

**1971 AGREEMENT ON COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ARGENTINA**

*Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Argentine Republic concerning Communications between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine Mainland signed at Buenos Aires on 5 August 1971 (with Joint Statement and Related Notes) - The Agreement entered into force on 5 August 1971 and was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by Command of Her Majesty, June 1972*

**BRITISH LETTER - Joint Statement - White Card - Exchange of Notes**

The British Charge d'Affaires ad interim at Buenos Aires to the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

British Embassy  
Buenos Aires

5th August 1971

Your Excellency

I have the honour to refer to the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations number 2065 (XX) of the 16th of December 1965 and the letters dated the 21st November 1969 and the 11th December 1970 from the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Argentine Republic addressed to the Secretary-General of the Organisation on the question of the Falkland Islands, and also to the Joint Statement on communications and movement between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland islands initialled in Buenos Aires by the Representatives of the two Governments on the 1st July 1971, and to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude an agreement with the Government of the Argentine Republic in the following terms:

1.(a) Since divergence remains between the two Governments regarding the circumstances that should exist for a definitive solution to the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, nothing contained in the Joint Statement referred to above and approved by our two Governments on today's date shall be interpreted as:

- (i) a renunciation by either Government of any right of territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands; or
- (ii) a recognition of or support for the other Government's position with regard to territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

(b) No acts or activities taking place as a consequence of the Joint Statement referred to above having been put into operation and while it is in operation shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting, or denying the position of either Government with regard to territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

2. Either Government may denounce this agreement subject to six months' prior notice in writing.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of the Argentine Republic, I have the honour to propose that this Note together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense shall constitute an agreement between the two Government which shall enter into force on the date of your reply.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

T. Peters Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires

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### British Letter - **JOINT STATEMENT** - White Card - Exchange of Notes

Special conversations were continued in Buenos Aires from the 21st until the 30th of June 1971 about communications and movement between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands by delegations of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Argentine Republic, the former including participants from the Islands. The conversations were within the general framework of the negotiations recommended by Resolution No. 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations and in accordance with letters addressed to the Secretary-General of the Organisation by the Permanent Representatives of both countries on the 21st of November 1969 and the 11th of December 1970.

The delegates concluded that, subject to the approval of their Governments, the following measures should be adopted on the understanding that they may contribute to the process of a definitive solution to the dispute between the two Governments over the Islands which is referred to in Resolution No. 2065 (XX) mentioned above.

1. In order to deal with questions which might arise over the setting up and promotion of communications between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands in both directions, including questions relating to the movement of persons, those which might arise for residents of the Islands while they were on the mainland and those concerning residents of the mainland while they were in the Islands, a special consultative committee should be set up, consisting of representatives of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British Embassy, with its headquarters in Buenos Aires. The Committee should have its representatives in Port Stanley who would keep it informed.
2. The Argentine Government should issue a document, in the form annexed, to residents of the Falkland Islands irrespective of their nationality who wished to travel to the Argentine mainland, which would allow them free movement within it. A document in the same form issued by the Argentine Government should be the only document needed by residents of the Argentine mainland for journeys to the Falkland Islands.
3. Residents in the Falkland Islands should be exempted by the Argentine Government from all duties, taxes, and any other obligations arising as a result of activities in the Falkland Islands. In addition, residents of the Falkland Islands who go to the Argentine mainland in order to provide services connected with communications should be exempt from taxes on their salaries and other emoluments which they receive from their British employers. The British Government should make no claim on residents of the Argentine mainland who provide services in the Falkland Islands for activities related to communications for taxes on their salaries and other emoluments which they receive from their Argentine employers.
4. The Argentine Government should take the necessary practical measures so that the normal luggage of residents of the Falkland Islands who travel between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland in either direction should be free from the payment of all duties and taxes. Residents of the Falkland Islands should be exempted from the payment of all Argentine duties and taxes in respect of their luggage, household effects and motor cars passing directly through the Argentine mainland towards the Falkland Islands or going abroad through the Argentine mainland. The British Government should take the necessary measures so that the normal luggage of residents of the Argentine mainland who travel between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands in either direction will be exempted from the payment of all duties and taxes.
5. The Argentine Government should take the necessary measures so that each resident of the Islands who establishes a permanent residence on the Argentine mainland may bring in once only free of all duties and taxes all personal effects, household effects and a motor car. Equally, the British Government should take the

necessary measures so that each resident on the Argentine mainland who establishes a permanent residence in the Falkland Islands may bring in once only free of all duties and taxes all personal effects, household effects and a motor car.

