

Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER



NEW TALKS

November 1979 No 7

Brigadier Carlos Washington Pastor, the Argentine Foreign Minister, called on Britain at the UN General Assembly in September to join in a search for a solution to the Falkland Islands dispute.

Addressing the 152-member assembly, he said:

"My government . . . reiterates its firm decision to persevere in the search for a prompt and just solution to this problem. But the Argentine decision cannot be unilateral. It has to be matched by a similar spirit on the part of the British authorities."

In response, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office stated that Britain's position had not changed. A spokesman said that it was evident that Britain had exercised sovereignty over the Islands for 150 years and it was equally obvious that the Islanders, being of British descent, wished to remain under British rule.

Despite this statement, it is known that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, agreed at the UN General Assembly in private talks with his Argentine counterpart that the negotiations on the future sovereignty and economic status of the Falkland Islands will be resumed. Talks between Britain and Argentina broke down during the last stages of the previous Labour administration.

● The September meeting of the non-aligned nations in Cuba voted a guarded resolution supporting Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands.

OIL PROSPECTS

Dr. Fernando Mendoza, secretary general of the Association of Latin American State Oil Companies, has said that the waters between Argentina and the Falkland Islands are an area for likely exploration in the near future.

Dr. Mendoza was speaking at the recent "Offshore Europe 79" exhibition in Aberdeen, where he likened the potential and conditions of Falkland waters with those of the North Sea.

Rowlands joins UK committee

Mr. Ted Rowlands MP (Lab. Merthyr Tydfil), formerly Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for the Falkland Islands, has joined the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee. The Committee has among its members past Governors of the Islands, members of political parties in the United Kingdom, Falkland Islanders resident in the U.K. and sympathisers. Mr. Rowlands, in whom the islanders had complete trust while he was in office, will join another ex-Minister on the Committee, Sir Nigel Fisher MC, MP.



Miss Sukey Cameron (22) has joined the Falkland Islands Office as executive secretary. Sukey is a Falkland Islander from Port San Carlos and is the granddaughter of a former Governor of the Falkland Islands - Sir Herbert Henniker-Heaton.

SHACKLETON CHECK LIST

On May 25 1979 the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Ian Gilmour MP, stated in the House of Commons that "The majority of the recommendations put forward by Lord Shackleton in his economic survey of the Falkland Islands have been implemented." This statement led to a series of verbal and written exchanges with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, questioning its validity, and led ultimately to a question in the House of Lords by Lord Morris on 4th July.

In his answer Lord Trefgarne, for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, confirmed and re-stated that "the majority of the recommendations have now been implemented."

Lord Shackleton and others then questioned Lord Trefgarne on the accuracy of the assertion and finally obliged the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to publish in Hansard a detailed breakdown of their case.

● This document is now reproduced by the 'NEWSLETTER', together with comments by the Falkland Islands Office. It can be seen that, for reasons which are not clear, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have given the wrong impression to Parliament and the public. Moreover, in terms of importance, the majority of the major recommendations of the Shackleton report have not been implemented. The matter is still being pursued at parliamentary level.

Ridley meeting

Representatives of the U.K. Falkland Islands Committee (UKFIC) met Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State FCO, on 28 August 1979. The meeting was conducted in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere. The Minister explained that he wished to encourage development in the Falkland Islands by private sector investment. He reiterated assurances previously given by the FCO over sovereignty. The meeting also touched on negotiations with Argentina, fisheries and other possible resources, e.g. oil, as well as FCO relations with the UKFIC.

