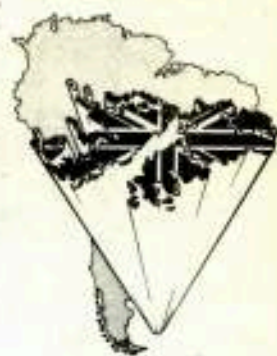


Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

No 6



June 18 1978

ARGENTINA PRESSURES POLES IN S. ATLANTIC

Two incidents involving Argentine military forces took place recently near the Falkland Islands.

On Saturday May 13 the Polish fishery transport vessel 'Zulawy' was anchored in Berkeley Sound with the permission of the Falkland Islands Government. The Polish trawler 'Vega' was entering the Sound to transfer fish to the 'Zulawy', when a twin-engined aircraft with Argentine colours approached and made passes over both vessels in a clear invasion of Falkland Islands airspace. The Foreign Office has protested about the incident to the Argentine Government.

On the same day the Polish trawler 'Otol' was fishing 63 miles north of the Falklands when an Argentine destroyer approached the vessel with guns traversing. The trawler was ordered to heave-to and was boarded by an Argentine officer, who informed the Master that he was fishing in Argentine territorial waters. The destroyer then accompanied the trawler from the area.

Illegal base 'scientific'

The British government confirmed recently that Argentina illegally set up a base on South Thule Island, one of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, late in 1976. The base is said to be for scientific purposes but military personnel are known to be among the settlers. News of the occupation was first published in British Sunday newspapers on May 7 1978 and attracted considerable Press and parliamentary interest.

In the House of Lords deep concern was expressed over the issue and in the House of Commons on May 9 the Prime Minister said:

"This is a serious matter. I will ask the Foreign Secretary to consider making a statement."

The Foreign Office has protested at the illegal occupation but the Argentine regime, in rejecting the protest, claimed sovereignty over the South Sandwich Islands—including South Thule—and stated that their occupation was legal.

The Falkland Islands Office in London regards the efforts of the Foreign Office in

attempting to settle the issue through diplomatic exchanges as unsatisfactory, pointing out that such exchanges have led to no action over the past 18 months. A spokesman said that the matter will not be allowed to rest.

During the days that followed the Prime Minister's comment in the House of Commons, Members continued to press for a statement, and Mr. Ian Gow (C. Eastbourne) suggested that it was a 'dereliction of duty' by the Foreign Office that no statement had been made in the House when the island had been occupied 18 months previously.

In the House of Lords Lord Goronwy-Roberts, following questions from Lord Carrington, Lord Home, Lord Morris and others, urged that the incident should not be allowed to grow out of proportion, thus jeopardising the negotiations for the development of that area.



It was not until May 24, during an oral question and answer session in the House of Commons, that the FCO gave its comments. Mr. John Farr, (C. Harborough) asked whether Argentina had yet brought an end to their illicit establishment of a base on Southern Thule and if not, when their departure would take place. Mr. Ted Rowlands, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replied that the Argentines had not yet left the island and that the Foreign Office had made a renewed protest.

Mr. James Johnson (Lab. Kingston-upon-Hull) suggested that the word 'illicit' used by Mr Farr should in fact have been 'illegal' and asked further what measures the FCO would take if such a situation should arise again; Mr. Richard Luce (Con. Shoreham), opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, asked why the Ministry had not told the House of the Argentine occupation of the island at the time it occurred, and what positive action the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had taken. To both questions, Mr. Rowlands replied that his Ministry was seeking to resolve the matter through diplomatic exchanges. Mr. Farr declared the FCO answers to be 'unsatisfactory' and announced his intention to raise the matter on the Adjournment of the House.

Talks falter

The negotiations between the governments of Great Britain and Argentina over the future of the Falkland Islands appear to be faltering.

A ministerial meeting between Mr. Ted Rowlands MP (Minister of State at the Foreign Office) and his Argentine counterpart Captain Gualter Allara was scheduled before the end of June but is unlikely to take place.

Captain Allara said in a recent press interview that the "restoration of Argentine sovereignty" over the Islands was the only basis for a solution to the Falklands issue.

Britain is standing firm on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies.

Home industry co-op formed

A cooperative society has been formed for the wider development of the present Falkland Islands Home Industries organisation.

