. Ambassador, Sir John Thomson, said it did not take into account the wishes of the Falklanders. To the outsider, the resolution was "seductive by its simplicity and cosmetic appeal."

Praised by envoys

The resolution called on both parties to "initiate negotiations" to resolve "all aspects" on the future of the islands.

The overwhelming vote in Argentina's favour not only came as surprise to Britain, but to Latin American diplomats as well.

Soon after the vote diplomats lined up to congratulate the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Dante Caputo, in the Assembly Hall. Original calculations by the Argentine side were that at best they would get 110 nations supporting their position.

The countries which supported Argentina and switched from an abstention last year were: The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brunei, Darussalam, Egypt, Fiji, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Norway and Papua-New Guinea.

Howe disappointed

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The United Nations was accused by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, last night of having failed to uphold one of its founding principles, the right of self-determination.

Expressing "profound disappointment" with the General Assembly vote on the Falklands he added that it would not weaken the Government's determination to uphold its commitment to the islanders while at the same time working for better relations with Argentina.

Britain stood ready to discuss with Argentina practical ways of building confidence between the two countries. Offers made by Britain covered everything from finance to fish, but unfortunately had been rejected, ignored or made conditional on Britain's negotiating a transfer of sovereignty.

"The only way ahead is to build confidence step by step," said Sir Geoffrey. "That means sovereignty has to be set aside."

For Britain to give away diplomatically what Argentina had tried to seize by force would be a betrayal of the British servicemen who sacrificed their lives in the Falklands war.

The vote showed a further shift of support towards Argentina, but there is no prospect of Britain accepting talks unless the sovereignty issue is excluded from the agenda.

A decent interval

THE FAILURE OF previous British governments to get to grips with the long-term future of the Falkland Islands and the folly of the Argentine invasion in 1982 have led to a diplomatic impasse which seems likely to persist as long as Mrs Thatcher remains Prime Minister and Buenos Aires insists that sovereignty be on the agenda.

The stalemate does not mean inertia. The latest exchanges between the two countries have their origin in the islanders' sensible wish to prevent overfishing around their coasts by East European, Spanish and Far Eastern fleets. Rather than collaborating with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation over a multilateral fishing pact for the area, Argentina concluded bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. So the British announced last month that they would set up a 150-mile conservation zone around the islands from next February. President Alfonsín then offered formally to end hostilities in exchange for Britain's dropping the 150-mile military protection zone. This was rejected by the British Government because it saw the proposal as implying talks on sovereignty. President Alfonsín has since told the BBC that he would be willing to accept UN trusteeship over the islands for as long as it was necessary to reassure the islanders that their rights would be respected.

There is an undoubted absurdity about the spectacle of two grown-up nations locked in enduring conflict for possession of one of the most valueless chunks of real estate on earth. Argentina's legal claim to the islands is somewhat less valid than that of Spain to areas of the United States. But in the long run of history, few reasonable people can doubt that Argentina will gain some claim to the islands, merely because she wants them so badly, and they are beyond Britain's economic or moral will to defend indefinitely.

This, however, is the long view. In the short term, Mrs Thatcher remains unshakeably committed to rejection of any discussion on sovereignty—which, given the position of Buenos Aires, means any talks at all. To this British Prime Minister, the Falklands are a symbol: of her own determination, of a cause for which she committed men to die, of the most melodramatic success of her premiership. All this is very understandable. But it is unlikely that any successor to her office, whether Labour or Conservative, will take as unyielding a position, given the lapse of a decent interval. The most sensible private message that Britain can give to the world about the Falklands is: "Be patient. Allow time to heal wounds. Nothing is forever."

Defeat for Britain on Falklands

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

Britain yesterday suffered a severe diplomatic defeat over its Falklands policy as the United Nations General Assembly voted 116 to 4 with 34 abstentions to support Argentina's demand that negotiations over sovereignty be a key element in any Anglo-Argentine reconciliation.

Only Belize, Oman and Sri Lanka supported Britain and voted against the resolution at the end of a two-day debate.

The Netherlands joined Spain, France, Italy and Greece voting with Argentina, as did nine countries which abstained last year.

The United States, which sees support for Buenos Aires as a relatively painless way of staying in the good graces of the Latin Americans, once again cast an affirmative vote.

● **LONDON:** Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, expressed disappointment at the UN move. "This vote will not weaken our determination to uphold our commitment to the Falkland islanders, to work for better relations with Argentina," he said.

Britain remained ready to discuss with Argentina practical ways of building confidence between the two countries.

"In the last four years, Britain has put forward a whole series of proposals to the Argentine Government dealing with everything from finance to fish. All those offers remain on the table."

He added: "The only way ahead is to build confidence step by step."

Alfonsin 'willing to back trusteeship for Falklands'

BY JIMMY BURNS IN LONDON AND TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

PRESIDENT Raul Alfonsin of Argentina last night declared on BBC TV that he would be willing to accept UN trusteeship over the Falklands "for as long as necessary" to reassure the inhabitants of the islands that their rights will be respected.

This formula in effect amounts to international jurisdiction over the islands with the presence of a UN peace-keeping force. It has been vaguely accepted by Mr Alfonsin as a possible option in the past.

But his more categorical support for the formula yesterday appeared to be a clear attempt to influence the outcome of a key UN debate on the Falklands issue.

Argentine and British officials were last night debating a resolution calling on both sides to enter negotiations on all aspects of the Falklands—diplomatic short-hand for an open agenda including the sovereignty issue which Britain refuses to discuss.

Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said in the UN General Assembly yesterday that Britain's declaration of a fisheries zone around the Falklands was aggressive

behaviour that worsened the sovereignty dispute and was done with an eye to another Tory victory in future elections.

However, Sir John Thomson, the British delegate, said in the debate fisheries agreements negotiated by Argentina with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were a challenge to the people of Falklands and to the British Government.

According to senior diplomats, majority backing for the resolution is assured when the UN votes today.

Last year 107 countries voted for the resolution, four voted against Britain, Belize, the Solomon Islands and Oman) and 41 abstained.

But Argentina hopes that Britain's recent decision to impose a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the islands and its own offer last week to formally cease hostilities in return for a demilitarisation of the zone will ensure that several EEC countries abandon their neutrality and vote in favour.

Speaking on the BBC Panorama programme last night Mr Alfonsin accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, of trying to create a "mood of ultra-

nationalistic xenophobia" so as to turn the recent fishing dispute into an electoral issue.

Nevertheless, he claimed that military conflict had been avoided by the "care" with which his government had handled itself diplomatically and politically.

The British Government's position is that the islanders' right to self-determination is one of the main issues over which it opposed the Argentine invasion of the Falklands in 1982 and that Mr Alfonsin's linkage of future talks to the issue of sovereignty is "undemocratic."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary told the BBC last night, however, that he would be prepared to resume talks with Argentina on the basis that was agreed prior to a meeting in 1984 in Berne, Switzerland.

This was that talks would begin with Argentina raising its claim to the islands. Britain would then say that it was not prepared to discuss sovereignty, leaving both sides free to continue negotiations on an open agenda on more practical issues like the restoration of commercial and diplomatic links and a joint conservation effort.

Men and Matters, Page 14

What our friends should remember

THERE is no doubt that the vote today in the United Nations General Assembly on the matter of the Falkland Islands will go the way of Argentina. This is perhaps to understate the case. Last year a resolution in favour of Anglo-Argentine talks embracing sovereignty was passed by 107 votes to four. Britain was supported only by Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands. This time it seems that Oman and even, believe it or not, the Solomon Islands may vote against Britain.

In a sense this does not matter. Whether the British Government has four votes or two it can hardly claim that it has convinced the world that we have an overwhelming case. The world is deeply perplexed. With the rather noble exception of Belize, it simply cannot understand how Britain should refuse to discuss the sovereignty of a few Godforsaken and sparsely inhabited islands some 8,000 miles from our shores which, however peculiarly, the much nearer at hand Argentines happen deeply to crave.

This is a reasonable point of view. By any objective calculation the Falklands are pretty worthless. No British Government would have wished to have made their defence such a conspicuous feature of its foreign policy. It makes us look very slightly unbalanced. For the vote today, the Argentines have cleverly arranged that the contentious word sovereignty be omitted from the resolution, which instead urges discussion on "all aspects" of the issue. Even our friends no longer bother to try to understand why we are not prepared at least to sit down on this basis. Of our EEC partners, France, Italy,

Greece and the Netherlands are expected to vote against us. The United States will again abstain.

But Britain has a case. Four and a half years ago British servicemen were sent to liberate British territory which the Argentines had invaded. Many lives were lost. Would any of those governments which now find our position so difficult to comprehend rush to the conference table were they in a similar position? For once the British Government agrees to talks with the Argentines it is agreeing to negotiate, which means to make concessions.

Mrs Thatcher does not believe that the electorate would tolerate such talks. She does not think that talks would be right. Her policy may be wrongheaded but she is entitled to expect our allies not to vote against us on a matter so important to Britain when their own self-interest is not threatened.

The consequence of today's vote will probably not be any kind of British panic on the issue of the Falklands. The Government has set its course there. Rather, the vote will further weaken the already fragile concept of a European foreign policy. Within the Community at this stage of its development each member state will defend its own foreign policy interests if these are at odds with the interests of other members. The hope was that they might support one another when there was no clash of interests. The British, for example, have smiled indulgently on France's post-colonial capers. The Italians (with their ethnic affinities with Argentines) can claim self-interest over the Falklands. For the rest it is moral humbug.

STAND SPOTLIGHT : FALKLANDS

High hopes for development of traffic to islands

AMONG more than 70 new exhibitors at this year's *World Travel Market* is Falkland Islands Tourism.

The company, which is run by outdoor adventure holidays' consultant Steven Green, was set up in York in April to provide an information service.

And the group is just celebrating the return of the first party of British package holiday-makers to visit the islands. It's hardly tourism on a bumper scale though the first group consisted of a mere 10 people!

But Green is confident more prosperous days are on the way. With the new season just started, he expects up to 100 people to visit the islands between now and the end of March.

"We've been talking to a number of operators and so far six are preparing to offer programmes," he said.

The pioneers include Twickers World, Premier Faraway Travel, Page & Moy, Devon-based Sygnus Wildlife, Ian Dixon Travel and Major and Mrs Holt's Military Tours.

And the major it seems, is having a field day. He's got two tours on the books for next March and intends showing holidaymakers around the Falklands battlefields.

It's as a destination for bird-watchers and wildlife enthusiasts, however, that the Falklands is likely to prove most popular in the long run.

Spectacular

According to Green, some of the species to be seen are "quite spectacular" and include sealions, elephant seals, colonies of albatrosses and an incredibly tame bird of prey called the striated caracara.

At *WTM*, Green is particularly keen to talk to would-be operators and at the moment he feels the Falklands is a product more likely to appeal to direct-sell companies rather than something to be sold through the trade. "It's purely a question of numbers," he said. "At the moment, it's probably uneconomic to sell through agents."

And even in five years' time, he doubts whether the Falklands will be attracting more than 1,000 UK visitors a year.

One of the major problems is cost. Green estimates a fortnight's tour will cost anything between £2,000 and £3,000.

Flights are by RAF TriStar, from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to the newly-built Mount Pleasant International Airport.

At present, there are three flights a week as there are always servicemen being saluted back and fourth, with more than 7,000 troops maintaining the Fortress Falklands policy.

Cont..|



Welcome to the show

Tom Nutley, exhibitions manager from Crown Exhibitions, meets Sukey Jameson of Falklands Islands Tourism. The York-based company, which was established to provide an information service about the South Atlantic islands, is confident there is a future for tourism to the region.

The company's confidence is supported by the fact that six operators are preparing to offer programmes.

Groups are expected to be small initially, with flights by RAF TriStar from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

A fortnight's tour is expected to be between £2,000 and £3,000.

Travel Trade Gazette
25.11.86

Twickers rigs sail of the century

TWICKERS World, the specialist operator in wildlife, cultural and wilderness holidays, has taken a stand of its own at WTM for the first time.

It is using the exhibition as a launching pad for its 1987 brochure and its FIT arrangements to the Falklands.

The stand features a special projects panel depicting Twickers World's programme of wildlife and wilderness tours to Antarctica, the Amazon, northern China, the Comores, central and southern Africa, India and Asia.

It also provides agents with a visual display of the First Fleet Re-enactment Voyage.

A fleet of 11 square riggers is due to sail from England to Australia next year.

Travel News
25.11.86

With the year's show so much bigger than in 1985, it would be easier to write an article about what is NOT new at WTM '86. Perhaps the most prominent new exhibitor is the People's Republic of China, back in the show after a few weeks of prominent worldwide publicity generated by the visit of The Queen.

But the list of new exhibitors, big and small seems endless. 'New' destinations include: the ambitious far-flung Falkland Islands, the tiny European nations of Monaco and Luxembourg, the Pacific paradise of Micronesia, and the Spanish region of Almunecar. Visitors will also be tempted by the blandishments of Las Vegas, the historic beauty of Stuttgart, and sparkling Limassol.

The UK domestic industry welcomes the return of the revitalised Butlin's, the country's pioneer of popular family holidays, and a vast range of cities from the coastal splendour of Brighton, Clacton, Blackpool and Southend to the rural beauty of the lakes, peaks, and moors of the country's northern regions.

Among airlines making their debut at WTM are British Island Airways, Garuda, Maersk, and Viasa Venezuela. There are plenty of new

Travel Trade Gazette
27.11.86

Falkland special offers

REPRESENTATIVES from the Falklands — already gaining ground in specialised UK markets — are at WTM to encourage more tour operators to feature the islands.

Falkland Islands Tourism's Steve Green says: "Holidays in the Falklands are rapidly becoming a practical possibility and the numbers of people interested in paying a visit are steadily increasing."

Green reckons attractions such as the outstanding wildlife and opportunities for marine biologists are the main selling points, though there is a trickle of interest from the main tourist market.

Travel News
21.11.86

Falklands factor

THE Falkland Islands have decided to make a concerted attack — on tourism — and will be appearing at the *World Travel Market* for the first time.

The islands will be represented by Falklands Islands Tourism a company set up by the islands' development corporation.

Five UK operators already operate Falkland Island tours, including Twickers World and Page & Moy, but tourism representative Steve Green believes the potential remains largely untapped.

"Our aim is to open up the market to the whole of Europe and North America," he says.

One of the main attractions of the islands is the incredible variety of wildlife, though Green believes that tours to the battlefields of the 1982 Falklands War will also prove popular to visitors.

The islands can now be reached in 18 hours, following the opening of the airport at Mount Pleasant last year.

Tours are not cheap however. They are likely to cost in excess of £2,000 per person.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

by Tom Nutley, WTM Exhibition Manager

It's been an unpredictable 12 months for international tourism since the last World Travel Market. Terrorism has hung like a cloud over much of the industry. That, together with currency fluctuations, has been blamed for the disappointing level of North American visitors to Europe.

But records have been broken all over the Pacific as the countries of South East Asia have enjoyed unprecedented tourist levels. The growth of air traffic and new services has

prompted some industry observers to predict that the Pacific may become more important to air travellers than the Atlantic. Cruise shipping had another good year especially in the Caribbean and off the US west coast.

Indeed, US tourism has enjoyed a fantastic year. The exhortations to 'Discover America' have helped Americans do just that, selling out hotels, amenities and tours from New York to Arizona and California to Louisiana.

Business travel and incentive travel continues to expand in ambition and scale, and the world's holidaymakers have during the past 12 months been helped to contemplate 'new' destinations like China (where the Queen made a well-publicised tour) and the Falklands whose concerted attack on the tourist market begins right here at WTM.

Any brief summary of international travel over a 12-month period serves to emphasise the way that every cloud literally does have a silver lining: one country's tourist decline is usually another's bonanza. And more people taking more trips to more places all over the world is really good for the

WTM, I will not make the mistake of assuming you already know all about it from last year. Too much is different. And, to crown the achievements of what is the most successful travel show in the world, there are also a large number of new exhibitors.

So what's new at World Travel Market this year? It's a question I can only begin to answer in this article. But, here goes. There is, for a start, almost 20% more exhibition space than for the 1985 show. Many of the exhibits, especially the national stands, are larger. And there are no fewer than 70 new exhibitors.

The additional space has been created by the opening of the new Olympia 2 Hall. So there's a lot more for exhibitors and visitors alike to see and learn from the show. And that has been our major challenge for 1986: how to make the much larger show more convenient and easier for getting around.

Our answer has been to introduce regionalisation to the show and already many would-be visitors have told us how easy that it is going to make it for them to plan their visit. We've also introduced colour-coded maps and

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EASY GOING

World Travel
Market Magazine
Autumn '86 Issue

With logical regional groupings for exhibition stands, show visitors wishing to concentrate on specific destinations will optimise their time spent at Olympia.

With the addition of the new Olympia 2 hall, floor space at The World Travel Market is 22 per cent greater this year. But visitors will find it an easy show at which to plan their time and activity because of the regional grouping of most of the major exhibits.

The regional plan, developed in response to suggestions from exhibitors and visitors last year, will, says Crown Exhibitions managing director Chris Timmins, "make it easier visitors to find the geographical areas with which they most want to do business."

This is how it looks: European exhibits are principally in the Grand Hall with a UK corridor. The USA remains in the National Hall and now includes Texas whose previous location near the Grand Hall's Centre Stage now goes to British Airways.

The Caribbean, previously scattered all over the exhibition, now has its own section on the gallery above the National and Grand halls.

Scandinavia has its own section just inside the Grand Hall and Australia is, naturally enough, adjacent to the Far East in Olympia 2.

The complexity of this kind of planning is increased by the sheer demand for space at WTM. At the first show, the USA, which is now the show's largest exhibitor, took just 12 stands. This year over 250 US companies, right across the travel spectrum, will be occupying a total of 170 stands.

Vito Passemante, director of London's US Travel & Tourism Administration, has been a longtime supporter of the show and regards it as a very important vehicle for getting close to the retail travel trade and educating them about the US.

In 1986, US domestic tourism has, of course, benefitted from stay-at-home Americans and the weak dollar-sterling value. But so have the near-neighbour nations of the Caribbean.

With the exception of oil-rich Trinidad, these nations depend on tourism and are heavily committed to WTM. The regionalisation plan brings all the Caribbean exhibitors

together for the first time.

Prominent among nations exhibiting under the Caribbean Travel Association is Grenada whose determination to develop tourism was demonstrated a few years ago when, in the midst of a revolution, they still insisted on exhibiting at WTM.

David Moore, London representative of the CTA, is in optimistic mood. Having done such good business from sites scattered all over the Olympia exhibition centre, he is very optimistic about the impact the Caribbean collective presence will have on inquiries and bookings at this year's show.

Moore notes that Jamaica has done particularly well over the six years of WTM, but that smaller resorts like St Kitts, Vincent and Nevis have more recently been prospering as repeat travellers have become more adventurous.

Every year sees a crop of new exhibitors at World Travel Market and 1986 is certainly no different. As if to emphasise the constant search for new long-haul destinations, the Falkland Islands mark their arrival on the world tourist scene with a debut appearance at the show.

The new London representative of the Falklands says: "This is our first year of tourist operations and we have been concentrating on selling the islands to the UK market. We will be at WTM to talk to representatives also from North America and Europe, the markets from which we now wish to attract visitors to the Falklands."

In the UK, where there are thrice-weekly flights from an air force base direct to the new Falklands airport at Mount Pleasant, five tour operators are currently offering packages "for those who seek something different."

The tiny European principality of Monaco is also exhibiting for the first time, promoting its suitability as a sun-splashed conference and incentive venue.

Other first-time exhibitors include Madagascar, Luxembourg, Indonesia, Micronesia and Gulf Air. Many other exhibitors are taking their own stands for the first time, having previously shared group displays.

WTM has become successful by offering travel agents and tour operators from around the world the largest possible selection of what's available - the whole world of travel under one roof. But the show's continuing success depends on a large number of organisations helping to make it all happen.

One such participant is the London-based Association of National Tourist Offices (Antor) whose chairman, Gunter Nischwitz, has this year been elected to the World Travel Market Advisory Council, which guides and advises the exhibition's organisers.

Nischwitz has, for seven years, been director of the German National Tourist Office in London, following successive postings with the Tourist Board in Montreal and Paris.

Nischwitz is particularly pleased with the decision to increase the number of trade-only days at WTM, reducing public admission to just the Saturday, last day of the show. "Business with the trade is the most important part of the fair. It's such an important event that everyone in the trade should come."

Gunter Nischwitz is an international travel professional whose broad view of the changing fortunes of the business, neatly sum up the mission of World Travel Market: "It's a forum for views. Of course, this year the shift in the American market has been one of the most significant things for Europeans. But it is swings and roundabouts."

"Some countries, like Canada, have gained. And, despite the ebbs and flows, the forecasts, generally, for international tourism continue to be optimistic. The main thing now is to get governments to accept the growing importance of tourism as an industry."

"It is," he continues, "a massive employer, linked to service industries like hotels and restaurants. Yet many governments still regard it as a low-status industry. The importance of tourism politically and economically (in the UK, for instance) is illustrated by what's happened to London hotels this summer."

Britain defends Falkland fish zone

From Michael Littlejohns
of Reuters

NEW YORK — Fisheries agreements negotiated by Argentina with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were a challenge to the people of the Falklands and to the British Government, Britain said yesterday.

"Who is it who is bringing the East-West struggle to the South Atlantic?" the British delegate, Sir John Thomson, asked in the UN General Assembly.

He was responding to a charge by the Argentine Foreign Minister, Dante Caputo, that Britain was aggressive in its declaration last month of a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone arounds the Falklands, over which Argentina claims sovereignty.

Mr Caputo said the British did not fish in the area and the zonal limit was "simply an act which presently seeks to expand British domination over a sea in which my country exercised and exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction". Argentine troops



British delegate Sir John Thomson addresses the UN Assembly

invaded the Falklands in 1982 and were then driven out by the British, since when Buenos Aires has pursued its sovereignty claim by diplomatic means.

Responding to remarks by Mr Caputo about conservation, Sir John said the South Atlantic was the last large sea area without a multilateral regime to manage its ecological and economic problems.

Last year, he said, Mr Caputo chided Britain for not having paid enough attention to this, but then

negotiated with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria for bilateral accords.

Sir John, rejecting as unacceptable any negotiations between Britain and Argentina on sovereignty over the Falklands, reiterated British insistence that the rights of the Falklander islanders must be the determining factor.

A resolution again calling for negotiations is due to go to voting here today, with Argentina expected to receive the support of at least two-thirds of UN members.

Leading article, page 14

Falklands deadlock at U.N.

By Michael Kallenbach
at the United Nations

BRITAIN and Argentina yesterday refused to budge over the latest controversy surrounding the disputed Falkland Islands and the recent British move to impose a 150-mile fishing zone.

Although Britain has rebuffed a United Nations role to solve the dispute since the 1982 war, the General Assembly yesterday began another debate aimed at resolving the differences between the two countries and bringing them back to the negotiating table.

Senor Dente Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, launched a series of harsh accusations against the British Government and said its conduct towards the islands was based on "expansionist logic."

He warned the assembly that because of Britain's recent decision to impose a new fishing protection zone around the Falklands, "tension and insecurity in the South Atlantic may increase as a consequence of this aggressive behaviour on the part of the United Kingdom."

'No choice'

Speaking in more moderate tones, Britain's Sir John Thomson, said the fisheries question was one example of how the Thatcher Government sought to co-operate with Argentina.

However, it was plain that Argentina and Britain had "no choice" but to act on conservation grounds.

Sir John accused Argentina of introducing an East-West struggle in the South Atlantic by recently signing a bilateral fisheries agreement with the Soviet Union and its ally Bulgaria.

Because the patrimony of the South Atlantic was under threat, Britain wanted to find a way to manage the fisheries question effectively, in the interests of all concerned, he said.

Fish zone attacked at UN

From Jane Rosen
in New York

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, yesterday told the UN General Assembly that Britain's real motive in imposing a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands was to "create friction and provoke armed incidents that will consolidate its colonial occupation and will bring about the desired political and electorate gains."

The Foreign Minister, in New York to represent his country in the assembly's annual Falklands debate, devoted his entire address to the controversy over the fishing zone.

He derided Britain's claim that the area is being over-fished, and quoted a UN Food and Agricultural Organisation report which says: "There seems to be no reason to (believe) that the fishing pressure in the south-west Atlantic . . . will have an impact upon the system of the area greater than that of other fisheries with similar characteristics in other parts of the world."

While Argentina is concerned about the need to conserve fishing resources, the Argentine Foreign Minister said, the "central aspect" of the Falklands is "the sovereignty dispute which exists between the parties".

The UN General Assembly votes today on an Argentine resolution calling for global negotiations and, despite British opposition, it is expected to be overwhelmingly adopted.

Meanwhile, in London, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, last night offered to sit down with President Ravel Alfonsin to discuss all issues between Britain and Argentina except the sovereignty of the Falklands.

East-West aspect seen in fishing zone row

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

Britain yesterday accused Argentina of introducing an East-West dimension in the South Atlantic by signing bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria to the detriment of the Falkland Islanders.

Sir John Thomson, the British representative at the United Nations General Assembly meeting, where the Falkland Islands issue is being debated, defended the establishment by Britain of a 150-mile fisheries exclusion zone, saying international law had been "scrupulously observed". He claimed, however, that the Argentine deals undermined the prospects for a multilateral arrangement by forcing the issue of sovereignty over the islands centre-stage.

"The sovereignty issue has dogged at every turn the attempts we have made to make progress in Anglo-Argentine relations," he declared.

Sir John repeated that the right to self-determination of the Falkland Islanders was of paramount importance in the dispute.

He dismissed the November 17 proposal from Buenos Aires for "global negotiations" as an attempt to corner the British Government into discussing the transfer of sovereignty.

But Britain was, he said, ready to enter into dialogue on every other aspect of Anglo-Argentine relations, even though Buenos Aires maintained that hostilities in the South Atlantic had not formally ended.

In a statement opening the Falklands debate yesterday, Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, claimed that Britain's imposition of the zone was a thinly veiled attempt to gain dominance over the South Atlantic and was in keeping with its "expansionist logic".



Sir John: no debate on Falklands sovereignty.

UN Falklands debate

Britain losing key European backing

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Britain's ability to keep its European partners in line on the Falklands issue is expected to suffer a further blow at the United Nations General Assembly meeting which begins today into the continuing diplomatic stalemate in the South Atlantic.

Barring a successful last-minute British lobbying effort, The Netherlands will join France, Italy and Greece, who last year broke European ranks to side with the Argentine contention that any Anglo-Argentine attempts at reconciliation must have as their cornerstone negotiations over Falklands sovereignty.

There are also unconfirmed reports that Belgium, West Germany, Portugal and Ireland are considering switching from their pattern of abstentions, in a display of European solidarity with Britain, to firm backing of the Argentine position, on the grounds that enough time has elapsed for Britain to discuss sovereignty.

For the Government of President Alfonsín of Argentina, the European vote is the most coveted. It has the effect of enhancing enormously the Argentine position while coming closer to isolating Mrs Thatcher for having sought dialogue without conceding the essential ingredients. For their part, British officials believe that the Assembly debate only encourages Argentina to defer taking steps to return to normal relations.

Argentina enters the two-day debate with the bonus of having had its latest overture to Britain dismissed last week as a variation of the demand that the sovereignty issue be included on any Anglo-Argentine agenda. Britain's decision last month to establish a fisheries protection zone around the disputed islands is likely to be seen by the

majority in the Assembly as an unnecessary provocation.

The current draft resolution, sponsored by Latin American nations and inspired by Argentina, is in essence the same as a measure adopted by the Assembly last year. It is tailored to win the largest possible number of votes by omitting the contentious word "sovereignty" but at the same time, by urging discussion on "all aspects" of the islands' future, leaving no doubt over the intentions of the draft.

British diplomats are expected again to seize on this semantic manoeuvring to try to expose Argentina as passing off as reasonable a highly prejudicial draft resolution. The Government's desire to see tensions in the South Atlantic turn into co-operation and friendship will be emphasized.

But, as always, Britain is left defending a policy which the international community does not accept. The Falklands issue is seen as an anachronism and negotiations, whatever the circumstances, an inviolable UN principle. Britain can only seek solace in the number of countries abstaining, which has been far from inconsequential. Last year's vote on the resolution was 107-4 in favour, with 28 abstentions.

The debate finds Britain abandoning its relatively low profile at the UN to conduct a vigorous campaign which leaves nothing to chance. The British diplomatic offensive rests on three main arguments: the paramount importance of the self-determination of the islanders, the fact that Argentina initiated the 1982 conflict, and that the Argentine draft is a stratagem prejudging the outcome of any sovereignty negotiations.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday 24 November 1986

Falklands debate today

The annual UN debate on the Falklands begins in New York today. Britain is expected to become more isolated by its refusal to discuss sovereignty of the islands.

Fresh milk herd for Falklands

By Patrick Watts
in Port Stanley

THIRTY Ayrshire cows and a bull have arrived in the Falklands from Britain, to replace a dairy herd destroyed during the 1982 conflict, forcing Port Stanley's population to use imported UHT and powder milk.

The beasts are in calf and should begin producing milk in February or March. Mr Malcolm Ashworth, a Yorkshireman who emigrated to the Falklands 15 years ago, said that each animal cost him around £1,500 but sea transportation and other costs more than doubled the purchase figure.

Despite the high costs of having to import the cows 8,000 miles, Mr Ashworth hopes to sell the milk at around 30p a pint.

Falkland foul-up

BRITAIN'S 150-mile fishing zone around the Falklands and its snub to Argentina's offer to end hostilities has lost it much support for today's annual Falklands debate in the United Nations general assembly. Page 8.

Britain faces isolation at UN debate on Falklands policy

From Jane Rosen
in New York

Despite strenuous lobbying, Britain is expected to fare even worse than usual in the annual Falklands debate that opens today in the UN General Assembly.

For one thing, the government's imposition of the 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands has angered a majority at the UN. Even Britain's friends have failed to defend its rejection of the Argentine offer to end hostilities in exchange for lifting the fishing zone.

Beyond that, Mrs Thatcher's stand on sanctions is having a far-reaching impact at the UN. In the past two weeks, Britain has lost two important elections in the General Assembly. First, Sir Ian Sinclair was defeated in elections to the International Law Commission; he came bottom of the poll.

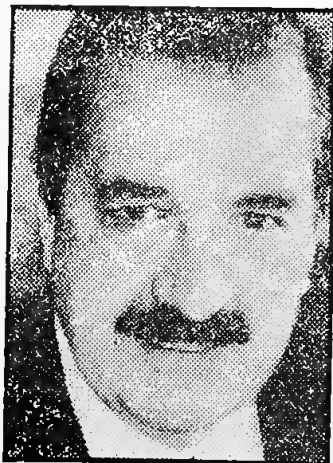
Then last Friday the British candidate, Mr Andrew Murray, failed to get re-elected to the key UN administrative committee. A British delegate, stunned by the results, asked an Iraqi diplomat why Mr Murray, who is quite popular here, had lost. "Sanctions," replied the Iraqi.

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, is to start today's debate on the Falklands and then Sir John Thomson will make his address. Tomorrow, the assembly will vote on an Argentine resolution calling on the two countries to negotiate the future of the islands.

Last year, 107 countries voted in favour of the similar resolution, 41 abstained and

Britain and three small countries voted against. The feeling is that Britain will get even less support tomorrow.

Jeremy Morgan adds from Buenos Aires: President Raul Alfonsin reined in his Government to halt a damaging over-reaction to Britain's



President Raul Alfonsin: government reined in

declaration of a fishing zone around the Falkland Islands, well-informed sources here say.

At a Cabinet meeting two weeks after the British announcement, he reminded his ministers that they were the government of "Argentina of 1986 and not 1982." President Alfonsin emphasised that Argentina's Falklands policy had to emphasise that it was a peaceful country that wanted a negotiated settlement.

President Alfonsin urged his ministers to accept the need

for a realistic policy that recognised the fact that Britain existed not only in the North Sea, but in the South Atlantic as well.

The attempt to take the heat out of the issue came as Argentina was still lobbying the US for last Monday's meeting between President Alfonsin and President Reagan.

Diplomatic observers here suspect a link between US pressure and the notably conciliatory tone of Argentina's statement offering a formal declaration ending hostilities in the South Atlantic.

Noting that President Reagan's invitation to talks—and the Argentine offer—followed shortly after Mr Caputo and the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, met at the Organisation of American States meeting in Guatemala earlier this month, one diplomat commented: "We still don't know what the *quid pro quo* was."

Uncertainty continues over the ultimate aims of the Argentine offer. Diplomats disagree over whether it was primarily intended to induce a British rejection, increasing Mrs Thatcher's isolation at the UN debate on the Falklands, or whether it reflected a more serious shift in Argentine policy.

Mr Caputo publicly insisted last week that a formal end to hostilities would not go into force until the "global negotiations" proposed by President Alfonsin begin. But a senior official, speaking in private in Buenos Aires, said that was not what the statement was supposed to mean.

Belgrano victim will sue Britain

by Maria Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires

A FORMER Argentinian conscript who survived the sinking of the battleship, General Belgrano, during the Falklands war is trying to sue the British government for damages reported at more than £10m. If his case succeeds in the Argentine courts, more than 1,000 writs could follow from other survivors and relatives of those who drowned.

Juan Carlos Heinze, who is now 24 and lives in a Buenos Aires slum, was a soldier stationed on board the Belgrano when it was sunk on May 2, 1982, by the submarine HMS Conqueror. He drifted for two days in a rubber dinghy before being rescued by an Argentinian hospital ship. He claims that, because of exposure to the bitter cold of the open sea, he is now incurably crippled.

"I can't walk more than 100 metres at a time," complained Heinze. "I feel like an old man of 50."

His feet look like big meat pies, and his knees are so swollen with liquid that they are like footballs. The doctors have diagnosed *artrodesis* and the treatment is slow and expensive.



The General Belgrano: 368 died on May 2, 1982

"I need a home, and a car so that I can get around without much difficulty. I think Mrs Thatcher must pay for the harm she did to me," he said.

When the Belgrano was attacked, he was an army conscript, guarding missile installations on the warship. "The loudspeakers were ordering us to abandon ship. When I went up to the deck I saw that the bows of the ship had been lost. I grabbed a lifebelt and rushed to a raft."

He said that he saw the cruiser sink and then for two days he and 22 other survivors crouched in an orange liferaft, battered by a glacial wind and high waves.

"When a rescue boat appeared, we thought it was a miracle. We were the last survivors to be found. All the other liferafts found afterwards had only dead bodies."

The former soldier earns

the equivalent of about £60 a month working for a municipal council, and he claims that he cannot get a better job because of his injuries.

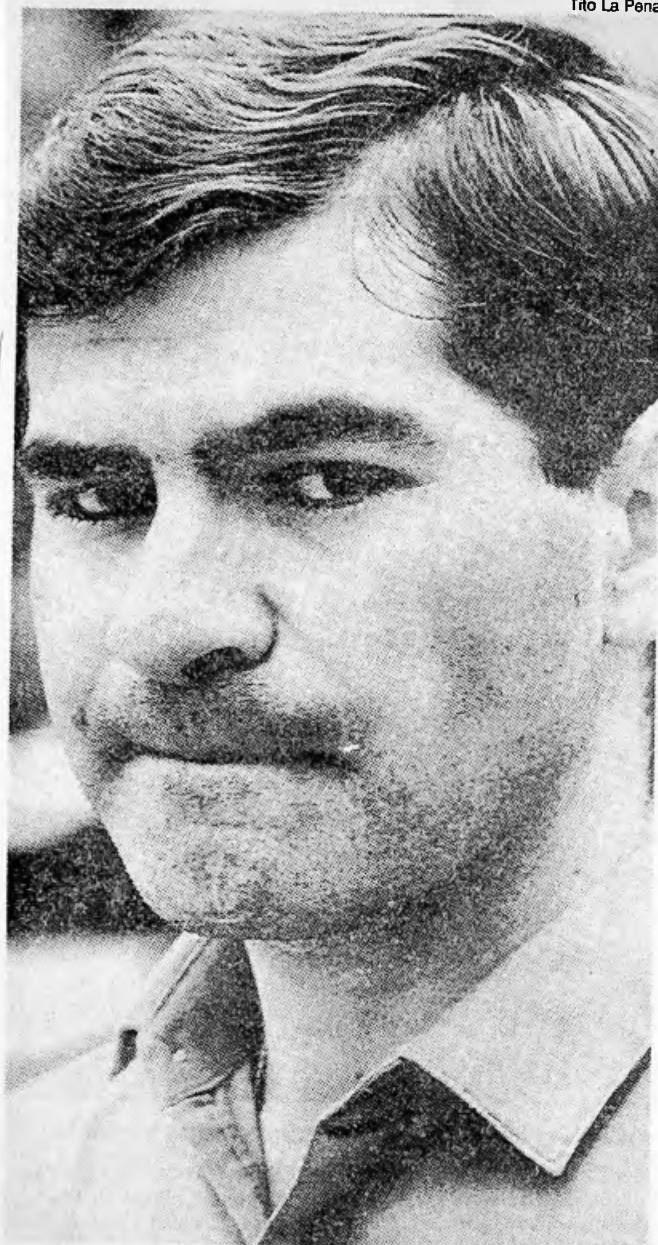
His lawyers argue that the sinking of the Belgrano, with the loss of 368 lives, was "openly and unmistakably illegitimate" because it occurred outside the Falklands exclusion zone.

A judge hearing the case has decreed that, before it can proceed, the British government must be asked to co-operate. Heinze's lawyers are appealing against this decision.

The principal lawyer involved, Dr Carlos Castineiras, said that if the case was prevented from proceeding in Argentina, they would take their claim directly to the British courts next year.

The Foreign Office in London said it had not been approached over the claim.

Tito La Pena



Heinze, now crippled, drifted for two days before rescue

Caputo may quit over row on fish

THE Falklands fishing row between Britain and Argentina is causing a battle in Buenos Aires that threatens the political life of the foreign minister, Dante Caputo, a close confidante of President Alfonsín, writes Maria Laura Avignolo from Buenos Aires.

Rivals in the cabinet say his policies have alienated the United States — which Argentina would like to mediate in the Falklands dispute — and that they have given the armed forces an opportunity to interfere in a political matter.

Caputo, a French-educated intellectual, is charged with "ideological confusion" because he signed fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria covering waters in dispute with Britain and then expected the US to mediate in the resulting row with London.

Some critics of Caputo argue that his recently-rejected proposal, to end hostilities over the islands if Britain agreed to an "open dialogue" to set a timetable for negotiations on sovereignty, was a sign of weakness.

Isolated on the Falklands

IT IS time once more for Britain's annual humiliation at the United Nations, which is certain to vote this Tuesday by an overwhelming majority in favour of an Argentine resolution on the Falkland Islands. Last year Britain managed to round up Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands, but four votes are not really a match for the 107 who voted Argentina's way. This larger group included for the first time France, Italy and Greece, who in earlier years had joined the rest of the Community in abstaining.

Argentina is putting forward almost exactly the same resolution as last year's, omitting controversial matters such as sovereignty and self-determination, and merely requesting the two Governments to 'initiate negotiations' on the subject. In reality, though, the Argentine position is not quite as reasonable as it seems. President Alfonsín's Government has consistently declined to initiate negotiations unless sovereignty is on the agenda, cares nothing for the self-determination which has always been the UN's cardinal principle in colonial matters, and has launched 'peace moves' like those of last week which in reality represent no change. But if Argentina cannot be acquitted of hypocrisy, Britain's position, too, has its weaknesses.

Nobody really doubts that Britain will

eventually negotiate the Falklands away, perhaps disguising the retreat by some diplomatic subterfuge like UN trusteeship or leaseback. The reasons are simple. It serves no conceivable British interest to maintain an expensive garrison thousands of miles away, protecting a mere 1,800 people, when to do so attracts the odium of the whole world. If Argentina had not been so stupid as to invade the Falklands in 1982, there is every chance that President Alfonsín's Government would by now have in its back pocket an agreement to cede sovereignty over the Falklands some time in the future—just as the Communist Government of China has recovered sovereignty over the island of Hong Kong and its much larger population.

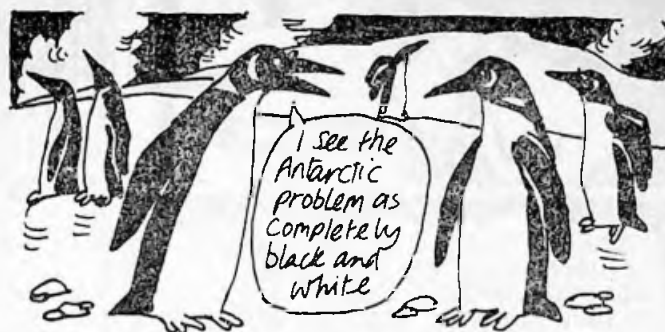
The invasion did change matters, but not for ever. In the end, interests will weigh heavier than principles. If not under this Prime Minister, then under the next, negotiations should open with sovereignty on the agenda. There is every chance that a lengthy transfer period could be negotiated, with generous arrangements for those who were unhappy about the future to leave the islands and settle somewhere else—much better terms than the 'diplomatic triumph' of the Hong Kong agreement. The majority at the United Nations is by no means invariably right—far from it—but on this issue it is.

Why the Falklands should not be confused with Antarctica

Sir, — Kevin Donaldson's letter (November 17) makes the point that the dispute between the UK and Argentina over the Falklands/Malvinas should be seen within the wider context of the need for a new regime for the Antarctic. May I suggest that this approach is dangerously misguided?

The Falklands/Malvinas are a short flight from the mainland of Argentina and are regarded by Argentinians as part of their country. If they have an economic future, it is bound up with Argentina, as many Falklanders, and outside observers like Lord Shackleton, have realised. The problem is a bilateral one between the UK and Argentina, and involves no other parties apart from the islanders.

By contrast, the Antarctic treaty involves over a dozen countries and the future of a whole continent. Between now and the expiry of the treaty in five years, many more countries will start to take an interest. The issues involved are huge — for example, can energy conservation be a better economic bet than Antarctic coal, oil and gas? How can the Antarctic



waters cope with heavy fishing? How would the idea of a world park in the Antarctic regions work and who would be the wardens? Can an unexploitative way be found for non-treaty nations to share in the future of the continent?

With these and other problems to solve, mixing the issue up with the already deadly Falklands/Malvinas issue risks making a complex problem insoluble. There are over 500 miles of cold sea between the Falklands and the 60°S line of latitude, where the treaty's jurisdiction begins, and both issues are more likely to be solved satisfactorily if they are kept

well separated. —Yours sincerely,
Martin Ince.
17 Brenda Road,
London SW 17.

Sir, — Arthur Williamson (Letters, November 20) asks if those wanting a resumption of negotiations on Falklands' sovereignty mean either that Britain and Argentina "should discuss whether sovereignty is to be transferred" or — "the pro-Argentina faction already (having) decided that sovereignty is to be ceded" — that "the only matters to be discussed are the terms of that cession."

In Britain the sticking-point of these discussions

(and the reason why there are no longer any) has always been that no transfer of sovereignty can take place over the heads of the Falkland Islanders: this condition accords with the principles of the UN Charter.

At the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference last month in Buenos Aires, the Argentine delegation drafted the following clause in the main, composite resolution: "Conference strongly reaffirms the right of the Argentine Republic to obtain the return of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), of South Georgia and of the South Sandwich Islands." This "right" exists not on any legal or historical grounds but in the imagination of Argentine politicians. The result next week of the UN General Assembly debate on the Falklands will reinforce their belief.

Where a contradiction exists between rights as specified in the UN Charter and beliefs which win through at the General Assembly, the questions asked by Mr Williamson remain hypothetical. — Yours faithfully,
M. Meadmore.
8 Pennard Road,
London W12.

Britain and Argentina

Will Mrs Thatcher agree to tango?

Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin seems to have taken his first real step towards Britain in the two countries' four-year stand-off since the end of the Falklands war. On November 17th Mr Alfonsin appeared to drop his demand that any talks with Britain must include on the agenda the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands. He accepted that preliminary negotiations could take place to "create



the conditions of trust necessary to face negotiations successfully and set a timetable for them." This confidence-building chat-before-a-chat would be about relatively uncontentious things like trade, consular and diplomatic relations, communications and fish.

The Argentines hope that agreement on such matters would lead to full talks on "all aspects" of the dispute—including sovereignty. Britain has long insisted that it will not sit at a table with Argentina to discuss sovereignty. The British foreign office, unhappy about the idea of linking the preliminary talks to the sovereignty issue, however loosely, said on November 18th that, if sovereignty would not have to be discussed, Argentina should say so clearly. But this is not likely to be Britain's final word.

Fish are another catch. Last month the British said that they would impose a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the islands next February, to conserve stocks from predatory trawlers steaming in with Argentina's approval. Mr Alfonsin says that the proposal for the zone must be dropped before talks can begin; in exchange, Argentina will formally declare an end to the 1982 war. Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to swap what Britain considers a necessary conservation measure for a largely meaningless gesture by Argentina unless Mr Alfonsin provides assurances—maybe private ones—that Argentina will help to discourage the overfishing of Falklands waters.

Mr Alfonsin made his offer just before calling on President Reagan in Washington on November 17th. Mrs Thatcher had popped in the previous weekend, although she says the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands did not come up in her chat with Mr Reagan. At last week's meeting of the Organisation of American States, the United States had sided with a Latin American resolution which was mildly critical of Britain. Next week the United Nations general assembly holds its annual talk-in on the subject, and Britain will, as usual, take a pasting. The pressure on Mrs Thatcher to join the dance Mr Alfonsin has proposed is not irresistible, but it is there.

Alfonsin in control of Falklands policy

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsin has assumed direct control of Argentina's Falklands policy reflecting concern at the deadlock with Britain almost three years after he took power, Western diplomatic observers believe.

Suspensions that the President decided to take over the issue focus on the tone of Argentina's offer last Monday to meet Britain's demand for a formal end to hostilities in the South Atlantic.

The language of the proposal was the "mildest and most

conciliatory yet seen in an Argentine statement on the Falklands", a senior diplomat said.

The proposal was phrased with "none of the anger normally used in statements issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry on the dispute until now," the source said. Some of his colleagues thought it was perhaps largely drafted at the President's office.

"There seemed much less worry than usual about how nationalists might react," one observer commented.

For the moment, the diplomats are reserving judgment on the implications for Argentina's Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, whose Falklands strategy is under increasing criticism at home.

But they point out that President Alfonsin actively adopted the role of Argentina's Falklands spokesman during a recent lecture tour in the United States, while Mr Caputo worked behind the scenes for support at next week's United Nations debate.

Speculation about presidential intervention coincides with confusion and contradiction over the details and the aims of the Argentine initiative, particularly the question of when Argentina might declare a formal end to hostilities.



Dante Caputo: under criticism

Falklands vote

New York (Reuter) — The non-aligned group of countries yesterday issued a statement expressing support for Argentina's case against Britain in the Falklands dispute and deploring Britain's declaration of a fisheries protection zone around the disputed islands.

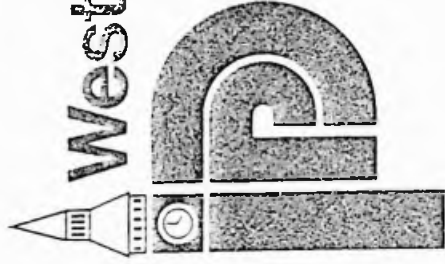
will have difficulty in defending Mrs Thatcher's old "Fortress Falklands" postures.

With the new Argentine proposals Britain will be on the defensive against the whole world at the 1 December UN Assembly for not wanting to renew discussions, including the vexed issue of sovereignty. Of course, there is hardly a nation in the world without challengeable boundaries. The Mexicans can lay claim to Texas, or the Hungarians to Transylvania more credibly than the Argentinians to the "Malvinas". The difference is that the Mexicans cannot take on the "Gringos" and the Hungarians know the Russians oppose East European irredentism. Britain's refusal to talk now can be misrepresented as "imperialism". A curious form of "imperialism" where 300 families can exploit the mother country!

In the long election campaign Mrs Thatcher will be attacked repeatedly from the Centre and Left for spending over £1m a day on expensively maintaining a force that will never be used after having precipitated a war by refusing to spend £1m a year on keeping a seagoing gunboat on station in the South Atlantic. If he sticks to this week's proposal, Dr Owen will claim that putting the Falklands under a UN trusteeship will guarantee their safety. After all, all the Argentinians want to do is fly their flag there, even alongside the Union Jack. Hardly any Argentinians want to go to live in those bleak and windswept islands when their own country is so much more attractive!***

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Westminster Confidential

by Andrew Roth

20 November 1986
Vol XXXI No 39

"DON'T TALK TO ME OF PEACE!"

The conjunction of the recent Argentine proposals and the Prime Minister's talks with President Reagan about the Reykjavik discussions can put the Prime Minister off her stride.

