



# Falkland Islands

## Newsletter

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## Sovereignty - Trick or Treat?

The precious prize dangled before Falkland Islanders - at a secret high-level Anglo-Argentine meeting in Britain last month - was nothing less than an offer by Argentina, under the right circumstances, to abandon its sovereignty claim - for ever. The Falklands Council justifiably felt that this was something that had to be followed up.

The meeting proved abortive and ended prematurely. During discussion of the Argentine offer, it transpired that they were not prepared to cede their claim, but wanted to discuss shared sovereignty. At that point the Island Councillors, with the support of the Foreign Secretary, withdrew.

The Argentine offer did not come out of the blue. It was the result of more than a year of diplomacy. Dr. Di Tella must have known it was quite incompatible with shared sovereignty. Why did he build it up only to knock it down?

Dr. Di Tella knew that the only way to get Falklands Councillors to the negotiating table was to offer to cede Argentina's claim. Having got them there, did he really

believe he could persuade them to accept something repeatedly and publicly rejected? If so, he has a lot to learn about Falkland Islanders.

Alternatively, anticipating a Labour victory at the elections, he may have thought that "sovereignty discussions" under the present Conservative Government might influence a future Labour Government. If so, he has a lot to learn about British politics (see page 6).

Di Tella's current political weakness, following the failure of his "policy of seduction", offers the most likely explanation. Involving the Islanders in "sovereignty discussions", as these negotiations have been interpreted in Argentina, is being portrayed as a personal success.

One thing is clear: Mr Rifkind and the Councillors acted in good faith. With such a glittering prize, it would have been irresponsible not to have responded positively. They had to assume, incredible though it may seem, that the offer was genuine. We are all the wiser now.



Falklands schoolchildren pose in front of the Falkland Islands Community School in Stanley

*Photo: Tony Chater*

# Battle Day Ceremony --- AGM

“Hands off the Falkland Islands” - Rex Hunt’s Message to Argentina

It is time for Argentina to abandon its diplomatic offensive to take over sovereignty of the Falklands. That’s the strong message to Argentina from the Falkland Islands’ Association, voiced by Sir Rex Hunt, and endorsed by the Association’s annual general meeting, on December 8th. Sir Rex, giving the Executive Committee’s annual report as Chairman, was responding to recent remarks by Argentina’s President Carlos Menem, repeating his hopes of acquiring sovereignty by the year 2000. Sir Rex said the sovereignty issue was decided once and for all when the United Kingdom Task Force expelled the Argentine invaders.

Criticising the latest United Nations (Decolonisation) Committee resolution urging resumption of Anglo-Argentine sovereignty talks, Sir Rex declared: “Sovereignty belongs to the United Kingdom, and the right to decide their own future belongs to the people of the Falkland Islands”.

The meeting followed the Battle Day Act of Remembrance when wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in tribute to those who lost their lives in conflicts involving the Falklands, especially the First World War battle when the Navy defeated a German fleet; the sinking of the German battleship Graf Spee in 1939 by the Falklands flotilla, both battles occurring by coincidence in the month of December, and the 1982 Conflict arising from the Argentine invasion.

Wreaths were laid by Air Commodore Peter Johnson, a former Commander of British Forces in the Falklands, Miss Sukey Cameron for the Falkland Islands Government, Sir Rex Hunt, for the Falkland Islands Association, Mrs Sarah Jones and Mr Des Keoghane for the Falkland Families Association, Miss Roslyn Harris, representing young people of the Falklands, and Mr R. Pope for the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men. Royal Marine buglers sounded Last Post for one minute’s silence, followed by Reveille. The Rev Peter Millam, formerly Anglican Rector in the Islands, conducted the service. Air Commodore Johnson and Sir Rex Hunt, inspected the Royal Navy Colour Party and the Escort Cadets provided traditionally by Pangbourne College.



Air-Commodore Johnson and Sir Rex Hunt inspect the Colour Party

## “ACTIVE YEAR” SUPPORTING ISLANDERS

In his report to the meeting, Sir Rex Hunt said it had been an active year pursuing the Association’s main objective to “assist the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves in accordance with their own wishes”. He quoted Lady Thatcher’s House of Commons declaration in 1982 reacting to Argentina’s invasion, that the Islanders “are few in number but they have the right to live in peace, to choose their own way of life and to determine their own allegiance”.

Sir Rex said Falkland Islands’ self-determination is the paramount principle. But Argentina’s rulers still fail to accept this. They are pressing their sovereignty claim as vigorously as ever by diplomatic means if no longer by military threat. It was as vital as ever to counter this. It was disappointing that the United Nations Decolonisation Committee continues to vote for re-opening sovereignty talks and fails to acknowledge the right of self-determination as enshrined in the UN’s own principles, despite a promise the previous year to include this principle in the resolution.

Reacting to Argentina’s call for access to the islands by Argentine visitors, Sir Rex pointed out that Falklands policy is unambiguous -- Argentine visits and the re-establishment of communications are banned while the sovereignty claim persists. But, he said, for humanitarian reasons, the Falklands does allow visits by Argentine relatives to the graves of their war dead. In fact, arrange-



Wreath Layers: Air Commodore Johnson, Miss Sukey Cameron, Mr. Des Keoghane, Mrs Sarah Jones, Mr. R. Pope and Miss Roslyn Harris. The Horse Guards can be seen passing by in the background.



Above: Sir Rex Hunt lays a wreath on behalf of the Association



Right: Mr Des Keoghane and Mrs Sarah Jones lay a wreath of behalf of the Falklands Families Association

ments had been made for two more groups, each of 16 relatives, to visit the Islands in January and February.

The sovereignty issue apart, Sir Rex welcomed improving Argentine British relations, especially the agreement easing the way for oil exploration in Falklands waters which several international consortia are about to begin. The aim now, he said, is to secure "maximum Islander participation in the oil industry with minimum impact on the environment or the Islanders' unique way of life".