Recommendation	Action	Falkland Islands Office comment	Response
1. Extension of the Greenlands Trade Ltd.	OTU completion has been increased from 4 to 6. ODA cover for financing Committee who already monitor OTU.		No comment
2. Establishment by means of an Agriculture Department by FIG.	FIG seeking part-time Agricultural Officer. At present relying on help from ODT.		No comment
3. Establishment of smaller farm units by FIG to widen the complexity of land.	Being implemented.		No comment
4. Continuation of grants for fencing and efficiency improvement grants.	Agreed.		No comment
5. FIG assistance in land improvement by e.g. silt ditching.	Agreed.		No comment
6. FIG should seek to involve themselves in FIG's policy making and devise an institutional solution to ensure that the Company gives due weight to the interests of the Islanders.	FIG have sought to establish closer personal relationship with FIG.		No comment
Government Recreational Provision			
7. FIG should increase company activities by 5 per cent and to increase the rate of capital allowances.	Implemented.		Agreed
8. FIG should increase personal taxation; review benefits in kind; and introduce small income relief.	Implemented.		Agreed
9. FIG should increase certain import duties.	Done.		Agreed
10. FIG should consider appointing a firm of UK surveyors to replace the Crown Agents.	Considered. Results Crown Agents with improved marketing.		Action successfully taken.
11. FIG should increase licence fee for wildlife exports.	Implemented.		Agreed
12. FIG should increase Stanley rates, and review subsidies on other services.	Implemented.		Agreed
13. FIG should consider introducing a compulsory health insurance scheme.	Implemented.		Agreed
14. Appointment of a Chief Executive.	Not implemented.		Agreed
15. Appointment of a Development Officer, to be responsible for day to day economic development.	Implemented.		Post vacant since November 1978.
16. Exco and Legco Committees: FIG should appoint officials to serve Committees.	Rejected as impracticable without more officials.		No comment
17. Exco and Legco Committees: Non Exco/ Legco members to be co-opted.	Implemented.		No comment
18. Exco and Legco Committees: Sub-committees to be established dealing with specific aspects of broader subjects.	Implemented.		No comment
19. Exco and Legco Committees to be given financial authority to allocate from specific funds.	FIG consider not practical.		No comment
20. Consideration to be given to the establishment of a Committee to deal with the increasing local needs and increasing problems from smaller concentrations.	Rejected by FIG.		No implemented-but local Committee supports recommendation.
21. Consideration to be given to providing standard housing for people's homes.	Held over until funds available.		Essential development due to age distribution of population.
22. Review of medical charges.	Done.		Agreed
23. Consideration to be given to the construction of a patients' hotel.	Held over until funds available.		Not implemented, but considered very necessary.
24. Sanitary Hospital standards will require upgrading.	Implemented.		Agreed.
25. A Health visit/audit/visit news should be appointed primarily for Camp dates.	Nothing clear appointed.		Agreed.
Environment, Control and Resource Management			
26. FIG should establish an Environmental and Resource Management Committee with a permanent scientific adviser.	FIG consider present legislation adequate. FIG have established the Environment Committee by Sir Peter Scott and others of a conservation foundation, which has a scientific research purpose.		Agreed
27. FIG should assist a national museum and environmental control institution.			Agreed

Falkland Islands Office comment
 50% implemented, 2 new staff appointed, not 4.
 Shackleton recommended 8 staff. FIG seeks 1.
 Commercial initiatives only.
 Local Committee measure of development, not implemented.
 FIGs believe there is little basis for the FC0's claim

53. FIG to approach a UK bank to provide commercial and merchant banking services in the Islands.
 54. An absence of commercial bank. FIG to establish Merchant Loan Fund.
 55. A commercial bank may absorb the Commercial Savings Bank. Otherwise the Commercial Savings Bank should be reorganised on a more commercial basis.
 56. HMCO to consider relaxing exchange control regulations governing direct UK investment.

TERRACE SERVICE SERVICES

57. FIG to encourage wholesale and retail trade; expand petroleum locally and from South America.
 58. Consideration to expanding coastal shipping service by introducing small, faster passenger/freight craft.
 59. Road—
 (a) Stately—road
 (b) Camp—improvement of a road engineer to investigate technical and economic considerations of low cost road construction. FIG to establish Plans and if costs are acceptable, to commission a road engineer from Stanley Overseas. Construction programme should be a mix of improved and full hard labour. Assistance from the Royal Engineers may be sought.
POSTAL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING
 60. Agree with FIG policy of replacement of the RT system to provide 24-hour communication.
 61. Improvements should be made in quality and content of local broadcasting. Agree FIG decision to hire transmitter from Cable and Wireless.
 62. Feasibility study should be undertaken on the introduction of TV in the Camp using video cassette.

TOURISM

63. HMCO to finance extension of permanent moorings by 350 metres to accommodate about 1000 yachts per year and partially funded by the Government and the British Antarctic Survey. Establishment of direct flight.
 64. FIG to ensure that FIGs take account of tourist interests in decisions affecting sea freight service.
 65. Inaugurate an annual Initial Air Service Pricing Structure review in lower FIG subsidy. Technical and economic advice required over overall replacement policy.
 66. Consideration to establishment of tourist industry.
TERRACE
 67. Tourism development study to be commissioned.
 68. Assessment of commercial tourism potential to follow-up recommendation of development study.
 69. Consideration of complementary schemes for accommodation and travel facilities.
 70. Tourist facilities in Stanley.
 71. FIG draft legislation to control tourism development and standards.
 72. Ecological monitoring. FIG to monitor ecological impacts of tourist development.