Her hostility to the Argentine proposals and her hesitations about a sharp scaling down of Soviet-American ballistic weapons can be represented as saying: "Don't talk to me of peace! It can destabilize our position for the looming general election!"

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tebbit are in agreement about the simple targets for the next general election: "neutralist" Labour leaving Britain helpless before the overarmed Soviet hordes, with the "dithering" Alliance not knowing what missile to put up their submarine tubes. Only the brave Tories, armed with relatively inexpensive Trident's will protect Britain from becoming a servile equivalent of East Europe, run by black "looney Left" gauleiters like Bernie Grant.

If that seems over-simple, it might be worthwhile looking again at Mrs Thatcher's

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speech opening the debate on the Queen's Speech and the speeches of Norman Tebbit and Nicholas Ridley on Monday night, which were so overplayed by ITN.

As political propaganda, the opinion polls have shown its effectiveness since the Tory conference at which it was initiated. Labour has lost its lead, probably as a result of the hesitations of elderly males who remember the inadequate arms with which Britain faced World War II. The Alliance has dropped down the charts as a result of Dr Owen's cynical exploitation of David Steel's gullibility on anything which could be presented as "European", even UK submarines armed with French missiles.

In fact, of course, Dr Owen was on to a possible winner, had he not forfeited credibility by dragging in the French. A lot of people are "Carverites" without realizing it. Lord Carver is the brilliant former Chief of the Defence Staff '73-76 who is almost alone among the top brass in his detestation of "delusions of nuclear grandeur".

He repeated his thesis in the debate on the Queen's Speech on 13 November, where he got under the skin of the Defence Minister, Lord Trefgarne. Lord Carver dismissed the idea that the British deterrent did anything to preserve the peace additional to US capability. He again urged the abandonment of battlefield nuclear weapons. He again opposed Trident missiles as "wasting precious defence resources". He again dismissed Reagan's SDI or "star wars" as "poison" rather than "pie in the sky". But he also attacked as "crazy" Labour's policy. He has continued to think that a submarine-borne missile system no larger than "Polaris" should be retained "to make it quite clear to the Soviet Union that they could not themselves use

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nuclear weapons in Europe without running the risk of retaliation in kind." He complained that the new Labour policy would place Labour in the same position as Japan in 1945, when a nuclear attack was made in the knowledge that Japan did not have a retaliatory weapon.

Had the Alliance limited itself to Carverism, which the Liberals had previously tended to do, it might have been possible to poach Healeyites from Labour as well as non-macho Tories. If the election campaign stretches out to a full year or more, the Alliance still has a chance to make a comeback in this field, minimizing talk of "splits" as simply the result of a search for an inexpensive minimal deterrent.

Labour has a much more difficult task. It can have a prolonged teach-in on nuclear war, but this is impossible because its complexity would pass over the heads of most people. Therefore it almost certainly has to address different parts of the same policy to different audiences. Its anti-nuclear policy will have appeal for almost all CND sympathizers, if not much for CND activists who want a full-fledged anti-NATO posture as well. This is no problem for Labour, because CND activists have no more sympathetic party to vote for. But the underlying Labour assumption that the USA will still provide a deterrent against Soviet adventurism is difficult to make public, as Denis Healey learned a few days ago, without idiot newspapers shouting "split". It will be difficult to have a meaningful discussion during the election campaign without comparing Labour's position with that of successive Canadian governments.

THE NEW FALKLANDS FACTOR

If Labour is at a disadvantage over putting across its new anti-nuclear policy, the Tories

Falklands protest

New Haven, Connecticut (AP) — The British Government's rejection of Argentina's offer to end hostilities over the Falkland Islands was "a new provocation", President Alfonsín of Argentina said yesterday.

Argentina would continue its search for peace with Britain, he said at Yale University.

Argentina offered on Monday to begin "an open dialogue" with Britain as a step towards talks on Falklands sovereignty. It said it would declare a formal end to hostilities if Britain drops its 150-mile "military protection zone" around the South Atlantic islands.

Thatcher reaffirms hard line on

BY TOM LYNCH

Falklands sovereignty

THERE WILL be no negotiations between Britain and Argentina about the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands as long as the islanders wish to remain under British rule, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, strongly reaffirmed in the Commons yesterday.

Questioned by Labour MPs about her discussions at Camp David with President Reagan on the future of the islands and the British decision to impose a 150-mile fishery conservation zone, she insisted that the wishes of the islanders remained paramount.

And she told the Commons that the President had understood her Government's decision perhaps for the first time.

After a Commons statement on her US trip, she was asked by Dr Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock and Port Glasgow),



Margaret Thatcher: wishes of islanders "paramount"

Harborough) that it had been at one time accepted on all sides of the House that the

wishes of the islanders were paramount. This was before "certain leaders of the Opposition" had had discussions with President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina.

In her statement, she said she had told the President that Britain's preference remained a multilateral solution "provided that the Argentine Government was prepared to co-operate."

She described her visit as "useful." The agreed statement confirmed her Government's aims for balanced reductions in nuclear and chemical weapons, while buying Trident to update Britain's nuclear capability.

She and the President had agreed that the priority in the intermediate nuclear forces talks at Geneva should be a 50 per cent cut in strategic

defensive weapons, a ban on chemical weapons and "restraints on shorter range systems."

They had also agreed on the aim of "bringing Iran back into better relations with the West" and helping to end the Gulf War. "The President reaffirmed that the US does not pay ransom for hostages, That is our policy too."

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn on any discussions she had had with the President about allegations that the US had sold arms to Iran in return for Iranian help in securing the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, asked her: "Three weeks after rightly acting against Syria and rightly,

acting to secure international co-operation because of their sponsorship of terrorism, is it not obvious that you severely discredited such efforts by so readily endorsing the President's trade with terrorism and a completely unconvincing explanation of his actions?"

"After Grenada, Star Wars, Libya and now arms to Iran, when you are going to realise that a special relationship is one thing, sycophancy, is another thing altogether?"

Mrs Thatcher accused Mr Kinnock of taking every opportunity to attack the US President. She said Mr Reagan had made it clear in his broadcast to the US that he had made no concessions to those holding hostages, and had not sent arms to Iran in return for hostages,

whether the President had offered any criticism of the "reckless decision to impose a fishery zone around the Falkland Islands, or did he offer his support for this foolish decision?"

The Prime Minister retorted: "It was an absolutely justified decision, as I explained to the President. We have tried since April 1985 to negotiate a multilateral fishing agreement. We have not succeeded. Argentina would not co-operate."

"I explained to the President that when Argentina made bilateral agreements on waters that affected us we had no option but to declare a 150-mile conservation zone."

"I think the President for the first time understood that."

She told Sir John Farr (C,

Argentina plays its trump card

JUST AFTER the surrender of the 15,000-strong Argentine garrison on the Falkland Islands in June, 1982, Britain was asked by its EEC partners whether fighting on the islands was over. Mr Leo Tindemans, then Belgian Foreign Minister, who posed the question, was politely told that he should ask Buenos Aires.

The answer has been a long time coming. This week, almost four and a-half years later, Argentina has made the first firm indication that the anomalous situation of no war, no peace, might finally be brought to an end.

The offer formally to end hostilities in exchange for Britain lifting the 150-mile military protection zone around the islands, is being made to try to tempt the UK to the negotiating table to discuss the sovereignty issue.

It follows Britain's move to create a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the islands and to lay claim to the fish and seabed resources up to 200 miles away.

The protection zone was created after the war, when it became apparent that Argentina's then military Government had no intention of formally ending hostilities. Even today, many prominent figures in the armed forces, as well as the nationalist opposi-

tion to President Alfonsín's government, consider the war simply as a lost individual battle.

The situation of no war, no peace, therefore locked Britain into a multimillion pound annual defence commitment to the islands and has been a continual source of tension souring relations between the two countries.

Given the political opposition at home, President Alfonsín's

Mr Tim Eggar, Junior Foreign Office Minister yesterday described the Argentine offer as an "exercise in megaphone diplomacy." He claimed that the British Government had found out about the Argentine offer by reading it in the press.

"That's not really the way to get serious negotiations and serious discussions going. It is really a destatement of the normal (Argentine) position which is that anything can be discussed as long as we discuss sovereignty first."

move is a courageous one. It precedes however next week's United Nations General Assembly debate on the Falkland Islands and the fisheries dispute, at which Argentina hopes to secure a major diplomatic success.

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution in November, 1985 implicitly recommending negotiations over the sovereignty of the islands by 107 votes in favour, 41 abstentions and only four against, one of which, of course, being that of the UK.

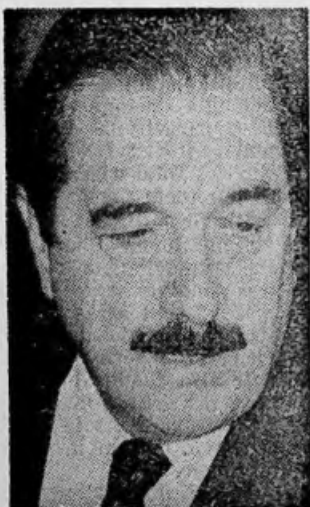
Argentina's target is to swing as many of the fence-sitters as possible over to a positive vote. A show of willingness to end hostilities is an obvious way to do that.

In the past, Argentina has always insisted that only when Britain agrees to negotiate sovereignty will hostilities be formally stopped. According to a senior official in the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the intention behind the proposal is to make a gesture of goodwill, constantly demanded by the UK, to break the deadlock on future talks. As a result "negotiations on the sovereignty issue are no longer a precondition to ending hostilities," he said.

The initial reaction from the UK Government has been to play down the Argentine offer, saying it adds nothing to previous proposals.

Argentina still intends any formal negotiations to include the sovereignty issue, and Britain's approach seems likely to come under increasing pressure both at home and abroad if Argentina's offer is seen to be genuine, not just a ploy to convince the UN.

The Argentine Government has thus played its trump card somewhat uncertainly, and much earlier than most political observers expected. It remains to be seen whether the British government has one to match it. A refusal to explore the offer may suggest that it has not.



President Alfonsín:
courageous move

Falklands veterans under the hammer

THE TRUE mud and grit veterans of Fortress Falklands were back home yesterday, unsung, ready for action again in the trenches.

All had made their 18,000-mile round trip to the South Atlantic in the national service. The result of their labours has been described, tentatively, as one of the wonders of the world.

The Goliath crushers, the heavyweight dumpers and, perhaps most unexpectedly, the "egg-layer" blockmaking machines" have all been employed in constructing the Falkland Islands' Mount Pleasant Airport, built in the peat bogs 25 miles south-west of Port Stanley.

They were on parade again yesterday in an aircraft hangar at Blackbushe Airport, Surrey, to be sold to the highest bidders at an auction of machinery demobbed after the airport campaign.

The two-day sale of 1,016 lots fetched less than £1m, according to British Car Auctions, which sold the vehicles, spare parts, stores and plant for the Property Services Agency, which maintains and manages the Government's civil and defence estate.

The selling was brisk, sharp and non-stop, from 10 am to after 6 pm on both days. Two auctioneers and one spotter to identify bidders were ferried up and down the aisles in a Popemobile-like vehicle, the punters clustered round it.

Everything that was needed to build the airport—apart from water, stone and sand—was shipped to the Falklands. That included equipment to house, feed and clean the 2,200 workmen, who built it in 80 weeks.

As there was little use for the plant on the islands once the airport was completed, it was shipped home.

Fiona Thompson
watches the auction
of the machinery
which helped build
the island airport

It took British Car Auctions five weeks to transport the 120 container loads and 70 heavy items of plant from Ridham Docks, near Sittingbourne, Kent, and set up the auction.

The hangar was crowded yesterday. Most were weather-beaten-faced men in thick coats, boots and caps, the few wearing Italian shoes and Burberrys looking distinctly flash. There were builders, contractors, civil engineers and dealers from plant hire and electrical companies.

Lot 961—various rolls of Pyrotenax cable and shrouds—went for £775. Mr Andrew Livingstone, an electrical contractor from Essex, said he had been willing to pay up to £1,200 for it.

A Johnson gritter went for £520, and a bright yellow Lombardini compressor breaker gun was a steal at £250.

Four sewage ejectors and the Thwaites 6 tonne dumpers drew hot bidding.

Two bidders both thought they had won the star of the show, a Caterpillar D8L bulldozer with blade and ripper, that went for £65,000. Their faces, impassive throughout their sparring, reddened in confusion as both claimed their spoils, neither knowing if he had succeeded.

Lot 808 fetched £300 — Parsons Peebles sub-station switchgear, packed tightly in washed-out wooden crates full of Falklands sand.

Drawing the line

From Mr M. Meadmore

Sir,—The map accompanying Tim Coone's article on the Falklands fishing dispute (November 12) is the best graphic representation in any British newspaper of the various south-west Atlantic maritime zones. (In the sphere of economics and law, Argentine businessmen, by discounting the mystical claim to the "Malvinas," are showing a like appreciation of reality, which one hopes Argentine politicians and the brick-throwing activists they excite may one day emulate.)

The legal entitlement of Britain and thus the extent of the disputed maritime area, however, is somewhat exaggerated in the map. Britain is not making a claim to Argentine waters: the Foreign Secretary made clear on October 29 that the Falkland Islands' 200 mile fisheries limit is subject to delimitation (ie, to an equitable or median line) with Argentina. The conservation zone, too, is drawn a little inaccurately: it is not a circle of 150 miles radius but is what geometricians would be quick to distinguish—the major segment of that circle.

M. R. Meadmore.
8 Pennard Road, W12.

Time to talk about talks with Alfonsin

THE Prime Minister has reacted with characteristic disdain to the latest, come hither initiative from Argentina. She is wrong to be so dismissive. Of course her suspicion of Argentine intentions may yet be proved entirely justified. As may her fears that the country could only too easily revert to dictatorship. Even so, there are good reasons why those intentions should now be tested.

President Alfonsin's recent, foolish, fishing deals with the Soviet Union led directly to the imposition by Britain of a protective, 150-mile fishing exclusion zone around the islands. Yet, President Alfonsin collected a quite surprising degree of international support for his *pro forma* protests.

The Common Market nations no longer pretend to comprehend what Britain is playing at. Even the United States appears to be distancing itself, albeit mildly, from London. Next week President Alfonsin's regime will undoubtedly do rather well at the United Nations.

Labour spokesmen yesterday savaged Mrs Thatcher. Last month they actually talked of "an extremely provocative British decision". All pretence of a cross party sense of purpose on the future of the islands has evaporated only six years after their liberation.

It is high time Mrs Thatcher asked herself why she and her supporters are increasingly isolated, both at home and abroad. The reasons run the gamut from the obnoxious to the admirable. There are, abroad, those who wish this country ill. At home there are politicians aplenty who wish this Government ill. Mrs Thatcher can expect little sympathy from either group — even when questions of national interest are involved.

Then there are, at home and abroad, those who, in all good faith, cannot see that a few, far away, islands are

worth the spilling of blood and gold. (That view, incidentally, can coexist with respect for the 1,800 islanders and for the legitimacy of the British case.) Finally there are a growing number who feel that Britain and her Prime Minister have taken resolution, national pride and a decent regard for the dead and turned them into stubbornness and obstruction.

The signals from the Alfonsin regime suggest that Argentina is finally ready to declare a formal end to hostilities if Britain removes the 150-mile protection zone. They suggest, more ambiguously, that workaday talks on the fishing dispute, on trade links, air routes and the like could start without preconditions. If words mean anything, Alfonsin will not insist upon sovereignty being on the top of the agenda as long as Britain does not strike it off completely.

Finally, Argentina calls for discussions, aided by the UN secretary general, upon "every possible formula for the solution of the dispute". As such it is well worth exploring, preferably through the good offices of the UN secretary general and preferably before the General Assembly takes up the matter again next week.

For "every possible formula" must surely include joint sovereignty, UN trusteeship, leaseback, United States guarantees of the way of life and the democratic rights of the islanders and the like. If Argentina is willing to look at such options then Britain must be prepared, eventually, to abandon its position that sovereignty is non-negotiable, now and forever. Meanwhile some small gesture to world opinion is in order. Fortress Falklands is manned by over 3,000 troops. Given the military realities, including the new airport, that number could safely be halved.

Navy hero of Falklands war severely reprimanded

By David Sapsted

A Royal Navy captain awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism during the Falklands war was severely reprimanded at a court martial yesterday over the loss of secret papers on a Thames towpath.

Captain Alan West, aged 38, who commanded the frigate *Ardent* when she was sunk after being attacked by 11 Argentine bombers in San Carlos Water, pleaded guilty at a hearing at HMS Drake, Devonport, to five breaches of the Naval Discipline Act.

During the court martial he was described as "an outstanding officer of his generation" by Admiral Jeremy Black, deputy chief of the Defence Staff.

The charges arose out of the discovery this year of two bundles of classified documents on a towpath at Sonning, near Reading.

Found by a journalist and published by a Sunday newspaper, the documents included a discussion paper on radical cuts in the Navy's surface and submarine fleet.

Captain West, then an assistant director of naval staff at the Ministry of Defence in London, had taken 59 pages of documents from his Whitehall office two days before their loss, to work on them at home.

Three of the charges related to his removing them without informing the proper authorities and not keeping them in a security briefcase, a fourth accused him of failing to take proper care of them, and the fifth was laid because he failed to inform the ministry immediately after their loss.

Lieutenant-Commander

Patrick Elvin, for the prosecution, told the five-man board that Captain West had put the documents in his coat pocket before he went for a walk along the towpath on Friday, September 12. He was due to catch a train from Reading and decided to exercise a friend's dog to kill time before getting the train.

Captain West put the documents in his coat because he thought it would be safer than leaving them in his briefcase in the car.

Commander Shaun Lyons, a naval barrister serving as the accused's friend, said that when the loss was discovered, Captain West immediately retraced his steps, and, failing to find the documents, informed the local police who also began a search.

He had intended to inform the Ministry of Defence on the Monday, said Commander Lyons. Captain West considered there was no point in informing it before because nothing could be achieved until the Monday.

"Though the documents were classified, they were not operational. Their loss could not compromise naval operations," Commander Lyons added.

In fact, before Captain West could inform the ministry, the *Mail on Sunday* had broken the story.

Commander Lyons, who appealed to the court to impose the minimum sentence of a reprimand, called Admiral Black a character witness.

The admiral, who commanded the *Invincible* during the Falklands campaign, said



Captain Alan West: lost secret documents.

that he regarded Captain West "as an outstanding officer of his generation."

"He is a first-class ambassador for the Royal Navy and, indeed, the country."

"He is a thrusting, operational opportunist, displaying dash and flair but always tempered with good judgement."

Commodore Nigel Kettlewell, president of the board, sentenced Captain West to a severe reprimand the second most lenient judgement the court could impose.

Commander Lyons said afterwards: "Captain West's main feeling is one of relief.

He is now delighted he can continue with his normal duties."

● Captain West is unlikely to have damaged his promotion prospects.

Navy sources said that the severe reprimand would go down on his record but under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, the black mark will be struck off after five years.

One source said: "Captain West has only been a captain for two years and you have to be one for nine years before you can be considered for promotion. So by then the severe reprimand will have gone from his record."

Minister rejects Argentine talks offer

Falklands plea rejected

Argentina's latest proposals for a formal peace with Britain over the Falklands Islands were dismissed by the Government in the House of Lords yesterday as "old wine in new bottles".

Lord Trefgarne, a junior defence minister, told peers at question time there was no fundamental change in Argentina's position. "First and foremost they want to discuss sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, added to which they appear to have prejudged the outcome."

In the Commons, **Margaret Thatcher** insisted the Government had no intention of negotiating sovereignty. Lord Trefgarne's forthright rejection of President Alfonsín's proposal for a formal ending of hostilities if Britain dropped its protection zone was condemned by **Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos**, leader of the Labour peers, as "offensive and unhelpful". Sovereignty had not been mentioned by President Alfonsín in what was the most constructive approach for two years, Lord Cledwyn said.

Lord Trefgarne however noted that in the past Argentina had made clear that what they called "all aspects" of the Falklands problem included sovereignty. That was apparently what Argentina wished to negotiate.

Ministers reject Argentine talks offer

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

The Prime Minister ruled out yesterday any possibility of talks with the Argentine government which might include the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Although Mrs Margaret Thatcher did not refer directly to President Alfonsín's offer, she told MPs that she wanted to make it "absolutely clear" that the Government was not going to negotiate on sovereignty of the islands.

She also defended the setting up of a 150-mile fishing zone, accusing the Argentinians of refusing to co-operate with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Argentina's call for global negotiations on the Falkland Islands was dismissed as "old wine in new bottles" by Lord Tregarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement.

His denunciation of the offer was seen in Westminster as further confirmation that the Government believed it was no more than propaganda, to coincide with Presi-

dent Alfonsín's meeting with President Reagan.

Argentina's offer to declare a formal end to hostilities is considered almost a dead letter in Whitehall. Deeply unimpressed officials completed examining the fine print of the Buenos Aires declaration yesterday with very little hope for progress.

If the document had proposed to end hostilities in exchange for Britain dropping its declaration of a 150-mile fishing protection zone — as Buenos Aires initially suggested it did — there would

have been considerable interest.

But a close reading of the obscurely-worded document convinced officials that the offer remained as firmly linked as ever to the Falklands' sovereignty.

One source said: "We have always wondered when they would play the end to hostilities card. Four years after the event and so closely tied to sovereignty we cannot regard this as any kind of concession."

Speaking in the House of

Lords, Lord Tregarne made it plain that the Government saw no change in the Argentine government's intention, first and foremost, to discuss the sovereignty of the Falklands. That was a position the Government could not accept.

He came under repeated pressure from Labour and Alliance peers to give some sign of a willingness to talk with President Alfonsín's government, but peers were surprised at the strength of his opposition to talks.

TWO TO TANGO

Argentine officials have presented their government's initiative on the Falkland Islands as a "gesture of reconciliation and good will." It might equally be described as a diplomatic coup, timed to intensify Britain's isolation at the annual United Nations debate on the islands next Monday. President Alfonsín expected that this country would say "no". Is that, in fact, the right response?

Argentina's offer to declare an end to hostilities in the South Atlantic is conditional and overdue. By studiously neglecting to do so before, Buenos Aires has justified a substantial British garrison on the islands and inhibited a return to peaceful politics.

In such circumstances, Britain's official reaction has up to now been scrupulously correct. While continuing to reject the Argentine claim to sovereignty, it has proposed talks aimed at resuming normal relations and, by reopening its ports to Argentine goods last year, has taken the initiative itself. By its offer to declare a formal end to hostilities "at the right time" and in the context of "global negotiations", Argentina is belatedly catching up with British policy.

Whitehall is right to be wary. The 1984 Berne talks broke down as soon as they began, when the Argentine delegation walked out. But by rejecting this week's initiative apparently out of hand, the Government could be committing a tactical error with important strategic implications.

Tactically it once more en-

sures this country's virtual isolation at the United Nations next week. That is not a vital matter in itself. But, as the years go by, the greater are the number of UN decisions — on issues like human rights and terrorism — which depend on countries being for Britain rather than against. The splendour of isolation becomes tarnished by missed opportunities.

There are, moreover, sound reasons why Britain should want to start negotiations on the so-called "practical issues". Despite the optimism with which the Government has tried to inject new life into the Falklands economy, progress is depressingly slow. Clearly, if the islands are ever to flourish, they will do so only when links have been re-established with the South American mainland — which means, in effect, Argentina. Fish conservation, Anglo-Argentine trade and the expansion of British interests in Latin America as a whole help to explain why this country should not throw aside the chance of serious dialogue.

To enter into talks does not, of course, commit Britain to surrendering its position on sovereignty. It would be naive to pretend that this is not the subject which Argentines most want to raise. But for President Alfonsín it might just be enough, at this stage anyway, to start negotiations with an open agenda. Both sides might note that Britain is once more talking to the Spanish about Gibraltar without prejudice to the position of either power.

At some stage in the future

Britain will almost certainly have to address the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands. Previous negotiations reached a serious stage before being ended by back-bench fury at Westminster. Then came the 1982 Argentine invasion which not only poisoned relations between the two countries but made Falklanders themselves the more reluctant to contemplate any further contact with Buenos Aires.

The issue will not go away for ever. If it is to return, it is better to approach it gradually after a patient dialogue on other issues, than abruptly (at whatever distance in the future) after a change of Prime Minister in Britain.

The Government admits that those parts of the proposal which refer to some of the practical issues are — like those in the curate's egg — very good indeed. But there remains a suspicion that everything is linked to progress on sovereignty which, as the Prime Minister made clear yesterday, is not on the negotiating table.

Mrs Thatcher is continuing to tread with caution. She is in danger of treading with such caution, however, that no progress will be made at all. President Alfonsín cannot, for political reasons, declare himself a party to talks which specifically exclude sovereignty. The latest initiative probably goes as far as he can to meet British concerns. The British response should therefore be "yes." There is plenty of time to say "no" later if we need to.

Kinnock charges Thatcher with 'sycophancy'

PM's STATEMENT

By our Political Staff

The Prime Minister told MPs yesterday that for the first time President Reagan had understood Britain's position over the fishing dispute around the Falklands with Argentina after her weekend meeting at Camp David.

In a statement to the Commons she also indicated her support for President Reagan over the allegations that he had traded arms with Iran for hostages. "The President reaffirmed that the United States does not pay ransom for hostages. That is our policy too," she said.

She said that the talks had been "very useful" and that the agreement on arms control was "good for the Nato Alliance and good for Britain."

The Prime Minister said she explained to the President the reasons for the recent decision to establish an interim fisheries management and conservation zone around the Falklands. "I told him that our preference remained a multilateral solution provided that the Argentine Government was prepared to co-operate."

She added: "For the first time I think the President understood the position and I also pointed out that it was the Argentine who had shot at a Taiwanese fishing boat and killed some people on board."

She also repeated her determination not to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falklands Islands with the Argentine Government. Argentina offered on Monday to hold negotiations in an attempt to resolve all

the differences between the two countries, into the dispute over the sovereignty of the islands.

She said: "May I make absolutely clear our policy on sovereignty: we are not going to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands."

Paramount wish

She also reiterated strongly that there could be no question of negotiating with Argentina on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, again stressing that the wishes of the islanders remained paramount.

"I explained to the President the reasons for our recent decisions to establish an interim fisheries management and conservation zone round the

Falklands, and that our preference remained a multilateral solution provided that the Argentine was prepared to co-operate."

Sir JOHN FARR (C. Harborough) sought confirmation that Mrs Thatcher had made clear to President Reagan that there was no question of Britain surrendering or discussing sovereignty of the Falklands.

The PRIME MINISTER told him it used to be the position of all sides in the House—"before certain leaders of Opposition parties met Mr Alfonsin"—that the wishes of the Falkland Islanders were paramount and that self-determination was the policy.

Defending what one Labour backbencher called the "reckless decision" to impose a 150 mile fisheries conservation zone round the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher said Britain had tried since April last year to negotiate a multilateral fishing agreement.

"We have not succeeded because the Argentine would not co-operate with the Food and Agriculture Organisation."

Mr KINNOCK re-stated the Opposition line that by insisting on having Trident Mrs Thatcher was diminishing the conventional defence of Europe.

Dr OWEN, leader of the Social Democrats, accused the Prime Minister of engaging in an "act of folly" by pursuing Trident when the United States had authorised its negotiators in the Geneva arms talks to negotiate with the Soviet Union on the total elimination of such ballistic weapons.

Belated action

The declaration by Argentina on the Falklands fisheries exclusion zone "smelled of old wine in new bottles" said Lord Trefgarne in a question time exchange in the Lords.

Lord SHACKLETON (Lab) said the Government's belated action had forced the Argentines to produce what appeared to be a new approach. In fact it was an old line we had heard before.

Voicing his agreement Lord TREFGARNE, Minister for Defence procurement, said the exclusion zone was an interim arrangement: "We would much prefer a multilateral solution. If it should emerge we would hasten to reconsider our position."

First and foremost President Alfonsin wanted to talk of the sovereignty of the islands and had prejudged the position. The British Government would be happy to take part in talks.

Falklands naval hero lost secrets as he walked dog

By Paul Stokes

A FALKLANDS war hero described as an outstanding officer of his generation was ordered to be severely reprimanded by a court martial in Plymouth yesterday after losing secret documents while exercising a friend's dog on the Thames towpath at Sonning, Berkshire.

The papers were found by a freelance journalist, who passed them to a Sunday newspaper. Details of the document were published, showing plans to reduce Britain's Polaris-missile submarine force, the court heard.

Capt. Alan West, 58, awarded the DSC during the Falklands war in which his frigate *Ardent* was bombed and sunk, pleaded guilty to five charges under the Naval Discipline Act, 1957.

Capt. West was Assistant Director Naval Staff Duties with the Ministry of Defence in London when the offences took place, said Lt. Cdr. Patrick Elvin, prosecuting.

On September 10, the captain was given two documents, a 25-page minute, "Statement of defence estimates 1987", classified confidential, and 52 pages of notes intended for his successor, of which 36 were classified secret, said Lt. Cdr. Elvin.

Homework planned

Capt West decided to take the papers home to work on them during the next five days. He had authority to do so but failed to provide a list of them to the executive officer as required.

He put them into his personal brief case, which did not conform to security specifications. Three days later he was collected by a family friend from the Army staff college in Camberley, Surrey, where he had

lectured the previous day, and was driven to Reading to catch a train to his parents' home in Chippenham.

During the drive to Reading, Capt. West and his friend parked the car on a bridge at Sonning to take the dog for a walk along the towpath. Capt. West put the document in his right-hand jacket pocket.

Fell into Thames

The dog fell into the river and had to be pulled out by Capt. West, who noticed the documents were no longer in his pocket.

Despite retracing his steps and making inquiries with the lock-keeper and a local hotel worker he did not find them. Later he informed Reading police of the loss.

The papers had, in fact, been picked up within five to 10 minutes by the journalist, said Lt. Cdr. Elvin. The newspaper that received them later informed the Ministry of Defence of the find.

As a result, Capt. West was interviewed and charged with four breaches of naval security and one of negligence.

Cdr. Sean Lyons, defending, said the offences were totally out of character and were a breach of procedure brought about by the "hurly burly" of the Ministry of Defence's requirement "to press on with not a minute to lose".

Admiral Jeremy Black, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, told

the hearing: "I regard Capt. West as an outstanding officer of his generation. He has demonstrated excellence at sea and in the M.O.D.

"He is a first-class ambassador for the Royal Navy and indeed for his country. He has an attractive sense of humour, charm and an unmistakable presence, as you see, and at sea he performed exactly as any force commander would wish.

"He is a thrusting operational opportunist, displaying initiative and dash always tempered with good judgment, always seeking to obtain the best for his ship, his equipment and his men.

"His skills in the operation room were demonstrated with distinction in the Falklands and were recognised by the DSC."

Adml Black described meet-

ing the then Cdr West after the sinking of the *Ardent*, a 2,750-ton guided-missile frigate. The ship had led an invasion force into San Carlos Bay under Cdr West's command when it was attacked by 11 Argentine planes which killed 22 crew and wounded 30.

Added stature

"When we met again Capt West had bounced back from that unimaginable trauma of losing his ship and some of his fine ship's company and he was displaying that added stature which accrues to those who have surmounted a crisis of this magnitude," said Adml Black.

"His appointment on the naval staff was a demanding one which required alertness, intellect, verbal fluency as well as fluency on paper.

"He would work long hours under pressure of time, above all his work showed mature judgment. His advice to Ministers and senior officers was sought and highly regarded, added the admiral.

The five-officer panel spent 55 minutes considering its sentence, which is subject to confirmation.

Sword returned

Capt West, who wore his DSC and Falklands medal throughout the hearing, had his sword returned to him before being marched out of the courtroom.

After the hearing Capt West, who is married with three children and is currently serving at HMS Triad shore base, in Fareham, Hants, apologised through his counsel for not feeling able to talk to reporters himself.

Cdr Lyons said on his behalf: "He is very relieved it is all over. He has been under constant stress awaiting the trial and he is delighted that he can now return to normal duties and continue his career."

Officers had been court-martialed and severely reprimanded and still "reached the top" in the Senior Service, he added.

Under the charges, the possible sentences ranged from a reprimand to loss of seniority, dismissal from ship and possibly dismissal from the service, said Cdr Lyons. Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act any confirmed sentence should be erased from his record after five years.

Mercy for the hero who lost secrets



REPRIMANDED: Captain West today.

A FALKLANDS war hero who faced the ruin of a glittering career for losing secret defence documents, escaped with a severe reprimand today after a glowing testimonial from one of the Navy's most senior officers.

Captain Alan West, who commanded HMS Ardent which was sunk by Argentinian bombers with the loss of 22 crew, was described as "an outstanding officer of his generation" at a court martial in Plymouth.

The accolade came from Admiral Jeremy Black, the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

And after the court martial heard Admiral Black call him a "first class ambassador for the Royal Navy and, indeed, his country," Captain West was given the second most lenient punishment available.

He pleaded guilty to five

by Adrian Shaw

charges under the Naval Discipline Act involving negligence and breaches of naval security.

Captain West, 38, lost a 59-page dossier which included statement of defence estimates for 1987 which contained classified details about massive naval cuts, including reductions in Polaris.

He mislaid the papers on a towpath as he walked his dog by the Thames at Sonning, Berkshire, last September.

The dossier was later found by a freelance journalist and the details were published in a Sunday newspaper.

At the time Captain West, who received the Distinguished Service Cross for his Falklands exploits, was Assistant Director of naval staff duties at the Ministry of Defence.

He could have been kicked out of the Navy in disgrace, fined and jailed for up to two years.

The most lenient sentence he could have got was a simple reprimand. The severe reprimand he received will be scrubbed from his record after five years.

Capt West sat impassively as Admiral Black said: "I regard him as an outstanding officer of his generation."

"He has demonstrated excellence at sea and in the Ministry of Defence. He is a first class ambassador for the Royal Navy and, indeed, his country."

Record

"He has charm, an attractive sense of humour and an unmistakable presence as I'm sure you have seen this morning."

"Before you, gentlemen, you have a highly talented and extremely capable officer with great potential. I believe these charges to which he has pleaded guilty are quite out of character."

The court martial heard that Captain West was handed the sensitive documents at

7 pm on September 10 and as he was not going to be at his desk until September 16, he decided to take them home to continue working on them.

He was entitled to remove them from the Ministry but should have prepared a list of the documents before leaving. He should also have taken an official briefcase containing a special lock and a label giving instructions to a finder on what to do if the briefcase was lost.

Instead, he took his own briefcase and when the documents were lost he did not immediately report the loss to the Navy, although he did tell the police.

Captain West told Navy investigators: "In hindsight, I broke the rules and was negligent in not taking proper care of papers in my possession."

When asked why he did not report the loss immediately to the Navy, he said: "I felt there would be no damage to the nation and I didn't want to wreck a lot of people's weekends."

Argentina calls for 'global' talks over Falklands

By David Adamson, Diplomatic Correspondent

ARGENTINA offered yesterday to make a formal announcement ending its state of hostilities with Britain in return for "global negotiations" and removal of the 150-mile military protection zone around the Falkland Islands

The proposal was contained in a "declaration" which the Brazilian Embassy, as the mission of Argentina's Protecting Power in Britain, delivered to the Foreign Office.

Although the proposals for ending the state of hostilities is new, the context in which it is framed is old. It consists of resolution 40/21 of the U.N. General Assembly which calls for negotiations between Britain and Argentina on the sovereignty of the islands.

Reply considered

Negotiations on sovereignty remain unacceptable to Britain, however the proposal is phrased. The Foreign Office was considering last night whether it needed to reply to the declaration which was not specifically addressed to the British Government.

Its delivery at this time reflects two events: last week relatively mild Organisation of American States' resolution condemning Britain's imposition of a fisheries zone around the islands and the U.N. debate next Monday on the Falklands.

The declaration was described by officials in Buenos Aires yesterday as demonstrating that Argentina was willing to "talk about talks".

'Centre of row'

In its preamble the declaration says that the Oct. 29 announcement by Britain of the fisheries zone "reveals that the centre of the controversy with the Argentine Republic is, precisely, sovereignty over the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands".

The preservation of the marine environment was a legitimate concern of all nations, the document says, and should not be used as a means to create precedents in the dispute over sovereignty. It then notes that the absence of negotiations not only keeps the dispute alive but also generates growing "motives of tension and conflict".

To attain the goal of peace, the document claims, it would be necessary to take steps beyond international legal obligations in order to create a "climate of confidence" in which negotiations could start.

Daily Mail
18 November 1986

Argentina offers new Falkland peace plan

By JOHN DICKIE, Diplomatic Correspondent

ARGENTINA told Britain yesterday that she was prepared to announce a formal end to the Falklands hostilities.

The main condition is that Britain should lift the 150-mile protection zone patrolled by the Navy and the RAF.

But there was deep suspicion in the British Foreign Office of other conditions in the note. Sir Geoffrey Howe instructed his advisers to examine the fine print carefully, since the Argentinians called for 'an open dialogue' as a preliminary step towards negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falklands.

The Foreign Office's first

reaction was that if the offer was just another diplomatic ploy to trap Britain into discussing the sovereignty of the Falklands, then President Alfonsín's latest proposal was destined for the waste-paper bin.

Mrs Thatcher made it clear last weekend that she ruled out any discussion of sovereignty.

Suez and Falklands

From Mr P. J. Freeman

Sir, Sir John Nott (feature, November 6) has allowed his vendetta against the Royal Navy to cloud his analysis of defence planning in the light of Suez and the Falklands. He implies that the reason for maintaining an operational fleet of two aircraft carriers and 50 escorts is "nostalgia for the days of Empire, the protection of the Suez Canal and India".

In fact the Royal Navy has, for at least the past decade, abandoned any serious worldwide capability and has concentrated on tasks in support of Nato in the Eastern Atlantic and Norwegian sea areas. The two carriers, which Sir John Nott says we cannot now afford, are, as he must know, primarily anti-submarine warfare ships designed for these Nato tasks and are quite different from the

strike carriers of "East-of-Suez" days. Nevertheless, naval forces possess the inherent flexibility to undertake exceptional operations, such as the recovery of the Falklands, as a diversion from their main tasks.

The 1981 Defence Review threatened to reduce the Royal Navy's assets so drastically that not only would its capability for "out of area" operations have been removed but its ability to fulfil its prime Nato tasks would have been seriously weakened.

This was the main reason why the review attracted such criticism and it is ironic that one result of the Falklands campaign has been a Royal Navy marginally better equipped for its Nato task than Sir John Nott appears to have wished.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
21 Clarkson Road,
Cambridge.

Argentina's new offer seen as propaganda

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

The Argentine Government called on Britain yesterday to agree to global negotiations over the Falklands and said it might eventually declare an end to the state of hostilities.

It said it was willing to resolve through negotiations "all the problems that exist between the two parties in addition to the dispute over sovereignty".

The Argentine initiative, similar to previous ones, was carefully timed to coincide with yesterday's White House meeting between President Alfonsín and President Reagan and comes only days before a UN General Assembly debate on the dispute.

A statement said that the proposed formal talks should be preceded by "an open dialogue with the United Kingdom so as to create the necessary conditions of con-

fidence in order to begin the negotiations with success and to establish an agenda".

On fishing, the statement appeared to signal a change by calling for negotiations on conservation measures to be taken in the South Atlantic without tying the matter to the question of sovereignty.

One observer said the offer to lift hostilities was contingent upon Britain agreeing to discuss the sovereignty issue and that the tone of the note indicated the proposal had been presented as a package to be accepted or rejected as a whole. London refuses to discuss sovereignty as a matter of principle.

Britain unilaterally declared an end to hostilities after its victory over Argentina in 1982. But because Buenos Aires has refused to do like-

Continued on page 24, col 6

New offer seen as ploy by Argentina

Continued from page 1

wise, London has maintained a 200-mile exclusion zone for all Argentine vessels around the islands.

● LONDON: President Alfonsín's statement was seen in Whitehall as a bid for American sympathy with little practical political effect (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Had Buenos Aires intended to change the course of its policy, the initiative would have been communicated via the Brazilian Foreign Ministry to the British Ambassador in Brasilia. Instead, the Foreign Office first learnt of the statement through the press.

The Argentinians have always insisted that sovereignty should be on the table in any talks on normalizing relations. The Foreign Office found no departure from that principle in the statement.

Such limited interest as it aroused centred on the Argentine suggestion that there could be initial talks with an open agenda.

But even this evoked strong scepticism. A similar Argentine démarche led to talks in Berne between officials from Whitehall and Buenos Aires, only for the British to find they had been lured into a publicity trap.

Although still smarting from that experience, the Foreign Office would not rule out open agenda talks with the Argentinians.

● WASHINGTON: President Alfonsín told President Reagan yesterday that Britain's declaration of a fisheries conservation zone around the Falkland Islands was a "provocation". But he failed in his efforts to enlist Mr Reagan's public support in the dispute (Christopher Thomas writes).

He outlined at the White House Argentina's objections to Britain's insistence on its right to control a 200-mile area around the islands. Mr Reagan refused to get involved and senior Administration officials emphasized that the US was not interested in trying to mediate in the dispute.

The Argentine leader was invited to the White House to ensure that he did not feel slighted because of Mr Reagan's talks with Mrs Thatcher at the White House. He had telephoned both Mr Reagan and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, in the hope of enlisting support.

Argentina offers to end hostilities

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES AND DAVID BUCHAN IN LONDON

ARGENTINA has for the first time proposed a formal cessation of hostilities over the Falkland Islands, in exchange for Britain's dropping its 150-mile military "protection zone" around the disputed islands.

The Government reacted coolly to the Argentine initiative, delivered through the Brazilian embassy on the grounds that it implicitly raised again the issue of sovereignty over the islands.

Argentina is no longer stating that sovereignty negotiations — which Britain has repeatedly rejected — are a precondition for a formal end to hostilities.

Argentina, however, calls for a start to "global negotiations on the basis of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/21."

UK officials said Britain had

consistently opposed this resolution which calls for discussion of "all aspects" of the 1982 Falklands dispute, because it sees this general wording as covering sovereignty.

The issue was raised last night when President Alfonsín met President Reagan in Washington. Mr Reagan said he hoped there would be a peaceful, negotiated solution to the dispute.

The initiative also coincides with UN discussions of the Falklands next week and seems to reflect the more flexible two-tier approach first aired informally by the Argentine Government in 1984, in contrast to the hardline approach favoured by sectors of Argentina's armed forces.

The start of negotiations would be facilitated through a declaration "which at the right

moment would establish a formal end to hostilities as part of a process of eliminating the consequences of the conflict and should put an end to the so-called 150-mile military protection zone."

The initiative also aims to resolve outstanding problems with the UK including diplomatic relations, trade, transport and communications and fisheries conservation on the basis of UN resolution 40/21.

All formulas for solving the conflict, including confidence building measures for inhabitants of the islands, would be analysed.

The move follows two weeks of diplomatic activity by the Argentines to summon international support against Britain's recent 150-mile fisheries conservation and management zone around the islands and Britain's additional claim

to the fisheries and sea bed resources up to a 200-mile limit.

The US last week supported a resolution in a meeting of the Organisation of American States which proposed global talks on the Falkland Islands including sovereignty. The Government has steadfastly refused to discuss this issue with Argentina, and Mrs Thatcher reiterated that position at the weekend following her meeting with President Reagan.

Critics of the Argentine plan say that the proposed formal cessation of hostilities is part of a "package" which includes negotiations on sovereignty. The phrasing, however, is open to interpretation and the suggestion for talks without an agenda is the strongest invitation to talk that Argentina has made since the breakdown of negotiations in Berne last year.

Argentine peace bid for the Falklands

By John Eisenhammer

FOREIGN OFFICE officials were studying the fine print last night of an Argentine proposal formally to end hostilities with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

In it, the government in Buenos Aires declares itself willing to end hostilities if Britain drops its protection zone around the Falklands, and agrees to global negotiations covering all aspects of the dispute.

The protection zone is contiguous with the 150-mile fishing zone unilaterally declared by Britain last week — much to the irritation of Argentina.

The issue of sovereignty, which the British Government has persistently stated is not up for negotiation, is not mentioned in this latest Argentine offer.

It does call, however, for global negotiations in line with the United Nations resolution 40/21, which is itself a call for open ended talks on all aspects of the future of the Falkland islands. The British Government voted against that resolution in September 1985 on the grounds that it was a euphemism for negotiations on sovereignty.

The Foreign Office has repeatedly called upon Argentina to declare an end to hostilities, as a first step to negotiating a normalisation of relations between London and Buenos Aires.

Talks to this end in Berne two years ago never even got off the ground as a result of the Argentine delegation's insistence that sovereignty be part of the agenda.

Yesterday, the Foreign Office was busily ascertaining whether the sovereignty issue is implied between the lines of the latest Argentine proposal.

It comes at a time of mounting diplomatic pressure by Buenos Aires on the Falkland issue. Details of the proposal were released only hours before President Alfonsín, on an official visit to the United States, met President Reagan.

Only last week the United States took sides with Argentina and the Organisation of American States in condemning the British decision to declare the fishing exclusion zone.

On Monday next week the United Nations General Assembly is due to debate the Falklands question with a vote on Tuesday, 25 November.

Thatcher likely to dismiss Falklands deal

By Hella Pick, and
Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina yesterday said that it was ready to formally end hostilities with Britain if London drops its 150-mile "protection zone" around the Falklands.

But President Alfonsín's conditional offer is likely to be dismissed by Mrs Thatcher as an attempt by Argentina to entrap Britain into negotiations about the islands' sovereignty.

The Argentine offer came as part of a proposal to engage in "open dialogue" as a preliminary to substantive negotiations with Britain. The British Government is now studying the proposal.

The new proposal was announced in Buenos Aires. It coincides with President Alfonsín's visit to Washington, and comes a week before the annual Falklands debate in the UN General Assembly.

Britain has justified the protection zone as a conservation measure, but is widely interpreted as a deliberate move to maintain the political gulf between Britain and Argentina on the Falklands.

Last week, the US joined other members of the Organisation of American States in a resolution censuring the British move to control the fisheries around the Falklands as an aggravation of the sovereignty issue.

The Prime Minister, speaking in Washington after her meeting with President Reagan, again declared: "We do not discuss the sovereignty of the Falklands; we will not discuss it; and we do not recognise that there is a problem about the sovereignty of the Falklands."

The new proposal says that Argentina would be willing to end the state of hostilities with Britain in exchange for

"global negotiations" on the Falklands dispute.

Argentina was willing "to begin overall negotiations with the UK" under the terms of existing UN resolutions, which call for talks on all aspects of the dispute. Even though there is no mention of sovereignty in the UN resolution, Britain has always rejected the formulation on the grounds that the resolution implies a British willingness to negotiate the Falklands' status.

Now, Argentina is proposing a preliminary period for "previous and preparatory steps" during which there should be "an open dialogue" with Britain, "to create the conditions of trust necessary to successfully face the negotiations and set a timetable for them."

were aimed at "resolving all the problems that exist between both parties, as well as the sovereignty dispute." Argentina's proposal mentions trade, consular and diplomatic relations, transport and communications, and the conservation and preservation of fishing resources in the region.

Diplomatic observers in Buenos Aires said yesterday that the proposal was seen as the first important departure in Falklands policy since President Alfonsín was elected to office in 1983.

Until now, the Alfonsín Government had followed the principle of its military predecessors, that the June, 1982, surrender of Argentine troops in the Falklands meant that a battle was lost, but not the war. The government had always argued that it was not obliged to declare an end of hostilities because the war was never declared in the first place.

Mrs Thatcher, however, is unlikely to be impressed by such gestures unless they are accompanied by a firm commitment to set aside the sovereignty issue.

Falkland hero on charge

Captain Alan West, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during the Falklands War, faces a court martial tomorrow over the loss of secret documents found on a Thames towpath last September.

Captain West, who commanded the guided missile frigate *Ardent* in the Falklands, continued to give cover to the SAS and Parachute Regiment in San Carlos Bay despite heavy bombing and rocket fire, which robbed the ship of all power and killed 22 crew and injured another 30.

Tomorrow, he faces charges under the Naval Discipline Act, 1957 before a court martial consisting of a commodore and five RN officers.

Captain West, aged 39, was working at the Ministry of Defence at the time the 60-page bundle of documents, outlining plans for large cut-backs of the Royal Naval Fleet and criticism of its research, was found near Reading.

Last night, the Ministry of Defence said that it would be up to the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide whether Captain West had transgressed the Official Secrets Act.

Falklands tip of Antarctic iceberg

Sir, — In your Leader about the Falklands/Malvinas (November 13) you refer to "the continent in whose shadow they live," meaning America; but like virtually all other commentators you fail to mention another continent, equally crucial and more germane to the issue.