#### John Cheek and George Malcolm

Sir Rex paid tribute to John Cheek and George Malcolm and expressed condolences to their families. Councillor John Cheek's death was a grievous loss to the Association whose activities he had championed. His family's links remain strong and unbroken as his daughter, Rosalind, now a qualified solicitor in Britain, is a member of the Association's Executive Committee. Sir Rex said George Malcolm's wife, Velma, had been a staunch supporter and leader of the Association's Committee in the Islands.

Sir Rex expressed the Association's regret that Bill Hunter-Christie, a founding member of the UKFIC in 1968 and first chairman of the Association in 1977, has been forced by ill-health to take a less active role but his experience and wise council will still be available as a Vice-President. Wild-life photographer, Annie Price, now living in Cornwall, also steps down from the Committee but remains an active member. A welcome new member, Mr Peter Lapsley, son of the late Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley, continues his family's link with the Association, becoming Membership Secretary, an onerous job previously done by Jean Clapp, whom Sir Rex thanked for her work. She continues to organise distribution of the Newsletter. Another young Islander, Mr Saul Pitaluga, rejoins the Committee.

There was a good turn-out for the annual meeting.



Graham Bound chats to Annabelle Spencer and Brian Paul after the AGM.

*Photo: Karen Clapp*



Young Islanders enjoying the buffet after the AGM

*All Photos by Harold Briley except where shown*

# Duplicitous Diplomacy at "Secret" Meeting

## Argentines Renege on Offer to Abandon Claim

What appeared to be an historic breakthrough in the dispute over Falklands sovereignty involving abandonment by Argentina of its claim failed to materialise when the Argentines renege on a proposal which the Falkland Islands Council was led to believe Argentina had made. Instead, the Argentines proposed joint sovereignty - similar to Spain's recent proposal over Gibraltar, that was rejected by Britain

The drama unfolded at a secret meeting between high level delegations led by the British and Argentine Foreign Ministers, Mr. Rifkind and Dr. Di Tella, at Chevening, Mr. Rifkind's country residence, on January 10th and 11th.

### Councillors decide to meet Argentines

Because of the prize they believed to be within their grasp, the Islands' elected Council momentarily decided to meet Argentine Government representatives face to face for the first time since the 1982 invasion, departing from their avowed policy never to talk directly to the Argentine Government until the sovereignty claim is dropped. All previous talks on such issues as oil and fishing have been conducted by Falklands' officials. This time, a majority of the Council decided the prize was worth the risk. Two Executive Council members, Mr Michael Summers and Mrs Sharon Halford, were delegated to go to London, accompanied by the Governor, Mr Richard Ralph.

### Councillors quit talks.

Councillors Summers and Halford abruptly left the meeting, ending it a day earlier than scheduled, when they realised that the Argentines had deceived them and were not ready to cede their sovereignty claim at all, but were seeking a form of shared sovereignty. The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Rifkind, supported the Councillors' decision.

Reporting back to a Falklands seething with rumour, Mike Summers declared: "The basis for these talks to take place was that there was a distinct possibility that we could reach a full and final solution to the sovereignty dispute, which did not involve the transfer or the compromise of British sovereignty over the Falklands in any way. On that basis we agreed to participate". Councillor Halford said they attended believing Argentina was prepared to give up its claim. At a public meeting in Stanley, the two Councillors explained that they were motivated to attend believing that, under the right circumstances, Argentina would **"completely, unequivocally and finally drop their claim"**.

Councillor Bill Luxton went along with the initiative, saying: "The reason I agreed ... was that the core of Di Tella's proposal was that, when an agreement was signed between the UK Government, the Falkland Islands Government and Argentina, Argentina would completely withdraw its claim to sovereignty. "That is the prize we all wanted". Councillor Wendy Teggart declared: **"We were sceptical, but it would have been unforgivable not to listen to what was on offer"**.

They were right to be sceptical. Instead of abandoning their claim, the Argentines introduced a proposal for shared sovereignty, apparently involving Argentine representation on the Falklands Council and the Argentine flag flying alongside the British flag on the Islands. It had similarities to

an idea suggested and rejected during the 1982 conflict. Said Sharon Halford: "We decided we could go no further when it appeared that Condominium was being suggested ... That was not acceptable to us, and that was an end to it".

Summing up, Mike Summers declared: "The Argentine position is still the same as before the talks started. Our position in the Falklands is exactly the same as that of the British Government -- that Britain has sovereignty over the Falkland and that is how it will remain".

Governor Ralph praised the courage of the Councillors for participating, said that positions had been "clarified", that the position on sovereignty is completely unchanged, and hoped there would be no deterioration in relations with Argentina after the progress of recent years.

The seniority of the delegations to the Chevening talks underlines the significance attached to them -- and the high hopes, sadly dashed. Dr. Di Tella was accompanied by the Argentine Ambassadors to Britain, the UN, and Switzerland (who participated in the oil and fishing talks), and his most senior advisers on the Falklands. Mr Rifkind had with him Foreign Office Minister of State for Latin American Affairs, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, and his most senior officials responsible for Falklands Affairs, Mr Andrew Burns and Mr William Marsden.

The Argentines apparently also pressed on with their campaign for greater access to the Islands for Argentine visitors and for direct communications with Argentina.

On one topic, at least, progress was made. It was agreed to resume negotiations on fisheries.

### Offer concealed in Argentina

The meeting got huge publicity in Argentina - after secrecy was abandoned there. But, the original Argentine offer to cede its sovereignty claim was never mentioned at all. Instead, it was described in Argentina's popular press as if British sovereignty were under discussion (albeit unsuccessfully), as marking the end of the sovereignty "umbrella" agreement and as establishing a precedent for sovereignty discussions after the general election in Britain.

The meeting went completely unreported in Britain.

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## Newsletter comment

The *Newsletter* does not believe that President Menem could renounce his country's claim to the Falklands at the moment - even if he wanted to. He no longer controls Congress, and the claim is in the new Argentine Constitution. Moreover, he is very weak politically, because of corruption scandals and the appalling state of the Argentine economy. Only a strong President could make such a concession.