Continuing adaptation of road facilities.
 As for (53)
 In absence of any interest of overseas banks, facilities of Savings Bank are gradually being extended.
 June 1978 Budget removed UK exchange control restrictions on overseas sterling investments up to £5 million.
 Done.
 Implemented—Communications Study 1978.
 Underway.
 Implemented—road now under construction.
 (a) Provision for repair are inadequate.
 (b) Agreed.
 No practical action yet taken to meet this urgent need.
 ODA Loan of £3,000 gives an impressive and improved programme content.
 British Council adviser visited Falkland in October 1978 but recommended against.
 ODA willing to offer feasibility study as appropriate time. Preliminary trading of bank study carried out as result of FC Council justification is present.
 FIGs have sought to establish closer personal relationship with FIGs.
 Implemented.
 Planning small but more co-ordinating establishment.
 Limited study being carried out.
 Pending growth in tourism, FIG approved in general terms.
 Agreed
 Agreed
 Agreed
 Agreed
 Agreed
 Agreed

28. Consideration to be given to the establishment of a Falkland Islands Scientific Research Agency.	Underway.	Agreed.	Discussed in Anglo-Argentine negotiations.	Agreed. Local Committee wants 200-mile limit, in view of international exploitation of local waters.
29. Continuation of secondary education is desirable with the construction of a new boarding house and additional facilities.	Underway.	Agreed.	Under consideration.	Agreed.
30. Camp teaching should be improved by the inclusion of more practical work, more field-work, more field-teaching in agriculture, and the sharing out of teaching visits to outside establishments.	Underway.	Agreed.	Underway.	Agreed.
31. Overseas secondary scholarships should be phased out when the new secondary school is built in Stanley.	Underway.	Agreed.	Underway.	Agreed.
32. Vocational training should be introduced in both primary schools and for youths and adults outside the educational system.	Underway.	Agreed.	Underway.	Agreed.
33. The Education Department should have clerical assistance.	Implemented.	Agreed.	Underway.	Agreed.
34. FIG should control, through a Community Education officer, adult education, recreation, and development, including the formation of a community council. FIG to establish a social development fund to finance this.	FIG is present developing an expanded school education programme. A day-release scheme is already in operation.	Agreed.	Member TPI visited Falklands in October 1977 to demonstrate process for forming of 1986. Awaiting OTU findings.	Agreed.
35. A permanent social worker should be appointed.	Rejected.	Local Committee sees need for a part-time social worker in consent.	Awaiting OTU findings.	Not implemented.
36. Consideration of simplification of Camp Wage agreement structure.	Both sides of industry consider present agreement satisfactory.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Promising results of private survey; full-scale ODA-funded work needed or no development can occur.
37. Revision of FIG salary scale.	Implemented.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
38. Revision of the cost of living index for Stanley and the Camp.	Implemented.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
39. FIG to consider financial and staffing problems of the General Employees Union.	Done.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
40. FIG to consider establishing a formal forum for the Civil Servants' Association.	Implemented.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
41. FIG to confer with population, emigration, immigration, jobs and opportunities in the Islands.	Implemented.	Agreed.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
Social Services				
42. FIG to transfer housing loans scheme to commercial housing organisation.	Is absence of any interest by overseas banks, the facilities of the Savings Bank are being considered for housing.	Continued absence of housing banks is a major cause of young Islanders leaving.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed, but after one year no report has been published.
43. Camp workers to be given opportunity for house purchase in Camp. Professional association and Union to take initiative.	Under discussion with private sector.	Not implemented. No action taken by FIG on commercial initiatives, urgently awaited.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
44. FIG to review further housing requirements.	Allocation of £100,000 from Colony funds.	Agreed, but further developments dependent on Argentinean release of funds.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
45. FIG should ensure certain minimum fuel subsidy in Stanley.	Implemented.	Agreed, but see above.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
46. The YPF Agreement should be implemented as soon as possible.	Partial implementation as of May 1977.	Agreed, but see above.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
47. Oil Jerry. A single busy loading system should be examined.	Examined but rejected.	Agreed, but see above.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
48. The reintroduction of a local newspaper should be encouraged.	Implemented.	Agreed, but see above.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
MAGNETISM AND POPULATION				
49. Review problem of Islander "brain drain" created by OSAS staff of FIG.	Carried out.	Agreed; review not yet published, and brain drain continues.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
50. HMO offer OSAS terms to qualified Islanders living in the UK.	Rejected.	Agreed, but fund is inadequate for requirements and not well publicised.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
51. FIG and professional associations to improve company recruitment and induction procedures by preparing training material about the island using professional advice about recruiting methods.	Under discussion with private sector.	No evidence of any discussions with private sector.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.
Investment AND BUSINESS				
52. FIG should offer investment incentives in the form of loans for particular projects. An assistance fund should be established to provide technical help.	FIG has fund for small enterprises and young farmers established.	Agreed, but fund is inadequate for requirements and not well publicised.	FIG to commission survey by Shell SA with assistance from UK research organisations.	Agreed.