I refer to Antarctica. May I invite readers wishing to know what the Falklands/Malvinas dispute is really about to begin with a good map of Antarctica? They will see that:

Four-fifths of the continent is marked out in wedges labelled New Zealand, France, etc; seven nations in all, of which five recognise each other's territorial claims:

Of the wedge labelled "United Kingdom," about 80 per cent is overlapped by the wedge labelled "Argentina," and that about 40 per cent of the disputed territory is also claimed by Chile. [Note: a recently produced atlas is necessary as older maps omit

the Argentine and Chilean claims].

The Falklands/Malvinas are the only islands in the region of significant size and outside the Antarctic winter ice zone. (South Georgia is within this zone).

If it lacked control of the Falklands/Malvinas, the UK could not enforce its Antarctic claim. If Argentina controlled the Falklands/Malvinas, it would be able to advance its claim with minimal risk of attack upon its mainland.

All of these claims are, however, held in abeyance under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, which is to be reviewed in 1991. There are 14 signatories to the treaty and a large number of "acceding" nations. Apart from the seven nations already mentioned, none of these makes or recognises any specific territorial claims.

These non-claimant signatories include the US and the USSR. Non-claimant signatories are not disinterested parties, and it may be supposed

that they are biding their time to see to which, if any, of the claimant nations they can most profitably attach themselves.

In the long term the possessors of the Falklands/Malvinas — principally the Coalite and Chemical Co plc at present — stand to become very rich indeed through direct exploitation of Antarctica and its seas, and through being effective "gatekeeper" and service-provider to other exploiting nations. Considered over 30 years or so, the cost of the Falklands garrison may be viewed as a good, if risky, investment.

Some readers may wonder what is the economic interest in Antarctica? Part of the problem is that there is much secrecy about this, and the Treaty signatories refuse to publish their discussions. While little is publicly known of the economic value of the Antarctic land mass, we do know that the adjacent seas contain great potential riches.

As well as oil and sea-bed

minerals, the Antarctic fisheries are so rich that they rival the rest of the world's fisheries put together. The seas between the Falklands/Malvinas and the Antarctic land mass are the richest of all. This area is home to the key ecological species, Krill.

Excessive exploitation of this species is already occurring which could disrupt marine and bird life, and hence other food chains *globally* [see the beautiful book by James N. Barnes (1982), *Let's save Antarctica*, £2.50 from Greenpeace].

The Falklands/Malvinas issue is not about Mrs Thatcher's supposed obsession with symbolic sovereignty (although it may suit her and others to let us think so); nor is it about the "rights of the islanders" as such.

It is about real and gigantic material interests. No nation in the world can be totally disinterested in the potential wealth of Antarctica. And, for South American nations, inextricably in

debt to the world's bankers, it is likely to be seen as the only foreseeable way out of economic bondage.

For such opportunities, nations are usually willing to spill their own and other nations' blood. It is worth recalling that the former Governor of the Falkland Islands, Sir Rex Hunt, "let the cat out of the bag" in his retirement speech — but no one really noticed — by saying that the UK should hold on to everything it has "down there" until more is known about its economic possibilities.

May I express the alarming thought that, despite the Organisation of American States resolution this month, the non-claimant signatories to the Antarctic Treaty would feel profoundly threatened by a rapprochement between Argentina and the UK and, were it to seem likely, would try to sabotage it. —

Yours sincerely,
Kevin Donaldson,
Eastcourt Avenue,
Earley, Reading.

Stiff fines in islands fish zone

By Patrick Watts
in Port Stanley

MEASURES approved by the eight elected members of the Falklands legislature, meeting for the first time since Britain declared a 150-mile fishing zone around the islands, allow for the master, owner and charterer of a boat illegally fishing in the zone to be fined £100,000 each.

Fines for various other offences range from £15,000 upwards to £100,000.

The islands' councillors were unanimous in praise of Britain's stance in finally declaring an "interim conservation management zone" some eight years after it was first requested by the islands' legislature.

Mr John Cheek (Stanley) went so far as to "thank Argentina for constant provocation over the last 12 months, which helped to persuade the authorities to introduce the zone".

He was referring to the sinking of a Taiwanese trawler by an Argentine gunboat and other aggressive acts by the Argentine Navy towards vessels from Far Eastern countries operating in the south-west Atlantic.

Two patrol vessels

Implementation and control of the zone would be financed entirely by the Falklands Government and would not cost British taxpayers one penny, said councillors.

Two patrol vessels, each of 1,500 tonnes and carrying a crew of 25, plus an 13-seater "Dornier" aircraft for air surveillance, would provide some work for a flagging British Merchant Navy and provide £4,000,000 revenue for Britain from Falklands reserves, said Mr Cheek.

It is suspected that the licensing of companies will result in a gross of between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 annually.

Vessels both registered in the Falklands and owned by companies established and carrying on business in the islands will receive priority when licences are issued.

Other vessels from fishing nations that have participated in the Falklands fishery and have historic rights, such as the large Polish fishing fleet, would also have a good chance of getting licences, said Mr David Taylor, chief executive.



Falklands war dead were remembered at a quiet ceremony at San Carlos cemetery. Capt Paul Watton RMP, who is responsible for all the cemeteries and memorials within the islands, and Mr Pat Short, settlement manager at San Carlos, who tends the cemetery there, laid a wreath of poppies at the memorial erected in memory of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives in the 1982 conflict.

Royal vicar bound for the Falklands

A former international rugby player and assistant chaplain general Canon Gerry Murphy is to be the next Rector of Christchurch Cathedral in the Falklands.

Canon Murphy, 60, has been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has had direct jurisdiction over the Falklands since 1977 when the link with the Anglican Diocese in Argentina

was severed.

Currently the Queen's vicar of Sandringham, Canon Murphy is reported as forecasting that "life in the South Atlantic islands will be a dramatic change after Norfolk."

Canon Murphy is married with five daughters and expects to be installed in March by Bishop R. Gordon, Bishop to the Forces.

Queen's award for Gurkha

THE courage of a young Gurkha rifleman who saved ten of his comrades and the crew of a crashed Chinook helicopter has been recognised with the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Rifleman Basanta Pun of the 2 Gurkha Rifles, was aboard the aircraft when it crashed in a blizzard into the side of a mountain in the Falklands.

For two hours he treated his injured comrades and the pilot who had a fractured leg and other injuries.

It meant dragging everybody clear of the aircraft and trying to keep them warm until help arrived.

The citation says: "There is no doubt this young rifleman showed throughout the aftermath of the crash and in appalling weather conditions and while suffering from shock, cold and bruising, outstanding devotion to the welfare of the occupants of the crashed helicopter."

Look-'n'-learn time for the lads

Privates Gordon Fletcher (left) and Archie Fulton get to grips with a Soviet AGS-17 grenade launcher. The young soldiers came across this odd looking weapon when their regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, held a skill-at-arms meet at their Colchester base. Since the regiment's role is to reinforce BAOR forces, it was considered an opportune time to show them what could be pointing their way from the East. Both lads joined the Army this year and both are soon to head for the Falklands where they will spend Christmas and the New Year. "We certainly can't complain that life is dull," said Gordon, who has already completed an operational tour in Northern Ireland.



PINTS FOR PARAS IN THE VC HERO'S BAR

SERGEANT Ian McKay VC was the toast of Nottingham at the opening of the refurbished sergeants' mess at Chilwell Barracks.

The redecorated bar was named after the Falklands hero and his widow, Marica and his mother, Freda, were there to help serve guests after unveiling a plaque dedicated to him.

Among the many guests was WO2 Brian Faulkner who fought alongside Sgt McKay on Mount Longdon during the attack in which he won his VC.

Inset: Sgt Ian McKay



MARICA AND FREDA MCKAY: first pint in the Sgt Ian McKay bar at Chilwell

Brazil in zone talks

Brazil has been asked to join Britain in a search for an agreed regional fishing policy for the South Atlantic (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Mr John Ure, Ambassador to Brasilia, was instructed by the Foreign Office to open discussions with senior officials. The Brazilians indicated they would consider the idea.

The existence of the talks was revealed in a Commons speech by Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. The initiative raises hope for backdoor collaboration with Argentina on an important issue.

A traveller's Falklands

JUST launched: a rather beautiful colour brochure called "Holidays in the Falkland Islands," that goes some way towards dispelling the persistent image of a fearsomely-ice-bound Antarctic landscape. Falklands scenery seems more akin to that of the Scottish Lowlands and the climate is temperate, with winters less cold than ours and summers less warm, if anyone can remember warm summers here.

New and comfortable tourist lodges have been created on Sea Lion Island, Pebble Island and Port Howard on West Falkland. Together with the existing hotels and guest

houses in Port Stanley, they will be able to accommodate up to 1,000 tourists a year.

The sort of people likely to be interested are walkers, wildlife enthusiasts, scuba-divers (plenty of wrecks to explore in the unpolluted seas around these shores), lovers of peace and solitude.

They will have to be up to the long (8,000 miles) air journey via Ascension, and also fairly well off: prices for two weeks, from six specialist tour firms, hover around the £2,000 mark. The brochure (p&p included) costs £1 from Falklands Islands Tourism Information, 12a Coney Street, York YO1 1NA.

E de S

Exocet frigates for Argentinian navy

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina's efforts to boost its military capacity in the South Atlantic take another step forward today when President Raul Alfonsín launches a modern missile frigate and formally hands over another to the navy.

Both ships are armed with M-38 Exocet sea-to-sea missiles made in France and assembled in Argentina and the vessels are reported to have a top speed of 27 knots. The 1,700-ton ships, built at Argentina's naval shipyards to a design by Blohm and Voss of West Germany, are the last two of a series of six missile frigates destined for the navy.

Defence observers here commented the frigate fleet would be a "useful complement" to Argentina's only aircraft carrier, the 25 de Mayo.

The aircraft carrier spent all but the initial stages of the Falklands war tied up in dock at the navy's base at Puerto Belgrano, 700 miles south of Buenos Aires. But it was hurriedly reconditioned after the

war and an extension of its landing deck means that since 1983 it has been suitable for use with Etendard, the French-made aircraft that inflicted so much damage with Exocet attacks on Britain's Falklands task force.

The frigates, the Gomez Roca, named after an Argentine captain killed during the war, and the Rosales, also carry anti-aircraft cannon, torpedos and machineguns.

However, the future of the navy's surface fleet remains in doubt. With the admirals' interest focused on a submarine programme, it is thought that some of the frigates could be sold to raise finance.

The frigates were ordered under a navy expansion plan approved by the Peronist Government in 1974, although the plan was heavily revised and speeded up as the military regime moved out of power after the Falklands defeat.

President Alfonsín's Government insists that there have been no new warships or weapons purchases since it took office in late 1983.

Falklands demand

All fishing vessels licensed by Britain to operate in the new Falkland Islands fishing zone will have to report details of their catches daily, Mr Peter Denham, chief inspector of fisheries at the UK Ministry of Agriculture, said yesterday, AP reports from Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Spanish concern on Falklands

Lima (Reuter) — Spain and Peru yesterday expressed deep concern over the Anglo-Argentine fisheries dispute in the Falkland Islands and called for immediate negotiations to resolve the conflict.

The statement, signed by President García and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, also urged the parties to begin negotiations immediately to reach an understanding.

Falklands fishing*From Mr Alistair Horne*

Sir, Sir John Nott's article points up two key ingredients that brought success in the Falklands, as opposed to disaster at Suez. One was the courage and single-mindedness of the Prime Minister; the second was that, in 1982, Britain had the support of the United States — coupled with the name of Caspar Weinberger, who (and not just over the Falklands) proved himself to be a true friend of this country.

The Falklands campaign was as Sir John also revealed, an extremely close-run thing. Now, in what to the simple citizen seems like an act of extraordinary and unnecessarily provocative folly, we are threatening to impose a fisheries protection zone around the islands.

If this is carried through, we face alienating those countries in Latin America that ought to be our friends (and possibly, now, Spain as well). We can no longer be assured of unqualified US support over the Falklands, and in two years our very good friend, Caspar Weinberger, will almost certainly have gone.

Before it is too late, and irreparable damage is done, the Government should seriously reconsider.

Yours faithfully,

ALISTAIR HORNE,

21 St Petersburg Place, W2.
November 8.

OAS told of growing instability

From Martha Honey
Guatemala City

Señor Bernado Sepúlveda Amor, the Mexican Foreign Minister, has warned that Latin America and the Caribbean are facing a grave economic and political crisis.

Señor Sepúlveda, in his speech on Wednesday to the general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), outlined the deteriorating economy of the region and warned that the political crisis in Central America could spill over and destabilize the entire continent.

He also said the dispute between Britain and Argentina over fishing rights around the Falkland Islands had "aggravated tensions in the South Atlantic".

The Mexican minister accused Britain of adopting "unilateral methods that modify the *status quo* (thereby) making negotiations difficult".

He reiterated his country's support for Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and its surrounding waters.

Señor Sepúlveda began his speech by listing indicators of the economic crisis facing Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that, during the 1980s, 130 million people — or 35 per cent of the continent's population — would be living in poverty and would not be able to "satisfy their nutritional needs".

The region's standard of living in 1986, he said, was almost the same as it was in 1973.

Further, he said Latin American exports had declined by 6.5 per cent last year and the price of principal export products for the region



Señor Sepúlveda: Falklands dispute aggravated tensions.

continued to fall. He said the current terms of trade for Latin America was 52.8 per cent lower than it was in 1970.

In particular, he mentioned that the "... petroleum crisis has had a disastrous effect on the economies of oil-exporting countries in the region". Mexico's export earnings, for example, had declined by one-third this year.

Señor Sepúlveda said developing countries could not overcome this economic crisis until industrialized nations and international financial institutions "dismantle the protective barriers ... eliminate discriminating practices and quota systems" and renegotiate payments of external debts.

DAILY MAIL
14 November 1986

Gorbachev letter to go-between Maggie

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

MRS THATCHER flies out for talks with President Reagan today armed with a new message from Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev setting out 'some ideas' for big cuts in nuclear arsenals.

Gorbachev carefully timed the delivery of his letter to Downing Street but he cannot expect the Prime Minister to act as an honest broker for the Russians after the collapse of last month's Reykjavik summit.

Dangers

However, his urgency to clarify Soviet disarmament plans underlines the important role Mrs Thatcher could play since she will be going to Moscow in the spring.

Mrs Thatcher will see the President at Camp David after separate talks with Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. She will stress the need for Britain to keep her own deterrent.

Mrs Thatcher will also put the record straight on the new fishing restrictions around the Falklands—not as an issue causing fresh tension, but to conserve stocks.

And there is likely to be a private word about the dangers of playing into the hands of terrorists by paying a price for the release of hostages, a reference to the deals with Iran.

FISHING NEWS
14 November 1986

Decision soon on Falklands licences

THE Falkland Islands Office in London is expected to announce within the next week new licensing measures for the 150-mile EEZ to be imposed around the islands from February 1 next year.

Alastair Cameron of the London office said the necessary legislation has not yet been passed but it is under discussion. He returned from a trip to the islands on Monday this week.

Reactions to the UK's announcement of an exclusive fisheries protection zone continue to fuel speculation that further clashes in the South Atlantic cannot be discounted.

The decision by Spain not to observe Britain's fishing restrictions follows its support of Argentina in the 1982 war and its refusal to accept UK sovereignty over the islands.

Spain is the EEC country which fishes most in Falkland waters and it is feared that a similar response from other nations involved in the fishery, such as the USSR, may follow.

Argentina's announcement that it will modify its law to permit fishing in an Argentine EEZ to foreign vessels 'without exception' is regarded as provocative by the Falkland Islands Office which says it will 'enforce its zone' if there is any infringement.

'Captain Fish' pens Falklands yarn

WITH THE Falkland Islands once again making a regular appearance in the headlines with reference to fishing in the area, a recently published book has a particularly topical interest.

The book, a novel, is set in the 1990s. Written with both foresight and hindsight, it is almost more fact than fiction since it is the work of the man who possibly knows more about the sea and the politics of the area than anyone else, Captain Nicholas Barker — ex-*Endurance*, ex-Captain of the

PUBLICATIONS

British Fishery Protection Service.

The book, which was written in conjunction with the author and biographer Anthony Masters, is called *Red Ice*.*

Whether you have any interest in the Falklands or not, if you have £9.95 to spare it is well worth putting a copy in the wheelhouse or foc'sle. It is a fast moving thriller that is easy to read with somebody being mur-

dered, a ship being blown out of the water or the wrong person leaping into the wrong bed on virtually every page.

The only problem will be to put the book down when it is time to haul!

Captain Barker says the book is not autobiographical but a blind man could see the inferences and it might be construed as a subtle way of getting back at Whitehall for not having paid attention to his warnings prior to the Falklands war.

The story centres around Captain Maxwell and the ship's company of the Naval patrol and survey ship, *Mercator*, who fall foul of the operations of a Russian backed Argentinian terrorist group, the *Ola Roja*.

The *Ola Roja* is attempting to persuade the British to lose interest in the Antarctic just prior to the review of the South Atlantic Treaty in 1991.

A series of violent but unexplained incidents arouse Captain Maxwell's suspicions but urgent messages to

Whitehall fall upon deaf ears and his instructions to carry out a low profile investigation serve only to frustrate the Captain and destroy the morale of his crew.

However, during the course of routine survey work the discovery of an Argentinian Uranium mine and the disintegration of one of *Mercator's* helicopters down at the Ice helps to vindicate Maxwell's assertions, even if it removes three of his officers in the process.

The action is sustained right up to the last paragraph and, in the light of the close associations between the Russians and the Argentinians in real life, the reader is left wondering to what extent the book is prophetic.

Captain Barker wrote much of the book between skirmishes on the bridge of *Endurance* during the Falklands war and has already received approaches from a film company for the rights of *Red Ice*.

**Red Ice* is published by Constable and Company Ltd. and costs £9.95.

Disputes in Latin America

Alfonsín to seek US backing on fish zone

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Alfonsín of Argentina is to hold talks with President Reagan at the White House next week, during which he will seek a public declaration of support for Argentina in its dispute with Britain over fishery rights around the Falkland Islands.

But a senior Administration official told *The Times* that the US is determined not to offend either country and would keep out of the dispute as far as possible.

"You are certainly not going to see anybody shuttling between Buenos Aires and London," he said. "We do not want to get in the middle of this one."

Privately, however, some officials said the Administration was upset that Britain's

action had forced it into such a difficult diplomatic corner.

An Argentine Government official said yesterday that President Alfonsín, who will probably meet Mr Reagan on Monday, would seek to persuade the United States "to return to the fold" by publicly supporting Argentina.

There is clear delight among Argentine diplomats that the US has steadily moved away from its strong support of Britain after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands in 1982. The US policy of neutrality is widely interpreted in Latin America as a move towards the Argentine position and as an attempt to mend fences with the southern hemisphere.

President Alfonsín, who will be in the US for four days, has held private talks with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, at the meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala City this week. Argentine officials said they were delighted at their outcome, details of which are not known.

Argentine diplomats are delighted that Mr Shultz voted with the other 30 OAS foreign ministers on Tuesday for a resolution criticizing Britain for its declaration of a fisheries conservation area around the Falklands. It fell short of an outright condemnation of Britain but said that the action had injected new tension into the volatile Falklands situation.

Peace plan still deadlocked

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

Objections from the US and three pro-US Central American countries stopped a Contadora Group draft resolution on the Central American crisis from being presented as scheduled yesterday to the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting.

Heated behind-the-scenes debate over parts of the three-page resolution being drafted by eight Latin-American countries, has led to the modification of at least one alternate version.

Nicaragua is accusing the US of blocking the resolution and trying to sabotage the Contadora Group peace process aimed at ending the Nicaraguan conflict and reducing the foreign military presence in Central America.

The Central American crisis is emerging as the most controversial and divisive issue at the meeting of the 31 OAS states, the Caribbean and the US.

The Contadora peace plan has been awaiting ratification

by the five Central American countries — Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. But Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador have objected to parts of it and are now refusing to sit down at the conference table with Nicaragua, which is supporting the resolution.

The Falklands Islands crisis had been expected to top yesterday's agenda, but a compromise resolution on it was unanimously adopted late on Tuesday.

Alfonsin to meet Reagan over Falklands fishing row

BY OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan is to meet Argentine President Raul Alfonsin next week in talks which are expected to touch on Britain's declaration of an exclusive 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

The meeting will follow this weekend's talks between the US President and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at Camp David.

Mrs Thatcher will be briefed on the Reykjavik summit. But the Falklands dispute is also expected to be discussed. The date of President Alfonsin's meeting with Mr Reagan has still to be fixed. Mr Alfonsin's visit to the US on Monday was planned some time ago and will include trips to Atlanta and Yale University.

The US, which supported the UK during the 1982 war with Argentina in the south Atlantic, has shifted its position to neutrality in the latest disputes over fishing rights.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, expressed hope during his brief trip to Guatemala this week, that the UK and Argentina could resolve their differences.

The Organisation of American States yesterday agreed a mildly-worded resolution expressing strong concern that Britain's declaration of a 150-mile fishing zone introduced a new element of tension.

But in a rebuff to Argentina it added: "The conservation of fisheries resources is a matter of international concern whose achievement should not be frustrated by the sovereignty dispute and which should not be used as an argument in the dispute over sovereignty."

The Food and Agricultural Organisations, a United Nations body based in Rome, is shortly to report on how the disputed fishing territories—one of the few remaining unregulated zones in the world—is being affected by heavy fishing.

An Argentine diplomat in Washington said yesterday that his Government had concluded agreements with Bulgaria and the Soviet Union on fishing in the disputed areas. It was also negotiating with a number of other foreign powers, including Spain.

Standard
13 November 1986

NEW ARGENTINE FISHING DEALS

Two senators said Argentina soon ready to sign fishing accords with Poland, Japan and Spain similar to two previous accords which set off new crisis in Falklands Islands dispute last month. Argentina signed accords with Soviet Union and Bulgaria in July which last month provoked Britain to declare 150-mile fishing conservation area around Falklands.

Falklands chasing the trade

WHERE in the world can you see the flightless steamer duck, elephant seals, the crested caracara and the little tussock-bird?

The answer is the Falkland Islands and this year the Falklands is making its first

concerted attack on the tourism market with a presence by the islands' recently established Tourism Council at World Travel Market.

Falkland Islands Tourism is a company set up by Falkland Islands Development Cor-

poration to act as a tourist office.

Since Mount Pleasant international airport opened last year, the islands can be reached in 18 hours by wide-bodied jets from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire via

Ascension Island.

Steve Green, the Falkland Islands Tourism representative who heads the UK office, sees WTM as the platform from which to promote the tourism potential for the islands to the travel trade.

US Falklands line annoys Britain

By Hella Pick,
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is deeply disappointed by the Reagan administration's decision to join the other members of the Organisation of American States in censuring the Government's

During the Falklands war the United States gave Britain logistical support as well as help with intelligence-gathering, even though this risked compromising its relations with Latin American governments.

But since 1982 the US has voted in support of UN resolutions, calling for a negotiated solution to the rival claims for the islands' sovereignty.

Even so, it is hardly welcome in London that Mr Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has now voted in support of an OAS resolution that expresses "strong concern over the new element of tension and potential conflict, intro-

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Leader comment, page 16

unilateral imposition of a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

But officials yesterday insisted that the US could not have acted differently in the context of the OAS meeting, and that Mr George Shultz had sought to water down the OAS resolution against Britain.

Britain annoyed by US stand on fishing zone for Falklands

Continued from page one

duced by the declaration of October 29 (Britain's declaration of the fishing zone) and which urges Britain as well as Argentina "not to take actions that introduce changes in the already delicate situation."

The Americans are said to have been forthright in expressing their displeasure with the government's imposition of the fishing zone around the Falklands, arguing that this was unnecessarily provocative and further complicated any attempt to secure a negotiated settlement between Britain and Argentina on the sovereignty issue.

The US, even if it supported Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands war, has long felt that Britain is too inflexible on the sovereignty issue, and that the Government should be more ready to negotiate with Argentina, now that it has a democratically elected government. The government's decision to impose the fishing zone, and its warning of military action against unlicensed trawlers inside the area is said to have angered Washington.

The Administration has not been impressed with the flood of explanations from Whitehall, justifying the move almost entirely in terms of the urgent necessity of conserving

the area's fisheries resources. Britain maintains that it has been trying vainly to secure a multilateral agreement on fisheries conservation in the Falklands, but that this has been thwarted by Argentina, which has successfully slowed negotiations undertaken under the auspices of the World Food and Agricultural Organisation.

In further justification of its action Britain has complained that Argentina, in signing fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, deliberately set out to provoke Britain by encouraging these two countries to fish near the Falklands, and writing Argentina's sovereignty claims into both agreements.

But the British case has won very little sympathy. Spain, with its close links to Argentina, was among the first to condemn the British move, and has warned that its trawlers are unlikely to apply for fishing licences from Britain.

The Soviet Union has criticised the British move but has not said what it intends to do about its future fishing around the Falklands. The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is said to be optimistic that the Russians will avoid any situation that risks a clash with the Royal Navy in the Falklands.

The new fishing season be-

gins in February. But well in advance of this, Britain's ability to assert its rule over the fisheries zone will be tested by the extent that trawlers from other countries apply for fisheries licences.

Alex Brummer in Washington adds: The Reagan Administration signalled yesterday that it will continue to tilt towards Argentina in the fishing dispute even if it makes for a few rough moments when Mrs Thatcher holds talks with Mr Shultz and President Reagan this weekend.

The White House disclosed yesterday that President Reagan had telephoned the Argentine leader, Mr Raul Alfonsín, on November 3, to express US concern about the establishment of the fishing limit. American officials say the status of the Falklands will be high on the agenda when the two presidents meet in Washington next week.

American officials said the situation in Argentina now was entirely different from that in 1982, during the Falklands war, when Argentina was run by an insensitive military dictator. It was noted that President Alfonsín would be at the White House next week and the US wanted to do everything possible to encourage its "emergent democracy."

US closer to us over Falklands, says Argentina

THE UNITED STATES has been brought closer to Argentina and Britain is becoming progressively isolated on the issue of the Falklands as a result of its decision to impose a fishing exclusion zone around the islands, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Dante Caputo, claimed yesterday.

Earlier, it had been announced in Washington and Buenos Aires that the Argentine President, Raúl Alfonsín, will meet President Reagan when he visits the United States next week.

Mr Caputo was speaking in an interview with *The Independent* here in the Guatemalan capital the morning after the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) had unanimously approved a resolution reprimanding Britain for "the new element of tension and potential conflict" introduced by the British measure last month.

Backed by all 31 countries in the OAS, including the United States and Britain's Caribbean allies, the resolution called on Britain "to support the efforts of the international community in favour of peaceful negotiation of all aspects of the Falkland Islands dispute, including the question of sovereignty".

"I feel British diplomacy has made a significant error," Mr Caputo told *The Independent*. "This tactical move on the fishing business has proved a strategic mistake because it has brought to the table of discussion the fundamental issue we wish to discuss, the issue of sovereignty.

From John Carlin
in Guatemala City

"This is marvellous because I've always tried to bring the sovereignty issue to the attention of the international community... This time they [the British Government] have done us an exceptional favour as it is they who brought up the question of sovereignty by imposing this 200-mile limit."

Asserting that in the Argentine Government's view the United States vote in favour of the OAS resolution represents the most significant shift on the Falklands issue by Washington towards Argentina since 1982, Mr Caputo took particular satisfaction in the fact that Britain's closest ally during the Falklands War should have sided with Argentina in what he called "a delicate, emergency issue".

The Argentine Foreign Minister, however, was at pains to emphasise the moderate tone of the OAS resolution, whose wording he and US Secretary of State George Shultz had largely hammered out together in a private conversation on Monday night.

"That is what we wanted: a statement of principles all could agree on."

Mr Caputo reiterated the long-held position of the Alfonsín Government. He insisted on the importance which the Argentine Government attaches to initiating negotiations with Britain. "Furthermore, before doing that, we

are ready to begin conversations to try and understand each other, to see what our positions are, to destroy prejudices."

In an allusion to the Argentine insistence, rejected by Britain, that sovereignty must be on any talks agenda, Mr Caputo then went on to clarify: "We want to meet for conversations without that excluding anything. We want to see if... we can begin a negotiating process that is sure to take time and will face all sorts of difficulties, but will above all be a peaceful process."

Mr Caputo acknowledged that a possible obstacle on the Argentine side may once have been internal pressure to resolve the Falklands problem "in two days".

On the current fishing dispute, Mr Caputo rejected the British argument that the issuing of a licence to Soviet ships to fish in Falklands waters had been itself an Argentine provocation to Mrs Thatcher.

Before the licence was issued, there were 100 Soviet ships fishing in those waters, he said. "Now there are perhaps 15 or 16."

Mr Caputo would not be drawn when asked to suggest what kind of formula Argentina might accept in future negotiations over sovereignty with this or any future British Government, refusing to say, for example, whether a leasing arrangement in the manner of Hong Kong could be worked out. "I cannot state either my maximum or my minimum position as that would weaken my position in any possible negotiation."

Shultz on the dotted line

One neat, but unwelcome irony yesterday. In London — an almost ritual appendage to the Speech these days — the Queen was busy "honouring" HMG's "commit-

ments" to the people of the Falklands. In Guatemala City, meanwhile, all 31 foreign ministers from the Organisation of American States were unanimously passing a motion criticising Britain's new fishing zone around the islands for adding "another element to the existing situation of tension and potential conflict . . . over the Malvinas." UN resolutions on sovereignty were duly endorsed. Efforts at "diplomatic negotiations" by the Argentine government were fulsomely applauded. And one name amongst 31 perhaps stood out in clear relief. George Shultz, Secretary of State, the USA.

Mrs Thatcher will obviously have more to talk to Ronald Reagan about at the weekend than the necessity of keeping lots of nuclear weapons in Europe. America's profound distaste for Britain's Falklands intransigence has been known for years. But yesterday's OAS resolution goes further than ever before. It endorses — pretty explicitly — Buenos Aires' claims to sovereignty over the islands. It slaps President Alfonsín on the back. And it kicks Sir Geoffrey on the knee for his fishing gambit. Anyone who thought that the British position over sovereignty and the rights of the islanders might begin eventually to make a little headway should think again. We are, in all meaningful respects, alone on the issue. Our much touted superpower ally is now flatly in the opposition camp.

None of this, perhaps, matters too immediately in a world where — save for miserable accident — Britain and Argentina aren't going to war again. As long as the taxpayer is willing to pick up the tab, the Falklands can be maintained in a tolerably stable state: neither prospering nor declining. If (and when) Mrs Thatcher loses office, or retires to Dulwich, then matters may unwind somewhat. All the Opposition parties are pledged to negotiate a solution (a form of words that means negotiate about sovereignty). It is also, in truth, difficult to see any likely Tory successor in Downing Street shelling out hundreds of millions a year into this most unremunerative of enterprises. But our present Prime Minister will have nothing to do with such grey (Foreign Office) prognostications. The lady was utterly prepared to talk about sovereignty before General Galtieri's invasion — step forward Mr Witness Ridley — but the Argentine landings, in some slightly unformulated way, appear to have wiped

any of the old formulas for progress from the face of the earth — notwithstanding the self-evident facts that Galtieri is in gaol and President Alfonsín is one of the purest and most amenable democrats in South America.

Why should this be? Originally, it was said that the wounds of battle were too fresh to consider further negotiation. But time passes, scabs form, and nothing happens. Originally it was said (by Mrs Thatcher and her then Foreign Secretary) that the islanders would be formally and fully consulted about their future. A referendum. That hasn't happened either. Westminster has had no propositions to consider. HMG's UN team has had no new arguments to put. There is only the most doleful vacuum: a refusal to shift or think, or do anything more — see the fishing affair — than react. When the other side makes a minimal move. All of which would be tolerably defensible if the islanders themselves were being looked after and given the calm future that they crave. But that isn't happening either. For years the Falklanders have wanted their fisheries developed. Whitehall turned a deaf ear, and an empty purse. There's no official belief here that the islands (balefully shunned by the continent in whose shadow they live) can ever be more than an economic basket case. Equally Whitehall (because it knows the mortality of transient politicians) recognises that one day the 1,400 or so indigenous Falklanders will be told the truth and asked to choose. In the meantime, therefore there is only a conspiracy of silence and indecision. A British government that really wanted to secure the livelihoods of the Falklanders would see Alfonsín as the best bet for settlement in modern history, and be hammering out a 25-year, 50-year, nay 100-year transition deal with him. But we seem merely to be waiting for something to turn up: and when it does, in Buenos Aires, we shall surely lament an opportunity cravenly lost.

Spain derides 'mad' task force report

From Paul Ellman
in Madrid

The Spanish Defence Ministry yesterday dismissed as "madness" a report that it would send a naval task force to protect fishing boats that defied planned restrictions on fishing around the Falkland Islands.

It pointed out that the vessel which a British newspaper claimed would spearhead the task force was not expected to be commissioned until the end of next year at the earliest.

The ministry was commenting on a report that the 15,000-ton aircraft carrier, the Principe de Asturias, was being speedily completed to sail for the South Atlantic when regulations requiring permits to fish within the Falklands conservation zone take effect next February.

Privately, it was suggested in Madrid that the story had been planted as part of British efforts to force the Spanish Government to clarify its policy on the Falklands fishing issue. Last week, the Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, said that Spanish vessels would

ignore the restrictions imposed by Britain within a 150-mile radius of the archipelago.

The Principe de Asturias, which will have a "ski jump" flight deck like the present generation of British carriers, is being built under licence from the United States at a yard in the Northern province of Galicia.

The carrier, which will carry a squadron of US-made jump jets derived from the Harrier, is scheduled to operate with a flotilla of four anti-submarine frigates.

So far, however, only two of the frigates are operational. A third is to be delivered next year while the keel of the fourth has yet to be laid.

The naval group will provide Spain with its first modern warship to replace an ageing fleet of destroyers and corvettes and its present flagship, the aircraft carrier, Dedalo, which was launched in 1944.

The Spanish navy at present has no vessels capable of operating in the South Atlantic and, as officials in Madrid stressed yesterday, has no future plans to play a role in the area.

OAS is unanimous over softer resolution on Falklands fishing zone

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

The Organization of American States (OAS) unanimously carried a compromise resolution on the Falklands yesterday, urging Britain and Argentina to resume negotiations over sovereignty and to refrain from further actions which could upset "the already delicate existing situation."

Meeting in an extraordinary session of the Permanent Council, as asked for by Argentina, the 31 member-states passed a resolution worked out in closed door sessions over the last several days.

At Argentina's request, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, attended the meeting and supported the resolution, thus adding international weight to the document.

OAS officials say a more strongly worded resolution drafted by Uruguay was watered down at the insistence of the US and several Caribbean countries.

The resolution expresses, "strong concern over this new element of tension" resulting from Britain's October 29 decision to extend its claim to territorial waters around the islands to 150 nautical miles.

It further asks "both parties to exhaust all possible opp-

ortunities for negotiation and not to take action that introduces changes in the already delicate existing situation."

In addition, the resolution supports the efforts of the international community in favour of the negotiation of the sovereignty dispute.

Finally the resolution praises Argentina for seeking to "resolve the dispute by diplomatic negotiations."

This resolution successfully avoided passage of a resolution strongly condemning Britain and backing Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

In an address to the OAS yesterday Mr Shultz did not comment on the Falklands crisis, but he did have harsh words for the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua.

He said that the civil war in Nicaragua would continue until "genuine democracy" was restored.

The Nicaraguan delegation, led by the Foreign Minister, Señor Miguel D'Escoto, boycotted the US Secretary of State's speech.

Mr Shultz told the OAS: "The Nicaraguan regime is fundamentally destabilizing to Central America. The regional arms race launched by the *Comandantes* is a matter of

grave concern to us. "It is impossible to imagine peace and stability returning to the region until (Nicaragua's) massive growth in armaments is contained and ultimately eliminated."

The Secretary of State said that although the US was "prepared to support" the Latin American peace initiative sponsored by the Contadora group, "unfortunately" a four-year effort had "not produced a workable agreement."

Mr Shultz did not suppose that the OAS wanted to resume the Contadora peace initiative. Western diplomatic sources said the US was trying to block OAS discussion of the Nicaraguan conflict.

However, the eight Contadora group and Support Group countries have agreed upon a resolution aimed at ending the deadlock in the peace negotiations. The resolution is to be presented to the OAS today.

Speaking to reporters, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, blamed the US for the stalemated Contadora peace initiative. He said Contadora had a colossal problem; the colossus of North America. "It is a problem for Contadora, for Central America and for Latin America."

US 'fury' on Falklands

THE ARGENTINE delegation at the biennial general meeting of the Organisation of American States were jubilant yesterday as strong indications emerged that the United States had distanced itself further from the British government's Falklands policy than at any point since the Falklands War.

The US Secretary of State, George Shultz, heading his country's OAS delegation, told reporters his government had no intention of taking sides in the current dispute between Britain and Argentina over Falklands fishing limits, a position clearly different taken to that during the war when Washington actively supported Mrs Thatcher.

Privately, US officials said they were furious at Britain for imposing the new 200-mile fishing zone around the islands without consulting Washington, thereby landing the US government with the awkward problem of having to choose between allies.

This question of allegiances was the focus of two rounds of private talks between Mr Shultz and the Argentine Foreign Minister,

**From John Carlin
in Guatemala City**

Dante Caputo, late on Monday night. Asked yesterday how the conversations had gone, a senior aide to Mr Caputo enthused: "Excellent! Excellent! Excellent!"

"Relations between Argentina and the United States have not been better at any point this century," Mr Caputo's aide said. It became clear that Mr Shultz and Mr Caputo had hammered out the wording of an OAS resolution urging both Britain and Argentina to make every effort to seek a negotiated solution to the Falklands dispute. The resolution was due to be endorsed later yesterday by the OAS Permanent Council, which is made up of the foreign ministers of its 31 members.

US officials made clear that the reference to the "dispute" extended to the broader issue of sovereignty, the key stumbling block to negotiations between Britain and Argentina since the Falklands War. Argentina insists the issue must be included in an

agenda before talks can begin. Britain refuses to countenance the idea.

It also emerged yesterday that the United States planned to respond positively to a call from the OAS secretary-general, João Clemente Baena Soares, for all members unanimously to condemn Britain's decision to impose the new fishing limit.

Mr Shultz told US reporters that the fishing problem ought to be addressed as part of an attempt to solve the broader problem of the Falklands. However, Mr Shultz said he had no intention of actively mediating.

The Peruvian ambassador to the OAS, Luis González Posada, delivered a fierce anti-British speech but was equally merciless against the US on the question of Central America. Lashing the United States for arming and training the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, he spoke for what appeared to be a majority of Latin American governments.

The US still appeared to be a long way from bridging the gap between itself and the rest of hemisphere on Central America.

Falklands move

BRITAIN'S Foreign Office sought yesterday to dampen speculation that clashes are now in prospect in the South Atlantic following Britain's decision to impose a 150 mile fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands. After reported comments by Spanish ministers that Spain would not recognise the zone, a spokesman said that contact had been made with the government in Madrid to clarify the Spanish position.

Falklands lessons put to the test in Oman

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Lessons learnt by the British Armed Forces during and since the Falklands conflict are to be tested in an important exercise in Oman later this month.

It will involve 4,750 men from the Army, Royal Navy and Air Force and will test Britain's ability to mount a rapid strategic deployment outside the Nato area.

The scenario for the operation, a combined exercise with the Omani Armed Forces, is an imagined request for help from the Sultan for aid in repulsing an incursion.

Defence chiefs in charge of the exercise emphasized yesterday that the choice of Oman does not relate to any British political or military contingency planning for the area, including the Gulf or the Middle East.

The Omanis, however, see the exercise — codenamed Saif Sareea (Swift Sword) — as a useful display to any potential aggressors that their defence

agreements with Britain have real teeth and that substantial forces can be quickly and effectively deployed from Britain.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, the exercise director, said yesterday that the exercise would provide a series of "firsts" for the forces. It will be the first time since the Falklands campaign that a joint, three-service force of this size has participated in a live exercise outside the Nato area.

It will require, for the first time, the activation of tri-service headquarters, both in Britain and on the ground, putting into action a plan developed by the Chief of Staff after the Falklands campaign.

The exercise will involve naval ships, including the carrier *Illustrious*, elements of 40 Commando Royal Marines, the Fifth Airborne Brigade, and one battalion of The Parachute Regiment.

British war game plans relief of Oman



By David Fairhall,
Defence Correspondent

For the first time since the Falklands campaign a substantial British tri-service force will be exercising later this month outside its familiar Nato area. The aim is to demonstrate that Britain still retains the ability to airlift a force of brigade size over several thousand miles, with air and naval support, either to fulfil a residual military commitment or go to the aid of a friendly nation.

The setting for the exercise, codenamed Saif Sareea (Swift Sword), is the Arab sultanate

of Oman, at the entrance to the Gulf. The premise of the war game is that Oman has appealed for British military assistance against an unspecified "external threat".

The exercise director, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, said yesterday that the choice of Oman had nothing to do with conflicts elsewhere in the Middle East.

The Sultan's armed forces (to whom 180 British officers and men are seconded) were eager to play host; the British were delighted to take advantage of such an offer.

Some 5,000 men will take part including the headquarters 5 Airborne Brigade, the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, and part of 40 Royal Marine Commando.

Four Tornado bombers and two air defence Tornados will fly the 4,000 miles to Masirah non-stop, refuelling four times in mid-air from RAF TriStar and VC-10 tankers. The commandos will be landed from HMS Intrepid, supported by the carrier Illustrious.

The cost of Saif Sareea will be £4.3 million.



Belinda Caminada, who leaves for the Falkland Islands at the end of the month to edit the local newspaper, the *Penguin News*, meets what will shortly become familiar creatures at London Zoo (well not quite, these are Blackfooted penguins from southern Africa). Belinda, 24 and tired of life in London, jumped at the chance to escape the drudgery of

temping even though her new post carries no salary — she will be paid out any profits she makes. Her suspiciously 'Argy' surname is in fact Swiss Italian — her father Jerome Caminada was foreign editor of *The Times* — and the accent is pure Sloane Square. "If it is really awful I will still give it two to three months," Belinda said.

Tim Coone on attempts to isolate Britain in the Falklands fishing row

Argentina launches diplomatic war

THE POINT at which fishing diplomacy turns to gunboat diplomacy in the south Atlantic may well depend on more conventional forms of diplomacy taking place over the next two weeks.

Britain's announcement last month that licences would be needed for fishing up to 150 miles around the Falkland Islands from February, and its move to lay claim to sovereign rights over the sea and continental shelf up to 200 miles from the islands, has brought an abrupt end to the halting but nonetheless positive signs of a warming in relations with Argentina over the past year. According to one western diplomat, the quiet easing of trade restrictions with the UK imposed in 1982 has now been stopped dead.

If the British reasoning had been to force the Argentinians to the negotiating table to sign a multilateral fishing agreement in the south west Atlantic, it will have been quickly disabused of that idea by Argentina's emphatic rejection of an offer to negotiate.

"It would be a trap," said Mr Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, on television last week while demonstrating with maps the significance of the British claim.

"What Britain wants is that we sit down to agree a fishing treaty in the south Atlantic in which the countries fishing there would be the contracting parties, with Argentina as one coastal state and Great Britain as another coastal state. If we do this we would be recognising the right of Great Britain to exercise sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands."

Instead Argentina has launched a diplomatic counter-attack in the hope of isolating Britain internationally, and at the same time strengthening its own sovereignty claim. This week will prove to be a critical

test of support for that diplomatic effort.

Mr Jorge Sabato, the Deputy Foreign Minister, has been presenting Argentina's case to Europe. Other officials have been dispatched to Africa and Asia to summon non-aligned movement support, while the big guns of Mr Caputo and a battery of advisers are directed at this week's 16th general assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Guatemala, and will be aimed next week at the United Nations.

The aim of the diplomatic offensive is to seek a condemnation of Britain's move, arguing that it harms existing Argentina sovereign rights in the region, and to win support for Argentina's view of the sovereignty issue.

By the end of the month, strategists at the foreign ministry will be able to assess whether further responses are called for, or indeed practicable. According to Mr Caputo and high level presidential advisers, all the options are being

studied and none have been ruled out as yet except that is for military action. A renewal of economic and trade sanctions against the UK, some of which might find support on the continent, especially from countries such as Peru, is one possibility.

The fishing zone will only extend as far as the Falkland Islands protection zone, that is to 150 miles from the centre of the islands, from which Argentinian boats are excluded without prior permission.

A report on the fisheries in this zone, the Beddington Report, estimates that 70 per cent of the foreign trawler catches up to the 200 mile limit now claimed around the islands, occur within the protection zone.

Trawler captains recognising British jurisdiction, will be tempted to fill their holds by going outside the 150-mile conservation zone and into the wider 200-mile zone claimed by Britain and to the good fishing grounds to the south and west of the Falklands. These are mentioned in the Beddington Report, but which are claimed

and presently policed by Argentina.

In the absence of agreement with Argentina, Britain has said it will recognise a dividing line in these areas, based on international law—effectively a line drawn halfway between both claims.

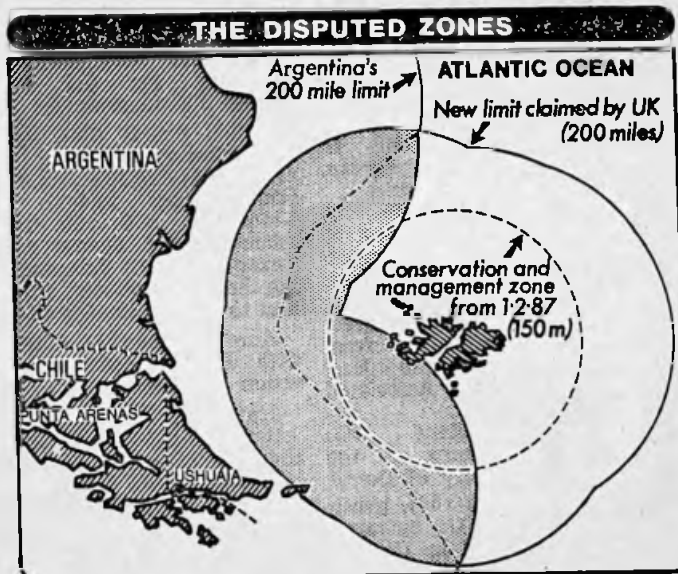
If straying trawlers are harried by Argentinian coast-guard vessels there, they will be tempted to make a run for the protection of the British protection zone, as did a Taiwanese trawler earlier this year, but which was sunk by the Argentinians.

On the other hand, if foreign trawlers do not recognise the British claim, and Spain has already indicated it will not, they face arrest and possible conflict with British patrol vessels from February onwards if they enter the zone. This could create serious problems between Britain and Eastern Europe and even with other member countries of the EEC.

However, the country with the biggest catches in the south Atlantic, Poland, has chosen so far to remain neutral. According to the Polish ambassador in Buenos Aires "Argentina has made an offer of a bilateral fishing agreement, but there are no negotiations on this yet or even considerations of negotiations."

Poland after all stands to lose the most if it makes the wrong political choice. According to the Beddington Report, the Polish catch within the fishing zone in the first nine months of 1985 was 100,000 tons, twice that of Argentina's own factory ship fleet in the south Atlantic.

That choice may nonetheless be greatly influenced by what happens this week in Guatemala. If Argentina gets the support it is looking for, the British Government may find itself with few takers for licences when February comes.



US expresses disappointment over dispute.

THE US has expressed disappointment over growing tensions between Argentina and Britain following Britain's declaration of a fisheries conservation area around the disputed Falklands Islands, Reuter reports from Guatemala City.

"We are disappointed that Argentina and the UK have not been able to work out their differences over the

Malvinas," a US official said on Monday following a meeting between Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

Mr Shultz arrived in Guatemala on Monday night to address the annual meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

He said the Anglo-Argen-

tine dispute was "an important act of conservation and fishing rights."

But he said the US was not taking part in the dispute and was not mediating.

"I am not a candidate for a shuttle," he said in a reference to former US Secretary of State Alexander Haig's unsuccessful attempt to mediate in the Falklands dispute before the 1982 conflict.

Though some diplomatic observers had expected the US to take a stronger stand on the Falklands issue, Mr Caputo said Mr Shultz had demonstrated US "concern" over the territorial dispute.

The OAS was expected to issue a resolution urging Britain to drop the 150-mile conservation zone to avoid further conflict with Argentina.

Argentine sues UK for Belgrano injuries

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — An Argentine sailor is suing Britain for damages, said to total the largest sum ever paid in the country's history, for injuries suffered after the sinking of the General Belgrano during the 1982 war over the Falklands.

Court sources said yesterday that the suit, filed with the Argentine Supreme Court, would be a test case for another 380 Belgrano crew members who were preparing similar court action.

The suit was filed by Juan Carlos Heinze, a General Belgrano crew member who allegedly suffered irreparable damage to his legs from staying in the icy waters for two days after British torpedoes sank the ship on 2 May, 1982.

The suit claims that sinking the cruiser was unnecessary even for Britain's military purposes and that it was a violation of "every juridical and ethical norm ever set up by humanity to protect the right to life". An estimated 368 out of 1,000 Argentines on board died when the General Belgrano was sunk.