Cooperative Industries will promote the production and sale of woollen goods and knitwear, paintings, sheepskins, leather goods, horse gear and handicrafts on behalf of Islanders. The marketing of vegetables is under consideration. The Cooperative is owned and run for the benefit of members and residence in the Colony is a condition of voting membership.

Members will be paid for their work and any surplus will be distributed to them. Falkland Islands Councillors are being asked for the amendment of the Income Tax Ordinance to remove tax disincentives to married women who wish to work part-time.

Sympathisers, who will not be required to hold residential qualifications, will be invited to subscribe a minimum of £5 for non-voting membership. Such members will not receive the 7 per cent payable to Island depositors.

The secretary of the new scheme is Mrs. Betty Miller of Lois Cottage, 21 John Street, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

'Keep the Falkland Islands British' T-SHIRTS

or with coloured Falkland Islands crest
£2.00 each (inc. P&P in UK). Please
state Small/Medium/Large.

CRESTED BLUE TIES £1.50 each.

Falkland Islands Office
2 Greycoat Place, London SW1

More flights

The number of flights between Stanley in the Falkland Islands and Buenos Aires has been increased and through flights are now available.

On Wednesdays an Argentine Air Force F28 leaves Buenos Aires at 0730 and flies through to Stanley on the same day.

On Saturdays the flight leaves Comodoro Rivadavia for Stanley in an Air Force F27 at 0930. Travellers must fly a commercial airline to Comodoro Rivadavia for this connection.

The single fares between Buenos Aires and Stanley are now £79.32 (F27) and £70.14 (F28). The through flight is cheaper as it is wholly by military aircraft.

Plaque sought

The plaque which was left by the British as a permanent mark of occupation when they left the Falkland Islands temporarily in 1774 is now being sought by Islanders, for whom, as an historic record, the plaque has considerable significance.

The Falkland Islands Office is making enquiries.

Falkland honours

Mrs. Velma Malcolm, honorary secretary of the Stanley branch, Falkland Islands Committee, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The award, for community services, reflects Mrs. Malcolm's untiring voluntary work in the Islands.

Falkland Islanders Mr. L.G. Blake and Mr. W.H. Goss were awarded the OBE and MBE respectively for public services.

Bisley trophy

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first Falkland Islands rifle team to compete at Bisley, the council of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain has accepted a challenge trophy to be known as "The Falklands".

The trophy will be shot for at the Annual Prize Meetings of the N.R.A. concurrently with the first stage of the "St. George's" and will be open to those individuals qualified to shoot in the Junior Kolapore Cup.

The Falkland Islands will be represented at the Bisley competition by a team of five.

CALL FOR FISHERIES SURVEY

A proposal to open up the vast fish resources of the South Atlantic has been put to the Minister of Agriculture (Rt. Hon. John Silkin MP) by the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee (SAFC). The SAFC is a group of representatives of British fishing, agricultural and consumer organisations, whose activities are coordinated by the Falkland Islands Office.

Mr. James Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston-upon-Hull, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Fisheries Committee and president of the SAFC, has delivered a memorandum to Mr. Silkin proposing a 12-month commercial fisheries survey costing around £1.5m to be managed by the White Fish Authority.

The memorandum states that two million tonnes of blue whiting alone could be caught in waters around the Falkland Islands each year—twice the total United Kingdom fish landings.

Mr. Hugh McDiarmid of the White Fish Authority, which prepared part of the memorandum, said:

"The proposed survey is designed to cover a full year's fishing, to take account of seasonal fluctuations and to confirm the commercial viability of a British fishing industry in the area."

Commenting on the quality of fish available he said:

"Fish fillets from southern waters are likely to be most acceptable, both in price and taste, to the British housewife."

At a seminar on oil and fisheries development held in the Falkland Islands Office on May 17, Mr. Dennis Roberts, a fisheries consultant, said that the proposed survey was fully supported by scientific research.

There was sufficient stock of blue whiting to make a commercial fishmeal plant in the Falkland Islands profitable.

Catch rates of other species confirmed the viability of year-round operation.

Comecon Fishing near Falklands

A growing number of vessels from the Eastern bloc are fishing the seas around British territories in the South Atlantic.