Much of the present activity over the Falklands in Argentina is undoubtedly to divert attention from President Menem's domestic problems. However, nationalist feeling there over the Falklands is unusually high too, for reasons we publish on page 8 - and because of hopes that a change of Government in Britain might favour Argentina.

In short, all the signs at the moment suggest that far from being willing to cede its claim, Argentine feeling over the Falklands has hardened dramatically.

## Britain Rejects "Two Flags" Sovereignty

Britain immediately rejected President Menem's revived proposal for shared UK-Argentine sovereignty over the Falklands. Menem told a news conference that he is willing to share sovereignty as a "short-term solution" to the dispute. He said: "Of course, I can see the possibility of the Argentine flag flying, for example, alongside the British". Menem, who has previously said Argentina would regain sovereignty by the year 2000, now says: "strategies must change with the times", citing improved relations with the United States, the European Union and Britain to justify his remarks. He claimed the sovereignty issue is now "on the table" ... "that the possibility of regaining the islands is now much better", and that Argentina "is now claiming sovereignty openly in talks with the British. How can I not mention my dream of sovereignty over the Malvinas? We pursue this dream on peaceful terms in the diplomatic field, which is just another way of waging war".

### Emphatic Rejection

Menem's proposal for shared sovereignty was rejected by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, in Chile, on his way to the Falklands. He declared: "It is quite clear on our part that we can't discuss the sovereignty of the Islands, nor surrender them, nor share them". He said he was going to the Islands to reaffirm Britain's commitment to defend them.

In an editorial in the *Daily Mail* Portillo is praised for his "commendably forthright rejection of Menem's insolent suggestion" but criticised for congratulating Menem for his general 'conciliatory' tone. The newspaper asks: "Doesn't Mr Portillo realise the lesson of the early Eighties? Any appeasement, however modest, is seen in Argentina as a sign of weakness and encourages intransigence".

## Gibraltar, Parallel Sovereignty Claim

On the very same day on which Dr. Di Tella suggested a plebiscite in Argentina to change its constitutional claim to the Falklands to one of shared sovereignty, *The Times* and other newspapers reported a Spanish demand for shared sovereignty over Gibraltar for one hundred years - to be followed by a hand-over of Gibraltar to Spain.

Britain publicly rejected the Spanish proposal as unacceptable to the people of Gibraltar. Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind was quoted as saying "Any change would require the consent of the people of Gibraltar, and that consent is not forthcoming".

Earlier, on January 22nd, reports of a Spanish threat to withdraw recognition of Gibraltar passports appeared in the British media. This will stir memories in the Falklands.

### Falklands failure for Gibraltar

The Spanish claim follows anxiety in Gibraltar over the appointment of a civilian Governor, breaking a centuries-old tradition of military holders of the post - and especially because the job has gone to Sir Richard Luce, the Foreign Office Minister with special responsibility for Latin America in the period leading to the 1982 invasion of the Falklands. Sir Richard and his two senior ministers at the Foreign Office, resigned immediately after the Argentine invasion, taking responsibility for their failure to foresee it. Just a few

The "two flags" suggestion is not new. President Menem said in June 1995, that the "solution which best suits us is sharing the government under two flags", at the same time Di Tella floated his \$800,000 bribe - which Islanders rejected as totally unacceptable. Resurrection of the "two-flags" proposal coincides with a growing belief in Argentina that Dr Di Tella's so-called "seduction" policy has failed to weaken the resolution of the Islanders. But, undeterred, Di Tella again sent Christmas gifts to Falklands children, this year the French classic book, "The Little Prince".

### United States Mediation Denial

A claim by President Menem, after talks in Washington with President Clinton in December, that the United States had agreed to mediate on the Falklands dispute has been denied. The US Ambassador in Argentina, James Cheek, said the US has not been asked to mediate. Both countries were equally US allies and friends, making Washington's role a sensitive one which they must take care benefits everyone.

On January 20th, *Clarín* announced that when President Clinton visits Argentina in March, President Menem would ask him to mediate the subject of the Malvinas with Britain. President Menem subsequently denied this, saying he would only ask President Clinton for his help in the dispute.

### Plebiscite on the Constitution?

The 1994 Argentine constitution binds Argentina to obtain 100% sovereignty over the Falklands. So "two-flags" could only be a stepping stone to more demands. Doubtless with this in mind, Dr. Di Tella suggested to *Clarín* on the January 27th, that there be a plebiscite in Argentina to change this clause into one calling for shared sovereignty.

weeks earlier, in a meeting with the Argentines in New York, Sir Richard, believed he had secured agreement to continue discussions. All three Ministers were regarded as honourable, if naive, victims of Argentine duplicity.

A *Times* leader said the switch to a civilian governor, may be justified by changed circumstances in NATO and the run-down of the British garrison in Gibraltar. But it describes the appointment as controversial, indicating a change of attitude by Britain, as Spain continues its claim to Gibraltar.

The Gibraltar National Party Leader, Dr Joseph Garcia, criticised the appointment as causing anxiety in Gibraltar whose government was not consulted about the change. He said Sir Richard's record over the Falklands and also Hong Kong would send the wrong signals to Spain.

### Joint Campaign Expected:

Spain and Argentina may well be coordinating their efforts. Both have raised their respective claims, offering a similar "solution", in what could be the last months of a Conservative administration. The *Newsletter* expects both countries to make a coordinated effort against their respective targets, if the Labour Party wins the election. Argentina may believe that getting discussion of sovereignty going under a previous Conservative Government would facilitate this, and forestall Conservative criticism of it.