US, Latin America 'clash' at OAS

A General Assembly meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) officially opened here yesterday with the Falklands and Central America at the top of the agenda — two issues which look set to provoke a clash between the United States and Latin America as well as test Washington's traditional domination of this 31-country forum.

Parallel to the six-day General Assembly, a biannual event, Argentina has called for an extraordinary meeting today of the OAS Permanent Council to examine possible joint action against what the Alfonsín government has denounced as British "provocation" in imposing a fishing limit of 200 nautical miles around the Falkland Islands. The OAS Permanent Council consists of the foreign ministers of all the countries represented in the OAS, that is to say all the Americas except Cuba.

The four countries of the Contadora group

**From John Carlin
in Guatemala City**

— Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama — plus the four in the so-called Contadora "support group" — Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru — are likely to be at loggerheads with the United States over what they perceive to be the Reagan administration's continual thwarting of the Central American peace effort.

Reagan policy has always been to back its Nato ally Britain over its OAS ally Argentina on the Falklands issue. In Central America, the hundreds of millions of dollars the US has spent in armaments and military training to try and squash the revolutionary Left has run counter to the key Contadora doctrine of non-intervention.

As a consequence, the US, whose delega-

tion is headed by Secretary of State George Shultz, finds itself facing the unusual prospect of being in the losing side in not just one, but two, key OAS votes.

The strongest weapon in the OAS armoury was always supposed to be the Rio Treaty, a pact signed in 1947 whereby the states of North, Central and South America pledged to join forces in the case of "extracontinental" attack on any of the member countries. Argentina duly invoked the Rio Treaty during the Falklands War and was turned down at an extraordinary OAS meeting after what is now generally accepted to have been considerable diplomatic pressure from Washington.

The climate today, however, is vastly different. Raúl Alfonsín seeks support at a time when debt-induced economic crises and the threat of American-inspired war in Central America has drawn together Latin American governments in a spirit of unity.

Survivor sues over Belgrano

An Argentinian soldier who survived the sinking of the warship Belgrano by a British nuclear submarine in May 1984 is suing Britain for "psychological and physical injuries".

Señor Juan Carlos Heinze has filed the suit in a court in Buenos Aires. At least 313 Argentinian soldiers were reported to have been killed in the controversial sinking.

Señor Heinze says he spent two days in a lifeboat, has a permanent limp as a result of his injuries and is seeking the "highest sum ever awarded in Argentine law".

In London last night the Foreign Office said it knew nothing of the action.

Full report, page 14

Belgrano survivor takes UK to court

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

A conscript soldier who survived the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano during the Falklands war has sued the United Kingdom for the psychological and physical injuries he allegedly suffered as a result, it was revealed yesterday.

The suit was filed in Buenos Aires by Señor Juan Carlos Heinze and is considered to be a test case. Its outcome will determine whether an estimated 380 similar actions, now being prepared by the survivors and relatives of those who died in the attack, will go before the Argentine courts.

The Belgrano was sunk by a British submarine on May 2 1984. At least 313 Argentine soldiers are believed to have died in what was to become the deadliest single attack of the 64-day war.

Señor Heinze spent two days on a lifeboat before he was rescued by a hospital ship.

He claims to have suffered

serious psychological and physical injuries that have resulted in a permanent limp and in a considerable reduction of his ability to walk. Although the amount of compensation sought is not mentioned, the suit asks for "the highest sum of money ever awarded in the history of Argentine law".

The suit argues that the sinking of the Belgrano and the subsequent injuries suffered by Señor Heinze were the product of "an act that was clearly and unequivocally illegitimate" because at the time of the attack the Belgrano was outside the British-declared "exclusion zone" around the Falklands.

As a result, the suit concludes the attack represents "one of the most unjustifiable violations of the rights of people and of all the ethical and judicial norms erected by mankind to protect the right to life."

OAS attack on Britain

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

The 16th annual meeting of the Organization of American States began here yesterday with the Secretary-General strongly condemning Britain for creating a new crisis over the Falkland Islands by extending its claim to territorial waters around the islands.

In his opening speech the Secretary-General, Senhor

João Clemente Baena Soares, accused Britain of "a unilateral act" which "has precipitated an exacerbation of tension in an area regarded as a zone of peace".

Diplomatic and political observers said the new Falkland crisis is expected to be the central topic of debate during the five-day meeting.

TODAY
11 November 1986

Falklands alert over Spanish Armada

BRITAIN and Spain were heading for a clash on the high seas last night over the Falklands fishing zone.

A Spanish naval strike force has been put on alert to sail to the South Atlantic. The country's most powerful warship may join the fleet. Officially, the ships would be on a "familiarisation mission" in the region.

But Spanish fishing fleet skippers are convinced their navy is on alert to help them, according to radio messages intercepted by intelligence sources.

Confidential reports suggest the Spanish defence ministry has been given orders and special funds to prepare the 15,000-ton carrier Principe de Asturias by February 1.

It would be a race against time to complete the new warship in the 10 weeks before the Spanish fishing fleet sets sail for a three-month cruise of the South Atlantic.

Officers from the Asturias are

going south in other ships to learn how to operate with the fishermen.

Trawlers have been ordered to repaint registration letters to make sure they can be identified in even the worst weather, and to renew all national flags and recognition banners.

Jets

Unless the row is settled by diplomats, the Royal Navy might have to confront opponents patrolling with Harrier jump jets — vital to the British victory in the Falklands.

The plane has been sold to

EXCLUSIVE BY ELLIS PLAICE

Spain and renamed the Matador.

Spain supports Argentina's claims to the Falklands, which led to the war with Britain in 1982.

Spanish premier Felipe Gonzales said at the weekend that his government would not recognise the 150-mile "conservation and management" fishing zone the Falklanders have declared round the islands with Whitehall backing.

Applying for fishing permits, as ordered, would mean recognising British sovereignty, he said.

Officially, Britain is keeping a diplomatic distance from the dis-

pute by claiming that the zone will be administered and policed by the Falklands government with just two tiny chartered patrol boats.

But aircraft and ships of the British garrison would be ordered into action if the Falklanders asked for help.

Worried

Nato officials are privately worried and angry at the prospect of two alliance allies going into a battle as they did over the Icelandic cod war.

One American officer said: "Twice in my career I have had to watch allies going to 'war' — not over gold or oil, but goddam fish."

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The Argentine Parliamentary System

By Andrew Kennon

Andrew Kennon, a Senior Clerk in the Table Office, is Joint Secretary of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and accompanied the British Delegation to the 76th IPU Conference in Buenos Aires in October.

At first glance the Argentine Parliamentary system has many similarities with the constitutional arrangements in the United States. To begin with, some of the Congress building, which looks down a broad avenue and across the Plaza de Mayo towards the Casa Rosada (the equivalent of the White House) is reminiscent of the cupola on Capitol Hill in Washington. An executive President heads a government of his own appointees, who are not Members of Parliament. The Congress has a small Senate, representing the provinces, and a larger Chamber of Deputies, representing the people. A written constitution, a federal system of government and an independent judiciary (with the power to declare laws unconstitutional) complete the picture.

The constitution is not the product of the change from military rule three years ago but dates back to 1853. In the six military coups d'état since 1930 the constitution has been suspended and the Congress closed down, but both have been revived at each restoration of democracy.

The President is directly elected for a six-year term and cannot be re-elected. This may be one of the weaknesses of the system. An able President, as Raul Alfonsín is generally considered to be, ceases to be able to serve the nation in that capacity at the end of his term. On the other hand, a less able President lacks the incentive of re-election and his opponents are faced with a long period of dissatisfaction before there is any prospect of a change.

Although the Congress has similar powers to those of the US Congress, it does not seem to play as major a role in the decision-making process as its American counterpart. The Chamber of Deputies has 254 Members, elected under a list system of proportional representation (d'Hondt method) in each province. With half the total population of 32 million living in Buenos Aires city or province, the more far-flung and sparsely populated provinces are guaranteed minimum representation. The number of voters for each Member thus varies between 25,000 and 135,000. They serve a four-year term with half the seats up for election every two years. President Alfonsín's Radical Party has a majority in the Chamber, with 129 seats; the Peronist Justicialist party has 102 seats (divided into five factions) and thirteen other Parties are represented with more than three seats each.

It is a different story in the forty-six member Senate. Each province elects two Senators through the provincial legislature to serve a nine-year term (with one-third retiring every three years). The opposition Peronists are the largest party with twenty-one seats but they are divided into three factions. Alfonsín's Radicals have eighteen seats. This situation has caused considerable delays. For instance the Senate has not ratified the controversial treaty with the Soviet Union which allocates fishing rights within Falkland Islands waters. As in the United States, the Vice President, elected on the same ticket as the President, is the *ex-officio* President of the Senate. Both Senators and Deputies are paid the same salary as Supreme Court judges and are entitled to pensions of up to 85 per cent of the current parliamentary salary.

An immense Italianate palace, started in 1906 and finished forty years later, accommodates both Chambers. The equivalent of the Central Lobby is covered with a magnificent English-made carpet, on which deceased Presidents lie in state. Both Chambers

take the form of semi-circles with each Member sitting (and speaking) from a particular seat, allocated according to party allegiance. Ministers appear before each Chamber at the inside of a kidney-shaped table facing the Speaker. The Senate is televised occasionally, but the Chamber of Deputies has dispensed with all forms of photography after the publication of unfavourable pictures.

The normal parliamentary session lasts from May 1 to September 30, during the winter months. It can only be extended, or an emergency session called, by the President of the Nation. Nonetheless the many committees – the forty-six Senators sit on twenty-nine committees – meet throughout the year. The key committee in the Chamber of Deputies is the Parliamentary business committee which comprises the Party leaders and arranges future business, decides the priority of bills and even shelves some of them. A comparison of this committee with the Rules Committee of the US House of Representatives suggests itself, though as elsewhere the political Parties collectively appear to have a much greater influence than they do in the US Congress.

Legislation can be introduced into either Chamber by the Government or by individual Members and must be passed by both Chambers before submission to the President. If there is disagreement between the Chambers, the initiating Chamber can only insist on its position by a two-thirds majority, but a similar majority on the other Chamber can still lead to rejection of the bill. The President can veto a bill passed by both Chambers and that veto can be overridden by a two-thirds majority. In the 1984 session the President vetoed nineteen of the seventy-seven bills passed by Congress, mainly on the grounds that the expenditure involved was incompatible with his economic policy. None of these vetoes was overridden.

The Alfonsín Government's economic policy provides an example of the relative importance of the Congress in Argentina. In a leading article on October 13 the *Buenos Aires Herald* noted that the key economic proposals, known as the Austral Plan, have been put into effect without any parliamentary approval, because of the urgency of the situation. On the other hand, the newspaper noted that Government plans to implement a court ruling that pensioners had been underpaid to the tune of 25 billion australes (about £17 billion) would be put before Congress to ensure slow enactment.

Moves are afoot for changes in the parliamentary system in Argentina. At the political level, President Alfonsín made a speech in early October calling for 'democratic convergence'. This could involve reducing the traditional combat between the Radicals and the Peronists and forming a centrist alliance committed to sustaining democracy in Argentina, while excluding extreme left and right elements from the democratic process.

On the constitutional level, a special commission has recently recommended changes in the 1853 constitution. The main proposals are (I) that the presidential term should be reduced to four years, with the ban on re-election lifted partially to allow a second term; and (II) that there should be post of Prime Minister dependent on commanding the support of a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. There are also proposals to make a military coup harder to achieve.

The change in the Presidential term and the creation of a Prime Minister's post might give rise to conflicts about who was the Head of Government – and possibly French-style cohabitation. Nonetheless what the package does offer to Argentina is the prospect of changing its Government within the Parliamentary system and without recourse to the generals.

Britain in for bashing at OAS session

From John Carlin
in Mexico City

THE FALKLANDS fishing limits dispute, which has prompted indignation throughout Latin America, is expected to dominate the week-long general assembly meeting of the Organisation of American States starting in Guatemala today.

Diplomats say Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister heading his country's OAS delegation, will press hard for a joint resolution condemning Britain for what he has described as a "new usurpation" of Argentine territory.

The bulk of the 31-member OAS — comprising every country in North, Central and South America except Cuba — appears certain to rally behind Argentina in what Latin American political observers expect will be an enthusiastic exercise in Britain-bashing.

When Britain made headlines around Latin America with its imposition of a 150-mile interim fishery conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, the governments of Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay and others were quick to denounce what was widely described as another example of "aggressive colonialism" in action.

The escalating conflict in Central America is bound to be another important issue at the meeting. But since the Latin American position on such key matters as

Nicaragua and the Contadora Group is increasingly divided, diplomats believe the OAS Secretary-General, Brazil's Joao Clemente Baena Soares, will be keen to highlight the one issue on which an image of Latin American unity can be energetically projected.

But if the Argentine bid to intensify diplomatic pressure on Britain is sure to find an echo among Latin Americans, the American response is less certain.

Washington's reaction so far to the latest Falklands development has been, in the words of one European diplomat, one of "stunning silence". The Secretary of State, George Shultz, who is representing the US at the meeting, is due to hold bilateral talks this evening with Mr Caputo, who is likely to prevail on him to show his government's hand.

What Mr Shultz says will be of particular interest to British officials monitoring the meeting. The US, eager to win allies for its controversial Central American policy, may judge the time is right to abandon its position of the last four years on the Falklands issue and subscribe to an OAS resolution highly critical of the British government.

Of interest too will be whether Latin American governments at the meeting decide to give teeth to their rhetoric and impose economic sanctions on Britain, thus raising still further the cost of Mrs Thatcher's Falklands policy.

Falklands top agenda for American states

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

The latest dispute between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands is expected to dominate the Organization of American States annual meeting which opens in Guatemala City today.

As requested by Argentina, there will be a special meeting of the organization's Permanent Council which is composed of foreign ministers from the member states.

This extraordinary session, scheduled for tomorrow, is expected to pass a resolution critical of Britain. In addition the General Assembly will debate the Falkland issue as it has every year since the 1982 conflict.

The new crisis has erupted after Britain's declaration of a 150-nautical-mile fishing zone around the islands. Argentina, protesting that the zone overlaps with its territorial waters, has reactivated its 150-year-old claim to the islands.

A high-ranking Western diplomat in Guatemala said that Britain "has no support whatsoever from Latin America" but does have a "little support" from some Caribbean members of the organization. He said the role of the

United States at the conference, where Britain is not represented, will be "pressure to tone down the resolution".

One of two versions of the resolution is likely to be passed. The first alternative would support Argentina's claim for sovereignty, while the second would call for Britain and Argentina to negotiate a peaceful settlement and to discuss the question of sovereignty over the islands.

Diplomatic sources say that Mrs Margaret Thatcher finds both resolutions "unacceptable" while the second alternative would "probably be acceptable" to the Reagan Administration.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is due to attend the beginning of the five-day meeting and is expected to hold private talks with Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Well-informed sources say the other topics likely to be discussed during the organization's 16th annual session are the war in Nicaragua and the stalemate of the Contadora Group peace effort, Latin America's external debts and drug trafficking.

A Malvinas islander gives frank insights

by Michael Llanos

London
JOHN Cheek is a member of parliament — the Malvinas/Falklands parliament that is. In an interview with the *Herald* (in early October), Cheek offers insights into what the islanders think of the British, Argentines and even Anglo-Argentines.

Cheek, a radio engineer for Cable and Wireless, is serving his second term as one of the eight elected members of the islands legislative and executive council. The council passes laws which are then confirmed or disallowed by the UK government.

Do you prefer to receive Labour or Conservative Party visitors on the islands?
Probably Labour because they need to learn more. There are still quite a few misconceptions about the Falklands — the sheer size for a start off. Most people think of it as half the size of the Isle of Wight, but it is the same land area as Northern Ireland, Wales, or the state of Connecticut.

Some argue that the UK treats Falklanders like second-class citizens...
Before the war we were being treated reasonably well. OK nothing's perfect but to give you an example in the 1940s it was a colony in the old sense. That has changed as the British colonial experience changed.

What do you think of the recent report written by Labour Party Foreign Affairs spokesman George Foulkes?

It has a few errors and quite a number of exaggerations. George says *Argentina is willing to talk as long as the issue of sovereignty is included*. We don't believe that. Listening to what Argentine politicians said before and since the war, I'm convinced they think there is only one solution. They're not prepared to compromise.

What about the possibility of a multilateral peace-keeping force on the Islands?
I believe (President Raúl Alfonsín is a very honest man, that he wouldn't use force. But I have to look at the history of Argentina. If he or another democratic government stays in then marvellous for Argentina. But historically its chances of succeeding are fairly remote. If another military dictatorship decided to use force I do not believe a UN force would make any difference.

Do you fear a Peronist government more than a Radical one?

Yeah. They've certainly used demagoguery in the past to move people's attention away from the problems in Argentina. I'm convinced it was used by the military.

Why hasn't the UK declared a 200-mile fishing zone around the Falklands?
We're asking the same question. My guess is that

they're trying not to heighten the situation in the South Atlantic.
Couldn't the council pass its own law creating a 200-mile zone?

Yes but my feeling is that if we did it would be disallowed by the British government.

Do you think the issue of South Atlantic fishing can be positive in restoring Argentine-UK relations?

Some people have thought that. The Argentine-UK agreement makes remote the possibility of a multilateral accord through the FAO. We're worried about the amount of fishing, it's been enormous. A lot of penguins have been dying on the Falklands and, I think, in Patagonia.

What is the UK military presence on the islands?
About the same number of men as the Argentines had during the war. The big cost is the Mount Pleasant airport. It went operational on May 1 for fighters. The troops are moving out of Stanley hill and by mid 1987 all of them will be there.

Will that make life easier for civilians?
That's another misconception. They haven't bothered us. The first year a lot lived in Stanley. Most islanders put them up. We had two or three living with us for the first 15 months. Then they started getting their own accommodations, costels (floating barracks). It amazed me that at first there were 4,500 troops and so little trouble. With no night life, few pubs and so many

Argentines as such are people. It's Argentina as a nation. Particularly what the

What would the islanders do if the islands became Argentine?

Most say most would leave. I don't want to move. I'm fifth generation. **Would you let an Argentine live next door to you?**

Argentines as such are people. It's Argentina as a nation. Particularly what the

nation did to us in 1982. At the moment the islanders do not want Argentines back.

Did you ever receive either as visitors or to live?
Four years may seem a long time but to those who are there it isn't.

No. During the war if we didn't trust the Argentines we trusted the Anglos even less. Anglos are settled in British there is not a lot of difference between officers and men. With the Argentines there was — were tending to upset what that reinforced our idea that

There was a considerable amount of pity for Argentine non-officers. With the British there is not a lot of difference between officers and men. With the Argentines there was — were tending to upset what that reinforced our idea that

Did you know?

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS TRADER'S ASSOCIATION has compiled a booklet *The Islands*. Did you know that:

- Large vegetable gardens are very much in evidence and these provide most householders with their year's supply of vegetables and soft fruits.
- Many visitors are struck by signs on garden gates in Stanley bearing such messages as "Hq please, 'Fore" and "1/2 sheep". The signs inform local butchers of customers' requests.
- Peat sheds are common and used for domestic fuel. They peat is free, but must be cut from a peat "bank", stacked to dry, then taken home in a truck.
- Homes in Stanley are mainly constructed of wood, clad on the outside with iron and usually painted every couple of years to preserve the metal.
- Falklands often invite one for "Smoko". In Falklandish that means a coffee or tea break.
- The Football Club has a tradition of playing various visiting ships.
- The Golf Course is reputed to be the southernmost golf course in the world.
- A minefield map can be obtained from the police station. "In the areas surrounding Stanley there are several minefields. These are clearly visible with barbed wire fencing, red metal triangles and oblong signs which read 'Danger, Mines'. Do not enter these minefields".
- The Malvinas House is a hotel named after the daughter of its original owner.
- Mutton retails for 17 pence per pound (\$5 US cents per kilo). Beef is 24 p per lb. **M.L.L.**

Two-in-One Crossword

by arrangement with the Sunday Telegraph

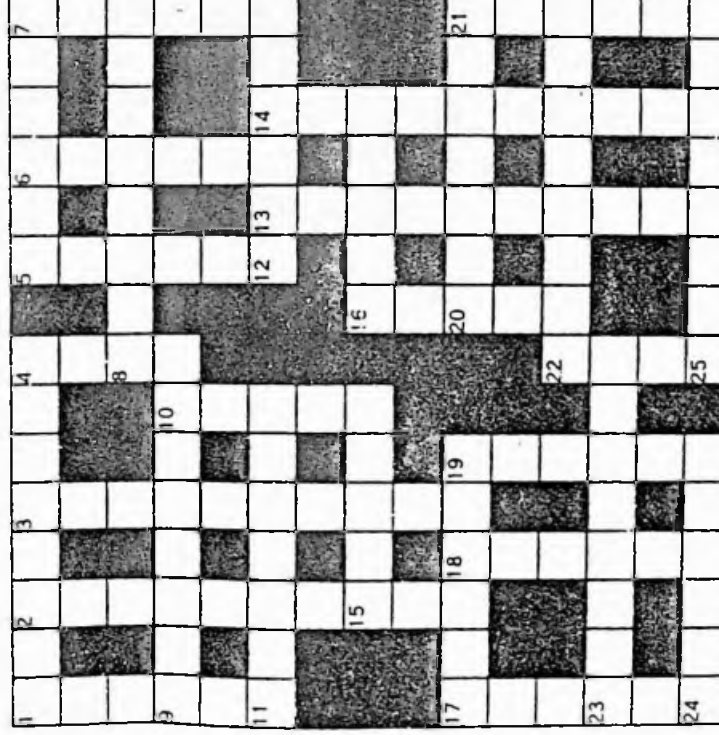
MIND TESTER 721

ACROSS

- Opening a window in this (8)
- American stations for British troops (6)
- By this time, civilisation was rocked! (5,3)
- Low water? (8)
- Changed, and repaired to the Orient (7)
- Cheats about to have kittens, maybe (3,3)
- Spiked a drink with this! (5)
- He's workshy — he's even worse (5)
- Fairly beautiful? Not quite! (6)
- Seize a confession that one's a U.S. poet, apparently... (7)
- And, in camera, made out that's just what he is (8)
- Notice boards for the above disease (8)
- Part of the bed-head is put on it (6)
- Churchman puts the whole blessed lot in here! (8)

DOWN

- Virtuous number hurry after this (6)
- Well watered flower, by the sound of it (3,7)
- Packed a punch for the post? It's a hard policy! (6,4)
- It's thanks to the Nazi troops giving us information about Russia (4)
- Medics put one inside some bees (6)
- Put in an ear-hole (6)
- Take guest to the door and use the peephole, perhaps (3,3)



On the left are the clues for the Mind Tester and on the right those for the easier Mind Tester. Pick which one you want to complete. To do both, use a pencil for the first and then rub out. The solutions to both puzzles are below (Inverted).

MIND TESTER 721

- Slice of cake and jam (5)
- His office is in the corridor (4,6)
- Some precious vehicle, British pawnbrokers going under (10)
- Characteristic of any language (5)
- Decline an opportunity to get pilot's licence? (4,2)
- Links to put lights on here (6)
- Remember putting this in the main! (6)
- Tender, in the main! (6)
- See if it if one desires to show ignorance, perhaps (4)



MIND TEASER 721

ACROSS

- Does up more firmly (8)
- V parent (6)
- Taken temporarily (8)
- Three-pronged spears (8)
- Place of protection (7)
- Lubricant (6)
- Reb out (5)
- Type of swimming stroke (5)
- Mythological giants (6)
- Became extinct (4,3)
- Keeps from harm (8)
- To cadge (8)
- Scholastic achievement (6)
- Setbacks (8)

DOWN

- Undeniable facts (6)
- Waste area in Asia (4,6)
- Go by rail (4,1,5)
- Sorrowful sounds (4)
- Using a gun (6)
- Bodily of actors (6)
- Puzzling question (6)
- A number (5)
- Property (4,6)
- Estate agent's abbreviation (3,3,4)
- Drink made from apples (5)
- Thrown by a bull, etc. (6)
- Worn by old knights (6)
- Mode of standing (6)
- Flavours (6)
- Noble person (4)

ANSWERS

Across: 1, Tightens; 5, Father; 8, Borrowed; 9, Tridents; 11, Shelter; 12, Grease; 15, Erase; 16, Crawl; 17, Titans; 20, Died out; 22, Proteges; 23, Scrounge; 24, Down: 1, Truths; 2, Gobi Desert; 3, Take a train; 4, Subs; 5, Firm; 6, Troupe; 7, Riddle; 10, Three; 13, Real estate; 14, All Mod Cons; 16, Cider; 17, Tossed; 18, Armour; 19, Stance; 21, Tastes; 22, Peer.

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Go fishing.

Conserving Falklands fish, good; conversing with Argentina about the islands, even better



Britain's drawing of a 150-mile circle around the Falklands, within which all fishing will in future have to be licensed by the islands' government, has brought some uncharacteristic cheek-puffing from Argentina's usually cool President Alfonsín. In Britain, the Labour opposition says Mrs Thatcher has sunk "deeper into the quagmire of the Falklands commitment". There has even been talk of a whiting war between the Russians, who scoop up too much fish in the area, and the two

entirely legal. It could have happened sooner, except that Britain was trying to get the co-operation of President Alfonsín, tactfully going through the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation so as not to compromise Argentina's claim to the Falklands. The Argentines refused to co-operate, saying that the waters around the islands belonged to them, and last year they signed fishing agreements of their own with Russia and Bulgaria.

The timing of Britain's action has been criticised, on the argument that it may upset the finger-tip contact that was created when a British parliamentary delegation visited Argentina recently. No serious hope of talks emerged from that visit. The Argentines made it plain that they were unlikely to negotiate with Britain about the Falklands this side of a British election, in the hope that the election would produce a Labour government readier to make concessions to them.

In fact, the British timing is in one way rather tactful. Britain is thinking of making another cut in its Falklands garrison, now that the Mount Pleasant air base on East Falkland means that reinforcements can be flown in quickly in a crisis. The withdrawal of more British troops would delight President Alfonsín. It would make nonsense of the demand by some Argentine generals that, because of British aggression on the subject of those fish, his slashing of military spending should be reversed.

Ever since the war of 1982, Argentina's unwillingness to be co-operative about small things like this fishing-zone has helped to distract everybody's attention from the big thing in which democratic Argentina is being reasonable. This is its insistence that the two countries should be prepared to discuss the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands. Britain was, after all, prepared to talk about sovereignty as recently as 1981. Since then it

British patrol boats which will potter about the new conservation zone. The cries of dismay are overblown, and sensible people in Britain and Argentina should not let themselves be turned nationalist by all this.

Rather belatedly, Britain has acted to protect the Falklands' depleted stocks of fish from Russian, Polish and Taiwanese trawlers, which collected more than 380,000 tonnes of fish from the area in the first two-thirds of last year. The British action seems to be

has signed an agreement with China to hand over Hongkong, where far more people live. It is even talking with Spain about Gibraltar's sovereignty. True, a war has been fought over the Falklands, which makes it harder to get back to rational discussion. But enough time has passed since 1982 for Britain and Argentina to return to the central issue.

The issue is the Falklanders

That central issue is not flags, or any particular politician's sensibilities. It is how best to preserve the way of life of the people who live on the Falklands, at least for the lifetime of today's adults and their children. The armed stalemate between two democracies over the future of a large village in the South Atlantic is becoming a nonsense. In the long run, the Falklanders' interests would best be protected by an agreement which gave Argentina some share in sovereignty over the islands (its pride-saving bit) in return for its acceptance (the practical bit) of a treaty guaranteeing a continuation of the islanders' present political and legal rights, this treaty to be supervised by somebody with real clout: say, the United States. The alternative—a leaseback agreement, under which Britain would administer the territory but transfer formal sovereignty to Argentina—would probably be unacceptable to the Falklanders, because it would remove the comforting symbol of the Union Jack.

The last attempt at talks, in Bern in 1984, was scuppered when Argentina went back on an understanding about the talks' agenda. Since then, Britain has offered to allow Argentines to visit their soldiers' graves in the islands, and to restore normal trade relations. It has unilaterally lifted its ban on Argentine imports. The answering silence from Buenos Aires has been deafening. It takes two to talk, Argentina.

Daily Mail
7 November 1986

Cast net wider

OUR Government, in its wisdom, decides to impose a 150-mile fishing limit around the Falklands to preserve its fish stocks from the large, foreign freezer-boats.

Surely, it is more important to protect our own fishermen's jobs.

(Mrs) ELIZABETH M.
BROOMHEAD,
Walton Back Lane,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

At
stir

Spanish Premier opposes Falklands zone

BY TOM BURNS IN MADRID

Mr Felipe Gonzalez, was reported yesterday to be opposed to the 150-mile Falklands conservation zone where there is an increasing presence of Spanish fishing vessels.

At a news conference for Latin American correspondents, Mr Gonzalez, who will be travelling at the weekend to Ecuador, Peru and Cuba, said Spain "will not take any legal steps that could lead to the suggestion that Spain recognises any sovereignty over the Malvinas (Falklands) that is not Argentine sovereignty."

Asked whether Spain would not therefore be seeking licences for its vessels fishing in the conservation zone, Mr Gonzalez said: "That is exactly the conclusion of the principle

I have been trying to explain."

Since Spain has never recognised British sovereignty over the Falklands, the logical extension of the Spanish position is to not recognise the 150-mile zone that was recently announced by Britain.

Spain's attitude is coloured by the Gibraltar dispute with Britain and is reinforced by the close friendship between Mr Gonzalez and Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin.

Argentina's Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jorge Sabato, who was in Madrid yesterday said he "deeply appreciated" Mr Gonzalez's stand. Argentina was looking for Spain to represent her interests in the EEC, he added.

The policy, as restated yes-

terday by Mr Gonzalez, will cause embarrassment both in the EEC and in Nato,

The Spanish position also raises problems for the trawler fleet based in Vigo which fishes in the conservation zone. The trawlers are now left with the option of applying for licences and defying the Government, of fishing illegally and defying the Royal Navy or of giving up an extremely lucrative business.

Mr Enrique Lopez Vega, executive director of the Vigo Trawlers' Association, said yesterday that he was "not in disagreement with the British decision to impose a conservation area's main catch, for export. tion zone and insist on licences."

Vigo trawlers comprise the third largest fleet in the conservation zone after the Russians and the Japanese. This year 36 Vigo vessels, each one of them representing an investment of Pta 800m (£3m) and with 60 crew aboard, have spent three months in the Falklands area against 29 last year and 21 in 1983.

Mr Lopez Vega stressed that the Spanish trawlers had always been "humanely and helpfully" received in the Falklands (on occasions the RAF has ferried home sick seamen). The sole problem in the area was the one posed by East bloc fleets which, he claimed, were breaking tacit agreements and blatantly fishing squid.

Spain will ignore fishing curb

By Tim Brown in Madrid

SPAIN cannot recognise the new fishing restrictions placed around the Falkland Islands by Britain. Senor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, has said in Madrid.

The Socialist leader was quoted yesterday as saying that Spain could not make any move that might be interpreted as a recognition of anything but Argentinian sovereignty over the islands.

Senor Gonzalez, who leaves tomorrow on an eight day trip to South America, was talking to Latin American journalists in the Spanish capital.

Pressed to say if that meant that Spain, which fishes heavily in the South Atlantic, would not apply for the new licences being demanded to fish in the Falklands, the Prime Minister replied: "That is exactly the conclusion of the principle that I have tried to explain."

'Political matter'

Spanish newspapers interpreted that yesterday to mean that Spain would not respect the restrictions imposed by Britain.

But the owners of the Spanish trawlers which make up the third biggest fleet that fishes the area had yesterday not decided how to react to the British restrictions.

Senor Eugenio Lopez Vega, their spokesman, speaking from the Atlantic port of Vigo on Spain's north-west coast said his organisation had no views on the sovereignty of the Falklands.

"That's a political matter", he said. He added: "We have had nothing but help and good relations with the British authorities in the region."

The Vigo-based fleet spends three months in the South Atlantic each year from February

A British embassy spokesman in Madrid said yesterday: "We are studying the Prime Minister's reported remarks."

U. N. Leader's 'sympathy'

Our United Nations Correspondent writes Mr Timothy Eggar, Foreign Office Minister, told reporters in New York after meeting the United Nations Secretary General that Senor Perez De Cuellar "was understanding of our point of view" in imposing a fishery control zone around the Falklands.

Mr Eggar said that Senor Perez De Cuellar had rejected reports in the Argentine press which quoted him as having criticised the British action.

Senor Perez De Cuellar urged both sides to exercise "maximum restraint," according to United Nations sources.

Fisheries protection zone

UN chief stays out of Falklands row

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has said he understands the British decision to impose a fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands contrary to Argentine reports, according to Mr Timothy Eggar, the Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that in a telephone conversation last week, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar told President Alfonsín that he considered the British proclamation a provocation against the Argentines.

President Alfonsín is said to have urged the Secretary-General to try to persuade the British Government to enter negotiations on the sovereignty of the islands.

But following a meeting with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, Mr Eggar quashed suggestions that the Secretary-General had sided with Argentina in the latest turn in the Falklands dispute, saying that the UN leader "was understanding of our point of view".

Since his failure to secure a negotiated settlement between the two sides when the Falklands war broke out in 1982, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar has refused to put pressure on the British Government to enter into negotiations with Argentina on the question of sovereignty.

However, he is technically mandated by the General Assembly to pursue the matter.

His contribution has consisted of an annual exchange of letters with the two governments informing them of his mandate followed by a report to the Assembly containing

the predictable responses from each side.

It is not clear whether the fisheries exclusion zone will have an impact on the debate in the Assembly later this month.

Although Argentina has promised to pursue all the diplomatic channels at its disposal to chasten the British Government, it does not want to risk losing support for its campaign.

It has been honed down over the years to secure the maximum number of votes on a resolution enjoining Britain to negotiate all aspects of the Falklands dispute.

● **MADRID:** Spain will not be instructing its fishing fleets to seek licences from Britain when the 150-mile zone around the Falklands comes into force next February, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, told Latin American journalists (Richard Wigg writes).

Reiterating the position already taken by the Madrid Foreign Ministry when the decision was first announced, Señor González emphasized how Spain could not recognise any other sovereignty than Argentina's over the islands.

The British Government's decision was incompatible with international law, maintained Señor González, speaking only a few days before leaving for a visit to Cuba, Peru and Ecuador.

He refused, however, to accept a South American journalist describing the decision as "piracy". Spain is the most important EEC country fishing in South Atlantic waters.

Defence

Settlement delights ministry

Officials at the Ministry of Defence were delighted last night at their treatment in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

The spending plans detailed by Mr Lawson yesterday mean that the defence budget for the year 1989-90 will rise by almost £500 million to a total of £19.47 billion. Officials said the figure represented a real decrease of 0.25 per cent.

In the three years to 1988-89, the department had suffered cuts totalling 6 per cent.

The ministry has also succeeded in persuading the Treasury that from 1990 the cost of the Falklands operation will be included in the general defence budget, rather than having to be negotiated as an extra.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, had argued fiercely in the so-called "star chamber" of ministers that his department had borne more than its fair share of cuts in earlier years.

Spain to ignore Falklands zone

From Paul Ellman
in Madrid

Spain and Britain are on a collision course following a statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, that Spanish ships will ignore named fishing restrictions and the Falkland Islands.

Spain, which supported Argentina in the 1982 war with Britain, is the EEC country which fishes most in the conservation zone which Britain is to impose within a 150 mile radius of the Falklands from next February.

Its refusal to abide by a British regulation requiring fishing boats to obtain permits to enter the zone after that date could provoke a similar reaction from the Soviet Union, which is a partner in a fleet of vessels that is responsible for half the Spanish catch.

Mr Gonzalez made his government's decision known at a

meeting with Latin American journalists late on Wednesday night to mark visits he is about to make to Ecuador, Peru and Cuba.

"Spain will make no legal act which will allow people to think that it is recognising any sovereignty over the Malvinas distinct from that of Argentina," Mr Gonzalez said.

Early British hopes that the Spanish Prime Minister was tailoring his remarks to suit a Latin American audience were dashed yesterday when his Foreign Minister, Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, reaffirmed the Spanish position at a meeting with an envoy of the Argentine leader, President Raul Alfonsin.

The envoy, Mr Jorge Sabato, the deputy foreign minister, said that the Spanish decision to ignore the British decision "fills us with joy and confidence."

Mr Sabato, who arrived in Madrid after visits to Brussels and Paris and who later left for Rome, expressed confidence that Spain would try to persuade other EEC nations to press Britain into negotiations with Argentina over the fishing dispute.

Mr Gonzalez and the French Prime Minister, Mr Jacques Chirac, discussed the possibility of a joint EEC position on the dispute at a meeting in Madrid yesterday.

The Argentine envoy stressed that his Government had no intention of employing violence and said: "We hope for a prudent attitude, something unusual for the British Government."

Mr Sabato's tour is part of a diplomatic offensive ordered by President Alfonsin to explain Argentina's opposition to the British move.

Britain has justified the creation of the conservation area on the grounds that stocks of fish, particularly the squid which is the principal catch of Spanish boats, run the risk of extinction if present fishing levels continue.

Spain, however, quickly criticised the British decision as "unilateral" and warned that it could only complicate efforts to settle the Falklands dispute, which officials in Madrid compare to the dispute over Gibraltar.

Spanish officials calculate that Britain will be forced to make concessions on the fishing issue, if only to avert a confrontation between a Western and a Latin American country at a time when the Soviet Union is showing new interest in the region.

President Alfonsin became the first Argentine leader to visit the Soviet Union in the middle of last month.

Humber ships to protect Falklands

THE fisheries ministry has been looking at two Humberside stern trawlers to despatch to the Falkland Islands when the new 150 mile exclusive fisheries zone is applied in February.

A final decision on the ships is still to

be made, but contracts are expected to be signed soon.

The decision to use civilian fisheries protection vessels rather than Royal Navy craft was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, last week when he declared the government's

intention to establish the exclusive fisheries zone.

The 150 mile zone (predicted by *Fishing News*, October 24) will take effect from February 1 and the Falklands will be entitled to a 200 mile fisheries limit, said Sir Geoffrey.

Peter Derham, chief inspector of fisheries, flew to the islands on Monday this week to talk with the governor and councillors about protection. He said protection will be "firm and fair. Fishing doesn't need weapons."

Mr. Derham has had contingency plans to mount fisheries protection in Falklands waters for two years and these are now being drawn on.

Three fisheries inspectors from the ministry have been selected and they will spend six months in the Falklands, after which the islands' government will take on the job of protection.

Licensing of vessels fishing the zone after February will be carried out through the Falklands Islands Office, which has bases in London and on the Islands.

The Royal Navy will not be responsible for fisheries protection around the islands, but the patrol vessel HMS *Dumbarton Castle* will be going to the South Atlantic and she will be replaced in the UK fisheries protection fleet. Reaction to the government's announcement has been mixed.

GREENOCK and Port Glasgow MP Norman Godman wants an urgent debate on the Falklands fisheries situation (see page two). Leader of the House, John Biffen has told him that it can be debated when the Queen's Speech is reviewed.

Sir John Nott compares the lessons of the Falklands with the fiasco of 1956

Defence and the Suez factor

The Suez operation took place within two months of my arrival as an undergraduate at Cambridge. It coincided with the Soviet invasion of Hungary. I felt as emotionally involved on the side of the Hungarians as I felt angry about the Conservative government's intervention in the canal zone, not least because the world's attention on the Hungarian tragedy seemed to have been diverted by the futility of Suez.

I had arrived at Cambridge after five years' service as a regular soldier in Malaya: during that time I had acted as ADC to the C-in-C Far East, who was the immediate superior of General Stockwell, then GOC. My military service and my acquaintanceship with General Stockwell led me to follow the military operation at Suez, under Stockwell's command, with more than usual interest.

Cambridge was rife with political controversy during that first term. A protest meeting on Suez, addressed by the Hon Anthony Wedgwood-Benn, was disrupted by the Pitt Club and the Trinity Foot Beagles; I felt a warm sympathy for Benn. There were noisy debates in the Union. I proposed the rather foolhardy motion, "That this House would risk a third world war for the sake of a communist satellite in revolt". In those debates and the ferment that surrounded them, Suez and the Soviet intervention in Hungary became heavily intertwined. As long as I live, I shall never forgive the Soviets for what they did to Hungary — and, to this very day, I feel remorse that my country did nothing to help them in their need.

Suez became part of history. Its memory faded except, I suppose, among those of my subsequent parliamentary colleagues who had been in the Commons in 1956. I seldom remember the Suez affair being mentioned by my immediate friends who came into Parliament in 1964 and 1966. A group of us were primarily interested in economic affairs. But I suspect the influence of Suez on our developing thinking was quite profound. For it was a period when a number of us were under the intellectual influence of Enoch Powell, then shadow defence secretary.

It was in discussions in our Economic Dining Club with Powell and others that I came to believe there could never be a full measure of economic and strategic independence for the United Kingdom unless we rid ourselves of a fixed exchange rate. If, at the time of Suez, the government had been defeated by foreign exchange pressure against a pegged rate, we had to remove this prime obstacle against our freedom to act as a sovereign nation independently of the United States and other powerful allies. Yet, post-Suez, the notion that we might seek to act militarily except in alliance with our friends seemed pure delusion. Suez had shown the futility of such grandiose notions.

The Heath government came and went. Sterling was floated and the sterling area abandoned within a few months of my becoming Economic Secretary in 1972. There was a further period of opposition. We won the 1979 election and the key economic reforms, far and away the most important being the abolition of exchange controls, had more or less been completed by 1981 when I was sent to the Ministry of Defence, the most fascinating job in the Cabinet. Thankfully, for our national freedom of action, we had avoided entry into the European Monetary System and the associated political pressures inherent in such a system — thus keeping sterling free and politically independent for the coming battles against Galtieri and Scargill. Suez was forgotten, but it must have been subconsciously very much in my mind when I was forced, by the inability of the Ministry of Defence to pay its bills, in 1981, to review our strategic planning.

Seeing the need to rein back defence expenditure to a more appropriate level in relation to our national resources, I strongly believed then that unless the Cabinet

imposed upon the Services the need to narrow their priorities within HMG's strategic guidelines (which are, of course, horribly difficult for any cabinet), we would wind up in the mid-1990s with a totally incoherent set of defences. Something had to give.

Our first priority had to be credible deterrence from nuclear blackmail and Soviet aggression in the North Atlantic or on mainland Europe; decidedly not equipping ourselves for another Suez or post-colonial war. Influenced by Suez, I believed that we could not and should not be a rather ill-equipped military policeman for the world, even at the behest of the United States. If we had occupied the canal zone, what then? Were we to govern Egypt? If we were to intervene in the Gulf today, how could we sustain it? It was clearly foolhardy for the Americans even to send troops into Beirut.

The post-Suez strategic and financial imperatives point remorselessly in 1986, as they did during my Defence Review in 1981, to the need to end the "naval task force" mentality, which is by no means the same thing as an out-of-area capability. We cannot afford to maintain two operational

ships, with one in refit, since it involves a cost in men, aircraft, equipment and supporting escort vessels that will unbalance our force levels and capabilities across all three Services.

Already, only five years after the Defence Review, the much criticized 50-frigate Navy seems unsustainable. The concept of global reach for the Royal Navy — for the balanced naval task force — is nostalgia for the days of Empire, the protection of the Suez Canal and India. It makes for a "good looking" Royal Navy, but very little else. Suez demonstrated the new world for Britain and the Falklands changed nothing.

We set out to recapture the Falklands, after the invasion in April 1982, with no large carriers and too few carrier aircraft. Had it not been for the immense skill of our forces, under the outstanding direction of Admiral Lewin, and the great courage of the Prime Minister, coupled with good luck, the whole affair might have ended very differently, conceivably in a much greater disaster than Suez. In reality, we were imperfectly equipped to undertake such a task, nor with the diminished size of our national budget can we ever hope to be so. The muddled defence priorities of the previous two decades enabled us to do the job with a Nelsonian bravado and a rather delicate calculation of risk. By such are great deeds done.

But we should not plan to equip ourselves for such an adventure again if we seek a credible maritime/air capability in the 1990s to defend these islands and its people from the real threat.

When the scrap metal merchants landed on South Georgia, I went over to the large globe in my office in the Ministry of Defence, and hunted for the Falkland Islands. A spot on the map close to the hearts of some British global strategists and bird watchers, it was largely unknown to me. I was shattered at the distance involved — some 8,000 miles, almost as far away as Hawaii in a horizontal orbit — and I recalled for the first time in nearly 30 years the terrifyingly long five days that it took those Landing Ship Logistics to get from Cyprus to the canal zone — a mere 300 miles or so.

During the critical week be-

tween the first intelligence indicating the Argentine invasion — Wednesday, March 31 — to the sailing of the fleet on Monday April 5, the memories of Suez played a greater part in my own hesitations than almost any other single factor. I knew that Suez had been associated with political indecision, dissension within the Cabinet, United States pressure on the pound, and seemingly the inability of the Services to move their men and equipment from A to B with sufficient despatch. Each step between July and November 1956 was dogged by political initiatives sought by the United States, leaving our military planners in a vacuum.

At least we were free in April 1982 of the straitjacket of a fixed exchange rate or the European Monetary System; for I doubt if we could have withstood the German and DM zone "neutrality" of that time had we been in the EMS.

To win back the Falklands, and demonstrate our refusal to submit to brigandage, it was essential for there to be a major military response, and immediately. The country owes it to my old antago-

nist, Admiral Leach (for we were worlds apart in our strategic understanding), for the magnificent way in which he and his colleagues got the fleet to sea by Monday, with only about five days' formal notice.

At the meeting which took place between four of us on Thursday night, April 1 — the Prime Minister, William Whitelaw, myself and, later in the evening, Peter Carrington on his return from Israel — Suez was in the forefront of my mind and, I believe, theirs.

How, with a minimum of three weeks' sailing time, probably much more, were we to hold domestic parliamentary and international opinion on our side, even if we could get there after an 8,000-mile journey in a fit state to fight against superior force levels? And how were we to prevent a repetition of the disastrous breakdown in relations at the time between ourselves and the US? After the experience of Suez, I do not think I believed, even with a floating pound, that the time lag would make it easy for us to succeed, unless we had at least tacit American support. The diplomatic and political pressures in favour of military hesitation were very similar to those on Eden at the time of Suez.

As it happened, the long drawn-out series of peace negotiations, important as a prime objective for themselves, filled the political and international vacuum while our forces made the interminable journey south. It was our good fortune to have a genuine friend in Caspar Weinberger in the Department of Defense. We happened to be in an era when political and military relations between the two defence departments were exceptionally close and happy.

But even in a flagrant aggression against British territory, it took time and the pressure of American public opinion to bring all the several elements of the administration — Department of Defense, the securities agencies, the State Department, the White House and the President personally — to our side before the United States formally gave us its support. We owe a great deal to our former ambassador, Sir Nicholas Henderson, for his splendid efforts at that time.

Suez was a disaster. The Falklands was a great victory and did much to restore the self-confidence of the nation. It made the theory of deterrence credible. It demonstrated British national resolve, somewhat to the surprise of the world.

Its outcome was almost wholly positive for the nation. But the Falklands will be the cause of a future national disaster for later generations if we allow it to distort our strategic planning. Suez was, in my view, a watershed for Great Britain; its strategic and economic lessons should never be forgotten.

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Scott Lithgow awarded ship contract

BY JAMES BUXTON, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

SCOTT LITHGOW, the Lower Clyde shipyard which belongs to Trafalgar House, said yesterday that it had been awarded the contract to "stretch" the Atlantic Conveyor, the container ship built in 1984 to replace the ship of the same name destroyed in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

Trafalgar House, which bought Scott Lithgow in 1984, will in effect subsidise the contract, believed to be worth £12m. Hyundai, the Korean shipbuilder, offered to carry out the work for £8m and is to lengthen the four sister ships of the Atlantic Conveyor that belong to the Atlantic Con-

tainer Line (ACL).

Trafalgar House failed to obtain aid from the Government to have the work on the Atlantic Conveyor carried out at Scott Lithgow.

The ship, which displaces 34,000 tonnes, is to be cut in two and have a 42 metre section inserted.

Risks Around the Falklands

Reagan unaware of UK fish move

Buenos Aires — President Reagan told President Alfonsín on Monday night that the US had no prior knowledge of the British decision to establish a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the Falklands, an Argentine Government spokesman said yesterday (Eduardo Cue writes).

In a 10-minute telephone conversation from California where he was campaigning, Mr Reagan restated the American preference for a negotiated settlement.

Señor Alfonsín briefed President Reagan on the latest crisis and assured him that Argentina did not plan any military action in response.

"It pleases me to hear those words," Mr Reagan was reported to have replied.

Señor Alfonsín confirmed yesterday he would visit the US later this month to deliver a series of previously scheduled university lectures, but it is not known whether he will meet Mr Reagan.