Since the beginning of this year 18 Polish trawlers alone have used harbour facilities in the Falklands.

The Falklands Islands derive a small revenue from the visits through harbour and customs' fees and medical fees but Islanders find the extent to which their seas are being fished by foreigners "irritating". A British fishing industry in the area is seen as more desirable.

Reports from South Georgia have referred to as many as 39 Iron Curtain fishing vessels operating at any one time in the area.

Oil found off Patagonia

The recent discovery of oil 17 kilometers off the Patagonian coast shows the urgent need for an agreement on offshore limits between Argentina and the Falkland Islands.

As reported in the last *Newsletter* (February 24), oil surveys have been conducted around the Falkland Islands and the results are now being assessed by the sponsors, including British Petroleum.

Marines play at reception

The annual reception held in London for visiting Falkland Islanders, sympathisers in the UK, parliamentarians and the Press is being held on June 20 this year.

Because of the large number of guests expected, the reception is being held in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn. The band of H.M. Royal Marines—the Corps which garrisons the Falkland Islands and which recently received the freedom of Stanley—will play during the reception and will then Beat Retreat on the lawns. The reception, which starts at 6.30 pm, is being organised through the Falkland Islands Office.

Office moves

The Falkland Islands Office has moved to new premises at 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1, near the Army & Navy Stores. Since January 1977 the Office has occupied one room at Regency Street, a few hundred yards away. The conference facilities at Regency Street will continue to be used. The full address of the office is:

The Falkland Islands Office,
2 Greycoat Place,
Westminster,
London SW1 1SD
Telephone 01-222 0028

Director General Appointed

Air Commodore Brian G. Frow has been appointed director general at the Falkland Islands Office in Westminster by the Falkland Islands Research and Development Association (FIRADA). He is visiting the Falkland Islands soon.

Air Commodore Frow will be responsible for the increasing activities of the Office, which coordinates FIRADA, the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee and the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee.

Previously Commander Royal Air Force Hong Kong (1975-1977), Air Commodore Frow has been Defence Attaché in Moscow, a member of the Joint Intelligence Staff at the Cabinet Office and has extensive experience of British overseas territories.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Members of both Houses of Parliament continue to show a keen interest in the future of the Falkland Islands and their inhabitants.

The question of the oil potential around the Falkland Islands has been raised in the House of Commons. On March 16 Mr. Kenneth Warren (C. Hastings) put a written question asking what legal obligations existed requiring the British Government to share oil discoveries in the Falkland Islands and their territorial waters with any other foreign government. Mr. Ted Rowlands (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) replied: 'In the view of Her Majesty's Government no such legal obligations exist'.

Russian fishing activities in the South Atlantic were discussed on May 2 in the House of Lords, when the Earl of Kimberley asked how far negotiations had proceeded between the British Government and Russia over the establishment of a fishing base in the Falkland Islands. Lord Goronwy-Roberts denied that such negotiations were in progress. Viscount Montgomery of

Alamein suggested that talks with Argentina should be accelerated in order to prevent other third party countries taking advantage on the fishing potential in the area. Baroness Elles, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, urged that a British ambassador should be appointed in Argentina to deal with "this delicate and difficult diplomatic matter". Lord Morris declared that there was an international demand for a fishing port in the South Atlantic which, he said, would benefit not only the economy of the Falkland Islands but also that of the United Kingdom.

Mr Geoffrey Pattie (C. Chertsey & Walton) asked why the white card was necessary for UK subjects wishing to travel from the Argentine to the Falkland Islands. In a written question on May 5 he asked the Foreign Secretary if he would seek an agreement with Argentina to end this system. Mr. Rowlands affirmed that ways of solving the problems posed by this system were currently under discussion with the Argentine government.

On the subject of communications, the Minister for Overseas Development Mrs. Judith Hart, announced on May 22 a £770,000 grant for the construction of a road between Stanley and Darwin, following the report of a study team.

On April 11 Mr. Stephen Ross (Lib. Isle of Wight) asked whether the Falkland Islands administration had made an application for a grant to purchase the "Islander" aircraft, and if so, what response had been given. Mrs. Hart replied that an application had been made before the Falkland Islands Government had received the ODM report on the Islands' internal communication requirements and that she was now awaiting the Governor's comments.