# Labour Party Re-Assurance for Islanders

*Labour Party policy, clarified under Tony Blair's leadership, pledges unambiguous support for British sovereignty and for Falkland Islanders to decide their own future. There will be no change of policy with a change of government. This was spelt out clearly in this exclusive interview with Sir Rex Hunt and Harold Briley (in January) by the Party's Shadow Minister for Latin American and Falklands Affairs, Mr Tony Lloyd, MP for Stretford, who has visited both Argentina and the Falkland Islands.*

**Harold Briley:** What is Labour Party policy on Argentina's claim to sovereignty of the Islands?

**Tony Lloyd:** There is no difference between the policy of the Conservative Government and Labour. The United Kingdom is the sovereign power. The only people who could abrogate that are the Islanders. It is for them to decide their own future on sovereignty. Because there is no party difference, it will not be an election issue, nor in our Election Manifesto.

**HB:** How would a Labour Government counter Argentina's sovereignty claim and its determination to secure it by diplomatic if not military means?

**TL:** The claim comes from within Argentina. Realistically, all we can do is continue to make clear where the issue lies. You cannot say different things in Buenos Aires and the Islands. That consistent message from Conservative and Labour politicians makes it clear.

**HB:** The Falkland Islands Council was led to believe Argentina might renounce its claim at the recent Chevening talks with Malcolm Rifkind. Instead Argentina proposed shared sovereignty. What's Labour's attitude on that?

**TL:** Shared sovereignty is not on the agenda.

**HB:** Argentine newspapers suggest Argentina's intention was to get progress to influence an incoming Labour Government and constrain future Conservative Opposition criticism on any sovereignty talks.

**TL:** The actions of an outgoing government do not in that sense tie an incoming government. It has to be a matter of democratic principle. We are not bound by any talks we were not a party to.

**HB:** What is your reaction to Argentine demands for access for Argentine visitors and for re-establishment of communications links with Argentina?

**TL:** My remarks on my Falklands visit were misinterpreted. I applaud for humanitarian reasons the Falklands Council decision to welcome relatives of Argentines who died on the Islands to visit their graves. Generally, there is an anomalous situation where some Argentines can enter the islands on an Irish, Italian, British or other passport and suffer no barrier. The Islands must look at this. There is no way any British Government can exercise the power to decide who visits the Islands.

**HB:** Labour supports retention of the British garrison for defence against aggression?

**TL:** There is no threat of withdrawal of the garrison. We would want to maintain the minimum force necessary to deter aggression.

**HB:** The Falkland Islands has offered to pay the costs of the garrison and past military costs when its economy allows.

**TL:** I prefer to look at this as a concept of burden-sharing rather than a direct cost. The British Army is not a



Tony Lloyd MP, Labour Party Foreign Affairs Spokesman for the Falklands, talking to Sir Rex.

mercenary army. In the past Britain has not demanded any direct pound for pound contribution. If there are significant oil revenues, we would want to talk to the Falklands Council which has already offered to contribute.

**HB:** As the United Nations De-Colonisation Committee annually votes in Argentina's favour for resumption of sovereignty talks, ignoring the principle of self-determination, how could Labour persuade the UN to acknowledge the importance of allowing the Islanders to decide their own future?

**TL:** We can only patiently explain the position and demonstrate that the will of the Islanders is well-established.

**HB:** Another strand of Labour policy is to improve relations generally with Argentina?

**TL:** We should build the best possible relations and healthy co-operation for the mutual benefit of Britain, Argentina and the Falkland Islands. It's about strengthening Argentina's internal democratic process, and living in the world with our neighbours. Argentina is an important trade partner for the UK. While there is no compromise on sovereignty, it is in the interests of the Islanders to look at their relations with Argentina. We have to recognise the geographical situation. Such issues as oil and fisheries talks depend on having a constructive framework between Islanders, the British Government and the Argentines.

## Tony Lloyd's Letter to The Times

If any further clarification were needed of Labour Party policy, we publish extracts from Mr. Lloyd's letter to *The Times* contradicting its article "Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour", which suggested that a Labour Government would be "determined to nudge Islanders into closer relations with Argentina".

In his letter, Mr Lloyd said the *Times* article misrepresented Labour Policy. "British policy towards the Falklands will not change when the Labour Government takes power", he wrote. "The Sovereignty of the Islands is a matter for the people who live there". He also stated: "I also recognise that the decision as to who should be admitted to the islands is a matter for the Islanders and not for the British Government".

## Di Tella and Labour

The Argentine press suggests the Chevening talks have set a precedent for Argentines to discuss sovereignty with a future British Labour Government. On his return, Di Tella told the Press: **"After the change of Government in Britain, I will let some time elapse and then I will knock on the new Foreign Secretary's door to insist on the same theme: sovereignty"**. Commenting on Labour statements that they will not discuss sovereignty, Di Tella enigmatically remarked: **"That's what they say before elections"**.

Argentine reports also suggest the Chevening talks involving the Conservative Foreign Secretary would somehow constrain future Conservative criticism if a Labour Government ever became involved in talks on sovereignty.

## Putting the Press Right

All too often, inaccurate accounts of the Falkland Islands appear in the Press in Britain as well as in Argentina. The *Newsletter* does its best to counteract these. In this edition we take the *Sunday Telegraph* to task.

Sir Rex Hunt and other supporters were angered by a *Sunday Telegraph* article: *"The Unquiet Peace"* (December 29), which led off on this travesty: *"The Falkland Islanders and their British liberators have always had somewhat jaundiced views of one another. For the Islanders, the sudden transformation of their quiet world into a military fortress after the 1982 war was, to begin with, almost as upsetting as the Argentinean invasion"*.

Sir Rex wrote:

"I must take issue with Andrew Gilligan when he alleges the Islanders and their British liberators have always had jaundiced views of one another. With the number of servicemen in Stanley immediately after the Argentine occupation exceeding the civil population by over five to one and the male to eligible female ratio about a hundred to one, I expected trouble and asked for volunteers from UK police forces to reinforce our meagre force of three. They did not stay long. There was not enough work for them. As one explained: 'I had more incidents on a Saturday night in Aldershot than I've had here in three months'.