Risks around the Falklands

THERE WAS a revealing exchange in the House of Commons last week when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, announced the establishment of a new fisheries conservation and management zone within a 150-mile radius of the Falkland Islands.

Mr Eric Deakins, the Labour MP for Walthamstow, asked: "How can we avoid an escalation of this dispute into another cod war?"

Sir Geoffrey replied: "By a sensible response on the part of the Argentine Government. If they were willing to respond to the moves that we have been pressing ahead with for some months and agreed to the establishment of a multilateral zone, which we regard as far preferable, there would be no question of such a risk arising."

Argentine policy

Yet the entire basis of Argentine policy to the Falklands over the years has been that it is not what Sir Geoffrey and his colleagues would call "sensible." We are now asked to believe that sense will emerge in Buenos Aires as a result of a British threat to use force, and possibly even the use of it.

For as Sir Geoffrey also said last week, and Mrs Thatcher seemed to underline in the House of Commons yesterday: "It is open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands, as well as in waters elsewhere within our jurisdiction."

There is an immediate question about how far such force is available. The waters around the Falkland Islands are vast. It will be exceedingly difficult to police them effectively. There is also the point that if conflict comes, it may not necessarily be with Argentine vessels. It could be with the Bulgarians or the Russians, with whom Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements. And there is the further thought that even if Britain does have the resources to defend such an area of the South Atlantic in the interests of fish conservation, is this the best way to deploy them? Surely they would be more useful closer to home.

The main question, however, is whether this is the best way to seek a settlement of the Falklands dispute. True, there are a great many faults on Argentina's side. It did, after all, invade the Falklands in the first place. Even under the democratic government of President Alfonsín, it refuses formally to end the state of hostilities and seeks talks only on the basis of sovereignty. As for fishing, it could have been more co-operative towards the study of the resources in the region launched by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Its bilateral agreements with Bulgaria and the Soviet Union would be quite possibly declared illegal under international law.

Yet the question still comes back to Britain: is the declaration of the zone likely to make Argentina more "sensible" in the British Government's definition of the word? The answer is almost certainly "no." Already some of the first results of the action are becoming apparent. Latin America is putting on a show of solidarity. President Garcia of Peru has been in Buenos Aires declaring his support for the Argentine position. Brazil and Uruguay have joined the Argentines in calling for a special meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of American States, which incidentally includes the US. Washington was very helpful to Britain during the Falklands War in 1982, but it can hardly welcome another Anglo-Latin American dispute—in which the US is inevitably pulled in both directions—purely over fishing rights.

Seeking support

Some of the Europeans are none too happy either. France ceased to support Britain when Argentina's annual resolution on the Falklands came up at the UN last year. The resolution, probably stronger this time, is due again shortly. An Argentine minister, Mr Jorge Sabato, is in Europe now seeking support. Other countries could follow the French.

For Britain it is becoming rather lonely. An offer of direct and unconditional talks with Buenos Aires would not come amiss.

Alfonsín urges OAS backing in Falklands row

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has called an extraordinary meeting of all the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) to discuss Britain's new fishing conservation zone.

At the meeting, due to take place next week in Guatemala, Argentina is expected to ask for and receive a declaration of solidarity from all of the Latin American members. Argentina received declarations of support from Brazil and Uruguay last Sunday at a foreign ministers meeting in Punta del Este in Uruguay.

President Alan García of Peru made a seven-hour visit to Buenos Aires yesterday to show his support for the government of President Raúl Alfonsín in its latest conflict with Great Britain over the disputed Falkland Islands and their adjacent territorial waters.

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua reportedly sent messages of solidarity to Argentina, offering to send Nicaraguans to help defend "this Latin American territory." Other diplomatic fronts are also being tested by Argentina. President Alfonsín said that expressions of support have been received from other democracies and from the non-aligned nations.

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, said, following the Punta del Este meeting, that he had met Mr Elliot Abrams, the United States Under-Secretary of State for Latin America. At the meeting, which took place on Saturday morning at Mr Caputo's home, Mr Abrams stated that the US had not been informed of Britain's decision beforehand.

Mr Caputo also spoke by telephone with the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the two agreed to meet during the OAS assembly in Guatemala. It is understood that Mr Shultz is attempting to arrange a telephone conversation between Presidents Reagan and Alfonsín.

Unconfirmed reports from the meeting of the Argentine, Brazilian and Uruguayan foreign ministers suggest that the three nations may have also agreed to organize a joint naval force to patrol the disputed waters.

■ The British decision to push out the limits of its fishing zone around the Falkland Islands was tantamount to an invasion of Argentina, Jorge Sabato, Argentina's deputy foreign minister said yesterday, **Frances Williams** writes. The extension of zone limits from 150 to 200 miles meant Britain was claiming jurisdiction over Argentine territorial waters. "In my opinion, it is a real invasion, a real territorial aggression" he said.

Peru promises support for Argentina

President Garcia of Peru arrived in Buenos Aires for a brief visit yesterday to express his country's solidarity with Argentina following Britain's creation of a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the disputed Falkland islands.

Peru would support the sovereignty rights of Argentina "over the Malvinas (Falklands) islands," he told President Alfonsín. Earlier Senor Alfonsín labelled Britain's South Atlantic plan an act of "plundering."

Peru and Argentina have a long-standing tradition of friendly relations and President Garcia is married to an Argentine.

Soldier killed

By Our Port Stanley Correspondent

A soldier from Harwood, near Bolton, Gary Green, 22, has been killed after falling off a ridge on the remote island of South Georgia, 800 miles from the Falklands. He was checking radio equipment.

EEC lobbied by Buenos Aires over fishing zone

By Tim Dickson in Brussels

ARGENTINA WILL today try to enlist European Community support against Britain's unilateral announcement last week of a 150-mile fishing zone round the Falklands.

The subject is expected to dominate meetings in Brussels this afternoon between Mr Jorge Sabato, the country's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the EEC Commissioners for Fisheries and North-South relations. Mr Antonio Cardoso e Cunha and Mr Claude Cheysson. Mr Sabato had a long standing appointment to see Mr Cheysson but the session with Mr Cardoso has been arranged in response to last week's developments.

Officials in Brussels last night were reluctant to comment on what is a potentially sensitive issue for the Community. Under Britain's 1973 Accession Treaty, the Falklands are defined as overseas territories and responsibility for their fishing activities lies with the UK.

The Commission, however, automatically becomes involved in negotiating access to the fishing zone on behalf of other EEC member states in the same way that it acts on behalf of the Community negotiations over fishing around the Faroes with Denmark. Britain will therefore be in the odd position of, in effect, having a seat on both sides of the table.

Observers in Brussels believe that much will depend on the attitude of Spain, which is a close political ally of Argentina but whose fishing fleet (the largest in the EEC) has a significant interest in the waters around the Falklands. EEC fisheries ministers meet in Brussels tomorrow.

Argentina wins support for talks on Falkland row

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA won increased backing from Latin America in its fisheries and sovereignty dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands yesterday with a strong expression of support from President Alan Garcia of Peru.

President Garcia, who arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday, said his visit was aimed at promoting a unified Latin American response to Britain's decision last week to declare a 200-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

His arrival follows the decision by Brazil and Uruguay at the weekend to support Argentina's call for a special session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to discuss the issue.

Yesterday President Garcia described Britain's move as "an act of provocation" and declared his full backing for Argentina. "An aggression against Argentina is an aggression against Peru and Latin America," he said after talks with President Raul Alfonsin.

The decision by Brazil and Uruguay was reached during a weekend meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Punta de Este, Uruguay, at which Argentina launched its diplomatic offensive against the fishing zone move by London.

At the weekend the Argentinian Government issued a formal note of protest to Britain over the decision, saying it introduces "a new factor of tension in the region" which could bring unforeseeable consequences. The note calls once again for "global negotiations" between the two countries to

resolve the dispute, and which would encompass the sovereignty issue.

The British Government has steadfastly refused to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands since the Argentine invasion in 1982.

The meeting between Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and his counterparts from Brazil and Uruguay resulted in a seven-point joint statement in which Brazil and Uruguay expressed full support for Argentina's position.

They agreed to call for a special meeting of the Permanent Council of Foreign Ministers of the OAS to discuss the fisheries dispute and further agreed to lay the basis of a future "permanent commission of the South Atlantic" in which the three coastal states to the south Atlantic would co-operate in the study and possible exploitation and protection of fisheries resources of the region.

Earlier Mr Caputo met the US joint Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, Mr Elliot Abrams, who was on a visit to US ambassadors of the region.

Mr Caputo sounded out the US position with Mr Abrams on the new situation in the South Atlantic and later held a telephone conversation with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who, in a non-committal statement, apparently told him: "We coincide in the need for negotiation as a means of avoiding conflict and to analyse a practical way forward to achieve it."

Falklands row 'forces Alfonsín to give way to his critics'

From Jeremy Morgan,
in Buenos Aires

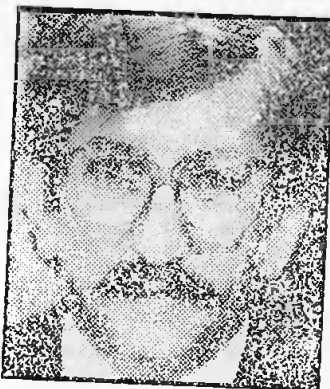
Argentina's latest Falklands crisis with Britain may have forced President Alfonsín to make concessions to his critics in the armed forces and elsewhere at home. Western diplomats here warn.

The diplomats pointed to the delay by the Argentine Foreign Ministry protesting to Britain against Britain's Falklands fishing zone. Britain announced the zone last Wednesday, but the note from Buenos Aires only arrived at the weekend.

There has been no official explanation of why the Government waited three days before sending the formal protest, which added little to earlier Argentine statements but fell far short of nationalist demands, including reprisals against British interests here.

It is seen as a sign of official fears of an outburst of nationalist sentiment reminiscent of the Falklands war in 1982.

There are suspicions here that the United States somehow had a hand in the British move and the Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, had at least one secret meeting with



Dante Caputo:
secret meeting

Mr Elliot Abrams, the US Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs. He has also reportedly spoken on the telephone to the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

Mr Shultz apparently said that he was surprised by Britain's move to extend its territorial waters around the Falklands. He agreed to hold a private meeting on the subject with Mr Caputo at the Organisation of American States in Guatemala next week, sources said.

Mr Caputo yesterday met the foreign ministers of Brazil and

Uruguay at the Uruguayan holiday resort of Punta del Este, with officials predicting that they would reject the British measure.

President Alan García of Peru, Argentina's closest ally during the war, plans to arrive today to show Latin American solidarity with Argentina. But observers question whether his populist nationalism will serve President Alfonsín's interests as well as his own. "Any grandstanding by Mr García will only add to difficulties in keeping the lid on domestic pressure for tough action," one diplomat said.

Police arrested 27 people after protesters stoned a British bank in Buenos Aires on Friday night.

The demonstration came hours after senior ministers told Argentine business leaders that the Government did not plan action against British companies.

The Government has meanwhile decided to form a military committee and to stop sending conscripts home early. The measures are seen as a sign that President Alfonsín does not feel strong enough to confront an officer corps which largely considers itself a law unto itself.

Falkland ships to be sold

By Desmond Wettern
Naval Correspondent

TWO OF the Royal Navy's three Falklands patrol vessels, which have now returned home, are to be sold, says the Defence Ministry, while the third is being refitted in Scotland.

The three, all former off-shore, oil-rig supply vessels, were converted to meet naval requirements and armed with two light guns in 1985.

The patrol vessel Dumbarton Castle, now fitted with a more powerful radar, is understood to have been detached temporarily from the Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron in home waters, until the islands' remaining patrol vessels' refitting is completed next year.

In future, support for the new civilian Falkland Islands government ships that will patrol the 150-mile fishing limit, Britain is establishing around the islands from next February, will rest with the two frigates that currently operate on three-month tours in rotation in the South Atlantic.

The Navy's two oldest frigates have been retained in service largely to help with this task, but both are due for scrap in early 1988.

In any case, the Defence Ministry insists that neither the frigates nor the submarine, which are assigned to South Atlantic patrols, are concerned with fishery protection.

FOREIGN NEWS

Argentina protests over fish zone

By Cristina Bonasegna in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has sent a formal note of protest to Britain over its declaration of a fisheries protection zone around the disputed Falkland Islands in an all-out diplomatic offensive to win international support against the move.

The protest note was presented to the British Government at the weekend through the Brazilian Embassy, which has represented Argentine interests in London since the Falklands war in 1982.

The note, which expresses "its most formal rejection" of the British move announced last Wednesday, urges London to enter "global negotiations" to find a solution to the current conflict, including the "sovereignty dispute".

Secret meeting

"The British Government has chosen to introduce a new factor of tension in the area which will be the cause of unforeseen consequences. Inexorably, the responsibility for the situation will rest within the British Government, says the note.

As part of the diplomatic offensive launched by the Argentinian Government, Senor Dante Caputo, Foreign Minister, yesterday met the Foreign Ministers of neighbouring Brazil and Uruguay.

The meeting, being held near

Uruguay's seaside resort of Punta del Este, to discuss regional diplomatic strategies against Britain's decision, was suggested by President Julio Sanguinetti of Uruguay, following a telephone conversation with President Alfonsín of Argentina last week.

Before leaving for Uruguay, Senor Caputo confirmed that he had held a secret meeting with Mr Elliot Abrams, United States Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs, over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Argentina in its campaign to win support for its dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands, has submitted a new resolution in advance of this month's debate in the United Nations General Assembly.

The draft, sponsored by Algeria, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, is almost identical to last year's resolution, which mustered 107 votes.

However, the new resolution makes no mention of the latest rift between the two countries as a result of Britain's decision to introduce a new 150-mile fishery exclusion zone around the islands.

Charge!

"THE pounding of the surf, the crying of the wild geese, the scent of cinnamon grass in the clear, sparkling air" — this vision of loveliness may not entirely accord with the memories of Falklands War veterans. But together with the "rolling moorlands" and "ample mutton and beef of fine quality", it forms a package with which the English Tourist Board hopes to lure people to "one of the increasingly few places where nature still seems to be in charge".

The new Falklands brochure concedes that nature may have caused a few image problems in the past. "Perhaps," it muses, "our poor reputation comes about because there are so many penguins and these are often associated with ice and snow. In fact, the weather is temperate and not dissimilar to that of Great Britain."

Unique features of the "Falklands experience" include its extensive sea fishing, battle ground trips and — what must be a holiday brochure first — conversation. "With no television or newspapers, talking to friends and visitors remains a major social activity."

Britons at risk in Argentina protests

By NORMAN KIRKHAM, DAVID BROWN
and DESMOND WETTERN

THREATS to British businesses in Argentina were growing yesterday after demonstrators stoned a bank in Buenos Aires in protest against the new 150-mile fishing zone to be imposed around the Falklands.

The demonstration increased apprehension in Whitehall that the islands will have the most politically dangerous fishing grounds in the world, protected by only two unarmed trawlers and a small aircraft.

Police arrested 30 of several hundred marchers who broke windows of the Bank of London and South America and seriously damaged a parked car. Those arrested included veterans of the 1982 Falklands War.

The demonstrators crowded in front of the bank shortly before midnight on Friday chanting "Englishmen get out."

In London, British diplomats are concerned that several hun-

dred other British offices and staffs will be harassed or become the target for violence.

Senor Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, has announced that the Government will "not exclude" possible economic reprisals against the British holdings.

Whitehall advisers are studying urgently reports on the Argentine protests and, if necessary, the Swiss embassy in Buenos Aires will be asked to make representations on Britain's behalf.

Argentina sent a protest note to Britain via the Brazilian Embassy in London yesterday accusing Whitehall of introducing new tension which would have "unforeseeable consequences". President Garcia of Peru will fly to Buenos Aires today to offer support in the dispute with Britain.

Britain is already bracing for another diplomatic offensive from Argentina at the United Nations in the coming weeks. A strong resolution condemning the Falklands fishing limits and

the British Government policy is likely to be forced through an Assembly session.

Mr Peter Dereham, Britain's Chief Inspector of Fisheries, is to fly to Port Stanley tomorrow amid growing doubts over the practicalities of the "cut price" fishery protection plan.

Falkland Islands Government representatives are to charter two large trawlers from Britain. Each will carry crews of 20 to 30 civilians.

A small twin-engined "spotter" aircraft will also be leased for the operation, which will cost less than £4 million a year. No arms will be carried by the new inspectorate.

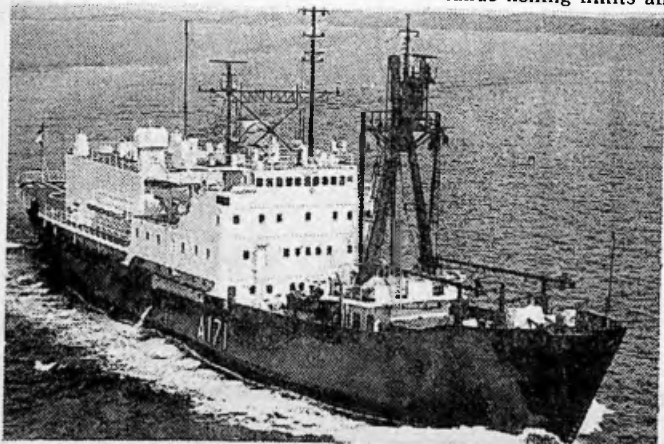
As he prepared to leave last night Mr Dereham commented: "Guns? Why should anyone need guns?" A Falklands Government source in Port Stanley added: "If there is any trouble, we will have to call on the Navy to help."

But at present the naval force off the Falklands has been reduced to two frigates. The survey vessel *Endurance*, which is more likely to bear the brunt of any trouble-shooting is undergoing a refit at Devonport and will not return to the islands for some months.

Another challenge to the Falklands plan came last night when the British all-party South Atlantic Council warned in London that Britain was "asking for trouble", and that clashes were "bound to occur".

According to the Council, Britain is acting illegally under the United Nations Law of the Sea convention by declaring such a zone without an agreement with Argentina as a neighbouring and affected state.

Despite the controversy, British trawler companies are preparing to send in major fishing expeditions to the Falklands.



Endurance, the Falklands trouble-shooter, and not available for months

Fishing war hits Alfonsín's rule

ARGENTINA's armed forces, which have lost power steadily since the 1982 Falklands war, look set to be the chief beneficiaries of Britain's decision last week to impose a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

For the first time since democracy was restored three years ago, President Raul Alfonsín called the chiefs of staff together to participate in the condemnation of Britain's decision.

At the same time he declared a military alert and cancelled leave. The air force carried out joint manoeuvres with the army for the first time since their defeat by British forces in 1982, and coastal patrols were intensified.

Yesterday Argentina strongly reaffirmed its claims to sovereignty over the Falklands in a note delivered through the Brazilian Embassy in London.

Buenos Aires said that the British decision would renew tension in the region and that Britain would be "responsible for any unforeseen consequences". The note renewed Argentinian calls for bilateral negotiations over sovereignty of the islands.

The new British fishing zone, which according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, was imposed to stop over-fishing, gives the Argentinian armed forces the perfect excuse to apply for a reappraisal of the 1987 military budget, at present a

by Maria-Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires



Thatcher: blow for democracy?

lowly 2.5% of gross national product.

"The British decision means that the armed forces can now demand lorries, petrol and more patrols," said a defence ministry spokesman.

One senior diplomat said: "Mrs Thatcher has endangered Argentinian democracy. The toughest section of the military will keep up the pressure until they get concessions."

The Argentinian foreign minister, Dante Caputo, is concerned there could be trouble in the zone where Argentinian and British territorial claims meet. Although he was keen to play down the importance of the military in decision-taking, most politicians agree that the British declaration, which comes into effect from February 1,

1987, gave Argentina no face-saving way out.

The gravity with which Whitehall's decision was received in Buenos Aires became evident when it emerged that Alfonsín had telephoned President Mitterrand of France, Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, President Luis Sarney of Brazil and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, the current president of the non-aligned movement. The government is sending senior officials on tours of Europe and non-aligned countries to drum up support for Argentina.

Until last week's decision, all ships except Argentinian vessels could enter the 150-mile zone around the Falklands. The British Foreign Office said about 600 trawlers — most from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — fished there in 1986. The aim is to reduce the numbers to about 200 next year.

Bulgaria and the Soviet Union have already signed a fishing agreement with Argentina for the Falkland waters but Japan was reluctant because of the dispute over sovereignty.

During Alfonsín's visit to Moscow two weeks ago, he agreed that the Soviet Union could catch 180,000 tons of fish in the south Atlantic each year. Argentinian sources believe this provoked the British government into declaring the fishing zone.

WORLD SUMMARY

Anglo-Argentine relations tense

Buenos Aires (Reuter) — The Argentine Government yesterday whipped up internal support for a sweeping diplomatic initiative against Britain's newly-claimed 200-mile fishing zone around the disputed Falkland Islands.

Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, briefed opposition political leaders on the tense situation and was later meeting with industrialists.

Señor Vicente Saadi, the Peronist leader, expressed his "strongest repudiation" of the British move and Señor Carlos Auyero, the Christian Democrat leader, said that London had carried out an act of "international gangsterism".

● MADRID: Spain has told Britain that its unilateral decision to declare a 150-mile conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, which will be enforced in February 1987, "complicates the situation and does not facilitate a solution of the sovereignty dispute with Argentina" (Richard Wigg writes).

Argentina issues warning to foreign trawlers

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES AND JIMMY BURNS IN LONDON

FOREIGN trawlers entering Argentina's 200-mile exclusive economic zone could be fired on by coastguard vessels as an "ultimate recourse" to prevent their fishing activities, Mr Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, has warned.

His remarks at a late night press conference on Thursday, followed Britain's unilateral decision to extend its fishing rights around the Falkland Islands in response to Argentina's earlier move to sign bilateral fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria to control fishing catches in the South Atlantic.

Mr Caputo said the British move signified that from now foreign trawlers could potentially fish within the 200-mile fishing zone claimed by Britain under international law.

On Wednesday night, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, announced the creation of

a 150-mile interim conservation and management zone which will become effective from February 1, 1987. British officials stressed yesterday that, while legally claiming 200 miles, British patrol boats had been instructed not to extend their policing beyond the 150-mile zone in an apparent attempt to minimise serious incidents developing with the Argentine Navy.

However, Britain has taken a calculated gamble on the goodwill of third countries, including the Soviet Union and Spain. British officials appear to have announced their decision on the assumption that third countries who have signed bilateral agreements with Argentina, or who already fish extensively in the South-Atlantic unregulated by either side, will respect the 150-mile zone and either apply to the British authorities for licences or withdraw their fleets.

But the calculation could misfire if the Russians or any other foreign fleets choose to ignore or challenge the new regime.

Mr Caputo said that Argentine coastguard vessels would continue patrolling within Argentina's own 200-mile zone, but only up to the edge of the 150-mile protection zone where the two zones overlap.

Any trawlers trying to take advantage of the newly-claimed 200-mile fisheries zone claimed by Britain (but outside the 150-mile protection zone—essentially the same area as the new interim conservation and management zone—from which all Argentine vessels without permission are excluded) would be arrested.

If trawlers fail to stop under instructions from the Argentine coastguards, Mr Caputo said, the "ultimate recourse is to act militarily."

Meanwhile, President Raul

Alfonsín has personally contacted the Spanish and French governments and all the major Latin American leaders requesting their "solidarity."

Spain yesterday followed the Soviet Union's ambivalent line on the issue by saying that it had "reservations." Both Madrid and Moscow have said that the new fisheries zone will hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution, but have given no indication as to whether they will ask Britain for licences for their fishing fleets.

As a member of the European Community, Spain should theoretically recognise Britain's rights to a 200-mile fishing zone. But it has found common cause between its claims to Gibraltar and Argentina's claims to the Falklands after remaining officially neutral on the sovereignty issue during the Falklands war.

Poles plan to fish krill

THE commercial fishing of krill on an industrial scale is to be started by the Polish fishing industry after ten years of research by the Institute of Maritime Fisheries, Dalmor of Gdynia and the Techmet enterprise of Pruszcz Gdanski, which has already started to make processing machinery.

It is expected that in 1987 the catch should amount to about 14,000 metric tons, most of which will be exported.

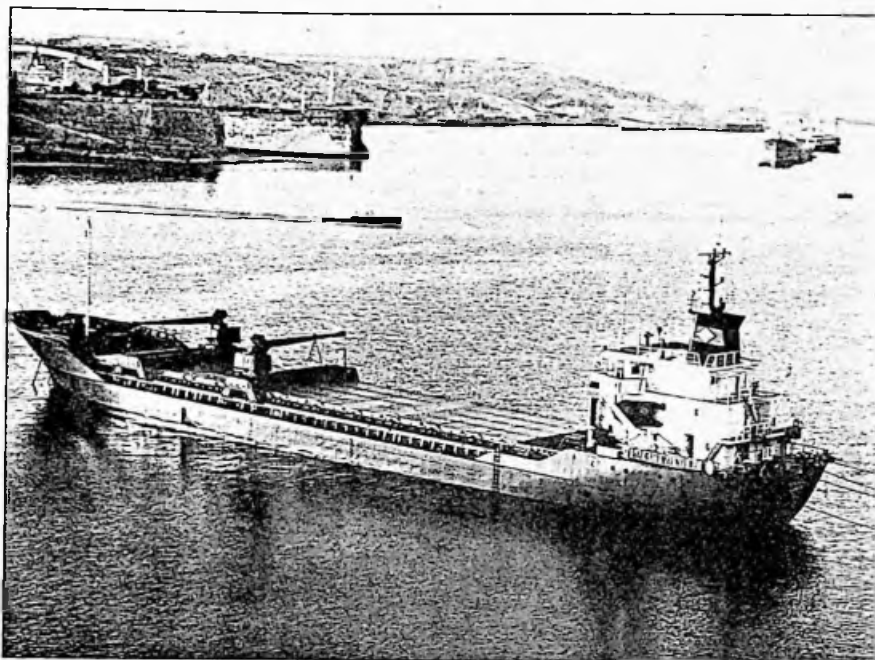
In the following years until 1990, Dalmor intends to increase the number of its trawlers engaged in catching krill from one to four. Dalmor says demand for krill is growing in many countries and there will be no problem in finding new buyers.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and Finland have agreed 1987 Baltic quotas of the same size as in previous years. Finland will be

and the Soviet herring quota will remain unchanged.

It has also been agreed that a maximum of 15 Finnish vessels can operate at the same time in Soviet waters with a maximum of 32 Soviet vessels in Finnish waters.

allowed 50 tons of salmon in the Soviet zone of the Baltic



F. T. Everard & Sons Ltd have sold the 1,599-grt vessel *Lincolnbrook* to Italian interests. Built at Koostertille, Netherlands, in 1976, *Lincolnbrook* has a TEU capacity of 172. She came under Everard control in 1980. (Laurence Dunn)

Shortly before this deal was announced, Everards disposed of the Dutch-built *Lincolnbrook* (1976/1,599grt). Now owned in Italy, she measures 94 x 14m (307 x 44ft), has a TEU capacity of 172 and a single hold which is served by two 12.5-ton cranes. An Alpha type diesel of 2,790bhp gives a speed of 12.5 knots. She was built at Kootstertille, as were her sisters *Lancasterbrook*, *Leicesterbrook* and *Londonbrook*, all of which are still with Everards. All were originally built for Comben Longstaff & Co, but came under Everard control in 1980, their

actual owners becoming Midland Montagu Leasing Ltd.

Fishery Protection Squadron • Jack Worth reports that changes in composition of the Squadron have taken place since June. Thus, on 18th August the "River" Class minesweeper *Blackwater* joined the Squadron on a permanent basis while, later in the month, two "Ton" Class MCMVs, *Sheraton* (ex-3rd MCMS) and *Bronington* (ex-2nd MCMS) also joined on a temporary basis.



The *Kri Dewa Kembar* (formerly Royal Navy survey ship *Hydra*), pictured at Southampton on 8th September. She was scheduled to sail for Indonesia during October. (W. Sartori)

Indonesia • Richard Lindfield reports that the former Royal Navy survey ship *Hydra*, which entered Southampton's No 6 dry-dock on 23rd April, was floated out of the dock on 20th August. Now renamed *Kri Dewa Kembar*, she has been painted dark grey and with the pennant number 932 on her bows and stern. It is understood that she is scheduled to sail for Indonesia during October.

South Atlantic • *Brilliant*, *Rothesay* and *Blue Rover* have completed a sixteen-week patrol in South Atlantic waters and were due to arrive in their UK base ports in September. While in the Falkland Islands these ships were caught up in incidents between Argentine and foreign trawlers. The modern stores ship *Fort Austin* has been operating as a

helicopter base ship in the Falklands area since the departure of RFA *Reliant* in the spring.

Falklands changes

THE BRITISH government has heeded the call to protect fish and squid stocks around the Falkland Islands, and imposed a 200-mile limit.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, made the announcement shortly before *FNI* went to press.

It could be put into force as early as February 1987, and will affect fleets estimated to come from 20 countries.

200-mile protection for Falklands fishing

BRITAIN'S decision to apply a 200-mile fishing limit to waters around the Falklands promises to end the free-for-all which has threatened stocks in the area.

Falkland Islands authorities will sell licences to fish in the zone. It is thought that this could bring in £25 million a year.

The zone will be reduced where it overlaps with Argentina's 200-mile limit.

It is a turn-around in more ways than one, writes Michael Robbins of our sister paper *Fishing News*.

Doubts had been expressed by official sources as to whether such a limit could be enforced.

But in announcing the move, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said that British forces on the islands would help the civilian protection vessels to enforce the new regime.

As far as conservation

Earlier this month, a Foreign Office spokesman said that the option of introducing a unilateral British limit has been retained and was always open.

Mr. Howe suggested that Argentina's deal with the East Europeans had undermined efforts to resolve the issue through a "multilateral approach".

Conservation is as pressing an issue as politics in Falklands waters. Far Eastern and Spanish vessels are jiggling for illex and trawling

for liligo squid. The trawling operations could be a particular threat to stocks.

However, a report published a year ago by John Beddington, of Imperial College, London, and others focussed attention not just on squid but on southern blue whiting, which East European vessels have been catching.

New markets — in China and Iran particularly — have appeared and although the catch value is low compared to squid, there has been plenty of fishing effort.

The Beddington report expressed the hope that other species such as tuna might provide a hard currency catch for the East European vessels; this could have smoothed the way to a multilateral agreement but it seems the agreement with Argentina may have dashed these hopes.

It is also possible that Britain, having got wind of what is in the FAO report and knowing that conservation will be necessary, decided that something had to be done now.

No change in Falkland rates

THE 150-mile fishing zone imposed around the Falkland Islands by the UK Government will have no repercussions for marine insurance rates applying in the area unless armed vessels of the Royal Navy takes aggressive action against fishing ships to enforce the exclusion boundary.

Lloyd's Underwriters' Association said the imposition of territorial boundaries in the oceans was "nothing new."

He said that even if Britain despatched armed ships to the region to police the zone, insurance rates would not alter until action started to be taken against fishing vessels.

Alionsin warns Britain



President Alfonsín (right) and Defence Minister Jaunarena leave meeting with the military

Alfonsín warns Britain

BUENOS AIRES — The Argentine Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena said yesterday the Government has suspended the discharge of armed forces conscripts and will create a special military committee in response to Britain's expansion of fishing rights around the Falkland Islands.

President Raúl Alfonsín had warned that the British action would "cause serious tensions and conflicts, with consequences as yet unforeseeable".

**By Kevin Noblet
of Associated Press**

Mr Jaunarena said naval vessels remained under orders to patrol the country's 200-mile off-shore zone, which overlaps with the new Falklands fishing zone.

He said his country was not trying to provoke any incident that could cause Britain to complain of Argentine aggression. He ordered that the discharge of con-

scripts, scheduled for the end of October, should be suspended to keep the armed forces in a state of readiness.

President Alfonsín planned to order the creation of a special military committee to advise him on the affair, Mr Jaunarena said. The committee would consist of the president, Mr Jaunarena, the armed forces chief of staff and the heads of the army, navy and air force.

Fortress Falklands, page 17

Fortress Falklands expands

Fishing is a new source of tension in the South Atlantic, writes Isabel Hilton

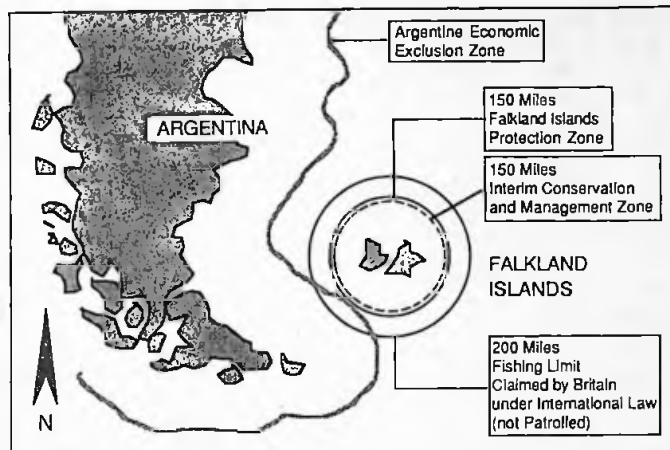
Sir Geoffrey Howe's announcement that Britain has established the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone and declaring the Falkland Islands' fishing limit at 200 miles burst like an exploding hand grenade in Buenos Aires. A flurry of meetings followed between President Alfonsín, his foreign and defence ministers and the chiefs of staff of the army, navy and airforce, followed by a full cabinet meeting to discuss the measure. All armed forces leave was cancelled and the armed forces were put on a state of alert.

This does not imply that Argentina contemplated a military response to the announcement. The official statements from Buenos Aires were couched in the tones of outraged diplomacy rather than military threat.

One commentator observed that the military aspect of the response was "playing to the gallery", but although President Alfonsín has renounced the use of force as a means of dealing with the Falklands dispute, he is engaged in a constant battle with his own military as he tries to reduce their domestic influence.

Yesterday that cause was set back by the creation of the Comité Militar (Military Committee), comprising the three service commanders and the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with the Minister of Defence, to advise the President in times of crisis. Their brief includes foreign policy and the committee was set to an accompanying chorus of complaint from senior military men that if President Alfonsín has not cut back the military budget they could have pre-empted or at least responded to the British move by low level harassment.

The argument may be unpalatable to President Alfonsín but to the nationalistic Argentines it offers the prospect of some national face saving and may force President Alfonsín to make some budget-



ary concessions to the military. As it is, President Alfonsín appears before his electorate impotent in the face of what is being received in Argentina as a major escalation of the British presence. While the British presence was largely military, the argument is running in Buenos Aires, and clearly in response to the misdeeds of the former military government, there was at least the prospect of a negotiated solution over time. Now, in the eyes of Argentine public opinion, the British are consolidating an economic interest in the islands, beginning with fish but with an eye on potential mineral wealth.

The Foreign Office strongly disagrees with the Argentine analysis. The measure was necessary, it is argued on the British side, to protect the fish stocks round the Falklands from the serious overfishing they have suffered in the last four years.

The case for protecting the fishing grounds is undeniable. The causes of the overfishing, however, are a combination of coincidence and the situation which arose in the aftermath of the Falklands War.

Until 1982, the British claimed fishing rights only over the three mile territorial waters round the islands. Argentina has long claimed a 200-mile fishing limit, patrolled by Argentine vessels, within which she administered a system of licensing for foreign vessels. Since Argentina claims the Falkland Islands, logically that 200-mile claim extends to waters around the islands.

But before the tensions of 1982, the question of fishing around the Falklands

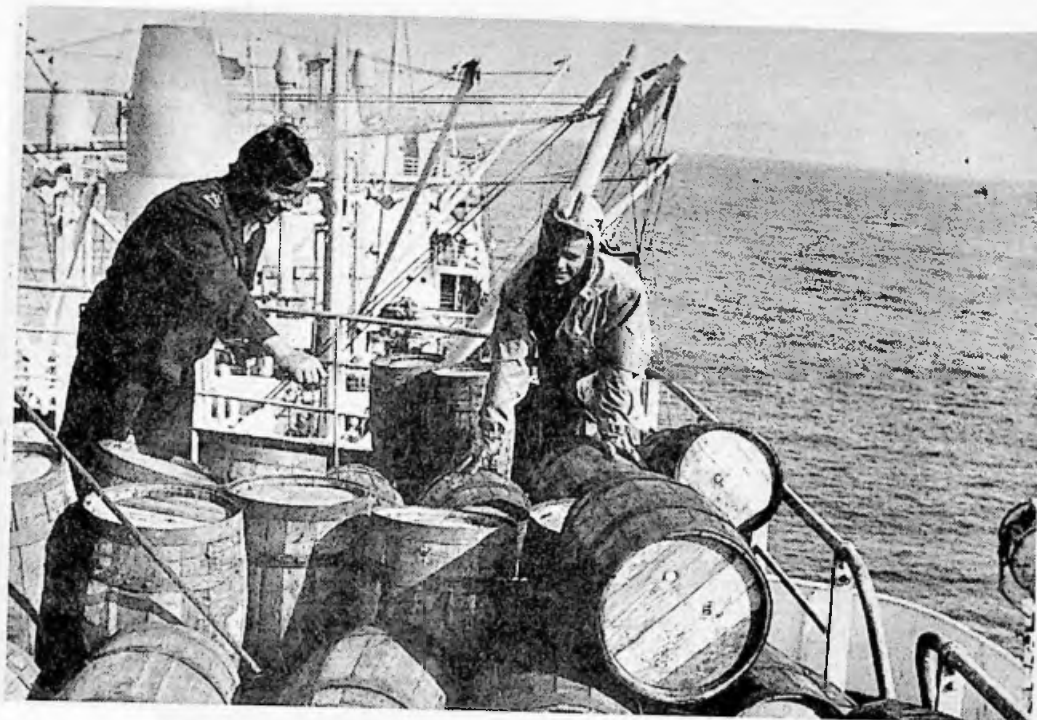
The new zone (dotted above) has put the Argentine armed forces on alert. Factory fleets: Russian fishermen (right) on board one of the many foreign vessels in the South Atlantic.

occupied little of anybody's time. Argentina policed the waters, but the fishing grounds had not attracted much international attention and such fishing as there was was largely for fin fish.

After the 1982 war, Argentine ships could no longer patrol within the British 150-mile Falkland Islands Protection Zone and, since the British did not exclude them, international fishing fleets began to exploit the pleasures of unlicensed fishing.

The unhappy coincidence of the discovery that those waters were rich in squid at a time when far eastern fleets were being squeezed out of squid fishing around New Zealand and looking for new grounds exacerbated the problem. Negotiations through the Food and Agriculture Organisation and British attempts to reach voluntary agreements were moving too slowly to be in effect before the fishing season starts in February.

British officials, who have been critical of the fishing treaty Argentina recently concluded with the Soviet Union, nevertheless made it clear on Wednesday that



the Russians had given assurances that the treaty concerned Argentine coastal waters and would not be used as a pressure point in Falklands waters. The treaty was an irritant, but not a decisive factor in the announcement.

British arguments over conservation have been received with little sympathy in Argentina where, with their own fishing industry on hard times, feeling is running high on what is perceived as the plundering of Argentine seas. The problem of overfishing is perceived in Argentina as a direct consequence of the British military presence which would vanish if a negotiated settlement could be reached over the fundamental problem of sovereignty.

This week's events have made that prospect even more distant. The force of domestic public opinion for both parties to the dispute has proved an insuperable obstacle to previous attempts at negotiation. Argentina has never been able to abandon her claim to sovereignty since it plays an almost mystical role in the concept of Argentine national identity. It plays no such role for the British who promised in 1967 that sovereignty was negotiable.

That admission prompted the formation of the Falkland Islands lobby, inspired by the Falkland Islands Company but rapidly attracting support from both Right and Left-wing backbenchers. In the ensuing parliamentary row, the then foreign secretary Michael Stewart first stated his government's position that it would cede sovereignty to Argentina if it decided that it was in the *interests* of the islanders to do so. A few days later, under pressure from the Falkland Islands lobby, Mr Stewart changed his terms to the islanders' *wishes*.

On that rock, further negotiations foundered, since the islanders resolutely wish to remain British and Argentina's continued offer to consider their interests receives little sympathy in Port Stanley. In view of the events of 1982, this is hardly surprising.

As long as the fundamental issue of sovereignty remains unresolved, such measures as this week's fishing declaration will be necessary. But with each such measure adopted the possibility of negotiations in a dispute which has cost Britain 255 lives and over £3.4 billion since 1982 recedes further.



Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin (right) and Mr Horacio Jaunarena, the Defence Minister, leaving a meeting with government and military officials in Buenos Aires after Britain's declaration of a fisheries exclusion zone

Alfonsin attacks 'provocation'

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsin sought support for Argentina in Latin America as his government came under nationalist pressure at home for action against Britain's planned fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

Government officials and newspapers complained that the British decision was a "deliberate provocation" and a manoeuvre to complicate efforts to get talks started on settling the Falklands dispute.

The Defence Minister, Mr Horacio Jaunarena said yesterday that the Government has suspended the discharge of armed forces conscripts and

will create a special military committee in response to Britain's expansion of fishing rights around the disputed islands.

Mr Jaunarena said that naval vessels remained under orders to patrol the country's 200-mile offshore zone, which overlaps with the new Falklands fishing zone.

In a rowdy debate in Congress, a leading member of his own Radical Party, Mr Federico Storani claimed that Britain reacted because Argentina's fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria meant "we stuck the finger where it belonged."

Mr Storani, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee in

the Lower House of Congress, said: "We are going to sink as many trawlers as necessary to exercise our sovereignty."

President Alfonsin meanwhile has spoken with several other heads of state in a bid to bolster international criticism of Britain's plan. A spokesman said he had talked on the telephone to the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, and Presidents Jose Sarney of Brazil, Jaime Lusinchi, of Venezuela, Julio Sanguinetti, of Uruguay and Alan Garcia of Peru — Argentina's closest ally during the Falklands war in 1982.

However, senior members of the Government tried to play down the prospect of renewed conflict in the South Atlantic.

Speaking after the meeting with President Alfonsin, the Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, warned that the British plan could provoke armed incidents between Argentina and Britain, but he added "although frankly I hope this does not happen."

Mr Jaunarena also cautioned that Britain's decision "creates tension in the area," but he insisted Argentina did not intend to be "dragged into" a dispute. He revealed that Argentinian coastguard vessels were not patrolling waters lying within both Argentina's 200 mile claim to maritime rights in the South Atlantic and Britain's 150 mile "exclusion zone" around the Falklands.

Moscow 'regrets' Falklands fishing zone

By Michael Simmons

The Soviet Union expressed regret yesterday about Britain's decision to establish a fisheries protection zone round the Falklands Islands, and said that it would make a negotiated settlement between Britain and Argentina more difficult.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry official spokesman, said in Moscow last night: "We regret that Britain has taken unilateral steps that are in contradiction with

the UN decision on the Malvine Islands question."

Even so, it became clear yesterday that the British decision to set up the 150-mile zone could still stand or fall on Soviet goodwill and the Russians' growing taste for fish.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, rejected the claim by Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, that British aircraft or seaborne forces could be brought into action against the Soviet fleet.

To Mr Healey's suggestion

that the risk of a new fish war could not be excluded, Sir Geoffrey replied: "I think that is not a very great probability."

However, the Soviet Union, as a party affected by the proposed protection zone, now has three months, along with its East European allies, to apply for the appropriate fishing licence or to withdraw its fleets.

But Argentina is the Soviet Union's biggest trading partner in the Third World, and

signed fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria only a few months ago. This move was seen in London as an Argentinian attempt to usurp British sovereignty over the islands and their waters.

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina was in Moscow earlier this month for talks with Soviet leaders which led to a joint communique calling for the closure of Britain's "major military base" on the Falklands.

Action threat

Senor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said that Argentina may take military action as a last resort against any ship fishing in the 200-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands.

Ignore Falkland zone, Argentina tells trawlers

By Cristina Bonasegna in Buenos Aires

FOREIGN trawlers fishing in the South Atlantic were urged yesterday by Argentina to ignore Britain's new 150 mile fishing limit round the Falkland Islands.

The Argentine navy is to continue to patrol within Argentina's own territorial limit, including areas which overlap the new Falklands zone.

Argentina also intends to launch a diplomatic offensive to tell international forums and friendly countries of "the seriousness" of Britain's moves, the foreign minister, Senor Caputo, said yesterday.

Britain was endangering peace in the South Atlantic, and the imposition of the limit was "aggression" towards his country, he told the nation's Senate.

Some politicians reacted by urging immediate sanctions against British interests in Argentina, including confiscation of assets and a halt in debt repayments to British banks.

As tension increased, Senor Frederico Storani, of the ruling Radical party and head of the foreign relations committee, said Britain was reacting to Argentina's recent fisheries agreement "with which we stuck our fingers where it belongs."

'Absurd' response

Although a defence ministry spokesman yesterday denied there was a military "alert," it confirmed reports that about 4,000 conscripts due for demobilization next month would be retained to keep armed forces in a state of readiness. About 40,000 Argentine conscripts are currently doing military service.

Earlier the defence minister, Senor Horacio Jaunarena, announced that a special committee would be set up to advise the president on military matters.

"Frankly, I would say it is absurd to say that Argentina's

response is war-like," said Senor Jaunarena.

He added that Argentina's defence position now was "absolutely superior" to that of 1982 when the former military régime invaded the Falklands.

"We hope that National will prevail. Argentina has a peaceful disposition and will not be dragged into a dispute," he said.

'Serious consequences'

In a statement the Argentine president, Senor Alfonsín, said: "Britain's decision will be the cause of very serious tensions and conflicts with yet unforeseen consequences that could affect even the interests of third countries."

Earlier this year Argentina signed two fishing agreements with Russia and Bulgaria, which implicitly covered the area around the Falklands.

The statement accused Britain of "obstructing" talks to solve the dispute over the islands, and warned that "the Argentine government will assert its legitimate rights in the area as well as international forums and will not accept the United Kingdom's arbitrary pretensions to exercise the power that concerns Argentina and take away area and resources that belong to its national patrimony."

Fish 'war' unlikely says Howe

By David Adamson
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE DANGER of a conflict with the Soviet Union over the new fishery control zone around the Falklands was played down yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

Critics of the plan have forseen the Royal Navy being called in to deal with Soviet and East European fishing vessels which defied orders to leave or obtain a licence from the Falklands Islands government.

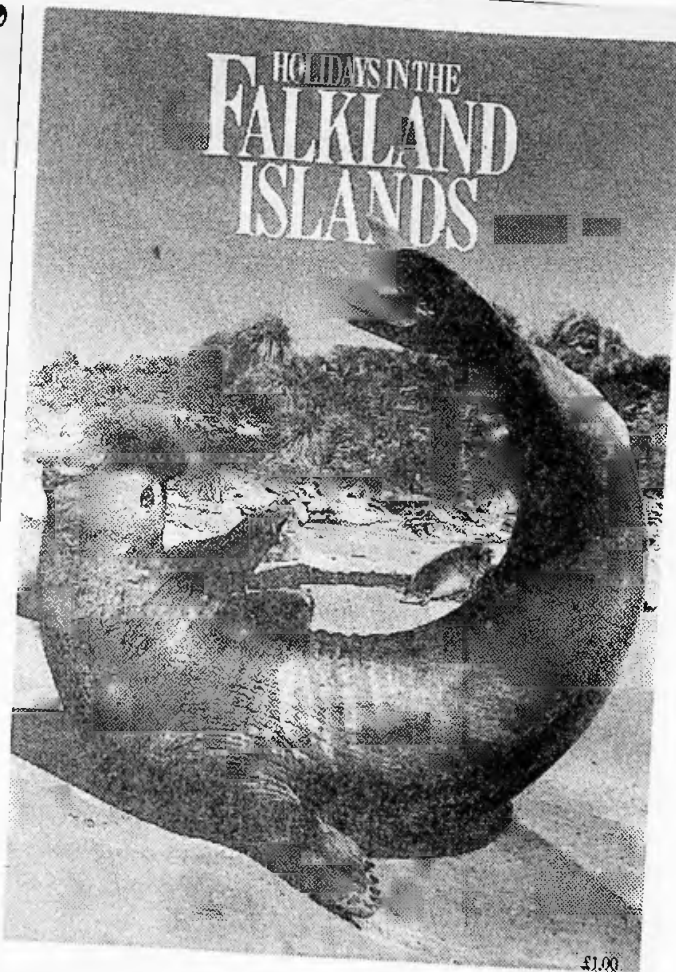
Sir Geoffrey said in a BBC radio interview that he did not think there was a "very great possibility" of a dispute with the Russians.

The creation of a licensing system for the 150-mile-wide zone will create problems for the Soviet and other foreign vessels as purchasing one could be construed as recognising British sovereignty, a matter which is disputed by Argentina.

Russia recently signed a fishing agreement with Argentina. Since then there have been assurances from the Kremlin that it does not prejudice British claims to the waters around the Falklands.