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Published by the Falkland Islands Office
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Falkland Islands Christmas Cards 12p each (Photo of Lincoln's Inn Reception)	

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SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION

This year's annual reception for Falkland Islanders and their supporters in the UK was held in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn. More than 300 people attended, including nearly 100 members of both Houses of Parliament, diplomatic representatives and journalists. Both the former and present Foreign Office ministers with responsibility for the Falkland Islands, Mr. Ted Rowlands MP and the Hon. Nicholas Ridley MP, were present. Sir Nigel Fisher MC MP, a member of the UK committee, gave a speech in support of the Islanders aspirations which was very well received.

The reception was preceded by a ceremony at which the Falkland Islands flag was raised on board the DISCOVERY at Temple Steps. The research vessel was registered at Port Stanley and is now owned by the Maritime Trust.

At an informal Press Briefing at Lincoln's Inn on the same day attended by influential journalists from the main media organisations, a panel consisting of Mr. and Mrs. R. Pitaluga, Mr. Richard Cockwell, Mr. Frank Mitchell, Major Ronnie Spafford and Mr. Bill Hunter-Christie, answered questions on the current situation of the islands.

The band of the Royal Marines beat retreat on the lawns outside the Great Hall at the end of the reception.

Next year's annual reception will be held at Lincoln's Inn at 6.30 pm on June 24, 1980.

BATTLE DAY

Battle Day, celebrated annually to commemorate the naval battle of the Falkland Islands which ensured Allied supremacy in the South Atlantic during the First World War, will be marked in Britain by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in London on December 8, 1979.

Those wishing to participate in the ceremony should assemble in King Charles Street at 10.30 a.m.

Following the ceremony the AGM of FIRADA will be held at 16 Regency Street SW1. All full members should attend and others may attend as observers.

Following this, drinks and a light lunch will be available, for which a charge of £3.00 will be made. In order to ensure adequate catering facilities those wishing to attend should send cheques to the Falkland Islands Office.

STAMPS BONANZA

An auction of Falkland Islands stamps realised £¼M in London recently.

BOOST FOR ISLAND WOOL

The major British clothing retail chain Austin Reed is featuring Falkland Island wool in its Autumn collection.

A range of tweeds and leisure wear made up in Falkland Islands wool is featured throughout Austin Reed's 41 outlets.

The company states that "we have travelled 8000 miles to discover a wool so soft and resilient that it rivals any other island wool for warmth and comfort. It is very white and free from burr, with high crimp and sound staple."

This is believed to be the first time that a major retailer has promoted the Islands' wool under its own name.

RUSSIA WANTS SPY POSTS

The Russians are reported to have requested that an electronic listening post be established in the Falkland Islands to monitor underground nuclear tests.

It is unlikely that permission would be given for such a facility, which is part of a reciprocal arrangement under the Test Ban treaty. The post would be jointly manned and would cost about £3M.

Britain tests her nuclear weapons in the Nevada desert.

AGRICULTURAL SEMINAR

Following the outstanding success of the residential seminar on Falkland Islands agriculture at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge during June, another seminar is to be held there from Friday July 4 to Sunday July 6 1980. The subject will be "The Development of the Falkland Islands". All Falkland Islanders and their supporters will be welcome. Further details can be obtained from the Falkland Islands Office.

ENDURANCE RETURNS

HMS Endurance left Chatham on September 28 on her return to the South Atlantic, where she plays a research role and maintains a British presence throughout the million square miles of sea surrounding the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

FILMING WILDLIFE

Cindy Buxton, 29, the wildlife photographer is to spend nine months filming in the Falkland Islands.

With her colleague Annie Price, Miss Buxton will make three films, on the Rock Penguin, the Black Browed Albatross and the Elephant Seal.

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