"Considering the pressures on accommodation in a town of only 366 houses, over a third of which had been damaged in the war, relations between the civilians and the military were remarkably good. I have no recollection (as the article alleges) of separate queues and soldiers in the West Store supermarket for 'rations of sweets'. Sweets were not rationed. NAAFI had a better stocked shop in Stanley. I do remember taking my turn in a mixed queue at Cable and Wireless to make telephone calls home.

"Mr Gilligan is also wrong to insinuate that it was the Islanders who decided that the new barracks at Mount Pleasant should be *'as far away from Stanley as practicable, an hour's drive along a partially-surfaced road'*. The Ministry of Defence naturally wanted the barracks near the airport, but left the choice between upgrading Stanley airport or a brand-new airport to the contractor ... Mount Pleasant emerged as the quicker and cheaper alternative. Islanders pressed for the *'partially-surfaced road'* to Mount Pleasant to be properly surfaced while the contractor had the equipment on the spot, and the Falkland Islands Government

*Clarín* claimed that Di Tella reported to President Menem that in the not too distant future, "softliners among British Conservatives, including Rifkind, are willing at least not to disrupt discussions on sovereignty", and that then the shared "two-flags" sovereignty proposal could be revived. "Rifkind and Di Tella", the newspaper claimed, "agreed that the Chevening meeting set a precedent which will clear the road for Labour when the time comes for new talks".

The Argentine Government now seems to regard the agreement with Britain to isolate and freeze the sovereignty issue under the "umbrella" as no longer valid. *Clarín* said Di Tella had asked Rifkind to put the "umbrella" aside and set a date for public discussions on sovereignty.

proposed to make up the difference in cost -- about £4-million. Regrettably the Overseas Development Administration, which then controlled the purse-strings, refused to deviate from their normal procedures, and the opportunity was lost!

"Most of the Stanley residents were sorry to see the garrison move to Mount Pleasant and I am sure that many would still like to have closer contacts... In my experience, Falkland Islanders are the most hospitable people in the world. They are everlastingly grateful to the British armed forces and, for every serviceman that Mr Gilligan may produce to say otherwise, there are dozens I know who would support this view".

**Editors Note:** Only part of the above letter was published by the *Sunday Telegraph*, two weeks after the offending article. The cuts to it reduced its message considerably and had not been approved by Sir Rex.

**1. Lives Lost:** A tragic consequence of the refusal of the Overseas Development Agency to take advantage of the MOD contractors already in the Falklands has been the loss to date of at least seven lives in accidents on the partially surfaced road.

To surface it now would cost far more than the £4 million it would have cost at the time the airport was built.

## Foreign Office Assurance

While visiting the Falklands, Deputy Under-Secretary, Robert Burns, the senior FCO official responsible for Falklands affairs, welcomed better relations with Argentina -- but said these would not be at the expense of Islanders' interests. He said the present Government's commitment will continue and the sovereignty position is clear... Islanders' right to self-determination will not be sacrificed to further relations with Argentina.

On oil, Mr. Burns said the Falklands will take the lead in decision-making and the British Government will provide expert advice as required. Any revenue will accrue to the Falklands. If these were substantial, the British Government would welcome contributions to defence costs already promised by the Islands Government.

He said Britain would continue to provide defence for the Falklands.

# What's Behind The Argentine Activity

There are many reasons for the recent hardening of attitudes over the Falklands in Argentina, and for all the political activity it has produced - their efforts to penetrate the Falklands again, to promote shared sovereignty, etc. It isn't only the approaching general election in Britain.

## Menem's Domestic Problems

First comes President Menem's dismally low standing in the opinion polls at the moment. This is down to about 15%, and reflects the people's resentment at corruption in his regime, and the appalling poverty and unemployment they are having to suffer - about 20% in many provinces. It has all been exacerbated by the dismissal of Economy Minister, Domingo Cavallo, and his accusations against various judges and members of Menem's regime of corruption - particularly in the case of the Banco Nacion/IBM bribery scandal.

There is discontent in Congress too. Menem now has a dozen or so rebels in his own party. With the Radical and FREPASO opposition parties these can already stop his more contentious legislation. This will become a lot worse after the mid-term elections in June. Menem is bound to lose many seats then, probably becoming a lame duck president with a Congress that can block anything he wants to do.

Menem also faces opposition from the trade unions who traditionally would support a Peronist Government, because of his - not unreasonable - labour reforms. The Unions have called several damaging strikes recently over these, and have successfully resisted in the courts when he has tried to impose his reforms by decree.

As always, the "Malvinas" provide a useful diversion and Menem has often brought the subject up - promising "progress", saying the British were already negotiating unofficially, or asking the Americans for help, etc...

## The "Hielos Continentales"

Recently, there has been a totally unreasonable furore in Argentina over Menem's effort to solve the last border dispute Argentina has with Chile - the Hielos Continentales, or continental icefields. These are some 64 square kilometres of icefields on the continental divide south of Mount Fitzroy, which Menem has been negotiating over with Chile since 1991.

In December, he presented a reasonable compromise to the Chamber of Deputies for their approval. This roughly divided the disputed territory in half, and had been agreed with President Frei. The result was an outburst of nationalist feeling. Menemist deputies were hectorated by Argentine nationalists. The "Ex-combatientes de Malvinas" held rallies and rushed off to put plaques in the disputed territory. The TV was full of people denouncing the settlement. Needless to say, Menem couldn't get enough votes to get it passed.

The benefits to Argentina of settling the last of its border problems with Chile, which have bedevilled relations for 120 years, are enormous. Yet what nationalists described as the "hand-over" of 32 square kilometres was too much for Argentina. There is a lesson here for the Falklands. The hysteria over 32 square kilometres, where no one could live, was beyond belief. No one who saw this could ever expect Argentina to behave sensibly over the Falklands.

When he could not get what he wanted, Menem made an emotional appearance on TV. He accused his opponents

of opposition just for the sake of opposition and threatened to put the matter to arbitration, if he couldn't get congressional approval. Needless to say, he also added that he would recover the Malvinas through international fora, without spilling a drop of Argentine blood.