And with the Soviet Union anxious to improve relations with its European neighbours as it negotiates on disarmament agreements, it is unlikely that Moscow will look for a row with Britain in the South Atlantic.

Our Santiago correspondent writes: Chile has expressed concern at the number of Soviet fishing vessels active just outside its territorial waters. The Navy commander, Adml Jose Toribio Merino, said the presence of some 80 Soviet and Polish boats off its coast was "serious."



THE FALKLANDS' reborn tourist industry was officially launched yesterday with five tour operators, a range of off-beat holidays—and a glossy brochure with a front page picture of a bull elephant seal guarding his harem.

The operators hope to appeal to wildlife lovers, hardy ramblers and people interested in recent military history. Officials hope that within three years up to 500 tourists a year could be annually making the 8,000-mile, 18 hour journey to the Falklands, although only 100 are expected in the first year.

The omens for the new industry seem good, given the early bookings experience of Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours.

Its first, 10-day expedition to the islands is already sold out. The 16 holidaymakers, including a solicitor, a computer firm owner and an

accountant, are each paying £1,995 for the trip.

"None of them are relatives of soldiers who fought there during the war, or anything like that," said the firm's manager, Lt-Col Mike Martin. "I supposed patriotism comes into it, but bit different, isn't it, to be able to say at the golf club that you've seen the spot where Col Jones won his VC?"

Argentina halts army leave amid Falklands anger

NATIONALIST feelings in Argentina rose sharply yesterday in the wake of Britain's unilateral decision to extend its fishing rights around the Falkland Islands to 150 miles. The Cabinet was called into emergency session and all army leave has been cancelled.

The Cabinet denounced the British action as "politically and legally unacceptable" and warned that it would cause serious tension with "unforeseeable consequences which may also affect the interests of third countries."

This appeared to be a reference to the Soviet Union whose recent fishing agreement with Argentina could be jeopardised by the British move.

Beneath the inflamed public rhetoric however, Argentina's democratic government is trying to turn the British action to its own diplomatic advantage rather than risk a renewed military clash.

Government and opposition parties in the Argentinian Congress, which met for an emergency debate, unanimously condemned the measure, describing it as "an act of aggression against Argentina."

The Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, said, during the debate, that a British sovereignty claim over the maritime resources above and below the continental shelf around the islands was "a fundamental change" in the British position. He said the move "affirms the British decision not to come to a peaceful solution." In an emotional outburst during the debate, one member of the ruling Radical Party, Mr Federico Stroani, said: "We are going to sink as many trawlers as necessary in exercising our sovereign rights."

In general, however, the underlying emphasis both in the Congress and in the Argentinian Press has been on making renewed diplomatic efforts in international forums and through bilateral contacts to rally support to Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Cronista Comercial, a respected daily newspaper, quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying: "The mouse has fallen into the trap." It argued that nations that had previously remained neutral on the sovereignty dispute would now gravitate towards Argentina's claim as a result of the unilateral British measure.

The Soviet Union expressed regret yesterday at Britain's action and said it would only

hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution.

Diplomats said the initial Soviet reaction gave no indication whether Moscow would agree to ask Britain for licences for its fishing fleet, a move that would clearly upset Argentina.

The Argentine Minister of Defence, Mr Horacio Juanarena, said it would be absurd to think that Argentina's response would be bellicose.

Mr Juanarena claimed that Britain had not clarified whether its fisheries protection

No new instructions have been issued to Argentina's coastguard vessels about patrolling Argentina's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. But Mr Juanarena emphasised that in the area of overlap with Britain's 150-mile protection zone around the islands, Argentina patrols would extend only up to the edge of the zone. This did not change in any way Argentina's claim to its sovereign rights, but was intended to avoid any possible incidents with Britain which could aggravate the situation.

In recent weeks the Argentine Government, under pressure from the domestic fishing lobby has reinforced its fishing claims in the South Atlantic, using patrol boats to arrest "illegal" foreign ships. In one incident earlier this year, the Argentines sunk a Taiwanese trawler.



Dante Caputo: Britain no longer seeking solution

measures would be imposed immediately around the islands and said that further measures regarding a higher state of military alert might be taken in due course "depending on how the situation develops."

Argentina to patrol Falklands fish zone

From Eduardo Cue
Buenos Aires

Argentina will continue to patrol what it considers to be its territorial waters despite the new exclusion zone around the Falklands announced this week by Britain, Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said last night.

He emphasized that Argentina's ships would continue to patrol the area around the Falklands and would take military action against vessels which illegally entered the area if all other measures failed. But he categorically denied that Argentinian military forces had been put on alert.

He said that the British exclusion zone had taken effect immediately and that London was attempting to camouflage this by saying that the fishing regulations would take effect only on February 1.

War of words, page 7
Leading article, page 21



Señor Dante Caputo: Denied armed forces are on alert.

David Watt

Trawling for trouble

The British government's decision to enforce a fishing zone of 150 miles round the Falklands is, so far as I can see, another example of the Prime Minister's tendency to do things on the international scene mainly because the Foreign Office advises her not to. At any rate, she has overridden two substantial objections — in part, no doubt for the stated reason of wishing to conserve South Atlantic fish stocks but partly, without question, for the pleasure of putting the Argies in their place.

The first doubt is whether Britain can make its fiat stick. The patrol vessels and aircraft we now have at our disposal in the South Atlantic are probably insufficient to police the extended beat of water and even less adequate to take on the consequences of having to warn off and, if necessary, arrest members of the Soviet and Bulgarian fishing fleets. There is likely to be a serious choice between humiliation or reinforcement, the latter at an expense and risk absurdly disproportionate to the importance of the issue at stake.

The second, and more serious, objection, however, is that the gesture will set back the slow process by which Argentine public opinion is coming to a reasonable view of its relations with the outside world in general, and Britain in particular. It is not easy to be aware of this factor at 6,000 miles distance, but in Buenos Aires, where I was last week, it sticks out a mile.

It is three years since I was last in Argentina. At that time, not long after the Falklands war, the generals were still in power. A lot has changed since then. The British visitor finds democracy, embodied in President Alfonsín's government, very firmly and even sedately in control. The armed forces are at a low ebb in every way, their leading generals in jail or disgraced, their defence budget cut, their political influence about to be further curtailed by statute. The once-mighty Peronist Party is split and painfully ineffective in opposition. Until this week, the Falklands issue had been well below the political horizon for a long time.

This outward tranquility is a relief after the miserable turmoil of the fairly recent past, but it is probably deceptive. Argentina is still an uneasy country, fearful of its history, anxious about its future. The economy, especially, remains a pretty awful mess after its roller-coaster experiences under Alfonsín. Inflation, which soared up to an annual rate of 1,800 per cent at the end of his first year, had been brought down to a modest 36 per cent by this summer as a result of a savage stabilization programme imposed by the IMF, but it is now creeping up again towards 60 or 70 per cent.

The reasons are basically that the unions are still too powerful to be made to submit to serious incomes restraint for more than a very short time, and that a bloated

and hopelessly inefficient public sector is fed by the most powerful vested interests of society. To be fair, these problems are direct legacies from Peron, but because Alfonsín has not felt able to do more than tinker with them yet, they continue to undermine all efforts to solve the overseas debt crisis in the short term or modernize the economy in the long.

The nervous nationalism that spreads from this obvious fact is pervasive. It raises, for example, the question of how disgruntled an army starved of proper funds may become, and how quickly it might return to power if hyper-inflation takes hold again. It raises the question of whether Argentina can ever catch up with its old rival, Brazil. Above all, it raises the problem of relations with the United States. Reality proclaims that Argentina is desperately dependent on the US for its economic future, but national pride ordains that this can never be acknowledged.

This is a potentially explosive brew which Alfonsín is handling with considerable skill. In particular, he is combining a realistic move towards financial orthodoxy for the reassurance of the American banks with well publicized gestures of political non-alignment — a visit to Moscow, a trip to Havana — for the reassurance of his nationalists. He is obviously trying to cool things down and is playing for time in which to set his economic house in order.

The Falklands question is not only made more difficult by this perspective; it is itself a dangerous complication on Alfonsín's horizon since it raises the emotional temperature whenever it appears. So far as settling the issue is concerned, Alfonsín has obviously decided that there will be no serious negotiation — ie, discussion of the ultimate fate of the islands — while Mrs Thatcher is in Downing Street. Until she departs, therefore, there is no point in giving away anything that will draw attention to the issue and increase the general mischief potential of nationalists of right and left.

This calculation explains the apparently idiotic Argentine refusal to end the war formally or, for that matter, to enter multilateral negotiations on fisheries. In the longer term Alfonsín evidently hopes that a calm atmosphere will help settle the Falklands issue, and a Falklands settlement will reinforce the calm necessary for economic progress.

Mrs Thatcher might, of course, argue that the sovereignty of the Falklands ought to be forever non-negotiable and there is no reason why she should assist Alfonsín to solve any of his problems, long-term or short. But for anyone who believes that some eventual compromise is both desirable and possible, Alfonsín's problems merit consideration; the fact that the latest twist in the fisheries dispute will make them worse deserves more attention than it has had.

Muted reaction to Falklands fishing zone

Argentina sticks to war of words



President Alfonsín right, and the Defence Minister, Señor Horacio Jaunarena, leave a surprise cabinet meeting yesterday.

From Eduardo Cue
Buenos Aires

Argentina yesterday cancelled early discharges for all conscripts in the armed services and created a top-level military committee in response to Britain's decision to establish a 200-mile fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands.

Señor Horacio Jaunarena, the Defence Minister, refused to say how many conscripts could be kept in uniform. In recent years Argentinian conscripts have been released before the end of their one-year tour of duty for budgetary reasons. There are about 35,000 conscripts in all three services.

Official reaction to the British move has been relatively mild in view of the strong emotions the Falklands issue raises here. President Alfonsín cancelled a planned television address to the nation on Wednesday night, apparently having been convinced by a number of Cabinet members that it would be best not to dramatize the issue. The Government contented itself with the release of a long communiqué calling the British decision "juridically and politically unacceptable".

Señor Jaunarena said the coastguard had not received new instructions and added: "Frankly, I think it's ridiculous to say that the response on the part of Argentina is warlike." Buenos Aires did not want to be "dragged into a conflict" over the matter.

Reflecting a widespread view here, Señor Jaunarena indicated that Britain's move may have been in part dictated by internal British politics, reflecting that Mrs Margaret Thatcher will soon have to seek re-election.

Señor Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, yesterday morning called in the ambassadors of the countries that fish in the South Atlantic to say that Argentinian policy on the issue was unchanged. Argentina has signed bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, allowing them to fish in the disputed waters.

The National Defence Committee created on Wednesday was to have been established anyway under a law now before Congress. Its role is to discuss military response in times of crises.

Leading article, page 21

Britain's action condemned

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday condemned Britain's decision to impose the fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, claiming that it was in direct breach of United Nations resolutions covering international conduct in the South Atlantic.

The first Soviet reaction had been keenly awaited in Whitehall, which appears to have taken a calculated gamble on Soviet goodwill, following hints in London earlier this year from Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that Moscow would not cause trouble in the region.

Questioned by *The Times* at a press conference here Mr Gen-nady Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, said: "It is deplorable that the British side has taken unilateral steps running counter to the UN decision on those islands."

British officials noted with some relief the careful wording of the Soviet response.

Fishing in troubled Falklands waters

ARGENTINA has reacted with predictable fury to the establishment of a 150-mile fishing exclusion zone around the Falklands. At a practical level, the decision excludes Argentine trawlers from most of the best fishing grounds in the Southern Atlantic. At a symbolic level it rams home to a defeated nation the fact that it was, indeed, defeated and that the Falklands remain the Falklands.

President Alfonsín denounced the unilateral British move as "a new act of provocation" and Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Mr George Foulkes, joined the chorus in the Commons.

"It was," he said, "an extremely provocative decision." He raised the alarmist spectre of a clash between British and Soviet ships in the area — a prospect made possible only by the arrival of fleets of Soviet, Bulgarian and Polish factory ships off the Falklands.

In as much as the British decision provoked, it was, by definition, provocative. But it was essentially defensive and reactive. The South Atlantic is being systematically over-fished. That is not in question. Over-fishing is not in the long-term interest of Argentina, of the Falklands or of any other state in the region. Britain has indicated its willingness to come to terms with Argentina, as part of any multilateral deal negotiated through the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Argentina preferred to sign bi-lateral deals with the Soviet Union and with Bulgaria, giving them "rights" to fish in disputed waters which Britain claims and which it *de facto* administers.

This cannot have come

about by accident. President Alfonsín is a cool, calculating and intelligent fellow. He is no drunken, jingoistic General Galtieri.

To invite the Soviet block into these disputed waters is, quite calculatedly, to up the international ante in an effort to increase pressure upon Great Britain to come to terms. (The United States, in particular, is determined to keep the Russians out of the region and to keep Argentina out of the sticky embrace of the Soviet block.) Whatever his reasons, and they must be as much commercial as diplomatic, President Alfonsín is responsible for the increase in tension of recent days.

There is a degree of gamble about the whole exercise. Not the gamble exploited by Labour of an unintended and uncontrolled naval conflict with the Soviet Union. The Russians are not that silly and neither are the British. Not even a gamble about naval conflict with Argentina. The Argentine Navy keeps its distance. The gamble, strictly on the British side, is whether the Royal Navy and the RAF are in any position properly to police the new zone. (There have been difficulties in enforcing the existing, much narrower, defence zone.) To declare an exclusion zone we cannot enforce, is to undermine British credibility quite gratuitously. The only cause for optimism is that, once the ritual denunciations have died away, Argentina will accept that it has, pragmatically, issue by issue, to come to terms with Great Britain. And that fishing rights is a good topic to start upon. The Government was right not to throw in its hand in advance.

FISHING RIGHTS — AND WRONGS

The need to deter over-fishing in the waters around the Falkland Islands has annually become more pressing. While 250 boats trawled there in 1984, the total had risen to 450 in 1985 and to 600 so far this year.

Falklanders have long argued the case for a fisheries exclusion zone, controlled from Port Stanley by a licensing arrangement. They would thus earn a living from their surrounding waters without the inconvenience of having to put to sea themselves. Until now this has been opposed by the British government on the grounds that it would be difficult and expensive to police and would thus impose an unpopular burden on the British taxpayer.

Its preferred option has been a multilateral arrangement under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Signatories would have a vested interest in policing the zone themselves and ensuring that catch quotas were observed. The FAO has been compiling a report with this end in view, and even Argentina seemed at one time to be in favour.

But the task has taken much longer than expected and the FAO study has repeatedly missed its deadlines. While concern has grown over the fish stocks, everyone has blamed everyone else — the Argentines complaining that

the continuing British 150-mile protection zone around the islands has prevented their own gunboats from policing the waters themselves.

This might be just as well because one of their gunboats actually sank a Taiwanese trawler in Argentine waters last summer. The Buenos Aires government has, moreover, taken matters into its own hands by signing bilateral fishing treaties with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria — which have impinged on the territorial waters round the Falklands. With no multilateral treaty in sight and the Argentines doing their own thing, British policy has changed and a fisheries exclusion zone has been declared.

It is less than ideal because, for one thing, it helps to perpetuate the ill-feeling between Britain and Argentina. In that sense it might be hoped that the new regime, which comes into force next February 1, will be an interim arrangement until the FAO has had been able to work out an agreed long-term solution.

This depends, however, upon how successfully the islanders can run things. The difference between this arrangement and previous proposals is that the zone will be administered and patrolled by the Falklands government itself, which will pay for chartering two patrol vessels and a surveillance aircraft out

of the revenue from licences. The job should be less onerous than was at first thought because studies have shown that the fish concentrate in certain areas — obviating the need for gunboats to sail endlessly round the entire zone. The existing Royal Navy and RAF presence also means that the civil patrol craft would not be entirely unsupported.

Falklanders hope that the revenue from licences will more than meet the costs. Not only that, but a properly administered system of controls should guarantee the future of the local fishing industry, thereby encouraging the growth of profitable on-shore services to maintain and supply visiting boats. If in six months' time the system is working well, the Falklanders themselves would be reluctant to surrender control to some international body.

Such considerations lie ahead, however. For the time being, it looks as if the Government has acted correctly in acting unilaterally. It should prevent the further erosion of fish stocks and if the islands' economy can be made to prosper, it will be a considerable bonus. The disadvantage lies in the further damage it does to Anglo-Argentine relations. But at least to some extent, the Argentines have only themselves to blame.

Argentina halts army leave amid Falklands anger

NATIONALIST feelings in Argentina rose sharply yesterday in the wake of Britain's unilateral decision to extend its fishing rights around the Falkland Islands to 150 miles. The Cabinet was called into emergency session and all army leave has been cancelled.

The Cabinet denounced the British action as "politically and legally unacceptable" and warned that it would cause serious tension with "unforeseeable consequences which may also affect the interests of third countries."

This appeared to be a reference to the Soviet Union whose recent fishing agreement with Argentina could be jeopardised by the British move.

Beneath the inflamed public rhetoric however, Argentina's democratic government is trying to turn the British action to its own diplomatic advantage rather than risk a renewed military clash.

Government and opposition parties in the Argentinian Congress, which met for an emergency debate, unanimously condemned the measure, describing it as "an act of aggression against Argentina."

The Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, said, during the debate, that a British sovereignty claim over the maritime resources above and below the continental shelf around the islands was "a fundamental change" in the British position. He said the move "affirms the British decision not to come to a peaceful solution."

In an emotional outburst during the debate, one member of the ruling Radical Party, Mr Federico Stroani, said: "We are going to sink as many trawlers as necessary in exercising our sovereign rights."

In general, however, the underlying emphasis both in the Congress and in the Argentinian Press has been on making renewed diplomatic efforts in international forums and through bilateral contacts to rally support to Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Cronista Comercial, a respected daily newspaper, quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying: "The mouse has fallen into the trap." It argued that nations that had previously remained neutral on the sovereignty dispute would now gravitate towards Argentina's claim as a result of the unilateral British measure.

The Soviet Union expressed regret yesterday at Britain's action and said it would only

hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution.

Diplomats said the initial Soviet reaction gave no indication whether Moscow would agree to ask Britain for licences for its fishing fleet, a move that would clearly upset Argentina.

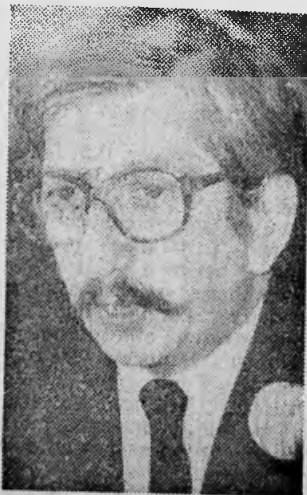
The Argentine Minister of Defence, Mr Horacio Juanarena, said it would be absurd to think that Argentina's response would be bellicose.

Mr Juanarena claimed that Britain had not clarified whether its fisheries protection

measures would be imposed immediately around the islands and said that further measures regarding a higher state of military alert might be taken in due course "depending on how the situation develops."

No new instructions have been issued to Argentina's coastguard vessels about patrolling Argentina's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. But Mr Juanarena emphasised that in the area of overlap with Britain's 150-mile protection zone around the islands, Argentina patrols would extend only up to the edge of the zone. This did not change in any way Argentina's claim to its sovereign rights, but was intended to avoid any possible incidents with Britain which could aggravate the situation.

In recent weeks the Argentine Government, under pressure from the domestic fishing lobby has reinforced its fishing claims in the South Atlantic, using patrol boats to arrest "illegal" foreign ships. In one incident earlier this year, the Argentines sunk a Taiwanese trawler.



Dante Caputo: Britain no longer seeking solution

MOVING 17

Daily Mail
31.10.86

PASSENGERS 10.2

MILION LB

Editorial

BAGGAGE WITH 12,000

AIRCRAFT

MOVEMENTS IN A YEAR

MAVES

Timely protection

ALREADY there are suggestions from Labour spokesmen that by creating a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands the Government is being provocative.

In fact the Foreign Office has long been seeking an agreed arrangement with all the nations concerned, including Argentina, to prevent the ecological disaster which will inevitably occur if the overfishing of this area continues.

In the end its hand was forced by the Argentines who in July signed an agreement with the Russians and Bulgarians giving them fishing rights around the Falklands.

To ignore this would be tantamount to tacitly recognising Argentine sovereignty over the islands.

Of course we must continue to seek for a peaceful settlement of our dispute with Argentina but all past experience shows that appeasement will not further that aim.

BRIZE

**MOVING 175,000 PASSENGERS, 10.2
MILLION LBS OF BAGGAGE WITH 12,000
AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS IN A YEAR
MAKES FOR A . . .**

BUZZING BRIZE

BRIZE NORTON IS like a huge beehive. It's buzzing with activity morning, noon and night and is never still.

Whatever the hour there is always something in the air and the key to it all is teamwork.

Visitors get an inkling that it isn't going to be sleepy hollow as they approach through the quiet Oxfordshire countryside. Far in the distance are huge VC10s and Tristars waiting on runways hungry for the take-off. It has an atmosphere of importance and vitality.

Once through the gates you wing into what must surely be one of Britain's busiest RAF stations. After two days at the base I was convinced of this. There was so much to see that I was only able to pay flying visits to sections closely involved in the station's dual role of transport and air-to-air refuelling.

First stop, though, was a quick chat with Brize's Station Commander, Gp Capt Peter Beer, who gave me a brief rundown on the set up at the station. I quickly gained the impression that a busy schedule was essential if I was to stand a chance of taking in a reasonable amount.

Gp Capt. Beer is "king bee" at a station which is one of the top five in the country as far as personnel numbers are concerned. He has more than

4,000 airmen and women working away each day to make sure the station fulfils its duties.

In his own words it is a "very interesting and busy place" and the demands of running such a big station keep him on his toes. He's a man with a hectic daily schedule.

Mind you, he has excellent support. The standard ops, engineering and admin wings of the station run smoothly despite the hectic pressure of work loaded on them.

Since 1967 there has been a steady build up of personnel and facilities at the station to make it the principal strategic transport terminal for the RAF and, as a result, aeroplanes are constantly taking off for foreign destinations.

There are several squadrons based at the station and my first "stop-over" was to No 10 Squadron where I spoke to Wg Cdr Len Marshall about its role in the life of the station.

The squadron reformed at Brize Norton in 1966 when VC10s were introduced into service and early tasks involved the movement of military personnel and their families between the UK and Far East, but since then it has developed a true world-wide and multi-role capacity.

The squadron's work still involves mounting regular passenger-carrying flights to destinations in the Far East,

Mediterranean and America, but the majority of tasks are now in support of overseas exercises involving all three services.

It also has the responsibility of flying VIPs all over the world. Recent VIP flights included taking the Prince and Princess of Wales to Japan and taking the Queen on holiday.

Wg Cdr Marshall said that high standards were demanded and to reach them team work and trust were vital ingredients.

MAGNITUDE

Down at the Air Movement HQ Acting Senior Air Movement Officer, Flt. Lt. Mark Blackburn gave me an idea of the sheer magnitude of Brize's transport role.

He said that, last year, air movements handled 12,000 aircraft movements, shifted 14.2 million pounds-worth of freight, 175,000 passengers, and 10.2 million pounds of baggage. Phew!

In the station's Operation Room Sqn Ldr Chris Sierwald said that I was sitting in the "nerve centre" of the station. Here plane movements are controlled and a huge movements board on one wall testified to the fact that Brize Norton is a busy station.

Brize is unique in that it has its own purpose-built "transit facility" on site. Gateway House looks inside and out like a multi-starred hotel. It's a fascinating place.

It's here that servicemen and their families, military units, top civil servants and government representatives stay when they are waiting for planes to take off to foreign parts.

GATEWAY

There are 350 beds on four floors and the accommodation includes a corridor filled with rooms which are reserved for VIPs. Gateway normally deals with 62,000 passengers a year and its average bed occupancy per night is 170.

In a year the kitchens produce 100,000 ground meals and 220,000 air meals. Quick hot meals are often demanded

at short notice. some 360 of them can be produced in half-and-hour.

As far as the station's three messes go, the Gateway kitchens produce 1.5 million meals a year for hungry servicemen, too.

Back in the air, another unit with an important role to play is 216 Squadron. As well as a transport commitment another key function is as a tanker squadron, and its most important work is supporting the Air Force in the South Atlantic.

Following the Falklands War, the Ministry of Defence decided to form a squadron of strategic tanker aircraft to supplement the RAF's existing fleet. The aircraft chosen was the Tristar and six of the 500 variant were bought from British Airways. When fully equipped, 216 Squadron will have nine Tristar aircraft which will be capable of carrying out strategic air-to-air re-fuelling and world-wide transport duties. It is apt that 216 Squadron should have responsibility for the dual-role Tristar as its motto is "bearing gifts."

RE-FUELLING

At 101 Squadron the main task is air-to-air re-fuelling and its main role is to support the UK Nato forces. the squadron uses VC10 tankers to do its work. The K2 type can hold 167,000 pounds of fuel while the K3's fuel capacity is 81,000.

Next stop — diving into the twilight world of Brize Radar to be completely transfixed by those fascinating screens with blobs on.

Once again, Brize is something special, because it not only deals with "local" air traffic, but also has a wider area responsibility which takes in an 80 mile radius around the station. It answers to both Headquarters Strike Command (HQ STC) and Headquarters Military Air Traffic Operations (HQ MATO) to provide air traffic control services.

Brize Norton is in the middle of the Oxford "Area of Intense Air Activity" which is arguably

the most congested piece of airspace in the UK, but up-to-the-minute equipment and systems including Secondary Surveillance Radar and Electronic Data Display enable the 70 personnel working in the purple haze of the radar control room to cope.

TRAFFIC

Sqn Ldr Robin Cowell (OC A Flight) said: "We are the third biggest radar traffic unit in the RAF and there is a high female content to the staff; some 25 per cent are women. I think this is because air traffic controlling is the closest women can get to flying without actually doing it and they are very good at the job."

He went on: "The airspace around Brize Norton gets more and more crowded and it is vital that we keep up to date with new technology and equipment. While we have wide-bodied jets flying about we also have to keep an eye open for gliders and that sort of thing. The work is very demanding."

At the engineering squadron's base hangar I was able to come nose-to-nose with some of those huge aeroplanes which are the "worker bees" of the station.

This is where deep servicing of the hard-working planes takes place. They stand in line, giant masters of the air, being overhauled so that they can continue to operate in peak condition.

The hangar covers over five acres of ground, is 215 feet wide and 90 feet high. Some 280 personnel work in the hangar and an interesting statistic reveals that they consume 10,400 cups of tea or coffee a year and 4,000 Mars bars.

All that energy is needed because the VC10s they keep up to scratch have a deep 70 day service every four years.

There's a smaller service every two years and a minor one-week service done every year.

At the Line Service Squadron Sqn Ldr Trevor Kirby explained that some 330 staff prepare Brize's aircraft for flying on a daily basis. There is staff on duty 24 hours a day doing 12 hour shifts and their work ranges from topping the planes up with oil to role-changing the aircraft, sometimes at short notice.

Even at night Brize keeps going and its then that the station's two auxiliary units burst into life.

Members of No 4624 Movements Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, pride themselves on their fitness and they need it as the squadron is often globe-trotting around the world.

The other unit, No 2624 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment, has 150 personnel and is responsible for the ground defence of Brize in wartime.

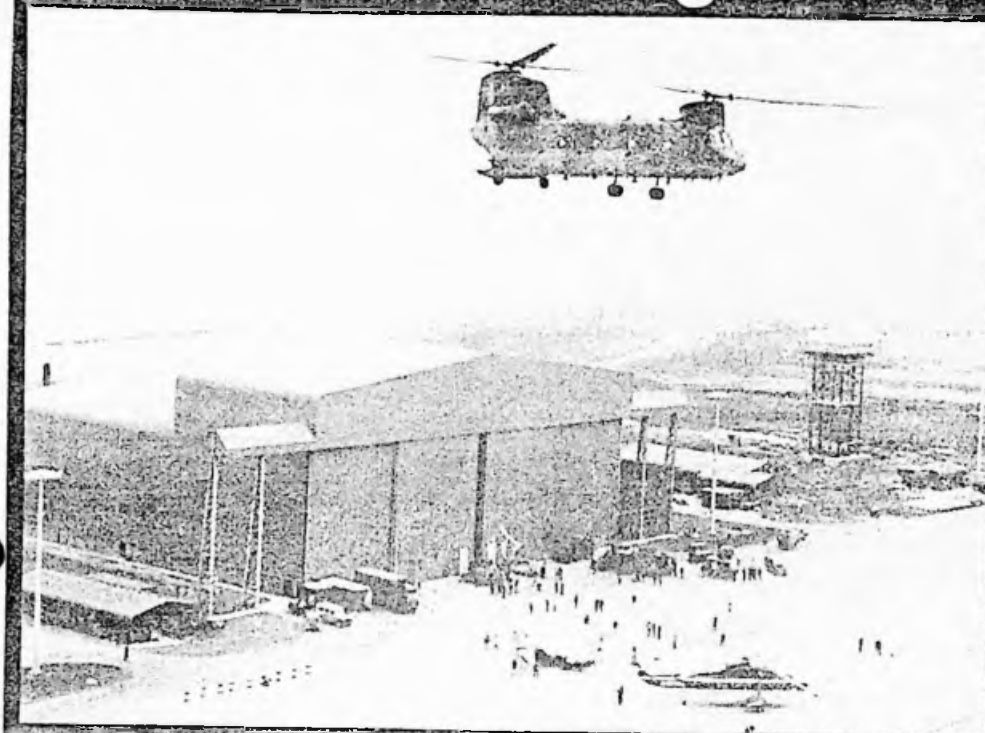
After a two day sortie, flying from unit to unit at Brize, it was time to come in and land. There was still more to see, including No 1 Parachute Training School, but I was forced to buzz off too keep an appointment at another RAF station.

Mount Pleasant goes on show for the first time

MOUNT PLEASANT held its first "At Home" day recently when Islanders and Servicemen and women were able to visit the Station and see what went on there.

In a typically strong Falkland's wind the outside action included a demonstration by Chinook helicopters of 78 Sqn and a mock rescue by troops from No. 1 King's Regiment.

On static display in the Tristar hangar were exhibits from most of the Units on the St. examples which serve in the theatre, Phantom, Sea King and Chinook as well as a Bristol's S61 helicopter.



Sad Father visits FI

SAD FACES at the graveside of a young Argentinian fighter pilot whose body was recently found four years after the Falklands conflict ended. Senor Isaias Gimenez visited the Falklands Islands to bury his son and was accompanied by his daughter who shared his grief. In the background is an RAF Chinook helicopter.



Argentine agriculture minister resigns

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Mr Lucio Reca, resigned on Christmas Eve, along with all his close aides and heads of departments in the Ministry.

The heads of the National Grain Board and the National Meat Board have also offered their resignations.

Mr Reca is to be replaced by a political appointee, Mr Ernesto Figueras, at present head of the Agriculture and Livestock Commission in the Argentinian Congress.

The development is thought to be due to a forthcoming abrupt change in the Government's agriculture policy aimed at winning rural support for the Government in the crucial mid-term elections in 1987.

The Government's economic policy over the past three years has drawn sharp criticism from the agricultural sector.

In the mid-term elections next year, the important governorships of the country's 23 provinces and half the 254 seats in the Chamber of Deputies will be contested.

Argentine bill storm erupts

AN Argentinian Government-sponsored bill to end trials of military and police officials accused of human rights abuses during the 1976-83 military regime, was finally approved by congress only hours before the Christmas recess, Tim Coone reports.

The Bill took ten days to pass both Houses, a record for any piece of legislation in the three years of President Raul Alfonsin's Government.

The new law places a 60-day limit to begin trial proceedings against an estimated 900 police and military officials. This means that only a small number of cases will be brought before the courts. Party members have called for an explanation.

In neighbouring Uruguay, controversy continues over legislative approval this week of a total amnesty for all military and police officials accused of similar charges during the 1973-85 military Government there. A recent opinion poll showed 70 per cent of Uruguay's population against the amnesty.

'You won,' Thatcher tells Falklands

By James Naughtie,
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister told the Falkland Islanders last night that they had won the argument at the United Nations last month, despite the 116-4 vote in favour of the islands' sovereignty being included in negotiations with Argentina.

In her Christmas message to the islanders Mrs Thatcher said: "You have my promise that Britain will stand fast in support of your right to decide your own future, even though other governments at the United Nations choose to apply

that fundamental principle in a very selective way. We shall not negotiate about sovereignty."

Mrs Thatcher said Britain would have preferred to work through UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation to manage the South Atlantic fisheries but she strongly defended the decision to establish a 150-mile fishing limit around the Falklands as evidence of Britain's determination to stand up for the islanders' interests.

Ignoring the scale of the defeat at the UN — when only Belize, Sri Lanka and Oman

voted with Britain — Mrs Thatcher told the islanders that the members of their executive council had done them proud.

She said: "They won the argument, if not the vote."

Mrs Thatcher starts her Christmas holiday at Chequers today — among guests for lunch tomorrow are Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Conservative Party chairman, and his wife Anne, and Sir Gordon Reece, the Prime Minister's former media and public relations adviser.

Falkland talks are ruled out says Thatcher

The Prime Minister last night again ruled out talks with Argentina on the Falkland Islands, despite the growing clamour within the United Nations for negotiations.

In a Christmas message to islanders, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said: "You have my promise that Britain will stand fast in support of your right to decide your own future, even though other governments at the United Nations choose to apply that fundamental principle in a very selective way. We shall not negotiate about sovereignty."

Mrs Thatcher defended the planned fishery conservation zone and said: "When we sent the task force in 1982 it was to protect your land and your democratic rights and I cannot stress too much how deeply we feel about this".

Falkland pledge

Margaret Thatcher again ruled out talks with Argentina on the sovereignty of the Falklands in her Christmas broadcast to the islanders. She said: "You have my promise that Britain will stand fast in support of your right to decide your future ... We shall not negotiate about sovereignty."

Thatcher pledge on Falklands

By Our Political Staff

The Prime Minister gave a personal pledge yesterday that Britain would "stand fast" in defending the Falkland islanders' rights to decide whether they should remain British.

In her now traditional Christmas radio broadcast to the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher said she could not "stress too much" how deeply the Government was committed to maintaining its inhabitants' democratic rights. "We shall not negotiate about sovereignty," she said.

Argentine Bill limits trials over human rights violations

By Cristina Bonasegna in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S senate has passed a controversial Government Bill to limit trials of the military accused of human rights violation under the former regime. The bill known as the "punto final", or full stop, was approved by 25 votes to 10 on Monday night after an eight-hour debate.

Last Friday nearly 40,000 people demonstrated against the Bill and recent opinion polls show 70 per cent of the population oppose the move.

The Bill was scheduled to be debated yesterday in the lower house where the ruling Radical party has a majority.

Voting on the Bill, put forward to "prevent a kind of never-ending suspicion from looming over the armed forces and security members", is seen here as an exercise in party discipline.

Bowing to pressure

Party leaders have worked to snuff out opposition among President Raul Alfonsin's own supporters in congress since he announced the Bill on Dec 5.

Human rights campaigners claim Senor Alfonsin has bowed to pressure from the military to put an end to the human rights trials he himself ordered soon after taking over from the military regime in December, 1983.

As the senate debated the Bill, former victims of the regime demonstrated in front of Congress. Some of them set up replicas of the cells where they were held after the 1976 coup d'etat.

'Dirty War' amnesty backed

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

THE Argentine Senate approved a controversial bill late on Monday night to limit further trials of military and police officials accused of human rights abuses during the military dictatorship of 1976 to 1983.

The bill, which still requires approval from the lower house Chamber of Deputies, obliges the courts, whether civil or military, to begin any new judicial proceedings against the accused within 60 days. Otherwise, all charges against them will be dropped and they will be absolved of criminal liability.

There are thought to be as many as 900 cases pending against military and police personnel, based on accusations and statements made before military tribunals by former detainees and families or friends of missing people.

There are almost 9,000 registered cases of missing people who disappeared during the "dirty war" of the 1970s after being kidnapped by paramilitary squads.

The bill signifies that only those cases in which there is compelling evidence against the accused will now be taken up by the civilian courts, given the time limit and the difficulties of beginning proceedings in an already overloaded judicial system. The military courts are not expected to pursue any of the accusations.

The lower house Chamber of Deputies was due to begin debating the bill yesterday and, if major amendments are introduced, although not expected, the bill may not be approved until the middle of January.

Amnesty in sight for Argentine army crimes

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

IN THE MIDST of tight security, 25 Argentine senators gave President Raúl Alfonsín's controversial "full stop" bill its most crucial approval on Monday night.

The Chamber of Deputies, where the governing Radicals have a majority, was expected to pass the restricted amnesty bill into law last night.

A group of demonstrators from the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, representing the relatives of people who have disappeared, were ejected from the congress for distributing pamphlets and shouting slogans against the bill.

Monday's vote occurred with little public reaction, in contrast to neighbouring Uruguay, where senate approval of similar legislation was accompanied by violent clashes between protesters and police. The measure, presented by President Julio Sanguinetti, was passed hours before the first scheduled court appearance of a military officer on torture charges.

Some 5,000 people were jailed during the 12 years of military dictatorship in Uruguay, which ended last year when Mr Sanguinetti took office. More than 150 people disappeared, 11 of them children.

Angry crowds demonstrated outside congress and outside the homes of two military officers as the debate went on throughout the night. There were 13 policemen and one senator among those reported injured.

In Argentina, where the government cited "reasons of state" as justification for presenting the amnesty bill, the governing party won the senate vote with support from several independent provincial party representatives. The main opposition Peronist senators split, two voting in favour and eight against, while nine members of the Peronist Renovator faction boycotted the session.

President Alfonsín's original bill was amended by congress to include civilians facing human rights charges. In the most important of those cases the former economics minister, José Martínez de Hoz, faces charges.

The law will set a deadline of 60 days for filing charges of human rights violations committed before 10 December 1983, the day President Alfonsín took office. The amplification of the deal also extends its benefits to the opposing forces of the so-called dirty war — guerrillas and their sympathisers.

Since the democratically elected government came to power, nine of Argentina's former military rulers have been brought to trial. Five were convicted, of whom two were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Earlier this month two former police chiefs of Buenos Aires province and three subordinate officers were convicted, but a kidnapping charge against one of Argentina's most notorious torturers, Capt Alfredo Astiz, was dismissed when the court ruled that the statute of limitations applied. More than 1,600 other cases are pending, but only a handful are likely to escape the time limit axe.

The limit will not apply to cases of disappeared children or accused military officers who are currently fugitives.

As the senate debate took place, members of the Association of Former Missing Persons and Detainees simulated their experiences in makeshift cells outside the congress building. Under a banner that said: "The full stop means returning to this", blindfolded and manacled ex-prisoners sought to remind entering legislators of Argentina's estimated 9,000 disappeared persons.

The controversial bill has been heavily criticised from within President Alfonsín's Radical party, sections of which fear that the new law will cost the party votes in next year's provincial elections. President Alfonsín has described the measure as a necessary step towards "turning a page in the nation's history" and uniting the military establishment with the rest of the country.

Argentina's failure of conscience

THE BILL before the Argentine congress — the "punto final" does President Alfonsín little credit. It will bring to an untimely end attempts to bring to justice the military men who tortured and murdered thousands of civilians under the last military dictatorship.

President Alfonsín's justification is uncharacteristically specious. Democracy is so strong now in Argentina, he has argued, that the nation can afford to bury the past and work for reconciliation. The truth is he has lost a rare and important chance to establish once and for all the predominance of democratic, civil virtues over military values; the power of justice over the power of the gun.

President Alfonsín came to power on a strong moral platform. He enjoyed enormous public support and a clear mandate to deal with the discredited and defeated armed forces. Of all Latin America's new democratic presidents he had both the most cause and the most opportunity to make the torturers answer for their crimes.

But he failed to take his own advice — that an Argentine president must act fast and decisively for he is at his strongest on his first day in power. Instead of decision, he drifted into con-

frontation with the armed forces and reacted in panic.

The human rights organisations argued for a kind of Nuremberg tribunal. The president, instead, chose the weakest option: he invited the armed forces to prosecute their own officers for crimes which many of the military still do not recognise as such.

Predictably, nothing happened. Then, instead of opting firmly for the civilian courts and backing them to the hilt, President Alfonsín let them flounder. He did nothing when the military men flouted the courts, but when the judges began to show some teeth — and the armed forces protested — the president caved in.

President Alfonsín has reason to be wary of the armed forces, but this was not the moment to give in. There would have been no coup. The future of Argentine democracy demands that military attitudes be fundamentally changed, that civic society learns to trust its own strength and that of its elected politicians.

By betraying his promise, he has reinforced the cynicism, the scepticism and the lack of civic culture in Argentina — more damaging in the long run than an immediate political crisis which he had the backing to overcome.

Argentina set to end 'dirty war' prosecutions

By Our Buenos Aires
Correspondent

A BILL to put an end to further trials of military and police officers charged with human rights abuses in Argentina was expected to be passed in the country's Senate yesterday.

The bill, popularly known as the Punto Final, is being presented by the ruling Radical Party under the insistence of President Raul Alfonsin, who wishes to see a rapid reconciliation of the armed forces with the Government and civilians.

Critics of the bill, which will still have to pass through the lower house Chamber of Deputies, allege that President Alfonsin has gone back on election pledges in 1983 to bring to justice all those responsible for human rights violations during the military dictatorship of 1976 to 1983.

So far a dozen top military leaders and police officials have been sentenced to long prison terms under the civilian government, for their responsibility in the conduct of the "dirty war" in the 1970s which claimed the lives of at least 9,000 people who "disappeared" after being kidnapped by paramilitary squads.

Human rights organisations have insisted that the trials should continue down the chain of command.

Rumours have been circulating that top military leaders have threatened to resign en masse if the Punto Final bill is not approved.

Opposition political leaders from Paraguay told the Financial Times that Paraguayan military leaders had been involved in supporting a proposed coup by dissident Argentinian military officers against President Alfonsin until July this year when it became apparent that the radical party was to insist on an end to the trials.

President Alfonsin has not satisfied critics who claim he is acting under military pressure, by attempting to rush the bill through.

Headlong rush to 'final point'

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

The Argentine Senate today considers President Alfonsín's "Final Point" bill to halt investigation of human rights crimes under the former military regime.

Officials expect the proposal to be passed within hours after last-minute concessions by the ruling Radical Party to the opposition, which is capable of out-voting the Government in the Senate.

The bill will then go to the Lower House, where the Radicals hold an absolute majority. The Government evidently intends to rush the bill through both Houses by Christmas.

It imposes a 30-day deadline on bringing new cases to court in connection with the "dirty war," a violent crackdown after the coup in 1976, in which the military claims it was fighting terrorism and subversion, but in which at least 9,000 people disappeared.

In cases already under investigation charges will have to be filed within 60 days of the bill becoming law.

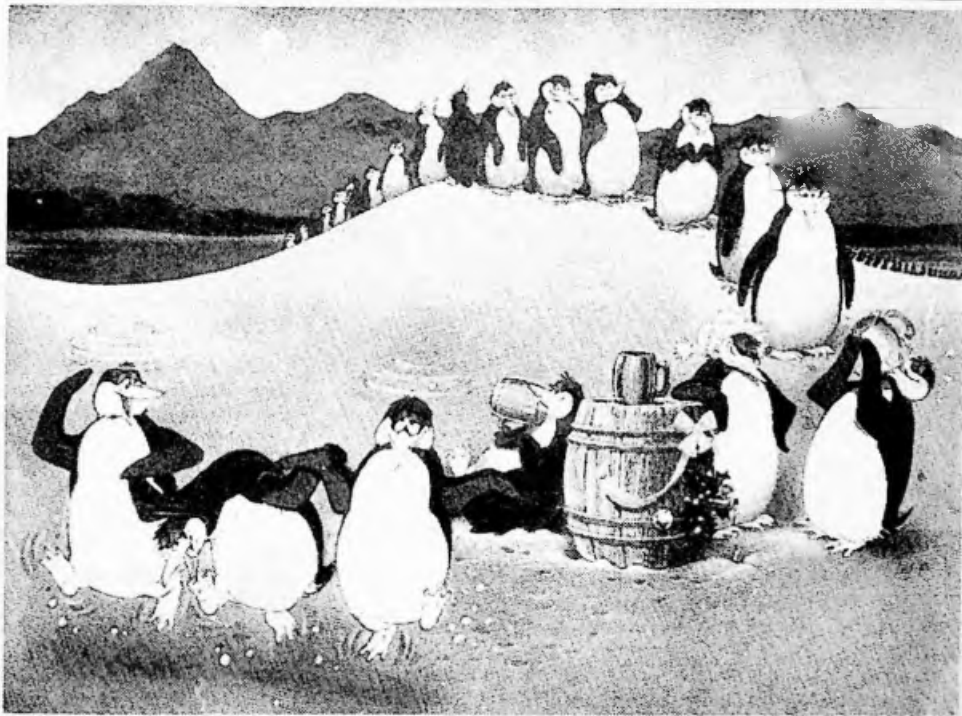
In the most important amendment accepted by the Radicals last week, the time limits on court action will also apply to civilians who took part on both sides of the "dirty war."

There has been no explanation of the Government's urgency in pushing the "Final Point" through a Congress that frequently fails to find a quorum.

At least 40,000 people marched on Congress against the "Final Point" on Friday night. The march was led by members of the "reformist" wing of the Peronist Party and some of their allies among the populist rightwing autocrats who dominate the labour unions.

Fishing News
19 December 1986

-Christmas in the Falklands!



"When the squid runs out, some bright spark at Marr's gonna think about Penguin surimi".

Marr ship sails for Falklands

CHIEF fisheries inspector Peter Derham has been appointed director of fisheries for the Falkland Islands government to oversee the introduction of the 150-mile EEZ around the islands at the beginning of February.

Mr. Derham was due to fly to the Falklands this week and before he went he spoke to *Fishing News* about the preparation of the vessels and crews involved in Falklands fisheries protection.

One of the Marr freezer trawlers chartered by MAFF, *Southella* (now *Falklands Desire*) was due to sail for the Falklands yesterday (Thursday) and should arrive, via Las Palmas and the Ascension Islands, on January 25.

The other vessel, *GA Reay*, (renamed *Falklands Right*) is in Humber side at present undergoing a refit to equip her for her new role and she will sail on January 5 to arrive on January 27.

GA Reay has been chartered for eight months, after which her contract may be renewed. It may only be necessary to have one ship patrolling the waters, said Mr. Derham.

Each of the ships will carry a MAFF fisheries inspector and a third inspector will be based on the islands. These men have been chosen "from the most experienced person-

nel," said Mr. Derham. They are Mike Woodhead, Terry Plum and Geoffrey Yarborough. Mr. Derham will also be in the Falklands to initiate the new system.

The crews for the vessels are two-thirds ex-fishermen and one-third merchant navy and all have been hand-picked for their expertise. Many of the fishermen fished Icelandic waters during the cod war and therefore have some experience of conflict in international waters, said Mr. Derham.

He said it has been an easy job training the fishermen for what has traditionally been the Navy's role and he expects them to be well suited to the task of policing fellow fishermen. "They understand the tricks of the trade,"

Mr. Derham said they were not anticipating clashes in the Falklands waters. "If a

vessel has sailed for 48 days, in the case of the Koreans for example, and spent a lot of money, it is not going to try and be awkward," he said. If, however, problems do arise "we can use force to obtain co-operation," he warned.

He described the two Marr stern trawlers as "wonderfully adaptable ships" and added that they were very economical fishery protection vessels.

He said Marr "has done us proud" in acceding to every request of the ministry. Mr. Derham sees the ships as a kind of sophisticated "police car," equipped for towing, carrying out engineering work and having hospitals.

The ships are self-contained and have over one year's supply of beef and pork for instance. Their running and maintenance costs will be "more than covered by licensing fees," said Mr. Derham.



THE 228ft. *Falklands Desire* (above) has been converted at a cost of £250,000.

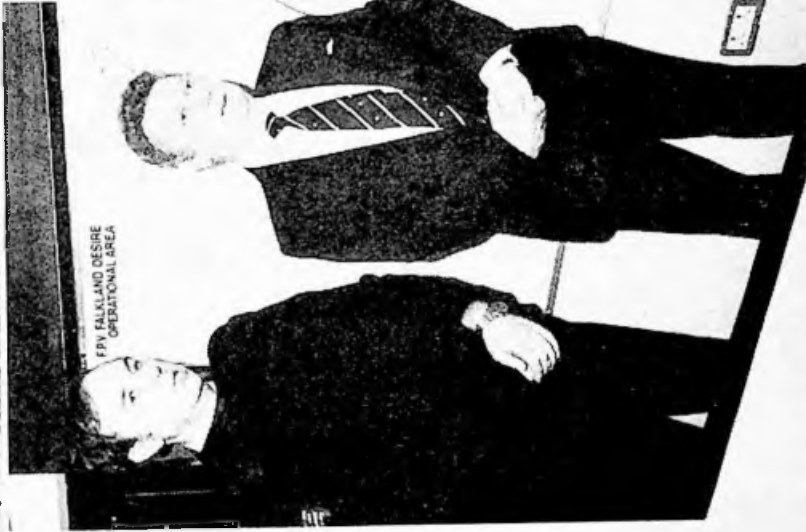
Local engineering companies have been working around the clock to complete the fitting out of the Falklands first fishery patrol vessel. Last week trials were carried out successfully.

