NEW TALKS

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.

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.
Falkland Islands Office comment
50% implemented. 2 new staff appointed, not 4

Shackleton recommended 8 staff. FIG needed 1.
Commercial initiatives only.
Local Committee unaware of developments.
Not implemented.

FIG believe there is little basis for the FCO’s claim

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

June 1979 Budget removed UK exchange control regulations on overseas sterling investments up to £5 million.

Tertiary Sector Services
37. FIG to encourage wholesale and retail trade; payable purchases locally and from South America.
38. Consideration to expanding coastal shipping service by introducing sail, power, and/or electric craft.
39. Roads—
(a) Stanley—road
(b) Camp—road
(c) Camp—airport extension

Still under discussion in Falklands.

No practical action yet taken to meet this urgent need. Need for stronger administrative control and improved programme content.

Introduction of TV is considered very necessary

The implementation of this recommendation is essential for economic development.

FIG have sought to establish closer personal relationship with FCO.

An exclusively local enterprise project.

Regional Development

41. Tourism development study to be commissioned.
42. Appointments of commercial tourism promoters to follow-up recommendations of development study.
43. Consideration of consultancy fee for tourism development and standards.
44. Tourism facilities in Stanley.
45. FIG draft Legislation to control tourism development.
46. Ecological monitoring. FIG to monitor ecological impacts of tourist development.

 Saddled Hospital: standards will require upgrading.

An exclusively local enterprise project.

Environmental Control and Resources Management

26. FIG should establish an Environmental and Resources Management Committee with a permanent scientific advisor.
27. FIG should enact a national resource and environmental control ordinance.

FIG consider present legislation adequate. FIG have encouraged the formation by Sir Peter Scott and others of a conservation foundation, which has a scientific research purpose.

Limited study being carried out.

No comment

No comment

No comment

Penning growth in tourism, FIG approved in general term.

Agreed

Agreed

Agreed

Agreed
28. Conservation to be given to the annunciation of a Falkland Islands Scientific Research Agency. 

29. Centralisation of secondary education in Stanley with the construction of a new boarding house and facilities.

30. Camp teaching should be improved by the replacement of VBO teachers with certificated more full-time teaching in settlements; and the phasing out of teaching visits to outside Shepherds.

31. Overseas secondary scholarships should be phased out when the secondary school is built in Stanley.

32. Vocational training should be introduced in both secondary schools and for youths and adults outside the educational system.

33. The Education Department should have clerical assistance.

34. FIG should control, through a Community Education officer, adult education, recreation, and development including the financing of community councils. FIG to establish a social development fund to finance this.

35. A permanent social worker should be appointed.

36. Consideration of simplification of Camp Wage agreement structure.

37. Revision of FIG salary scales.

38. Revision of the cost of living index for Stanley and the Camp.

39. FIG to consider financial and staffing problems of the Government of the Falkland Islands.

40. FIG to consider establishing a formal forum for the Civil Service's Association.

41. FIG to collate statistics on population, emigration, immigration, and opportunities in the Islands.

S O C I A L I N F R A S T R U C T U R E

42. FIG to transfer housing loans scheme to commercial banking organisation.

43. Camp workers to be given opportunity for house purchase in Camp. Professional associations and Union to take initiative.

44. FIG to review further housing requirements.

45. FIG should ensure certain minimum fuel holdings in Stanley.

46. The VPF Agreement should be implemented as soon as possible.

47. Oil levy. A single buoy floating system should be examined.

48. The introduction of a local newspaper should be encouraged.

M A N S E R P O R T A N D P O P U L A T I O N

49. Review problem of Islanders "brain drain" caused by OASAS staffing of FIG.

50. FIG and professional associations to improve company recruitment and induction procedures by preparing briefing material about the Islands, and seeking professional advice about recruiting methods.

I N V E S T M E N T AND B A N K I N G

51. FIG should offer investment incentives in the form of loans for particular projects. An assistance fund should be established to provide the financial help.

52. FIG loan fund for small enterprises and young farmers established. 

53. Fisheries management and conservation. FIG to promote establishment of Convention for control of South West Atlantic fishery.

M E N T A L O I L R E S O U R C E S

73. FIG to consider Convention on the right to full access to all mineral resources in the Crowns.

75. In advance of any political settlement an assessment programme should be initiated to include:

(a) compilation of information on the fish species in the waters of the Falklands

(b) evaluation of the potential for commercial exploitation

(c) FIG to monitor oil developments in the Argentinian sector of the South Atlantic.

I N D U S T R Y A N D C R A F T S

76. FIG to encourage small scale projects (asbestos mining, fishing, etc.) via a new community initiative.

77. Subject to GTU findings, feasibility study on new development and freezone to be commenced.

78. FIG to commission survey by Shell fish resources, with assistance from UK research organisations.

79. Shell, ODA, MAPP and White Fish Authority to conduct exploratory fishing survey of coastal and offshore fish resources. FIG to initiate a pilot new development and fishing operation, sea transport and joint project management.

80. Fish farming. Pilot scheme in parallel with pilot development of coastal and offshore fishery.

81. Monitor krill and fish resources south of the Antarctic convergence, by participating in other countries' and international organisations research projects in the South West Atlantic.

82. In event of commercial exploitation of seals, evaluation of population and growth rate.

83. South Georgia legislation on live specimens to be extended to the Falklands. Scale of license fees to be reviewed and revised for ecological research.

85. FIG and professional associations to standardise methods of recording financial data; need for a professional accountant business; regular seminars on farm business.

86. Appointment of a Veterinary Adviser to conduct feasibility study on crops, production methods and marketing.

87. Establishment of a Beef Importation advisory panel composed of representatives of FIG and theฆWith the aim of ensuring that the supply of beef meets the market needs for beef.

88. FIG to consider regulation of the land use in relation to market trends for wool.

89. Agricultural education and training to be included in school syllabus. Larger farms to appoint one employee as part-time training officer.

90. Adviser appointed under Commonwealth Foundation Technical Co-operation.

A Q U A T I C R E S O U R C E S

91. FIG to consider study of lamp fishery, including scope for processing on the Falklands. FIG to consider employment of a fisheries biological and technology research officer to study lamp fishery.

Approaches made by FIG to commercial companies.

Agreed. Local Committee says that implementation is essential.

No evidence of any implementation.

FIG agrees; review not yet published, and brain drain continues.

Underway.

Carried out.

Under discussion with private sector.

Agreed.

Underway.

Implemented.

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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 £44M 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.