Sir Nigel Fisher (C. Surbiton) asked Mrs. Hart if she would estimate the extra cost of running an extended airfield at Stanley, and the extra income that might be derived from it. Mr. John Tomlinson (Parliamentary Secretary, ODM) replied that such an estimation would be difficult, considering that the present runway had only been open six months and that the extra income resulting from an extension would depend on the demand generated by economic developments in the South-West Atlantic, 'which have not yet taken place and therefore cannot be estimated now'.

quote

"Fortune often delights to dignify what nature has neglected, and that renown which cannot be claimed by intrinsic excellence or greatness, is sometimes derived from unexpected accidents. The Rubicon was ennobled by the passage of Caesar, and the time is now come when Falkland's Islands demand their historian."

Extract from Doctor Samuel Johnson's "Thoughts on the Late Transactions Respecting Falkland's Islands" 1771, published following the Spaniard's tussle with Britain over the Islands.

"January 17th 1833

Buenos Aires

The undersigned, his Britannic Majesty's Charge d'Affaires, in acknowledging the receipt of the note, dated yesterday, of his Excellency Senor Don Vicente de Maza, Minister charged with the Department of Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic, has the honour to inform his Excellency that he has received no instructions from his court to make any communication to the Government of Buenos Aires upon the subject to which his Excellency's note refers.

The undersigned will hasten to submit it to His Majesty's Government, and he avails himself of this opportunity to repeat to His Excellency Senor de Maza the assurance of his high and distinguished consideration".

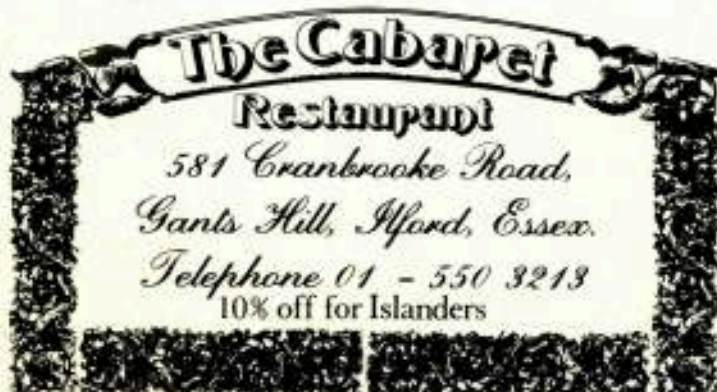
Philip H. Gore.

Argentina objected to the reassertion of British sovereignty in early 1833 by HMS CLIO and received this courteous brush-off from the British charge d'affaires.

"Those islands (the Falkland Islands) are the only British possession on that line of communication between Australasia and the Pacific shores with the markets of Europe and with the Eastern shores of America....."

"Let us assume, for a moment, that the Falkland Islands are possessed by a great naval power and that the Cape of Good Hope is also so occupied (and the positions owe their strategic value to similar considerations), the canal routes to be not available for reason referred to already—what then? The extent to which we should be isolated during a time of war, or even during an impending probable war, where war risks would be greatly increased, must be apparent."

In a memorandum to government on June 25 1886, Admiral Teyon, commanding Australian Station.



Supplementary

HOUSE OF LORDS

Tuesday, 13th June, 1978.

Lord MORRIS: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made at the current negotiations with the Argentinian Government on the question of the Falkland Islands.

The MINISTER of STATE, FOREIGN and COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (Lord Goronwy-Roberts): My Lords, our negotiations with Argentina are still at an early stage. Following the first meeting of working groups in February, we are discussing with the Argentine Government arrangements for carrying forward the negotiating process.

Lord MORRIS: My Lords, though I thank the noble Lord for his Answer, may I ask the noble Lord whether Her Majesty's Government would not agree that the Argentinians' somewhat petulant belligerence, their recent boarding of a trawler under the threat of traversing guns, their buzzing of a trawler in Berkeley Sound, their continued occupation of Southern Thule and President Videla's "hawkish" speech to all military units only last Sunday together indicate Argentinian frustration at Her Majesty's Government's most praiseworthy resolution and diplomatic determination over the question of the sovereign integrity of British possessions in the South-West Atlantic?