At 2,880 bhp *Falklands Desire* is capable of delivering speeds in excess of 16 knots. During her life as a trawler she was regarded as the ultimate fishing vessel by many skippers who commanded her, which is a credit to her builders Hall Russel of Aberdeen.

Her hull has been painted bright red with the white superstructure showing a large distinctive Falkland Islands crest on both sides of the vessel.

As a fishery patrol vessel she is a poacher turned gamekeeper having served at Iceland during the cod war. On board the vessel's communication and navigation facilities are to the highest standard.

A satellite communication system gives instant contact with the UK and a number of navigation systems give up-to-the-minute position fixing. Highly sophisticated surveillance equipment allows the fisheries officer to keep constant watch.



Pictured with Captain G. Botterill (left) is *Falklands Desire* skipper, David Noble.

Falklands fishing
licences allocated

Argentine 'dirty war' bill falters

By Isabel Hilton
Latin America Editor

THE PERONIST opposition last night boycotted discussions, in the Joint Legislative Commission of the Argentine congress, of a controversial bill which will impose a strict time limit on prosecutions of members of the armed forces for human rights violations.

The bill, popularly known as the *punto final* or full stop, will prohibit further proceedings against those officers who have not been called to testify in pre-trial hearings within 60 days of the bill becoming law. It will also prohibit such officers being called as witnesses in other human rights cases.

The bill, its critics point out, will effectively bring an end to the efforts of human rights organisations to prosecute those responsible for 9,000 cases of disappearance during the so-called "dirty war" which followed the military coup of 1976.

In the past three years of democracy, out of 1,300 cases, the accused have only been called to testify in 23 cases. At that rate, and particularly given the traditional court holidays which take place in January, only seven more cases could be pursued before the time

limit cut them off. Those who would benefit from the measure include some of the most notorious senior officers from the military dictatorship.

The bill is the result of pressure on President Alfonsín, who originally planned to introduce a general amnesty for the dirty war at a later date. Such an amnesty would have benefited both the military and those remnants of the guerrilla movements who are awaiting trial on crimes committed during the dirty war.

The present bill was produced after a crisis in the armed forces precipitated by the Federal Court in Buenos Aires. The court recently decided to apply the statute of limitations to the case of Capt Alfredo Astiz, accused of kidnapping a young Swedish woman who subsequently disappeared. The kidnapping, the court argued, happened over six years ago, and six years was the maximum sentence for kidnapping. The decision was controversial in

itself, since last year the court had sentenced Admiral Emilio Massera, the former navy chief and junta member, in connection with the same case. At the same time, the court summoned seven senior military officers to testify in other human rights cases.

The head of the army and 21 other senior officers promptly threatened to resign and, under presidential pressure, the Supreme Court took the case over and has taken no further action. Once the *punto final* becomes law, this case, along with the others, will swiftly become void.

The judgement in the Astiz case, coupled with the *punto final* bill, will thus bring to an end any prosecutions of military officers.

The bill has been fiercely opposed by human rights groups, but also by sections within President Alfonsín's own Radical party, who argue that the party campaigned on the platform of justice for the victims of the dictatorship and is now abandoning its promise. It is unlikely to be defeated in congress, however, although the 60 day time limit may be modified under pressure from the senate.

Falklands fishing licences allocated

By Hella Pick,
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Falkland Islands Government has accepted about one in three of the applications for fishing licences, received after Britain's decision, last November, to end unlimited fishing and establish a Fisheries Conservation Zone over a 150-mile radius around the Falkland Islands.

The licence allocations have now been made and the applicants will be informed by the end of this week.

Everybody involved appears to be confident that the new fishing season will now get under way on February 1 with a minimum of trouble; even though the British decision has been bitterly criticised by Argentina, and reinforced Britain's isolation in the UN over the refusal to negotiate the Falkland Islands' sovereignty.

Although the Spanish Government initially warned that it might challenge the unilateral declaration of the Falkland Islands fisheries zone by withholding licence applications, and nonetheless sending its vessels into the area, it later allowed a number of private Spanish trawler owners to apply for licences. This is taken as an indication that Spain no longer means to intervene and some of the applicants will certainly be given licences.

The Soviet Union and Bulgaria have chosen not to apply for licences; but appear to

have given informal assurances that they will stay outside the Falklands Fisheries Zone.

Both countries signed fisheries agreements with Argentina, earlier this year, which described the Malvinas — the Falklands — as sovereign Argentine territory.

Although Britain insists that the licensing system is primarily concerned with fisheries conservation around the Falklands, it is an open secret that the political implications of the fisheries agreements between Argentina and the Soviet Union and Bulgaria played an important role in persuading a number of the need to take decisive action.

The Prime Minister probably believes that she has been vindicated in her stand by the way in which all the other countries which have traditionally fished in the area have applied for licences, overcoming their political scruples.

East Germany has not applied for licences. But among those to receive licences is Poland, the only other Warsaw Pact country accustomed to fishing in the Falklands.

Japan and Taiwan will also receive licences. But British trawlermen will be present only as part of a joint venture with a Japanese company. Despite hopes that other British vessels would apply for licences, so far only passive interest has been expressed.

Poles break ranks for Falklands fish

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Poland has broken ranks with the Soviet Union, East Germany and Bulgaria by applying for licences to fish in waters off the Falkland Islands.

A high government source yesterday said the Poles had taken a pragmatic view of the interim fishing protection zone staked by Britain in October. Other Eastern fishing countries, however, continued to treat it as an ideological test of solidarity with Argentina.

The Polish decision effectively put paid to any attempt to boycott Britain's unilateral policy, which followed the failure of repeated efforts to draw the Argentinians into discussions on a regional fishing policy.

The Polish application followed similar bids by Spanish trawlermen, who sought their licence without direct approval from Madrid, which had been caught between its historic ties with Buenos Aires and its growing links with Britain through the EEC.

Other fishing nations, including Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, have all applied for licences.

The issue will be heavily over-subscribed, according to the source.

The Falkland Islands Government Office, which is expected to announce the allocations this week, is keeping secret how many licences it will make available. It has, however, received 450 applications.

Whitehall sources said the number of vessels licenced would be far less than the 600 that fished the waters last year, and even less than the 450 of 1985. The limit is likely to be about 200, which scientific advice suggests would allow the recovery of depleted fish stocks.

Licences will cover the fishing season from February to December 1987 for squid, blue whiting and hake. The illex squid species, distinguished by its fins, is threatened with extinction in the Falkland waters unless the system proves effective.

The licences are expected to bring in £6 to £9 million, depending on the catch, and should cover the operating cost of two fishing protection vessels.

Alfonsín's quiet democratic anniversary

Buenos Aires

The third anniversary of the return to democracy has passed almost unnoticed here. In the Plaza de Mayo in the centre of Buenos Aires, where Argentines traditionally gather in times of national euphoria, there were no more than the usual number of strollers — no ringing speeches, no parades, no flagwaving.

President Raul Alfonsín was not even in the country, having chosen to spend most of the anniversary week in Brazil. For a moment it appeared as though Argentina was just another democracy, accustomed to having its president reach the mid-point of his constitutional term. Perhaps that was the intent behind the attitude of studied indifference. But Argentine democracy is not like any other country's, and it is unlikely to be for a long time to come.

Even so, immense changes have taken place since that hot December day in 1983 when Alfonsín took the oath of office and toasted what he called the beginning of

100 years of democracy. Inflation has been reduced from 30 per cent a month to about 5 per cent. The dispute with Chile over three islands in the Beagle Channel has been peacefully settled. Decency has been returned to government: no small matter in Argentina.

It was not so long ago, after all, that security forces were kidnapping citizens from their homes in the middle of the night and taking them to clandestine torture centres, from which many thousands disappeared forever. Today the military commanders who were responsible for that "dirty war" are in jail and the country's 30 million people are enjoying their constitutional liberties.

The very horror of the recent past has helped Alfonsín. To say that is not to deny his courage or his abilities as a genuine leader. Even in a country that suffers from bouts of collective amnesia, the memory of the last military dictatorship and its catastrophes is still fresh enough in the popular conscience to insure that he will be

able to complete his six-year mandate. The last civilian president who managed to survive more than half his six-year constitutional term was Arturo Frondizi — overthrown by the military in 1962.

With the armed forces in disgrace following the dirty war and the Falklands débâcle, the government has been spared the threat of a military coup that hung over its civilian predecessors. But even with the troops safely in their barracks, Alfonsín's next three years may be even more difficult than the first three.

He will have to deal with Argentina's \$49 billion debt and try to attract foreign investment if he is to proceed with his ambitious plans to modernize the economy. He will have to guard against the return of hyper-inflation and cope with growing discontent among the workers over a decline in purchasing power.

Most importantly, he must strengthen the country's still uncertain political institutions and

integrate the armed services into society: a daunting task, as the military has been a privileged caste for decades.

This aim of integration was without doubt the motive behind Alfonsín's recent proposal to put an end to the human-rights trials of military officers. Alfonsín may however have thereby done harm to his campaign to strengthen democracy. While the trials have unquestionably contributed to continuing tension between civilian and military authorities, the proposal to end them has tarnished the president's impressive human-rights record and raised doubts about the independence of the Argentine judiciary. Worse, it raises suspicions that the armed forces are calling the shots behind the scenes.

A bit of celebrating to mark his third anniversary might have served to remind the men in uniform of their role in the new Argentina.

Eduardo Cue

Wait for it

The Falkland Islands are abuzz with rumours of a visit by the Queen next year, to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Argentine invasion. A PHSpy tells me that residents of Port Stanley are even now preparing for the regal advent, which they claim Buckingham Palace is code-naming Operation Maldives. Yesterday I received the inevitable denial from the palace. The chief press officer, Michael Shea, told me: "Oh no, there are no such plans." But he added: "That is not to say that there are no plans for a royal visit at some future date."



**FALKLAND
ISLANDS
GOVERNMENT**

**A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY
FOR TEACHERS**

We require travelling teachers, for February/March 1987, 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 of £5,532 — £6,372 with an allowance of £464 per annum.

Job description and application form from: Falklands Islands Government Office, 29 Tufton Street, London SW1P 2QL.

CLOSING DATE: 31 December, 1986.

Spanish go for Falklands licences

SPANISH trawler representatives have told *Fishing News* that about 30 firms in Spain have applied to the Falklands Islands government for licences to fish the 150-mile EEZ, to be imposed from February next year.

The closing date for applications was last week and the Falklands office in London was still considering these when *Fishing News* went to press. It is believed a number of UK firms have also put in for licences.

● The former J. Marr freezer *Southella* is taking on a new role — policing the new Falklands fishery zone.

Re-named *Falklands Desire*, she was been converted by Globe Engineering of Hull to a floating control vessel carrying high speed interceptor patrol craft capable of 30 knots. She had been engaged in seismic survey work prior to her conversion.

A former computer room has been equipped with communications and navigational equipment, doubling up much

of her existing gear to ensure working continuity.

Falklands Desire is also equipped with a hospital and medical facilities, extensive workshop facilities and a gymnasium. A towing capstan has been fitted to give her tug capacity, making her a very versatile vessel.

A Marr spokesman said: "*Falklands Desire* is not just a control ship — she is a self contained floating hotel."

Falklands Desire will be commanded by Captain David Noble and will have a crew of 18, mainly ex-trawlermen, who have undergone special

training in various aspects of seamanship and safety. A number of Falkland islanders will also be in the crew.

The vessel will be deployed for three years initially, under the direction of the Falklands government Senior Fisheries Control officer, and will be managed by Marr. It is expected that two fisheries officers will be on board.

Falklands Desire was due to carry out sea trials at the end of this week after her conversion and is expected to sail some time next week.

Saucy sapper sups on pizzas

SAUCY Sapper David Anderson is a postie with a love of pizzas. Before his posting to the Postal and Courier Troop in the Falklands, David, 19, called at a min. Pizzeria restaurant near his London home and picked up a leaflet announcing their free delivery service.

"Pizzas delivered anywhere," it read. Of course the firm meant within the London area, but the leaflet didn't spell that out. So David decided to put them to the test and place his order from 8,500 miles away for a 14-inch deep-dish Domino Special. He then really pushed his luck by specifying 20 ingredi-

ents he would like included. No one could accuse the lad of writing "cheek" as his OC, Capt. Steve, put it. But his "cheek" paid off as the Domino people showed they had a sense of humour as well by packing half a dozen of their prize pizzas in dry ice and sending them all the way to the South Atlantic on a delighted David.

David Baird had a table specially set up in a corner of the serving office and even stood in as head waiter while two WRAG colleagues, Cpl Susan Whittington (left) and Pte

Sharon Gibson, served him his special long-distance pizza. Happily there was more than enough to go round the whole postal department.



— SAPPER DAVID ANDERSON AND THE FALKLAND POSTIES
— Cheeky chap with his 'free delivery' long-distance pizza

Sir Galahad speeds into the Fleet

By Desmond Wethern
Naval Correspondent

THE NAVY's latest landing ship, the 8,500-ton Sir Galahad, launched on the Tyne at the weekend, is nearly twice the tonnage of her predecessor lost in the Falklands conflict, but will be completed in much the same time.

She will go to sea for the first time next June, 25 months after her keel was laid at Swan Hunter's shipyard.

Much of the increase in her tonnage arises from the use of steel throughout her structure in place of aluminium in the previous ship.

Captain Philip Roberts is to command the new ship. He won the DSO for his gallantry when in command of the previous Sir Galahad.

He said he was not sure how much the aluminium superstructure contributed to the spread of fires that killed 51 of her crew and Welsh Guardsmen on board at the time when she was hit in an attack by Argentine war planes at Fitzroy.

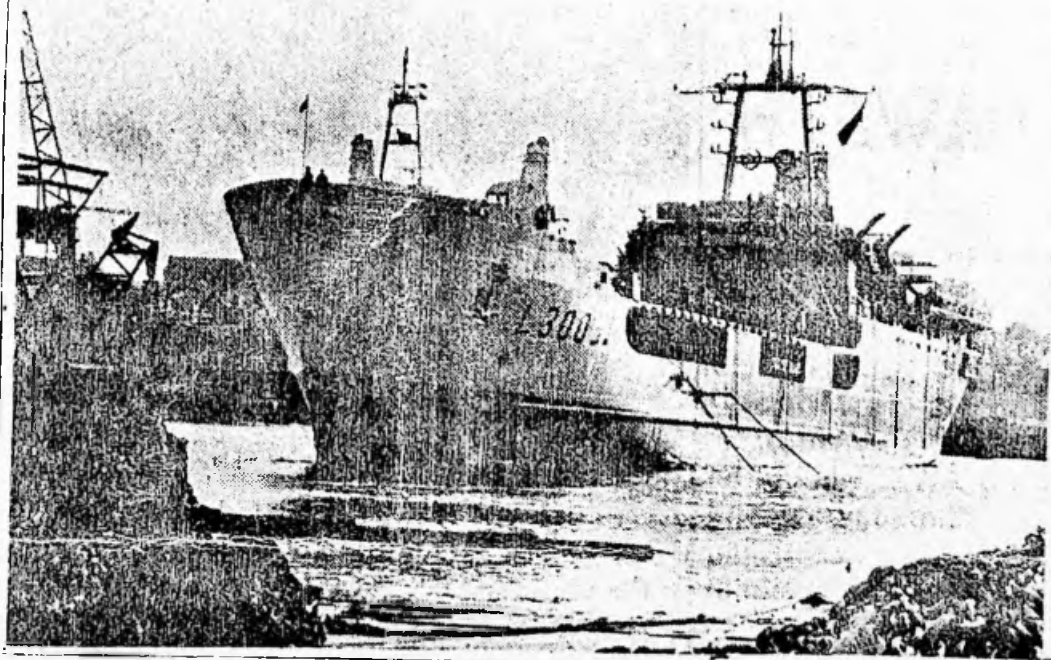
One feature of the new ship he particularly likes is the bow 'visor-type' door, similar to that in channel car ferries, that allows tanks and other vehicles to be driven ashore.

The new ship has much-improved firefighting and damage-control systems, while her underwater noise generation and her radar 'profile' have been reduced to make her more difficult for enemy submarine sonar or ship or aircraft radar to detect.

The new Sir Galahad will have an all-British crew of 52 Royal Fleet Auxiliary officers and men compared with 68 in the previous ship, many of whom were Hongkong Chinese.



Chief Engineer Ken Adams and Capt. Phillip Roberts (right), who survived the bombing of the Sir Galahad in the Falklands conflict, with their wives at the launching of the £40 million replacement (below) at Swan Hunter's Wallsend yard on the Tyne.



Galahad veterans at launch

Four years after her predecessor was scuttled after being burned out in an Argentine air attack, the new landing ship, Sir Galahad, was launched yesterday on the Tyne, complete with a giant Christmas tree on deck.

Among the many launch guests was Capt Philip Roberts, who was awarded the DSO for his leadership and heroism when the previous ship was hit and set ablaze at Fitzroy and who is to command the new ship, when she joins the Royal Fleet Auxiliary after her completion by Swan Hunter next June.

"I'm hoping some of my old crew will be joining me. They were a good crowd," Capt Roberts said.

With him on the launch platform was his former Chief Engineer, Ken Adams, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal and who is now retired, and Second Officer Andrew Gudgeon, as well as families of some of those who died and representatives of the Welsh Guards, many of whom were among the 50 killed on board.

Battle for the action

MARCH TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC Nick Vaux

Buchan & Enright, £11.50

LEADERSHIP wins wars. This long-standing principle of British military art was underlined dramatically in the Falklands. The most important difference between the Argentine forces and our own was the quality of junior leadership — particularly among NCO's, the sergeants and corporals who bind the British armed forces together at the small-unit level.

The vital importance of these men shines through in Nick Vaux's *March to the South Atlantic*. As commanding officer of 42 Commando Royal Marines, Vaux led 600 men through mud and blood to their final destination, which turned out to be, literally, a charnel house in Port Stanley.

The strength of the ties that held 42 Commando together in the field, reflected in the debt that Vaux undoubtedly feels towards his unit, sometimes makes for dull reading. Most of the officers in the battalion get a few kind words from their CO. From time to time, particularly early on, these potted annual reports get in the way of the narrative.

Vaux, like the best commanding officers, emerges as a man prepared to fight all-comers to get the best for his men. He condemns staff officers, tries to overcome the shortcomings of the logistic system, and — perhaps incomprehensibly to civilians — lobbies to get them a big share of the fighting.

Vaux's concerns on the eve of the landing offer an insight into the mind of the professional commander. "My fears were of some catastrophic personal misjudgement, of being left out of the battles, of causing unnecessary casualties, of failing to last the pace".



Major General Moore in charge



BOOK REVIEW

Age emerges as something of a hang-up for Vaux — he was 46 years old at the time of the war. Several times he mentions that he was one of the oldest men in the commandos and that he had taken part in Britain's previous post-imperial adventure at Suez.

The strains of conducting an extended military operation, something that did not happen at Suez, emerged during the Falklands war. The failings of the supply system were particularly alarming. Some of his men received no food for five days, all of them fought a constant battle against the cold and wet. By the end of their month in the field 98 per cent of one commando company had developed serious foot problems.

His concern for his men extends to one surprisingly candid piece of advice to one marine who wanted to settle in the Falklands. "I glanced at him incredulously

and told him not to be such a bloody fool! Absolutely the last idea in my mind was to remain in this miserable wilderness a moment longer than necessary".

The term "fog of war" is used several times to describe the chaos and unreality of the conflict. In the cold and darkness even the most highly trained troops became confused. In one incident Colonel Vaux and some of his men narrowly escaped being shot in an SAS ambush.

SAS operations are described in some detail, as are the personalities of Lt-Col Mike Rose, the unit's commander. Rose retained his own satellite communications with Britain, often disconcerting the marine commander who had to work through the normal chain of command.

42 Commando's enemies ranked rather low on Vaux's list of concerns. Occasionally he refers to them as "spics"; and, using the crude euphemisms of cartoon combat, he writes of "vaporising" and "winging" Argentines. One touching moment where Argentine prisoners are allowed to bury a comrade with military honours is given added poignancy by the revelation that the British posted six snipers out of sight in case grief turned to anger.

It is apparent that, as a commander, Vaux was very successful in maintaining high morale and in bringing as many of his men as possible through the war. At times their camaraderie is astounding: in one incident a Royal Marines patrol carried a seriously injured soldier for seven hours in darkness through minefields and across obstacles. 42 Commando ended the war with just two men dead — a remarkable achievement considering its involvement in the bitter battles for Mount Harriet. In a way that is the best testimony to the quality of the unit and its leaders.

Mark Urban

As good as the telly

Britain is more willing to talk to Argentina than vice versa — on the high seas at least. When a Taiwanese fishing boat was pursued and sunk by an Argentine vessel just outside the Falklands' exclusion zone, the captain of one of our Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, which was lying nearby, radioed the Argentine skipper asking for permission to rescue the Taiwanese radio operator from the icy waters. There was no reply. While the drama unfolded, every word of the triangular exchange between the captains — much of it in broken English — was being heard by islanders glued to their radio-telephone sets. "It was coming through loud and clear for hours," said Kevin Kilmartin, a sheep farmer. "The Taiwanese were talking to the Argentines and the British, the British were talking to the Taiwanese and Argentines, but the Argentines were talking only to the Taiwanese." And they called Mrs Thatcher Señora No.

On canvas

Algernon Asprey, the veteran landscape watercolourist, has just arrived in the Falklands on a mission both dear to his heart and to his past. For the next six weeks, hardy yompers will find him at his easel sketching the first lines of Bluff Cove, Goose Green, Tumbledown Mountain and the rest, all to be fleshed out when he returns to England. The works will go on display at the Partridge Gallery in Bond Street next autumn. After that, one of the paintings is to hang in the mess of Asprey's old regiment, the Scots Guards, which played an important role in ousting the Argies.

Dry measure

Alcoholism, traditionally the scourge of island communities, is being combated in Stanley by a Boozers' Blacklist. Once on this, you cannot buy liquor anywhere for six months, a penalty which is easy to enforce in such a small town. It also becomes an offence for anyone even to offer you a drink. Topers are usually put on the list by a doctor, publican or spouse, but desperate cases occasionally nominate themselves. There has just been a sharp increase in membership — from six to eight.

Mine hostess

A hotel in Port Stanley is still calling itself the Malvina despite what might be called a distinct resurgence of British influence. The proprietor is unrepentant. "Malvina is a girl's name, remember," he tells me. "This is Malvina without the s. Besides, it's only banana republics who constantly rename places. We are not, repeat not, a banana republic."

Civil street

The re-siting of the islands' airport from Stanley to Mount Pleasant, 40 miles away, is leading to a gradual military drift from the civilian community. By April the process will be complete, with only the bomb disposal unit and medical staff remaining in any numbers in the capital. According to John Smith, a classic Falklands pluralist of teacher, guest house owner and local history curator, the two communities have lived side by side more happily than some reports have suggested, and the soldiers will even be missed: "On Saturday nights we fight each other and *they* fight each other," he tells me.

Hat trick

At times, though, the military can be somewhat sharp with their civilian compatriots. The other day a young man was striding across the airport tarmac, his tweeds matched by a Sloanish cap, when a zealous young soldier barkingly demanded that he take it off. He obliged, but in a doffing manner, believing it was all a joke, and put it on again. At this point a sergeant positively roared: "Take the bloody thing off!" The reason is that head gear can be blown by the south Atlantic winds into the air intakes of the jets. In this case, though, the man was more than 50 yards from the plane, and the blades had stopped turning. The victim, quite unruffled, strode on with the hauteur expected of the Honourable Christopher Monckton, until recently one of the Prime Minister's young policy advisers, and son of famous old soldier Lord Monckton.

Blowing in tourists on the winds of war

SHIP LAUNCHED

The warship built to replace the Sir Galahad, sunk in the Falklands with the loss of 51 lives, was launched yesterday on the Tyne.

An internal examination of "ragged" HMS

By the end of the year, the Royal Navy's fleet of frigates will be reduced to 12, and the last of the Sir Galahad class will be decommissioned.

The last of the Sir Galahad class, HMS Galahad, was launched yesterday on the Tyne. The ship is the first of a new class of frigates, the Type 23, which will replace the Sir Galahad class.

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Blowing in tourists on the winds of war

Something has gone very wrong in the main concourse of the airport. It is full of people, but there is hardly a woman in sight, nor for that matter anyone over 40.

It is also peculiarly quiet, not just because there are very few announcements coming over the Tannoy, but because there is a total absence of those urgent airport-lounge conversations that blend into a muted clamour. There is only silence and moroseness, symptoms unusual among a group of travellers about to take a break from wintry England.

But the airport is dry, as will be the aeroplane. No bars, no duty frees, nothing. For this is RAF Brize Norton, and the destination is Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falkland Islands, with a refuelling stop at Ascension. You're in the Army now.

Aboard the RAF TriStar, the young soldiers remain utterly silent, as if in some shared bereavement; no sooner have they snapped on their seatbelts than they start communing with their fat paperbacks — Deighton, Higgins, Wilbur Smith. No stewardess, no pilot's blandishments through the intercom; instead, a no-nonsense loadmaster who appears in the cabin and barks: "There will be two films: *FX* and *Police Academy Three*, on which you will be briefed later."

Eight hours later we touch down in the small hours at Ascension Island, where we are confined for 90 minutes in a wire compound; nothing to do except listen to the listless talk of the American troops stationed here, and watch the dawn flash up like lightning behind the barrier of hills on the east of the tiny spot, hills toxic with gadgetry — masts and lights and saucers and stranger shapes.

Eight more hours to Mount Pleasant. This really is a swine of a journey, and recalls all those long vertical maps of May 1982, with their scales, and arrows, and projections of the Task Force's progress. I came here with the intention of writing about anything save

With the Argentinians swept from its shores, the Falklands is preparing for new invaders — package holidaymakers.

Alan Franks writes from the battlefield

the war, but to make no mention of it would not only be difficult, but verging on the dishonest, for had it not been for General Galtieri's attempt at hegemony four-and-a-half years ago, I would not be here this week. The RAF's single-plane shuttle between Brize Norton and Mount Pleasant has a monopoly on access to the Falklands, and they are now admitting tourists to the flight — at a price.

One of the very reasons the Falklands are offering themselves as a holiday destination is the late conflict; call it morbidity if you will, or premature nostalgia, but the British can always be relied upon to savour the rubble of their own military actions. There are rich pickings here.

I am writing from the large guest house in Port Howard on West Falkland, one of those tiny scatters of homes which acquired such mock-heroic and overnight fame during the Argentine occupation.

It seems more adamantly English than England by virtue of its very distance. The hall panels have a walnut veneer, on which hang heavy bold fire extinguishers and a display case of polished tankards. Up in the attic stands an old HMV radiogram which

opens from the top, a pile of dusty company ledgers, and a stack of Huntley & Palmers biscuit tins.

The bedrooms have bright Persian carpets set down over slightly bubbly green lino: the beds have headboards, and the stairs have stair-roses. Down in the drawing room the World Service is speaking soberly from the radio, with its distinctive hollow signal. Then on comes the signature

'An internal vastness of rugged hills'

tune of *Housewives' Choice* from the local station in Stanley. The pins on the plug are round and the books on the shelves are mostly from Blackie, the Children's Press or World Books, usually costing 16 shillings.

From the next room come the strains of an incredibly out-of-tune upright, going through what seems to be the entire repertoire of the *News Chronicle Songbook*. For all the world we are back in another post-war island.

Except for a couple of important things: there is peat smouldering in the fire grate,

and up to my left on the flock wallpaper hangs a peculiar object — three long strands of twined leather, each one attached to a weight the size of a cricket ball. This is a *boleadoras*, a device developed by the gauchos of Argentina to throw at horses' feet and bring the creatures down.

The surprises do not end here; outside on the grass lies the mutilated corpse of a Mirage fighter, plus two rusting 105mm field guns, as if guarding the little hut behind them. On the door of this is a notice saying War Museum; as you enter, the first thing that strikes you is another sign, this one reading *Puerto Yapeyu*, which was Port Howard's enforced change of name for those two months of 1982.

I arrived in the Falklands a week ago and, having been astounded at the size of the new airport, took the much improved road that runs the 40 miles east to the capital, Port Stanley. For all the traumas of the 1982 war, it has brought nothing but good to the islands' infrastructure.

En route, I passed quite large areas enclosed by barbed wire, some five or six acres in size, which at first glance seemed to be plots for plantation. That would make sense, since the islands are as treeless as Shetland. As I came closer, I noticed livid red hoardings overlaid with a skull and crossbones, and the words: "Keep Out. Unexploded Mines."

Stanley itself is much as it was during the war, and there is not a great deal more to be said about it. The main difference is that it is now reverting fast to a demilitarized zone as the last troops decamp from their floating accommodation, or "coastels", to the Mount Pleasant garrison.

My last sight of it was at the Town Hall late on Saturday night, the scrag end of a dance. Three couples were swaying around the large empty floor to the sound of an unamplified guitar, and a group of soldiers were sitting drinking beer at the corner table, with forelocks pulled hard down across their foreheads to com-



Tower of strength: the Cathedral at Port Stanley with its giant whale jawbone, a stark contrast to the town's wooden houses

pensate for the shortness of back and sides.

The following day, before taking a plane out to the remote Sea Lion Island way off to the south, I just had time to visit Bluff Cove and a fiercely independent compatriot called Kevin Kulmartin on his 30,000 acres. During the hostilities he had helped out 2 Para by ferrying ammunition, under fire, on his tractor to their positions.

This is fine country for serious walkers, or yompers, although the very best part of the islands for such things is a straight, sudden range of hills called Wickham Heights, which bisects East Falkland from Mount Challenger, 10 miles west of Stanley, to Mount Osborne, a similar distance north of Darwin.

From the window of the tiny Islander plane, the Falklands become, far from the dot-on-the-seascape they were depicted as early in the war, a country with its own internal vastness of rugged hills and blanketed peat.

The Islander feels as if it is landing at a speed of zero knots, so strong is the headwind, on a field with a furious windsock and bits of corrugated iron laid down to mark the runway.

On the way to the brand new Sea Lion Lodge hotel, you pass one of the loneliest cemeteries in the southern hemisphere — a tiny rectangle

of blue palings, protected from the sheep by an outer perimeter of barbed wire. Inside is the grave of Susan Whitley, a lover of this island, who was killed during the Stanley bombardments.

The island is owned by Terry and Doreen Clifton who, until the arrival of the new lodge, were the sole inhabitants. During the invasion they hitched a lift to North Arm on the mainland with a lone Australian sailor, ignoring deterrent signals from "a huge ship with four funnels" — clearly the *Belgrano*. They tell the story in that distinctive but elusive

'The sky and land animated by a thousand dramas'

accent of the Falklander, which sounds like a hybrid of every colonial influence you can think of.

On Sea Lion Island the animals upstage the people (which makes a change for the latterday Falklands), and I wish I could find a more original way of saying that it is a naturalist's paradise. At the narrow strand which joins the island to its western peninsula, the entire sky and the land beneath it become animated by a thousand little dramas. A few yards in front of me, a ruddy-headed goose,

one of the classic hams, is playing decoy and pretending to have broken her wing so that I should chase her and not her new brood of young.

Countless penguins, mostly gentoo and rockhopper, are clustered in groups while the skuas overhead hover and swoop. The whole scene is a cross between Dunkirk and the aftermath of a reunion dinner at White's — little chaps staggering about helplessly in their DJs. The skuas are after the penguins' eggs, and there seems no way they will be denied them; the imbalance between the military capabilities of the two species is huge. Yet somehow, every time this fearsome flying machine (no wonder we name a missile after him) dives into their midst, one of them manages to catch him a nasty peck on the neck, and he leaves empty-beaked.

All the while, in the middle distance, the shapes of elephant seals are labouring their way towards the tussocks of grass on the higher ground — giant slugs in a gym. The baby seals here put on weight at the rate of 20lbs a day, until their bodies are so blown up that their flippers cannot touch the ground.

From out in the Camp (meaning countryside, from the Spanish *campo*), Stanley acquires the bustle of a metropolis, which is precisely

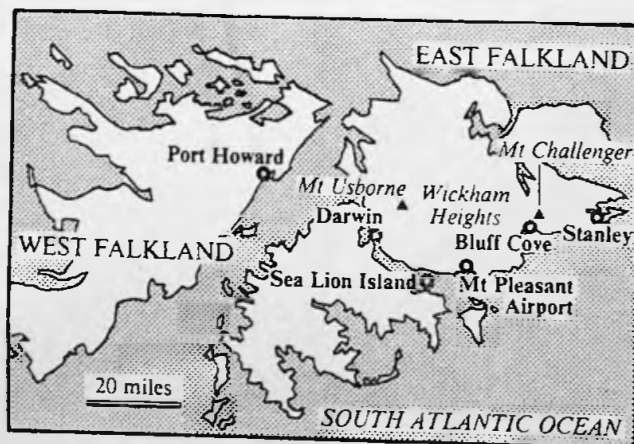
what it is to those many Falklanders who have never set foot outside the islands. It is rich in a plant life peculiar to the Falklands (pale maiden, silver leaf, ranunculus, balsam-bog, tea berry, and many more); the plants and flowers often make a successful transition to English soil.

Tonight I return to the human animal kingdom, drinking with the new governor, Gordon Jewkes, at the Upland Goose, Stanley's Savoy; then it's back to Mount Pleasant for the dry flight, the two movies, and a happier band of soldiers.

Memo to the RAF: At £1,100 each way, you are charging too much for these flights, particularly when you often have 100 empty seats on the TriStar. Winning the war is one thing. Winning customers is quite another.

TRAVEL NOTES

A number of travel companies are offering package holidays to the Falkland Islands. Priced at around £2,400 for 16 days inclusive, these tours take in a short stay in Port Stanley plus visits to Sea Lion Island, Port Howard and Pebble Island. Full details can be obtained from Steve Green, Falkland Island Tourism Information Service, 126 Wetherby Road, York YO2 5BY (0904 645548).



Falklands permits

Madrid — Spanish fishing fleets are expected to be given 35 licences to operate in the fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands for the season beginning in February (Richard Wigg writes). Among those applying has been the fleet belonging to the Anamer Co-operative based on Vigo, in Galicia, north-western Spain: it is one of the best equipped for catching squid.

The 150-mile conservation zone was announced on October 29, and Spain sides with Argentina in the sovereignty dispute.

Fleet licensing changes avert Falklands row

By Our Madrid Correspondent

A confrontation between Spain and Britain over fishing restrictions around the Falkland Islands has been averted by allowing individual fishing companies to apply to the Port Stanley Government for licences. So far 55 licences have been issued to Spanish trawlers, reducing the fleet by about a third.

The Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, said last month that for the Government to apply for permission to fish would be seen as de facto recognition of British sovereignty.

Britain, which says the restrictions are for ecological reasons, plans to reduce the Russian and Japanese fleets.

Navigator finds way by bicycle

Trial curb bill

PRESIDENT Alfonsín's controversial "final point" bill to impose a time limit on trials of military officers accused of human rights crimes in the 1970s was sent to Congress on Tuesday night. Under the measure, new cases will have to be brought before the courts within 30 days of the proposal becoming law, writes *Jeremy Morgan from Buenos Aires.*

The bill, which would limit the time for bringing charges against military officers, was passed by Congress on Tuesday night. It is the first of a series of measures to be passed by Congress.

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Navigator finds way by bicycle



This is the story of a journey from Goose Green to Mount Pleasant Airport by bicycle, as told by Flt Lt Mick Geoghegan:

"If you are handsome, intelligent and an all-round Good Chap you'll have no problem persuading a Wokka to transport you and your bicycle to Goose Green on a fine sunny day. If, however, you are a Chinook navigator, they will do it in spite of these characteristics.

"A comprehensive airborne recce while on task produced comments such as 'you're mad' and 'you'll never make it.' Nevertheless I boarded 40B with my bike at Mount Pleasant on October 21. At 12.30 I pedalled down the ramp on to terra firma at Goose Military Site.

"My initial problem was finding the track. My second was having to carry bike and bag of spares up said track for the first mile or so because the track was about six inches wide and surrounded by puncture-inducing gorse bushes. "Quite early on I made my only major error assessing that a puddle had dried up — it hadn't — and extrication was messy.

Navigation was simple, there being very few junctions where I could take a wrong turning, and after only 1½ hours I was visual with the TriStar hangar.

"I finally reached 78 Sqn at about 1615, 3 hours 45 mins for approx 25 miles of rough terrain including potholed and pitted roads and grass. Anyone else who feels the urge to cycle the route is advised to take a good map showing the minefields around Goose Green and sufficient rations, clothing and emergency kit for 6-8 hours of hard pedalling."

A Pleasant job



GP CAPT HARRY DREW (left) has assumed command of Mount Pleasant from Gp Capt Brian Johnson. The handover was made in front of an Argentinean Pucara.

Gp Capt Drew joined the RAF in 1959. After flying training he flew Javelins for six years with 41 Sqn at Wattisham and Nos 60 and 64 Sqs in the Far East during the Indonesian Confrontation. In 1966 he converted to Lightnings and joined 11 Sqn at Leuchars. He was posted to the United States in 1968 for an exchange tour with the USAF at Edwards AFB in California. In 1973 he attended a course at the Staff College at Bracknell and then returned to flying Lightnings as a Flt Cdr on 11 Sqn at Binbrook. He subsequently served for three years in MoD Ops Air Defence before converting to the Phantom to command 43 Sqn at Leuchars and then 23 Sqn at Stanley. A tour followed in the Air Secretary's Department at Barnwood.

Gp Capt Drew was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1972 and in 1984 the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air. His hobbies include music and, luckily for anyone posted to the Falklands, angling and ornithology.

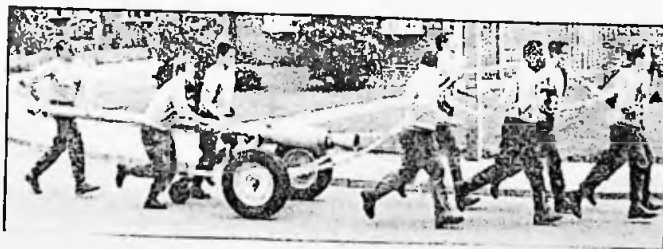
Argentinian gun pulled

PUTTING the spoils of war to good use, 15 or so NCOs and airmen, under the leadership of Cpl Alan Pyc, recently completed a sponsored Gun-Pull from Wolverhampton to Stafford. The good cause for the members of No 5 Flight at Stafford was again the Marshlands School, which will

benefit to the extent of at least £450, when all the promised sponsors have paid up.

Operating in two pulling teams of six they tugged the Argentinian 105mm anti-tank gun, captured at the end of the Falklands conflict, from Wolverhampton to the Marshlands School at Stafford,

where they were greeted enthusiastically by the children and staff. Jogging for most of the time, in two mile stretches, the 18½-mile journey only took 4½ hours, giving them time to make impromptu lunchtime collection as they passed through Stafford town centre.



Falklands helped by airfield

□ The Falkland Islanders might gag a bit on this but the great-grandmother of President Alfonsín of Argentina was a Kelper. He told an audience at Yale in the States recently that she was called Mary Ford, and that there were bound to be people in the Falklands who, like him, were descendants of hers. "I am studying English so I can greet them and talk to them," he added — or perhaps one should say "warned." Inquiries are being made in the islands to see if any of the four Fords listed in the Port Stanley phone book are what Alfonsín called in Spanish his "con-descendientes."

Falklands helped by airfield

The Falkland Islands airfield is helping with the considerable reduction of the cost of defending the islands.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said during question time in the Commons: In the last financial year, the additional cost to the defence budget of the Falklands garrison is estimated to have been £397 million.

The planned provision for 1986-87 amounts to £234 million and that for 1987-88 is £140 million. Force levels in the Falklands, now and in the future, reflect the continuing need for a military presence sufficient to deter aggression and to defend the islands against attack.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Recent development of the airstrip with its attendant possibilities of reinforcing the garrison much more quickly from the United Kingdom than before could lead to the possibility of our being able to maintain a smaller garrison.

Mr Stanley: The Government has always said that the airfield would give a much greater ability to reinforce the Falkland Islands garrison and enable us to take a more flexible view of garrison levels.

Falkland visit?

The possibility of a visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Falklands next March was being mooted at Westminster. Several MPs have received information

When the question was raised in the Commons by Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow), John Stanley, Minister of State for Defence, said he had no comment to make. Buckingham Palace said later: "We know of no plans at present for a visit to the Falklands."

Fortress cost

The cost of maintaining the Falklands garrison is planned to be down to £140m for 1987-88, John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, told the Commons at question time. In the last financial year the additional cost to the defence budget of establishing and maintaining the garrison is estimated to have been £397m and provision for 1986-87 is £234m.

Relatives of dead to see new Sir Galahad launch

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Relatives of the Welsh Guardsmen who died in the bombed landing ship Sir Galahad in the Falklands war have been invited to attend the launching ceremony for her replacement.

Fifty men died in the worst single tragedy of the conflict and the television pictures of the desperate efforts to rescue those trapped on board were among the most vivid legacies of the fighting.

The subsequent documentary on the ordeal of one of the survivors, Guardsman Simon Weston, horrifically burned and struggling to return to a life as near normal as possible, also ensured that memories of the Sir Galahad disaster did not fade.

On Saturday her successor will be launched at the Swan Hunter yard at Wallsend, on Tyneside, by Lady Tippet, wife of the Chief of Fleet Support, Vice Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet.

The event will be watched by 23 relatives of the men who died, most of them Welsh Guards, and by Mr Ken Adams, her former chief engineer, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for removing a 1,000lb bomb from the landing ship just days before she was fatally hit.

The earlier Sir Galahad sailed for the South Atlantic on April 6, 1982 with 250 Marines on board. On May 24, three days after arriving at the Falklands, she was hit by the bomb which lodged in the battery charging room but failed to explode.

On June 8 she sailed to the

Fitzroy settlement and it was while preparing to land her party of Welsh Guards at Bluff Cove that she and the landing ship Sir Tristram were bombed by an Argentine aircraft. They immediately caught fire, and the Sir Galahad was still burning on June 25 when she was towed out to sea and sunk as a designated war grave.

Yesterday the lessons learned by her loss were outlined by Mr Alex Marsh, the joint managing director of Swan Hunter.

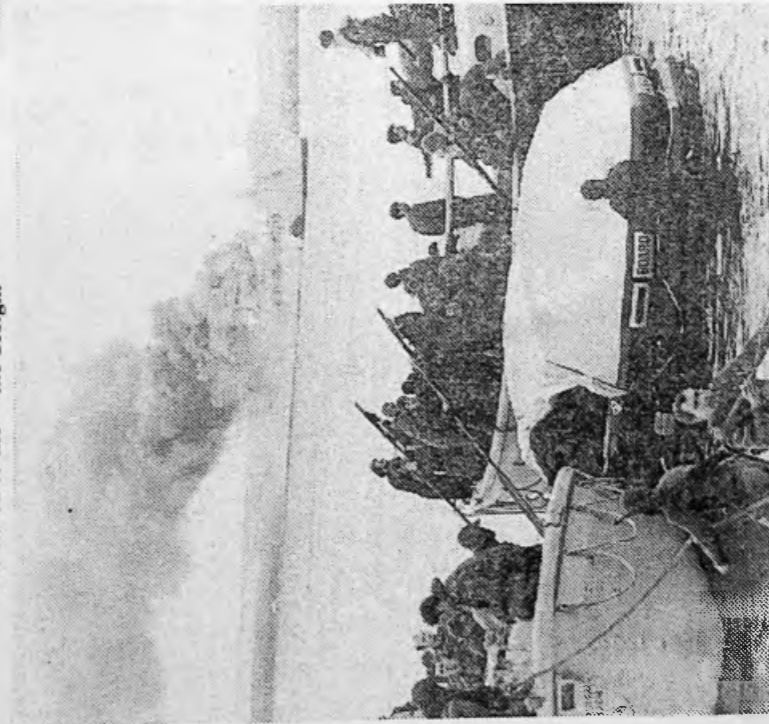
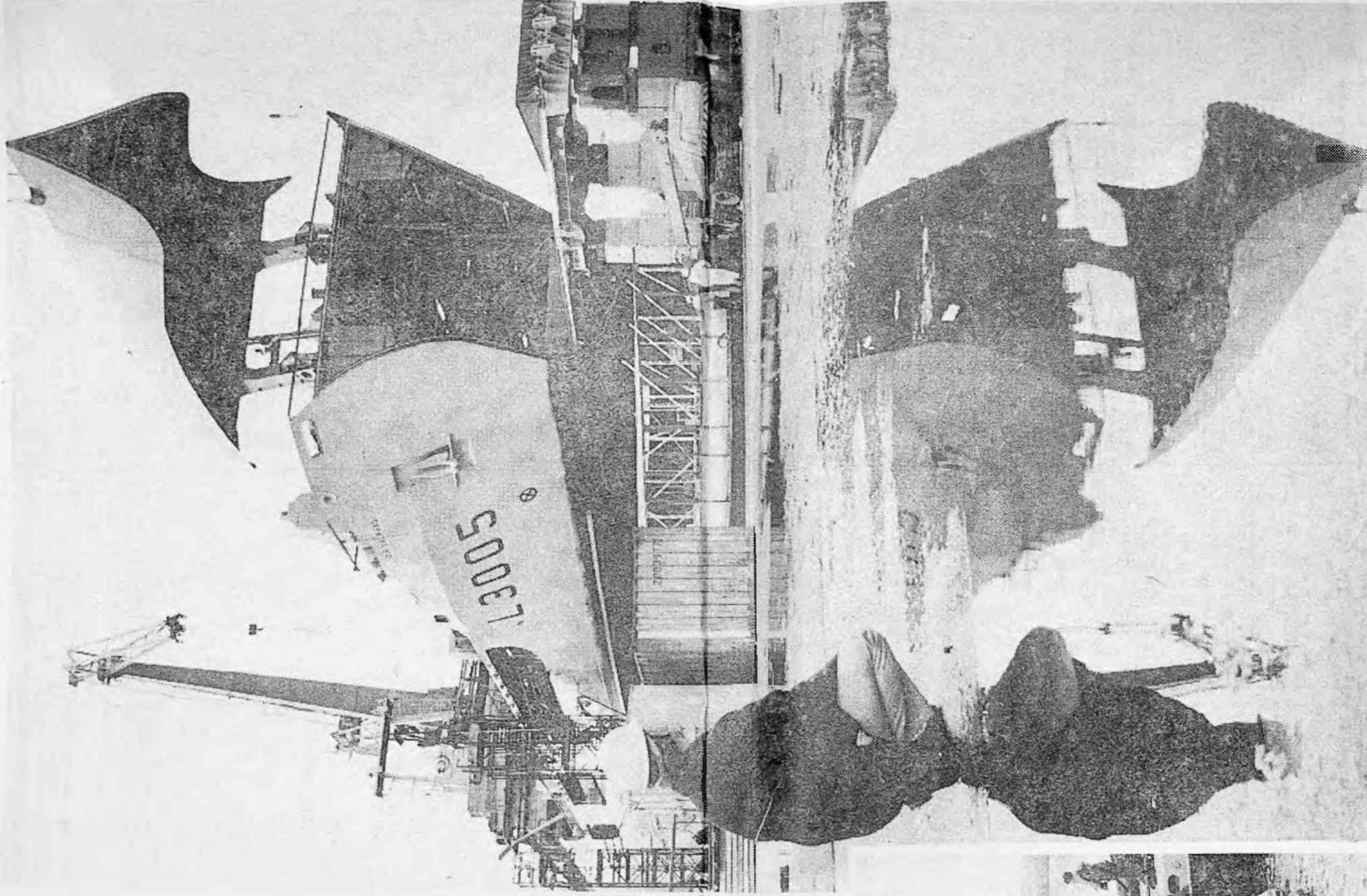
The £40 million vessel will be bigger, stronger and more powerful, with improved firefighting facilities, damage control, escape routes and fireproof materials to protect the 339 Marines and 52 sailors she can carry.

The earlier Sir Galahad had aluminium deckhouses which melted in the fire and soft furnishings which gave off lethal fumes. Her successor has an all-steel superstructure, flame-resistant furniture and a system to disembark troops quickly.

The vessel, 140 metres long, can also hold 18 Chieftain tanks, 20 heavy vehicles and launch large helicopters and assault craft.

Mr Marsh said: "From the point of view of the architects it showed how designs that were developed over the past 25 years actually performed in practice."