All this has encouraged nationalist sentiment, and has obliged Menem to be particularly active over the Falklands to compensate for what is (unfairly) seen as his weakness over the Hielos Continentales.

## Falklands Oil

The FREPASO and Radical opposition parties and the 12 or so rebels from Menem's own Peronist party do not like the oil agreement with Britain. This is why the Government has not been able to pass the law to reduce their claimed oil royalties from 12 to 3%. The dissident Peronists are led by the President's brother, Eduardo Menem, although he has been less prominent personally since the attempt on his life last year when one of his bodyguards was killed.

The failure of British Gas and YPF to get a licence, although for perfectly valid technical reasons, has made this even worse.

## South Georgia Fishing Incident

Next come the false accounts that Britain forced an Argentine fishing boat, the *Antarctic III*, to buy a British fishing licence in South Georgia waters in March of last year. This got enormous publicity in Argentina, and Britain's denials got hardly any. The *Antarctic III* bought its licence voluntarily, but all the Argentine media said it had been forced to buy this, and this false account is now universally accepted there. One article even said the *Antarctic III* had been surrounded by three British gunboats when this happened. This false account is believed to have been disseminated by the Argentine Navy with the help of dissidents in the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

## Sink the Belgrano

The film *Hundan El Belgrano* (Sink the Belgrano) has had its effect too. It is bitterly anti-British. It suggests that Falklands petroleum reserves and the interests of the Falkland Islands Company were the main motive for Britain fighting the Falklands war and that this actually started in South Georgia because Britain misinterpreted what was happening there and over-reacted.

Predictably, the film follows the theory that the British Government deliberately ordered the sinking of the Belgrano in order to prevent negotiations that might have reached a settlement. It gives Tam Dalyell a good opportunity to vent his hatred for Lady Thatcher. It shows the Islanders in a particularly disadvantageous manner in order to suggest that they weren't worth fighting for.

## The Failure of Di Tella's policies

Last, but not least, comes Di Tella's admission in December that his policy of seduction of the Islanders has failed. This produced mocking jeers from his enemies, who want to sideline the Islanders and work on Britain directly - particularly after the general election.

Di Tella must now act more aggressively to save his own job. The result is all the present activity.



## Rise in Falklands Population

The growing prosperity of the Falklands since 1982, even before the possibility of oil finds, is reflected in the latest census, taken in April 1996, showing a proportionately dramatic increase in population to 2704, its highest ever, compared with the previous highest of 2392 in 1931, and only 1813 in a census prior to the 1982 invasion.

For the first time the census includes civilians resident at Mount Pleasant military base, other than service families. They total 483, of whom 189 have been resident for at least three years. The Islands' Attorney General says the figures demonstrate full employment and suggest that it may be difficult to embark on new areas of economic activity without immigration -- a problem for the Falklands Government if commercial quantities of oil are discovered.

## Anglo-Argentine Fishing Talks

Britain and Argentina have reached limited agreement on co-operation to preserve fish stocks in South Atlantic waters and to carry out joint research cruises in 1997 to assess the presence of squid and hake, two commercially valuable species. Disagreement persists over the licensing of fishing to the north of the Falklands. The Argentine-British Commission on South Atlantic Fishing, meeting in Buenos Aires in November, pledged continuing co-operation to remove disagreements which have blocked a comprehensive fishing accord. Such an accord is sought by the British and the Falkland Islands Governments to safeguard the main source of Falklands' burgeoning prosperity.

### Argentina "Does Not Mix Fishing with Politics"?

Argentina has denied it intends to increase fishing quotas to exert pressure on the Islands, a denial repeated by Deputy Foreign Minister, Andres Cisneros, who on a visit to London in November said: "Argentina does not mix fishing with politics". Argentine competition in issuing licences in 1992 caused a radical decline in Falklands' revenue, and gave rise to fears that over-fishing might destroy a valuable resource. Britain has argued that Argentine companies destroy the spawning of the valuable *Illex* squid, preventing their capture in Falklands waters. The South Atlantic has become the biggest squid fishery in the world, producing 10% of the global catch, with as many as 100 large fishing boats and 10,000 workers involved. Previously flourishing squid industries in the North Pacific and North Atlantic suffered as stocks became seriously depleted.

The prospering Falklands fishing industry is mainly involved with the other species of squid, *Loligo*, about which there is also anxiety to preserve stocks, as little is known about what causes these to fluctuate.

## Argentine Relatives Visit

A group of Argentines, relatives of servicemen who died in 1982, visited the Argentine cemetery in January. Numbers were limited to 16 as this is the capacity of Darwin Lodge, where they spent the night, before returning to Argentina the next day. There is another visit this month.

*Clarín*, in a lie typical of Argentine malice against the Islanders, stated that the British Government had had to force the Islanders to accept these visits. In fact they had been arranged by the late Councillor John Cheek.

## Falklands Reply to Visits Plea

Argentina's current campaign to open up communications with the Falklands and allow Argentine visitors has been highlighted by its Ambassador in London, Mr Rogelio Pflirter. In a letter to *The Times* newspaper, Mr Pflirter says that in this promising period for improved Anglo-Argentine relations, rather than rekindling the "dark hours of 1982", it is appropriate to revive the spirit which made both countries such close friends in the past.

In reply, the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Miss Sukey Cameron, says the Ambassador overlooks the main stumbling block to resumption of normal relations between the Islands and Argentina, namely Argentina's continuing sovereignty claim. The Falklands, she writes, have always sought peaceful co-existence and welcome progress with Argentina's young democracy. But its claim represents a continuing threat to the security and wellbeing of the Islanders. Far from widening the divide, as Ambassador Pflirter suggests, the Islanders are merely seeking Argentine acceptance of British sovereignty so that what he calls "the dark hours of 1982" are never repeated.