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: My Lords, there have indeed been a number of incidents, to which we have drawn the attention of the Argentine Government in no uncertain manner, and we shall continue to make the representations appropriate on every such occasion. As to the statements made by Argentine leaders to which the noble Lord referred, I find that on Malvinas Day, which they celebrated recently, President Videla referred to the successful outcome, as he hoped, of current negotiations; and Admiral Montes, I am glad to say—and I quote him—spoke of

"a struggle for the recovery of the Falklands carried out in the framework of peaceful measures".

This gives hope that the current negotiations based on the two working groups, political and economic, may possibly bear fruit.

Lord MORRIS: My Lords, in the light of what has gone before, will the Minister be good enough to explain Her Majesty's Government's seeming reluctance to translate words into actions and to put some money where their diplomatic mouth is, at least to reassure your Lordships'

House that adequate defence arrangements have been made for the South-West Atlantic and that Her Majesty's Government will, as a matter of urgency, implement the two major recommendations of the admirable report of their colleague, the noble Lord, Lord Shackleton?

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: My Lords, I think it was on 25th January of this year that I went into some detail about the steps we were taking to implement as many as possible of the recommendations of my noble friend Lord Shackleton. I could give a progress report on the various projects that I then mentioned. It would take some time, but possibly by Parliamentary means I might indicate how far we have got. As to the major projects, as I then explained, these did not appear to be practicable at that time, and I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope that they are more practicable today than they were then in terms of finance and for other reasons.

Lord AVEBURY: My Lords, is the Minister aware that when I took the deputation from the Argentine Human Rights Committee to see his colleague, Mr. Ted Rowlands, one of the points we made to him very strongly was that weapons should not be sold to the Argentinian régime in case, among other things, they might be used against the Falklands—and we were talking particularly about the proposed contract with Vosper Thornycroft for the sale of frigates—and that the Minister then replied that there was no question of them using for hostile action against the Falkland Islands naval vessels that we might be in the course of selling them? Yet, immediately after that we opened our newspapers and we found that some of these islands had been occupied by Argentinian military forces for the last 18 months. Why was this not revealed to the British public, and what steps is the Minister going to take, if arms are to be sold to the Argentinian authorities, to prevent them being used in hostile action against the Falklands?

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: My Lords, I think I explained on a fairly recent occasion what had happened about the alleged occupation of Southern Thule, to which I presume the noble Lord is referring. It was in fact a scientific activity, and I have no evidence to disprove that. We have received assurances—indeed, detailed assurances—from the Argentine Government that this was so. We have made our protest in order to safeguard our sovereignty in that part of the Dependencies, as in every part of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies. As for the selling of arms, there is no ban on the sale of arms to Argentina. As to frigates, we, like a number of other countries, have been invited to submit tenders. There is no definitive or finalised negotiation on this matter; we are one of a number of countries asked to tender, and I could not engage in a discussion of the details of such a question. *et seq.*

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday 8th June 1978

Mr. Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make a statement about the violation of the waters and air space of the Falkland Islands and their dependencies by foreign military vessels and aircraft; and what action has been taken thereupon.

Mr. Luard: An Argentine Navy aircraft and ship intercepted Polish fishing trawlers near the Falklands on 13th May claiming that they were in Argentine waters. The trawlers were outside the Falklands three mile territorial sea in waters which we consider high seas. We accept neither the Argentine sovereignty claim to the Falklands nor any Argentine right to exercise maritime jurisdiction on the basis of that claim. We have made this clear to the Argentine Government and intend to continue to press the matter with them.

● EDITOR'S COMMENT:
the Polish trawlers anchored in Berkeley Sound by permission of the Falkland Islands Government were within Falkland Islands territorial waters.

THE GUARDIAN

Monday June 12 1978

Falkland claim

PRESIDENT Videla has re-affirmed Argentina's claim to the British-administered Falkland Islands. He said that Argentina awaited a successful outcome of negotiations with Britain on the islands, which it calls the Malvinas.—Reuter.

THE TIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS need support. Join the Association—Write Falkland Islands Office, 2 Greycoat Place, London, S.W.1.

The Falkland Islands Office
seeks a
General secretary
to replace
Miss Leif Barton
who returns to the
Falkland Islands in
September