"We cannot say that the tragedy of the first Galahad would not happen again but the lessons of the Falklands have been incorporated into the design."



Survivors of the Argentine air attack are landed at Bluff Cove from the blazing Sir Galahad, and (right) the new Sir Galahad ready for launching (Photograph: Allan Glenwright)

THE SUN
10 December 1986

CHARLES AND DI SET TO VISIT FALKLANDS

Secret trip 'in March'

By BRIAN WOOSEY

PRINCE Charles and Princess Diana may visit the Falkland Islands next March, an MP revealed yesterday.

Westminster was buzzing with the rumour that a Royal trip is being planned under the codename Operation Maldives.

And when Labour's Tam Dalyell quizzed Defence Minister John Stanley in the Commons, he made no attempt to stifle the rumour.



Di... gap in diary

Mr Stanley replied: "I have no comment to make on any Royal visit to the Falklands."

But Mr Dalyell, who keeps a close watch on Falklands affairs, said later: "From the expression of George Younger, the Defence Secretary, I am quite clear that something is afoot."

Conflict

"It ought not to happen in election year."

The last Royal visitor to the Falklands was helicopter pilot Prince Andrew, who fought there during the 1982 war.

Last night, Buckingham Palace aides were guarded about the rumour.

But a spokeswoman admitted there was a large gap in Charles and Di's diary between February and October next year.

Daily Mail 10/12/86

Marines escape the axe

HEROES of the Falklands war, the Royal Marines, have had the threat of disbandment lifted by the Government.

Defence Secretary George Younger also guaranteed last night a longer life and the eventual replacement of the Royal Navy assault ships Fearless

and Intrepid which made victory in the South Atlantic possible in 1982.

The future of the 7,000-strong Marines has been unsure because of curbs in defence spending and the Government's commitment to development of the new Trident submarine programme.

Brazil and Argentina to set seal on collaboration

By Ivo Dawney in Brasilia

THE DIPLOMATIC initiative to achieve substantially closer ties between Brazil and Argentina takes another step today when the countries' presidents sign 20 agreements ranging from customs tariff cuts to collaboration on arms production.

Although many of the accords were approved in principle during President Jose Sarney's visit to Buenos Aires in July, considerable flesh has been added for President Raul Alfonsin's four-day return trip.

Diplomats in both countries are reported to be convinced that progress in the 150-year-old dream of a Latin American common market is being made, despite a history of distrust between the states.

Many businessmen and industrialists appear to have shaken off much of their scepticism and launched a parallel series of encounters. But there remains considerable mistrust in some quarters, particularly in the farming community.

Prior to President Alfonsin's visit—his first to Brasilia—Mr Roberto Lavagna, the Argentine Industry and Commerce Minister, said that 12 of the customs protocols near completion should raise annual trade flows from \$200m (£140.8m) to \$2bn by 1990.

As many as 200 specific products are expected to be named in the list of capital goods exempt from duties, with many others attracting reduced levies.

The weight of the Argentine team, which includes almost all key figures in the Cabinet and a smattering of military personnel, suggests that Mr Alfonsin has near-unanimous backing within his Government for the initiative.

Alfonsin trial curb criticised

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Members of the special commission set up by President Alfonsin three years ago to investigate human rights crimes in Argentina under the military regime yesterday criticised his attempt to impose a time limit on the trials of accused officers.

Opposition to the President's "final point" plan also appeared to have led to yesterday's resignation of a senior judge from a court which last week delivered two crucial human rights verdicts.

Judge Guillermo Ledesma gave no reason for stepping down from the federal appeals court. A week ago, the same court convicted the former police chief, General Ramon Camps, and several other officers of torture. The court also ruled that the statute of limitations had expired on Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz's alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a Swedish girl nine years ago.

In a signed statement yesterday, six members of the human rights commission criticised President Alfonsin for trying to submit trials to "peremptory" deadlines on the justification that the country, and in particular the armed forces, cannot continue to tolerate the tension produced by slow court proceedings.

The statement said the chief cause of the delay had been the armed forces supreme council, Argentina's highest military tribunal.

President Alfonsin's policy has always been that accused officers should be brought before military courts, at least initially. The decision was intended to help national reconciliation.

Still weeping for the lost generation

Argentina celebrates three years of democracy tomorrow after almost a decade of dictatorships that tortured and killed thousands. Ironically it was the Falklands defeat that led to the downfall of the generals. Eduardo Cúe reports on the fight back to freedom

The Argentine nightmare came to the home of Señora Graciela Fernandez Meijide at two o'clock on the morning of October 23, 1976, when she was awakened by the insistent ringing of the doorbell.

Outside she could hear the murmuring of men's voices. After a moment one of them said: "Federal police, open the door!" She woke her husband Enrique and when they opened up they found themselves confronted by four armed men.

The couple's three children, Pablo, 17, Maria Alejandra, 18, and Martin, 15, were asleep. The police ordered Pablo to dress and come with them. They told his parents to pick him up at a nearby police station in the morning. "Pablo was green. He did not cry, he did not protest. He left with a smile, but it was a smile of fear."

Pablo Fernandez Meijide, in his last year of high school and with no record of political militancy, was to become one of more than 9,000 people who would disappear forever into the long Argentine night. As with most of the others, his body has never been found.

"I never learned how Pablo died. I can only infer it. I can only imagine it," said Señora Meijide, who is co-president of the Permanent Commission on Human Rights.

The men who took Pablo away belonged to the Argentine security forces that

roamed the streets of Buenos Aires and other cities in the early morning hours, almost always riding in green Ford Falcons without licence plates, their shotguns poking out of the car windows. They were the soldiers of the military government's war against subversion.

A victim was chosen because he belonged to a human rights or other "suspect" organization. Sometimes it was simply a matter of mistaken identity. This appears to have been what happened to Pablo.

Before kidnapping Pablo, the same men detained Maria and Leonora Zimmerman and a friend of Pablo's, Eduardo Muniz. All three were Pablo's age, and like Pablo all three would disappear forever. Maria was Pablo's new girlfriend, but until recently she had been

dating another boy, also called Pablo.

The four youngsters had distributed leaflets, painted slogans and sold a newspaper for the Workers' Revolutionary Party, the political branch of the People's Revolutionary Army, one of many terrorist groups then operating in Argentina.

"The supposition is that they were looking for the other Pablo," Señora Meijide said. It was a nightmare that was to become familiar to thousands of families.

Alfredo Bravo has the scars to prove what could happen to an ordinary citizen living under the military rule of the Argentine generals. He had just begun to teach his evening Spanish course on September 8, 1977, when an armed man entered the classroom and told him the Interior Minister wanted to see him.

Señor Bravo was thrown into a car and sped away into the Argentine abyss. For the schoolteacher and long-time human rights activist, the day marked the start of two weeks of torture and more than a year of jail and house arrest.

Señor Bravo had helped to found the Permanent Commission for Human Rights, of which he is still co-president. "For 13 days I was the object of all types of torture. The purpose was to make me divulge the names of the people in the United States and Europe who helped publicize our denunciations of human rights violations in Argentina. I never spoke. Not one of my colleagues was disturbed or imprisoned."

During the next two weeks he was submitted to various

forms of torture. Electric shocks were applied to all parts of all his body. He was hung from his feet and pummelled with blows. His head was submerged in buckets of water until he was close to drowning.

Then he was brought before General Juan Ramon Camps, the notorious chief of the Buenos Aires province police who was sentenced to 25 years

Pablo did not cry. But he left with a smile of fear

in jail last week on charges of torture.

"He said I would be receiving a visit from my family that night and that if I told them what had happened to me I would later commit suicide in my cell," said Señor Bravo.

Luck and good timing combined to save Bravo's life. As soon as they learned of his disappearance, Argentina's human rights organizations sent a telegram of protest to President Jimmy Carter, who was meeting the following day at the White House with all the Latin American heads of state on the occasion of the signing of the new Panama Canal Treaty. President Carter personally handed the cable to Argentine's General Jorge Rafael Videla who promised to look into the matter.

Today Señor Bravo, who is a high-ranking official in the education ministry, is optimistic about the future. "I think that the experience that the Argentine people have lived through, the human rights trials and all the battles of the long night from 1976 to 1983 have helped to solidify democracy."

DEMOCRATIC DAYS OF RECKONING

June 1982: Argentine defeat over the Falklands.

December 10, 1983: President Alfonsín is sworn in as a democratically-elected President.

December 1983: Alfonsín announces that nine former military commanders will be tried for human rights violations.

December 1985: Five top military commanders, including former presidents, receive jail terms ranging from four years to life. Four other officers acquitted.

May 6, 1986: Military commanders, including former President Leopoldo Galtieri, receive jail terms ranging from eight to 14 years for their role in the Falklands war. Thirteen other officers acquitted.

December 2, 1986: Former Buenos Aires police chief Juan Ramon Camps is sentenced to 25 years in prison for human rights violations. Five other former military and police officers receive sentences ranging from four to 25 years in prison. Two others are acquitted.

**Time limit on new cases could
also affect existing hearings**

Alfonsin bill on 'dirty war' trials faces rough ride

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin is expected to have trouble in persuading Congress to pass a proposed Final Point law, setting a time limit on human rights trials.

The bill, announced late on Friday night, would impose what the President called a "reasonable time" for bringing new cases before the courts.

Although he did not specify what limit he wanted, a draft of the six point plan circulating in Congress showed that new cases would have to be opened within 30 days.

The bill may also affect existing trials. Unless formally charged inside 60 days, officials said, officers would also benefit from the "conclusion of legal action." The only exception, it seems, would be cases involving children.

President Alfonsin took over from the military almost three years ago promising to punish those responsible for the disappearance of at least 9,000 people during the military regime's "dirty war," claimed that Argentina had already won the battle against "impunity and violence."

The about-turn was launched only hours after a civilian court freed Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, ruling that the Statute of Limitations had expired in the case of Dagmar Hagelin, a Swedish girl who went missing in 1977, one year after the coup.

The deputy leader of the Lower House of Congress, Mr Roberto Silva, a member of the ruling Radical Party,

warned that the bill would run into difficulties. "The artificial setting of a deadline will generate controversy" among President Alfonsin's own supporters, he predicted.

Political observers suspect President Alfonsin may look for support from the opposition Peronist movement, where some senior rightwingers have actively lobbied for an amnesty to be applied not only to the military but the Peronist terrorists who are believed to have sparked the crackdown.

Such a strategy would be in line with President Alfonsin's even-handed approach, until now, of punishing both sides in the "dirty war." But a pardon for the terrorists would not go down well in the armed forces.

For the moment, however, the officer corps is well pleased. The head of the joint chiefs of staff, Air Force Brigadier Teodoro Waldner, told graduating officer cadets that the military committed excesses in the "dirty war" and that coups had been wrong in the past, but then went on to insist the "final point" was necessary.

The speech appeared to be a mere formality once the cadets gave a rowdy standing ovation to the son of General Ramon Camps, the former police chief gaoled for 25 years last week.

Human rights campaigners claim that the bill is an amnesty in all but name. Most trials are still under the military, they say, where courts have dragged their feet before delivering favourable verdicts on accused officers. Civilian courts are also slow moving, they add.

Cost of Falklands

Sir — Eric Ogden (letter, Dec. 4) says that expenditure on the Falklands accounts for "4p in the £ of the British defence budget" (i.e. £739 million for the year 1986-87). In fact the figure is 2.4p. In less than a year and a half's time, the figure will be 1p in the £.

That Britain is having to spend many millions on the defence of the Falklands is an indictment of the UN, which has permitted Argentina to advance a territorial claim in that venue where sentiment overrules Charter principles, the UN General Assembly.

The correct place for Argentina to try to put its case is, of course, the UN's International Court of Justice. It avoids approaching the court, not because Britain may refuse to submit to a judgment, but because it knows that it has no legally sustainable case.

M. MEADMORE
London W12

Alfonsín to limit 'dirty war' charges

From Eduardo Cué
Buenos Aires

In one of the most controversial initiatives of his three-year-old Government, President Alfonsín of Argentina has sent Congress a Bill that would limit further prosecution of military officers accused of human rights violations to those cases where indictments can be returned within 60 days of the law's approval.

The proposed measure would allow only 30 days to bring fresh denunciations against military officers before the Supreme Council of Military Justice.

Failure to meet the deadlines would mean pending cases against officers accused of kidnapping and torture would be closed forever.

The proposal does not include cases involving children who were kidnapped by security forces along with their parents and whose legal status is in limbo. Also excluded are officers who have already been indicted and whose cases are awaiting trial.

Legal observers said the proposal will give prosecutors as long as six months in which to bring new cases before the courts because Congress could delay action until March.

The 60-day limit could be further extended by the legislature for 30 days to appease the human rights organizations.

"The defeat of this law would be a very serious blow to the Government," remarked a well-informed source, who said the military had exercised pressure on the civilian authorities over the issue.



President Alfonsín: pressure from the armed forces.

"They can't produce a coup d'état today, but I don't know that they cannot do it two years from now."

President Alfonsín said on Friday night that an end to the trials must be envisaged, "in order to prevent suspicions from looming indefinitely over members of the security and armed forces".

In what appeared to be a well co-ordinated action designed to appease public opinion and help the Bill's chances in Congress, Brigadier-General Teodoro Waldner, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted for the first time on Saturday that the Argentine military had committed serious mistakes in its war against terrorism.

"We must recognize that the characteristics of that fight led us to adopt methods of such violence that we can doubt their legality," General Waldner told the 379 members of the graduating class of the National Military School. "The violation of basic human rights can never be, and has never been, the objective of an Argentine military officer, even in conditions of combat."

Among his listeners was Sub-Lieutenant Alberto Camps, whose father, retired General Juan Ramón Camps, was sentenced to 25 years in jail last Tuesday after having been convicted in 73 torture cases.

Move to end 'dirty war' trials

By Cristina Bonasegna
in Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN of Argentina is sending to Congress a controversial draft Bill to limit trials of the military accused of human rights violations under the former regime.

In a turning-point in his human rights policies Senor Alfonsin went on nationwide television and radio on Friday night to make the announcement himself, almost exactly half-way through his six-year term.

The draft — known in Argentina as the "full stop" — allows only a 30-day term for the presentation of new suits against military men involved in the so-called dirty war, during which more than 9,000 people in Argentina disappeared.

It also provides that any member of the Armed Forces or police accused of human rights violations under the former regime will be cleared of charges unless indicted within 60 days after the law is passed.

The draft is due in Congress tomorrow to be discussed during extraordinary sessions right away.

'After all this time'

"We believe it is necessary not only to speed up court proceedings but also to set a deadline, which after all this time may prevent a kind of never-ending suspicion from looming over the Armed Forces and security members," Alfonsin told the nation.

The Bill has had a mixed reception, prompting heavy criticism from some sectors of Senor Alfonsin's Radical party, the Opposition, and all human rights groups.

Many of them claim the President has given in to pressure from the Armed Forces, which seem ready to accept last year's trials of regime leaders but not trials of mid-ranking officers.

The military hailed the Bill. Joint Chiefs-of-Staff commander Brigadier Teodoro Waldner expressed "satisfaction at President Alfonsin's message".

Battle on for fishing permits

COLIN SMITH ■ Port Stanley

THE FIRST applications for licence to fish in Falkland Islands waters will be vetted in London tomorrow.

What is officially known as the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation Zone was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe at the end of October and comes into force on 1 February next.

Before that, the Falklands was one of the last places in the world where fishing was not restricted for commercial or conservation reasons.

The new conservation zone has had a chunk cut out of the south-west corner of its 150-mile circumference to accommodate Argentinian claims for a 200-mile fishing limit from its own coast but Buenos Aires still describes the British decision as 'provocative.'

In May an Argentine coast-guard cutter sank an unarmed Taiwanese squid jigger, killing one fisherman and wounding several others just outside the area Britain claims.

At one point there were fears that Argentina might have turned the fishing dispute into an East-West issue because it signed a bilateral treaty with the Russians over fishing rights.

The Foreign Office played this down, and seems to think it unlikely that the Soviet Union would deliberately send unlicensed vessels into the area.

Mr Gordon Jewkes, Governor of the colony, stresses that the Falkland islanders intend to police their waters in as peaceful a manner as possible. 'The whole essence is that this is a civilian operation,' he told me at Government House.

Enforcing the zone will cost at least £4 million but the British Government is confident of a profit on the licence revenues which could total £6 million.

'Angel of Death' Astiz freed by appeal court

THE ARGENTINE Federal Appeals judges acquitted Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz of human rights violations in a tense courtroom here yesterday.

The ruling, said federal prosecutor Julior Strassera, was "a moral condemnation" as it accepted that the charges were proved but freed Lt Astiz because the Statute of Limitations had run out.

Members of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in the court cried out: "Assassin, Monster", as the white-uniformed accused walked out.

The appeals court had been hearing an appeal against a military tribunal's decision to clear Lt Astiz in the case of the disappearance of Miss Dagmar Hagelin, a Swedish teenager who went missing in 1977.

The Swedish government had long pressed for a full investigation, but Argentina's highest mili-

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

tary tribunal, the Armed Forces Supreme Council, ruled there was no case to answer.

Earlier this year the Supreme Council cleared him of charges arising from his surrender to the British on South Georgia during the Falklands war.

Lt Astiz was held prisoner first on Ascension Island and then at Chichester Army barracks. Citing the Geneva conventions, he refused to answer questions posed by British interrogators about the disappearance of Miss Hagelin and two French nuns.

Meanwhile, President Raul Alfonsin, moving to assuage the wrath of armed forces commanders, asked Congress yesterday to limit trials of officers for human rights abuses committed under military rule.

EEC to open Falklands talks

Marr shifts to police Falklands

APPLICATIONS for fishing vessel licences to fish Falklands waters closed today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Falklands Islands Office in London says that there has been a good response, but the "numbers of vessels fishing squid will be reduced in the interests of conservation."

The *Illex* squid is seen as being under particular pressure and the spokesman went on: "It is very much our intention to establish conservation on that stock."

Fishing News understands that the former stern trawler *Southella* (now *Seisella*) and the ex-government research ship *G.A. Reay*, both owned by Marr, will be heading to the South Atlantic to spearhead the fisheries protection effort.

Seisella, which was pulled into the cod war conflict in 1976 when the Navy ships found the going hard, could be off to the Falklands as early as next week.

She is regarded as the definitive stern trawler design and was the flag ship of the freezer fleet until converted for seismic survey work.

Seisella is in dock in Hull and has already had her name changed and the Falkland Islands badge painted on. Confirmation of the new roles for the two ships is expected from official sources on Monday.

G.A. Reay has been working in the North Atlantic with another vessel, *Pacific Horizon*, and it is not known when she will sail.

However, it is understood stock owners Marr had planned to sail her to the South Atlantic as a support ship for its next season.

Marr's interests in the Falklands now include fishing, fish sales and policing.



Seisella (as *Southella*) is expected to police the Falklands grounds.

EEC to open Falklands talks

TALKS between the European Commission and the Falkland Islands government over access rights for EEC vessels after the 150-mile fisheries zone comes into force on February 1 next year are expected to get underway soon.

The Commission this week announced its decision to press ahead with negotiations to safeguard EEC fishing interests in the area. However it remains to be seen whether Spain, which currently has the major interest in the area of the EEC member states, will accept licences negotiated in

this way as it refuses to acknowledge British supremacy over the islands.

While the Commission made it clear that this latest move does not prejudice its view over the wider Falkland's question, it has acknowledged that the islands are classified as an Overseas Territory under the UK's EEC accession treaty and that the UK, therefore, has the right to take whatever steps it feels fit.

Moreover it is generally felt that, by adding its initials to the EEC Treaty in January 1986, Spain accepted

this situation despite its subsequent reticence.

The Commission's move follows several preliminary meetings with UK Brussels-based officials. It also comes after a series of attempts by Argentina to win support for its condemnation of the UK move in Europe by lobbying the EEC Commission president Jacques Delors.

In two recent letters to Delors, Argentina has denounced the UK's October 29 announcement as politically unacceptable. However, the Commission appears to feel, at this stage, it should preserve EEC access to fish stocks as a matter of priority.

Falklands TV

The new taped television service for the Falkland Islands garrison will begin on Thursday, Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, said in a written reply. It will transmit four hours a day of taped current BBC and ITV programmes.

The Falklanders and their rights

SIR.—Eric Jackson (letter, Nov. 28) claimed that we are punishing ourselves by refusing to hand over the people of the Falklands to those who invaded them, abused them, destroyed their past and still claim their future.

He must know that, sadly, this new democratic government in Argentina makes exactly the same claims for the Falklands and all British territories in the south-west Atlantic and Antarctica (and the same promises) as were made and so speedily broken by the Junta. President Alfonsín will not end hostilities against us, or discuss even the conservation of fish stocks, unless we "negotiate sovereignty." That for them means the surrender and transfer of sovereignty, anything less is for them only the first step to full ownership and control.

The Falkland Islanders are no

danger, no threat to Argentina. They want only the same democratic rights to decide their own future in their own lands, as President Alfonsín claims he wants for his own people in Argentina.

If there is provocation, it comes from Argentina, if there are still hostilities, they come from the Government of Argentina, not from Britain or the Falklands.

Your other correspondent T. Cooke suggests selling the islands—for the sake of 4p in the £ of the British defence budget.

Surely the British people of the Falklands have as much right to protection from invasion and abuse in their homes as he has from robbery and muggings in Croydon. Is he really unaware of the fact that the Falklands have been a very profitable investment for many people in the United Kingdom? That they sent more money to us during most of the 150 years of their British governance than the British taxpayer ever sent to them?

To sell or barter the people of the Falklands to placate Argentine delusions and aggression, to abandon British interests in the south-west Atlantic and Antarctica, would be to betray the Falkland Islanders yet again, and be an act of incredible economic ineptitude and folly.

ERIC OGDEN
Chairman, the U.K. Falkland
Islands Committee, London, SW1

Falklands set to sign fish patrol charter

By Christopher Brown-Humes

THE Falkland Islands Government is close to finalising a charter for two vessels to patrol its new 150-miles licensed fishing zone.

The British-owned vessels are the *Seisella*, 1,497 tons gross, and the *G. A. Reay*, 928 tons, which are in the process of being renamed the *Falklands Desire* and *Falklands Right* respectively. They are managed by J. Marr & Son of Hull.

A Falklands Government spokesman in London said the vessels would be used for policing the information-gathering operations. Their main duties would be to ensure that trawler skippers possessed the requisite licences for fishing.

He said they would be available for service in time for the start of the new zone on Feb 1.

Both ships are converted trawlers and have been involved with seismic and oceanographic work.

TV for troops

Troops in the Falkland Islands are to get a daily taped TV service in time for Christmas, the Defence Department said yesterday.

Argentina seeks to close chapter on 'war'

TV for troops

Troops in the Falkland Islands will be getting a television service in time for Christmas, said John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister. A new taped service would start today, he said, giving four hours daily of a mix of BBC and ITV programmes.

Argentina seeks to close chapter on 'dirty war'

THE Argentine Government is attempting to promote a political consensus on bringing an end to the prosecution of police and military accused of human rights violations during the "dirty war" of the late 1970s.

One of the most notorious figures of the military regime, former police chief General Ramón Camps, was stripped of his rank and sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment on Tuesday on 73 counts of torture. His defence that such tactics were a necessary part of the war against left-wing subversion was rejected by the Buenos Aires Federal Appeal Court.

Camps' successor as Buenos Aires police chief, Ovidio Pablo Riccheri, received a 14-year sentence, while his deputy, Miguel Etchecolatz, was sentenced to 23 years. Corporal Norberto Cozzani was sentenced to four years and police physician Jorge Berges received a six-year sentence and had his medical licence permanently revoked. Two subordinate officers — Hector Vides and Alberto Rousse — were acquitted for lack of evidence.

None of the defendants was in the courtroom where, a year ago, the nine members of the juntas of 1976-83 were sentenced to similarly lengthy jail terms. Camps, 59, is being treated for cancer.

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

In a ruling that could theoretically have an impact on cases yet to be heard — some 1,500, according to prosecutor Julio César Strassera — the court said the accused could not hide behind the defence that they were only following orders. But, according to human rights lawyer Horacio Mendez Carreras, the sentencing appeared to reflect that the status of subordinate was viewed as "an extenuating circumstance".

This could have important effects on the case of Lt Alfredo Astiz, due to be sentenced today in a case involving the disappearance of Swedish-Argentine teenager Dagmar Hagelin. Astiz was briefly detained in Britain after his capture in South Georgia during the 1982 Falklands conflict.

The conclusion of the Camps trial comes as President Alfonsín's government is once again considering some form of legislation that could place limits on further human rights trials.

César Jaroslavsky, lower house leader of the governing Radical Party, and Senator Luís Salim, of the opposition Peronist Party, have both said they are working independently on draft bills de-

signed to impose a *punto final*, or full stop, to the judicial processing of military officers. The Government, according to Mr Jaroslavsky, is not contemplating an amnesty, but, rather, looking for "an appropriate judicial tool that will bring peace and justice" while not allowing "those who committed crimes to go unpunished".

Within circles close to the Government it is argued that the time is ripe for introducing *punto final* legislation during an extraordinary congressional session which opens this week and lasts until March.

Government advisers support this contention, claiming that recent public opinion polls show Argentines no longer list bringing military offenders to justice among their principal concerns.

They also point to recent statements by military commanders as evidence that the armed forces have experienced a transformation that merits an explicit response from civilian sectors. Army commander Hector Ríos Erenu's declaration last Monday in which he said that the military had made a public self-criticism and wanted to be re-incorporated by "an integrating project", is pointed out by defenders of the need for a *punto final*.

Falklands deaths

Ministry denies Marines cover-up

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Ministry of Defence officials denied yesterday that there had been any attempt to cover up an incident during the Falklands campaign in which four Royal Marines were killed after men from their own unit mistook them for the enemy and opened fire.

The next of kin were informed about the "tragic accident" as soon as possible after the conflict was over, and details had been printed in a history of the campaign.

The ministry said yesterday: "Such incidents have always happened in the chaos and confusion of war and probably always will."

"However, the next of kin were informed as soon as possible after the conflict was over and the re-emergence of the incident now can only cause unnecessary hurt."

In military circles such events are known as "blue on blue" incidents, derived from military terminology in which all friendly forces are blue and enemy forces red.

In the Falklands campaign,

in which 255 Task Force personnel lost their lives, four such incidents, in which 10 servicemen were killed, were acknowledged.

The shoot-out between two units of 45 Commando, Royal Marines, which is being highlighted, is a classic example of a "blue on blue".

The ministry said that the incident occurred on the night of June 9-10, 1982, in pitch darkness and driving rain on Mount Kent.

A fighting patrol of 45 Commando, having just "yomped" across the Falklands, mistook a mortar section of their colleagues for a detachment of Argentine troops.

In the brief but fierce exchange of fire that followed, four men were killed. They were the mortar platoon sergeant, Robert Leeming, aged 32, Corporals Andrew Uren, aged 23 and Peter Flitton, aged 25, and Marine Keith Philips, aged 19. Three others were wounded.

The next of kin were in-

formed of the details by the officer commanding the unit, Lt Col Andrew Whitehead, soon after the end of the conflict.

● In one of the other incidents, two members of the Army Air Corps and two men of the Royal Signals Regiment died when their helicopter was hit by a Sea Dart missile, now believed to have been fired by HMS Cardiff, in the belief it was attacking an enemy helicopter.

Initially a metallurgical examination had ruled out a hit by a Sea Dart but after further investigations at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, it was concluded that the Gazelle could have been brought down by a missile fired by the destroyer.

After pressure from the mother of one of the Army Air Corps men killed, a Board of Inquiry was set up to examine the details. It ended in November and a report is with the ministry.

Relatives of those killed

were informed, this year, of the latest findings in advance of expected newspaper publicity.

● In another incident, a soldier with the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was killed by British artillery fire while attacking Argentine positions on the night of June 13-14. His relatives were not told of the details until late in 1983 because his battalion wished to spare them distress.

However when it became known that the incident was to be included in General John Frost's book *2 Para: Falklands*, a decision was taken to inform them.

● The final "blue on blue" led to the death of a soldier serving with the SAS.

It is understood he was engaged in covert activities but the ministry would only say that he died as a result of an "unfortunate incident".

Relatives have been informed but no further details have been released.

Argentina nears \$1bn pipeline debt settlement

By Tim Coone in Buenos Aires

AN ARGENTINIAN Government debt of \$1bn to Cogasco of The Netherlands for the construction of the country's Centro-Oeste gas pipeline is close to settlement, according to Mr Jorge Lapena, the Energy Minister.

He told the Buenos Aires newspaper La Nacion that negotiations would be finalised within 90 days and would include a credit of \$1.017bn from the Netherlands Government to settle overdue payments to Cogasco as well as the remaining payments becoming due up until 1996.

Work started on the 1,800-km pipeline in 1980 and the first gas started flowing in 1981, although the project was not completed until 1983.

Cogasco is 70 per cent Dutch-owned and the work was financed by a largely Dutch banking consortium. The \$1.35bn project was to have been paid by Gas Del Estado, the Argentinian state gas company, through toll fees over a period of 15 years.

In 1996 ownership of the pipeline would then have passed to Gas Del Estado.

Agreement on the debt will also ease negotiations between Argentina and its Club of Paris creditors.

Falklands fishing zone 'successful'

DESPITE widespread condemnation at the United Nations, Britain's decision to impose a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands appears to be achieving its declared objective — to regulate fishing in the South Atlantic, writes Nicholas Ashford.

According to informed sources, most of the countries whose vessels have been operating in the rich fishing fields of the South Atlantic have applied to the Falkland Islands government for licences to fish within the 150-mile zone. The deadline for final applications is Friday.

Among those nations which have submitted applications are Spain, Japan, Taiwan and Poland. Some, such as Spain, had originally said they would not apply for licences.

Two notable absentees from the list of applicants are the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. They are expected to keep away from the zone rather than run the risk of a confrontation with a British warship by trying to fish there illegally.

Although not prepared to confirm the identities of applicants until after the Friday deadline, Alistair Cameron, the Falkland Islands government representative in London, said yesterday that there had been "no lack of interest among fishing nations."

"There will be no problem in finding enough takers for licences; in fact we will not be able to satisfy all applicants," he added.

Britain announced its decision to impose a 150-mile fisheries zone around the disputed islands a month ago, in an attempt to conserve the stocks of squid, hake and whiting, which have been severely depleted by over-fishing in the past four years.

The controversial decision was condemned by Argentina and undoubtedly contributed to the massive 116-4 vote defeat which Britain suffered last week in the United Nations debate on the Falkland Islands.

Falklands fish plan emerging

BY TIM DICKSON IN BRUSSELS

DETAILS ARE emerging about Britain's plans for the new 150-mile fishing zone round the Falklands.

Negotiations are due to begin shortly with interested parties over licences for the 1987 season, which runs from February to October. The idea is that these will be allocated on an *ad hoc* basis for the moment but that after next year they will be the subject of formal long term agreements with the relevant countries or companies.

Britain's decision unilaterally to declare a 150 mile zone at the end of October provoked a strong reaction from Argentina, which claimed that the move was a deliberate attack on Argentine sovereignty. The UK insists, on the other hand, that the measure was a response to what it believes has been serious overfishing in the area since 1983 and the repeated refusal of the Government in Buenos Aires to participate in multilateral negotiations on voluntary restraint.

The row also put the European Commission in a potentially embarrassing spot. Under Britain's 1973 Accession Treaty the Falkland Islands is clearly defined as an Overseas Territory with the UK thus responsible for the management of their fisheries — but the Commission is directly involved in its role of negotiating access to these waters on behalf of all EEC member states.

There had been suggestions that Spain — a traditional ally of Argentina which does not recognise British sovereignty of the Falklands — might try to put pressure on the Commission not to co-operate in this matter. Significantly, however, the Commission announced in a little noticed statement last week that it was poised to enter "exploratory discussions" with the British authorities on the question of fishing rights round the Falklands. Officials indicated that there had been no objections to the move from Spanish commissioners.

The main interest in the area

has so far apparently been expressed by Italy, Holland and Spain among EEC member states, although observers say British vessels could also be attracted by the prospect of a more stable conservation management regime. Applications for licences have to be lodged with the Falklands Islands office in London and Britain says it is keen to finalise arrangements by the middle of this month.

The exploratory talks with the Commission are likely to centre on the number of permits to be allocated and the terms on which they will be available. It is felt in Brussels that the Commission's readiness to enter such negotiations will not only please Britain but ensure that the Community's fishermen have a head start in efforts to secure a good deal.

At the moment there are around 700 boats in the Falklands waters, of which nearly 10 per cent are of EEC origin (the vast majority of these being Spanish).

Moscow 'not to seek Falklands fishing licence'

THE Soviet Union's fishing fleet will not seek licences from British authorities to fish around the Falkland Islands, according to Soviet officials, Tim Coone reports from Buenos Aires.

The signing of a bilateral fishing accord between Argentina and the Soviet Union earlier this year was one of the reasons cited by the British Government for announcing a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the Falklands at the end of October. This is due to come into force on February 1 next year.

A senior official at the Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires said "the fishing agreement is within the framework of our bilateral commercial relations with Argentina."

Argentina plugs trade loophole

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

The crisis over Falklands fishing rights has ended Argentina's cautious initiative in allowing British imports in for the first time since the South Atlantic war.

Trade and diplomatic sources say that shipments of British goods have ceased since Britain announced its fishery plans last month.

In March the Argentine Government decided in effect to lift the ban on British goods imposed by the military regime during the early days of the 1982 war. The decision was seen as a discreet peace offering to the British made in response to pressure from European countries and the United States.

The Government did nothing to remove the ban, but Argentine customs and trade officials increasingly turned a blind eye to its infringement, apparently acting on official instructions.

But diplomats and businessmen had warned that the failure to put a formal end to the boycott implied that it could be resurrected at any time. It remains unclear

whether the latest shift reflects a new policy or whether nationalist officials, perhaps without the knowledge of President Raul Alfonsín, are simply obstructing trade on their own initiative.

The British commercial television series, *Upstairs, Downstairs*, appears to have fallen an early victim to the renewed vigour of the ban.

The series had been broadcast nightly on one of two private Buenos Aires cable channels for some time before the fisheries row blew up; it vanished from screens shortly afterwards.

Only days earlier, one episode had featured the prominent display of British flags, just as Argentine politicians and officials were fulminating against the British decision.

So far, there has been no public explanation of the decision to take the programme off the air prematurely but officials at the cable station say they have had problems in importing new episodes.

Other popular British series, including *The Professionals*, are still being broadcast, although viewers complain that there are even more repeats than usual.

Marines shot by own side in Falklands

Four Royal Marines were mistaken for Argentine soldiers and killed by other members of their own unit during the Falklands conflict, the Ministry of Defence confirmed last night.

The dead men, a sergeant, two corporals and a marine were on Mount Kent.

The ministry refused to confirm the men's identities, but said the unit's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Whitehead, had explained the circumstances to their families.

Army strips Port Stanley runway

By Patrick Watts
in Port Stanley

BRITISH Army engineers have arrived in the Falkland Islands to recover 90,000 sheets of aluminium laid in August 1982 on the bombed runway at Port Stanley airport.

The aluminium sheets, laid in record time by the Royal Engineers to enable RAF Phantom fighter aircraft to operate from Port Stanley and maintain an adequate defence of the islands, are valued at £55 million-£50 million.

With the £400 million airport complex at Mount Pleasant now operational and offering two runways for the Phantoms, the task of recovering the aluminium, a large quantity of which was purchased hurriedly from the Americans in 1982, has now begun.

"It will be returned to 'war reserve' and could be used if and when we need an emergency airfield anywhere else in the world," said Lt Col Kevin O'Donaghue, the commanding officer of the Royal Engineers. In addition to the sheets, fabric-covered hangers, aluminium trackway and emergency fuel-handling equipment will also be returned to "war reserve."

'Operative Flogger'

The recovery project which will take several months has been code-named "Operation Flogger" by the Ministry of Defence.

Col O'Donaghue denied that the aluminium sheets would be used to build a runway on the island of South Georgia, 800 miles south east of the Falklands and which can only be reached by sea.

However a continued British presence on the island looks assured as the Royal engineers, as part of "Operation Flogger", will make substantial repairs to the jetty at King Edward Point where British troops are based.

The Ministry of Defence also plans to repair three Harrier craters and one Vulcan bomber crater, reminders of the 1982 British attacks. "They have been filled but need some sort of top dressing to seal the surface," said Lt Col O'Donaghue.

'Pirate landings'

Local twin-engined Islander aircraft will use Port Stanley for inter-island travel. However, the future length of the 1,500-foot runway is still to be decided.

Military officials would prefer a very short runway, to restrict possible "pirate" landings by Argentine aircraft. Civilian government authorities are reluctant to have considerable length of the asphalt pulled up just to suit military requirements. They also have the longer term possibilities of commercial air links with Chile and Uruguayan ports in mind.

Meanwhile, the MoD has appealed to Falkland Islanders to return odd sheets of the aluminium planking which have "found their way" into private homes for use as paths and garden fences. At £280 a sheet the MoD is anxious to recover as much as possible and has offered to exchange the aluminium for less valuable pressed steel planking which is surplus to requirements.

Wider limits off Falklands

IN THE new surge of interest in the Falkland Islands since the British decision to apply a 150-mile fishing limit, two facts stand out: the one is that neither Britain nor Argentina is going to give way in their dispute over who owns the islands; the other is that the fish and shellfish stocks in the area require protection.

To say that they do not is as nonsensical as the statement by Argentina's Minister of Defence (in a BBC television interview) that the incident in which a Taiwanese fishing vessel was fired on and a crewman killed happened long ago and is not an issue.

The sinking of the ship by an Argentinian patrol vessel happened earlier this year, and it underlined the need to take some action to regulate the big fleet and intensive fishing around the islands.

In the United Nations General Assembly debate, at the end of November, where the vote against Britain was predictable and overwhelming, reference was made by Argentina to an FAO report. This was said to have seen no serious

Who will issue the licences?

danger to stocks from fishing pressures in the south-west Atlantic.

If so, it is a report we have not heard of, and it is unlikely to be the one which the UK has been waiting for from FAO. It may be a report of about 1983 which was before intensive fishing began around the Falklands again.

But, as the BBC Panorama programme (which quoted the Defence Minister), noted, the argument is really over politics and not fish.

Countries wanting to carry on taking good catches of squid and other species

within 150 miles of the islands will have to apply for permission. But who do they go to: Britain or Argentina?

The UK government has announced that, from February 1987, it will be patrolling and enforcing a 150-mile EEZ, and that the only ships permitted to fish there will be those whose owners have applied for and been allowed a licence.

However, Argentina has changed the law governing her 200-mile limit to allow the granting of licences to private or state enterprises of any flag.

Our correspondent in Argentina makes the point that this includes Spain and

Japan, as well as Russia and Bulgaria who are reported to have concluded fishing agreements.

This change, he adds, puts the government of Argentina on an equal footing with the government of Britain regarding the waters around the disputed islands.

The Spanish Prime Minister has declared that his country will not seek British permission to fish inside the 150 miles. Does this mean that Spain will go to Argentina; or will its ships exploit the situation and simply carry on hauling huge catches? And what will Japan, Taiwan, Poland and other countries do?

Over the past year or so, most countries with ships working around the Falklands have accepted that the stocks there need protecting. Argentina has also criticised Britain in the past for allowing a free-for-all to threaten the stocks.

Commenting on the dispute, the *Observer* newspaper in London says that nobody really doubts that Britain will eventually nego-

tiate the Falklands away, perhaps disguising the retreat by some diplomatic subterfuge like UN trusteeship or leaseback.

This, however, is some time away. The immediate problem, precipitated by the pillage of the fish stocks is to protect a valuable ocean resource for whoever eventually owns the islands.

On the evidence of 1982, the countries fishing there may consider it safer for their ships and catches to apply to London for a licence rather than to Buenos Aires.

PROPULSION AND POWER

Bunker service includes the Falklands fleet

BUNKERING fishing fleets has helped London based Tramp Oil & Marine Ltd. become one of the world's leading independent suppliers of marine fuel and it now services vessels as far away as the Falkland Islands, reports Jenny Hjul.

Tramp Oil first set up bunkering arrangements with fishing vessels in Spain six years ago. Jack Rudd, the firm's bunkering and technical services manager,

saw the opportunity for growth in this field and organised supply deals with Spanish, Korean and Moroccan fleets putting into Las Palmas.

Spain is one of Tramp's main markets as far as the fishing industry is concerned, but the company has now expanded into Falklands

waters, third world countries and Icelandic operators calling at East Coast UK and German North Sea ports.

UK trade is limited — "about 20-100 tons here and there," said Mr. Rudd, but he believes there is room for growth. The firm bunkers a South Coast UK owner, setting a price for one month

ahead. This service is arranged at many ports around the world where fleets call on a regular basis for multiple supplies of say 20-60 tons each vessel.

Tramp Oil has bunkered fleets fishing in the Falklands area for the last three seasons and says it hopes to problem of an exclusive eco-

nomic zone being set up in 1987 as proposed by the British government. Of course, this may encourage other British fleet owners other than J. Marr, who are already present there, to try their hand at fishing this difficult area.

"If there is a market, we

will continue to go down there," Mr. Rudd told *FNI*.

Tramp Oil has to get a firm commitment from an owner/operator a month ahead for it to be worthwhile chartering a tanker to make the trip to the Falklands as it is about three weeks in transit, so orders have to be firm and binding.

About six or seven trips were made during the last season and some 25,000 tons of oil were delivered — some boats took 200 tons, others up to 900 tons.

Tramp Oil's competition in the region comes from Russian, Japanese and Greek suppliers who mainly service their own fleets.

Spain is one of the main growth areas for Tramp Oil, as well as fleets fishing North and South Atlantic (including Falklands waters) and the Indian Ocean where voyage times can be five to six months or more, making fuelling on the high seas essential.

The Spanish fleet, the largest in the EEC, is still receiving a government subsidy equal to US \$35 a ton for gas oil at Spanish ports only, which was due to be phased out when Spain joined the EEC. This obviously hampers competition in mainland Spain and Canary Island ports. Once the subsidy is phased out, Tramp expects to build on the volume of trade with Spain.

Tramp supplies French vessels as well and says it can service any fleet anywhere in the world.

"We have to aim at a wider market. We can accommodate individual needs by bunkering in port or delivering on the high seas," said Mr. Rudd.

London base

Tramp Oil is based in the London borough of Bromley, Kent and has a staff of ten experts who actively trade in some 3000 ports worldwide listed on the company's computers.

The 12-year old company claims to offer a comprehensive service to owners and operators: they give Tramp details of the rotation of their fleets and then leave it to Tramp to advise on where bunkering should take place.

Tramp stresses that it is a trading company and not a broker. It has developed its place in the market against a background of change.

Until a few years ago, 95 per cent of the bunker market was accounted for by the major oil companies. Now, out of some 110 million tons supplied a year, between 60 and 70 per cent is supplied by independent firms like Tramp.

The firm recently launched an eight-page guide to good house-keeping when loading bunkers. It says the quality of fuel has declined but many of the problems encountered by vessels are the result of poor monitoring and supervision by the vessel's engineering staff during refuelling.

Higher prices paid for loligo squid

IN FRANCE, Boulogne cod landings in the third quarter amounted to 2800 metric tons, almost six times their 1985 level. Their average price fell in this period from F10.14/kg to F9.39/kg.

However, although whole fresh cod imports in this period were 15 per cent less

than last year at 2600 tons, frozen cod fillet imports were 27 per cent up at 2500 tons. Their average prices were eight per cent up and six per cent up respectively.

Saithe landings at Boulogne from July to September were eight per cent up on 1985 at 5100 tons. Frozen saithe fillet imports to France were then 26 per

cent up on 1985 at 3600 tons, with an average price 29 per cent above last year's level.

Imports of wet salted cod to Spain in July and August this year were 54 per cent up on 1985 at 1800 tons. Their average price was 12 per cent higher.

Wholesale prices of loligo squid in Spain rose in

October due to increased demand and, once the European Community decided to fund cold stores, reduced supplies.

Imports of frozen loligo were twice last year's at 1200 tons in July and August and their average price was four per cent higher.

Whole frozen illex squid prices were nearly doubled

at 4800 tons with an average price 58 per cent higher. From April to October wholesale prices rose 50 per cent.

Supplies remain restricted. Illex tube imports were, however, four-fifths less than in 1985 at 2500 tons in July and August. Their average import price was 33 per cent up.

SALMON ADVICE

PROFESSOR George Dunnet has been appointed chairman of Britain's new Salmon Advisory Committee.

Announcing the appointment John Gummer, the Minister of State for Fisheries, said that Professor Dunnet, who is Regius Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen University, has "the kind of experience we need."

He has carried out ecological studies on birds and mammals in several parts of the world, and has a close association with salmon research in Scotland.

The committee has been formed to examine the state of salmon stocks in British waters.

PERU FLEET GETS SEVEN DUTCHSHIPS.

HOLLAND'S problem of too many ships in her freezer fleet has matched Peru's need for vessels to boost her food fish supply. The result is the sale by four Dutch owners of seven stern trawlers built between 1973 and 1975 and now largely replaced by the 16 big ships built and building in the 1980s.

Negotiations leading to the sale of the ships began last year about the time that Peru ended a joint venture between local companies and ten Russian trawlers.

This left the Peruvian industry looking around for ships that would be able to harvest rich stocks of mackerel, horse mackerel and hake within the country's 200-mile zone.

A Dutch company was asked whether freezer trawlers were available second-hand. The ministry dealing with development aid became involved and this led to the provision of a soft loan of 15 million guilders

to cover part of the 35 million guilder (£10.6 million) price of the ships.

Two of the ships, the 59 metre long *Johanna* (built in 1975) and the 54.16 metre

long *Egmond* (1972) were sold by the company Kennermerland. Two, the 59 metre *Dirk Diederik* (1974) and the 54.5 metre *Jan Maria* (1973), are from the fleet of Parlevliet and Van der Plaas. Kwakkelstein has sold the 56 metre *Monica* (1974), and Red. van der Zwan 54.5 metre *Franzisca* (1974) and *Willem van der Zwan* (1973).

The new owners in Peru are to pay another five million guilders (about £1.5 million) for extra materials and for delivery of the ships.

It is not likely that the seven trawlers will be replaced and so their sale will reduce the size of the Dutch freezer fleet from 23 to 16 ships, and about 120 jobs will be lost.

The fleet will increase to 18 with the delivery this month of a 100-metre long, 5800 hp ship to Jaczon from the Ysselwerf yard, and in 1987 of a 5900 hp factory trawler to Kennermerland from Poland.



Sold to Peru. The 54.5
metre long *Franziska* and
the 59 metre long *Dirk
Diederik*.

SURPLUS SALMON WARNING

A NEW estimate of farmed Atlantic salmon production and demand comes from the Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM).

In a research study of international production and market trends, it finds that the market is expected to grow to 153,000 metric tons by 1990 — with Norway providing 100,000 tons, Scotland 25,000 tons and Ireland 10,000 tons.

For Ireland alone, this could mean farm earnings of IRE32 million, exports of IRE44 million and 1200 jobs.

According to the report of this study, Europe's technical maximum of farmed salmon production is around 250,000 to 300,000 tons. Norway, says the report, can produce 200,000 tons a year, Scotland up to 30,000 tons and Ireland up to 15,000 tons.

The market will determine the limits to output. But other constraints will include lack of suitable sites for sea cages.

Ireland is already facing this problem, notes BIM. But Bridgestone cages have been used in exposed sea conditions with encouraging results.

Production may exceed demand by 23,000 tons

Atlantic salmon farming has also been greatly assisted by recent major developments in feed compounding, and stock improvement programmes have been underway for some time.

But, with the prospect of rapidly increasing supplies, there will be a need for increasing emphasis on marketing with effective performance making the difference between success and failure.

With the growth in production, falling real price trends, falling and frozen salmon are already evident in most European and North American countries. If continued, they should induce greater consumption. And growing awareness of salmon's health value will add to its marketability.

However, total world demand for Atlantic salmon by 1990, after considering present trends in individual markets, "is likely to be only 130,000 tons, which is 23,000 tons less than forecast production".

BIM's conclusion from this is that the imbalance of projected supply and

demand by 1990 could cause reductions in prices and margins greater than farmers and traders presently envisage.

Lower margins will force the least efficient producers out of the industry and will deter potential small-scale new entrants.

The emphasis on greater efficiency will stimulate high standards of technology and training, and a larger minimum-volume production unit.

Salmon farms based on integrated smolt and sea cage production are unlikely to be less than 500 tons a year capacity, notes the BIM report.

Investment needed for such a project would be around UK£22 million and would be capable of earning 18 per cent internal rate of return.

But the investment is risky. A drop of ten per cent in real revenues through low prices would halve the rate of return. A stock loss say every five years (through disease or unusual weather con-

ditions) would reduce this return to zero.

● We shall be looking at this BIM report and its conclusions in more detail in our January 1987 issue.