### Just Visits, or a Permanent Presence?

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella was quoted in *Clarín* on December 21st as saying: "There are going to be changes. There must be changes, we have to produce them". Later he stated: "The Argentine presence (in the Islands) must be recovered".

### The Newsletter comments:

Prior to the 1982 invasion, Argentines were welcomed as visitors, passengers on cruise ships or on services from the southern town of Comodoro Rivadavia, run by the Argentine airforce airline, LADE, which had officers stationed in Stanley. Falkland Islanders went to Argentina for schooling and medical treatment, under a communications agreement negotiated by the 1970 Heath Government. All this ceased as a result of Argentine aggression. Islanders remain understandably suspicious of Argentine intention while the sovereignty claim exists.

It is now widely believed that the LADE officers stationed in Stanley prior to '82 acted as intelligence agents.

## No to Argentine Royalties

The President of Desire Petroleum the Falklands-British Company which won Falklands licences to explore two areas by itself and another two in partnership with bigger companies has said his company will not pay the three per cent royalty requested by the Argentine Government. Desire's President, Colin Phipps declared: "We are a British Company that explores in British territory.... Desire will not pay the Argentine royalty because we have no activities in Argentina".

Mr Phipps' forthright stance creates a precedent for the other eleven companies granted exploration licences.

## Joint Area Seismic Goes Ahead

In a meeting of British and Argentine Officials in December, it was agreed to issue licences for seismic exploration of the jointly administered area that straddles the dividing line between British and Argentine waters to the South-West of the Falklands.

# The Falklands In Photos



Above: Stanley's soccer team, which has done so well this season.



Above Right: Some of the "Hit Squad" at work: Debbie Gilding and Jane Cameron doing some fence painting on Ross Road. The "Hit Squad" is a group of volunteers who tidy up and decorate Stanley in their spare time.



Above & Right: The Falkland Islands Defence Force "A" Team, as they jog through MPA at the start of their 15 Kilometre yomp to another victory in the "March and Shoot" competition - against strong opposition from regular units at MPA. Hugh Marsden leads, followed by Captain Peter Biggs, Paul Irwin and Martin Carey. The March began at 0850Hrs on Friday the 13th December. It ended seven gruelling hours later, after several tasks,



including carrying a simulated casualty, had been carried out. A final sprint to the firing point and a deafening volley of fire cleaned off all the plates 200 yards away - with 20 rounds to spare. Above, they pose triumphant for the Penguin News photographer.



Road building material being loaded by the East Falkland road gang as it pushes the North Camp road onwards towards Cape Dolphin.



The East Falkland road gang taking a well deserved lunch break. They are currently based at Little Creek.



Above: Myra Pitt, the full time teacher at Goose Green, with two of her pupils, Jonathan and Andrew Felton. Myra is also the radio lesson teacher for six other camp settlements. Photo: Capt S. Marsh



Right: Brigadier Iain Campbell, Royal Artillery, the new Commander British Forces Falkland Islands. Photo: Courtesy the RAF



Falklands Motocross rider, Jonny Summers, during the Bodie Creek event in January.

Jonny Summers lies second to Derek Jaffray in the Expert (the top) Class of the Falklands highly active motocross club.



Karen Thorndyke, a competitor in the "First American Woman to Circumnavigate the Globe" competition on her yacht *Amelia Earheart* in Stanley harbour. After leaving the Falklands for Australia, Karen fell ill and was rescued from her yacht by *HMS NORFOLK*.



Argentine next of kin say mass as they visit the Argentine military cemetery at Darwin in January. Another visit is sheduled for this month.

All Photos by Penguin News except where shown.



HE Governor Ralph presenting a prize at the Junior and Infant School prize giving.

# Falklands News

## Stolen Plaque Returned

John Smith, Curator of Stanley Museum has received a nice surprise. The copper plaque stolen from Port Louis in August was returned by post anonymously from the UK. Sadly, the attractive patina of 154 years had been removed. John now hopes to re-attach the plaque to the rock from where it was removed, but more securely this time.

## Charity Run

Eleven members of the F.I. Logistic Unit and Logistic Support Squadron ran from Port San Carlos via Stanley to MPA on November 16th. The group covered the 115 mile distance in 14 hours and 26 minutes raising money for St. Anne's and Shelly Schools for handicapped children.

## Planning Permission Granted

In its meeting on December 5th, in the Liberation Room at the Secretariat, the Planning Committee considered 17 applications for building permits and planning permission. Amongst smaller approvals it granted Argos Ltd permission for a large two-storey office block on H. Jones Road.

## Passing of a familiar face from Sports.

Tributes to the late Charles David Blakely were paid after his death on December 2nd. Charlie, as he was usually known, had just retired from the Stanley Sports Association in which he was one of the longest serving members. For many years he guarded the gate across the course on race days to prevent children from coming to harm. Lisa Riddell, Editor of Penguin News, and a successful jockey, recalled in her own tribute how proud she had been made to feel as a young girl when Charlie used to take the time to talk racing with her and ask when she was going to start herself.

## Christmas in the Ice

The British Antarctic Survey summer programme was delayed this year by unseasonal ice. The *RRS Bransfield*, was due to reach Halley Bay on December 13th. Having been trapped in pack ice it did not get there until January 8th. BAS sources in Stanley said there was never any danger to the vessel or crew, which includes several Islanders.

## John Cheek Wing Opened

Mrs Jan Cheek, widow of the late Councillor John Cheek, unveiled a plaque dedicating the new wing of the Stanley Infant and Junior School to his memory on December 18. Officially opening the wing then, HE Governor Richard Ralph, paid tribute to John Cheek's dedication to the cause of education for Islanders.

## MBE for Siggy

Siggy Barnes, who for many years has organised the British Legion Poppy Day collection in Stanley, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours.

## Medical Officer in Maritime Rescue

Senior Medical Officer Roger Diggie was lowered from an RAF helicopter onto the deck of a trawler in the early hours of January 7th to attend an injured Chilean seaman. The casualty, who had suffered a crushed leg and severed foot, was flown directly to King Edward Memorial Hospital.