6. The British and Argentine Governments should facilitate in the Falkland Islands and on the Argentine mainland respectively, the transit, residence and work of persons directly concerned with practical measures adopted in order to implement and promote communications and movement.

7. The British Government should take the necessary measures to arrange for a regular shipping service for passengers, cargo and mail between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland.

8. The Argentine Government should take the necessary measures to arrange for a regular service of weekly frequency by air for passengers, cargo and mail between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands.

9. Pending the completion of the airfield at Port Stanley, the Argentine Government should provide a temporary service by amphibian aircraft between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands for passengers, cargo and mail. This service should be reviewed from time to time in the light of progress in the construction of the airfield mentioned above.

10. Both Governments should co-operative over the simplification of administrative practices, regulations and documentation for sea and air transport bearing in mind the need to promote and speed up communications.

11. In order to facilitate the movement of persons born in the Falkland Islands, the Argentine Government should take the necessary measures to exempt them from all obligations related to enlistment and military service. The British Government should declare that in the Falkland Islands no obligations for enlistment for military service exist.

12. Both Governments should study and exchange views on measures to facilitate trade and to permit a greater ease of commercial transactions.

13. The British and Argentine Governments should take the necessary measures so that postal, telegraphic and telephone communications in both directions between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands are as effective and expeditious as possible.

14. The tariff for postal, telegraphic and telephone communications in both direction between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands should be at a rate equivalent to the internal rate at the place of origin of communications.

15. Postage stamps on mail travelling between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands in either direction should be cancelled with a mark referring to this joint statement. Mail bags should be similarly marked.

16. The Argentine Government should be prepared to co-operate in the health, educational, agricultural and technical fields if so requested. The Argentine Government should arrange for places to be available in schools on the Argentine mainland for the children of residents of the Falkland Islands and should offer scholarships which should be published from time to time, the number of which should be decided upon in the light of local requirements. Both Governments should continue to exchange views on the matters referred to in this paragraph.

17. Conversations should be continued through the customary diplomatic channels and the next meeting should be held in Port Stanley in 1972.

18. If either Government should decide to terminate the measures referred to above, it should give six months' notice of its decision to the other Government.

Initialed in Buenos Aires on the 1st day of July 1971 by the Heads of the respective delegations.

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British Letter - Joint Statement - White Card - EXCHANGE OF NOTES

The British Charge d'Affaires ad interim at Buenos Aires to the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

British Embassy  
Buenos Aires

5th August 1971

Your Excellency

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland approves the Joint Statement concerning communications between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland, which was initialled by representatives of our two Governments in Buenos Aires on the 1st July 1971. The United Kingdom Government will for its part put into operation the measures referred to in that Joint Statement with effect from today's date.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

T. Peters  
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship  
Buenos Aires

5th August 1971

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Argentine Republic approves the Joint Statement concerning communications between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland, which was initialled by representatives of our two Governments in Buenos Aires on the 1st July 1971. The Argentine Government will for its part put into operation the measures referred to in that Joint Statement with effect from today's date.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

L.M. de Pablo Pardo

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British Letter - Joint Statement - **WHITE CARD** - Exchange of Notes

The following is an approximate reproduction of the infamous White Card which Falkland Islanders were forced to carry when travelling through Argentina to reach the outside world, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement

ANEXO A LA DECLARACION DE BUENOS AIRES DEL 1 DE JULIO DE 1971

Anverso Republic Argentina

Certificado provisorio emitido conforme a la Declaracion Conjunta de Buenos Aires de 1971

(Temporary card issued in accordance with the Joint Statement of Buenos Aires of 1971)

No.....

Forografia (Photograph) 4 x 4

Apellido (Surname).....

Nombres (Forenames) .....

Sexo (sex) .....

Estado Civil (marital status) .....

Lugar de nacimiento (town or settlement) .....

Fecha de nacimiento (date of birth) .....

Firma del agente autorizado (Signature authorised agent) .....

Otorgado ..... de 197..... (Issued .....of 197....)

Firme del titular (Signature of Bearer).....

On the Reverse -

- 1) The present temporary card must be produced to the authorities whenever requested
- 2) The bearer is covered by the Joint Statement of Buenos Aires of 1st July 1971
- 3) For further information or inquiries apply to -

Ministerio de Relaciones, Exteriores y Culto Arenales 761 3er.piso Buenos Aires Telephone 32-4252 y 31-0071