## Customer Service Awards

Over fifty nominations were received for the December awards, which was described by organiser Debbie Gilding as "an excellent response". First place went to Malcolm and Glynis Ashworth of Stanley Dairy. Sue Gore at the Post Office came second, and Nick Hadden third, for work with the older members of the community.

## West Falkland Ram and Fleece Show

The tenth West Falklands Fleece and Ram show was held as usual at Fox Bay village, on December 29th, in excellent weather. Prizes were presented by HE Governor Richard Ralph and this year included a challenge cup and £50 from FIDC for a new competition category, "Fleece with highest commercial value". This was won by Shallow Harbour with a fleece valued at £10.50.

## VIP Visitors

Visitors to the Falklands in recent months have included Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, Labour Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tony Lloyd, and Vice Chairman of public relations consultants Shandwick, which handles Falklands affairs, Lord McNally.

## Fire Brigade in Action

Stanley Fire Brigade was called into action twice over the Christmas period. On December 18th, it went to the aid of the tanker *Baltic Prosperity* in Berkeley Sound, which had a fire in its accommodation area. After many hours this was extinguished.

On December 27th it assisted the *Playa de Coba*, in Stanley Harbour. It had been reported on fire on Christmas day, and had sailed to Stanley for assistance.

## Operation Santa

In an operation organised by Lorraine McGill, Robin Goodwin and David Harding-Price over a hundred children in Camp received visits from Santa in the week before Christmas. Probably the reason he was early was that he used an RAF helicopter rather than a sleigh. The operation was funded by donations from local businesses.

## 150th Anniversary of Police

HE Governor Ralph presented medals to all serving members of the Royal Falkland Islands Police in November to commemorate their 150th anniversary. The Force started in 1846 with four officers seconded from the Royal Irish Constabulary. It now has 30 officers and support staff.

## 1982 Veteran Returns

Simon Weston who survived the Argentine attack on the Sir Galahad during the 1982 war was in the Falklands again over Christmas to be anchor man for a live Christmas show for the forces, hosted in Britain by TV personality, Anthea Turner. The show also featured Government House and the Stanley line dancers.

Commenting about the Falklands, Simon said: "The're beautiful in stark bleak way"... "Every morning when I clean my teeth I see the scars of the Falklands, so I can never forget what happened then, but I also won't forget all the beautiful people who have been so kind to me down here".

### Up, Up and Away

Tom Chater, son of Annie and Tony Chater of Stanley, has won his commercial pilot's licence just four months short of his 21st Birthday. If there is a cloud on his flying horizon, it is that at 6 feet 5 inches he is too tall for British Airways.

### More Challenging Rescues

HM forces based in the Falklands went to the aid of two entrants in the Chay Blyth Global Challenge recently. *HMS LANCASTER* evacuated a sick crew member from the yacht *Save the Children* and a Sea King helicopter lifted the cook Rhiann Jenkins from the yacht *Global Teamwork* to KEMH for medical treatment

### Fighting Pigs in Santiago de Chile

Stanley's veteran rock and roll band, *The Fighting Pigs*, who between them clock up just about as many years as the *Rolling Stones* went on tour in Santiago early in December. Sponsored by the Foreign Office and *Aerovias DAP*, the tour was a great success. Back at their Stanley nightspot, "The Trough", "The Pigs" vocalist Len McGill, guitarist brothers Ray and Fred Robson, drummer Peter King and guest vocalist, Dave Hall, are already practising to do it again.

### Charity Competition

The latest sporting craze in Stanley is "Short Tennis", a scaled down version of lawn tennis. Capitalising on this, Spanish fishing representative, Antonio Cordiero, organised a charity competition on Saturday December 1st in aid of Friends of the Hospital. Winner of the Open was Andrew Williams and of the Ladies, Rosie Hickey.

### BBC World Service TV Comes to Stanley

KTV Ltd., the cable TV company set up in the Stanley by Martin Zuvic-Bulic and his wife Sharon (Née Hewitt), has extended its services to include BBC World Service. With this, the Falklands narrowly beat Peru and the Dutch Antilles to become the first South American country where live BBC Television can be seen.

### First Women Pilots

The Falklands now boasts two women pilots in the persons of Diane Towersey of Port Stephens and Jane McGill of Stanley. Diane trained in High Wycombe to be able to fly the Cessna 127 which she and partner Paul Robertson own. Jane trained in the USA and hopes to become a commercial helicopter pilot.

### Football Victories for Stanley

Stanley's football club opened its season with an impressive 5 - 1 victory over the Falkland Islands Field Squadron at MPA. This was followed by a 7 - 4 victory over Turner Diesels and, on December 2nd, by yet another victory 2 - 1 against HMS LANCASTER. Next, a team from the Irish Guards, but without some of its best players, were beaten 4 - 0. The latest result to reach the *Newsletter* is a fifth successive victory, 5 - 2, over the Resident Rapier Squadron.

### New Years Day Raft Race

Neil and Kevin Clifton, Keith Alazia and Jamie Simpson, the "Victory Favourites", won the New Year's Day Raft Race in, or rather on, their "Fosters Lager" raft.

### Christmas Sports

Sixty year old Stewart Morrison, riding *Cajun Moon*, *Sandown* and *Pollerita*, overcame illness and injury to become a well deserved Champion Jockey with six first placings, seven seconds and a third, giving him 33 points.

Tim Bonner came second with 26 points, riding *Croacia* and *Dory*. He won the Governor's Cup for the third year in succession and so cannot compete again in this prestigious event. Last year he won the Stanley, East and West Falklands championship titles.

Tyrone Whitney came third on locally bred mare, *Esconce*, which also won the Champion Horse prize. He won six firsts and a third giving him 19 points.

James Butler won the Maiden Plate and Turner Deisel Trophy on his father George's horse *Holiday Romance*.

Lisa Riddell on *Shaka* won the Chief Executives Plate and Des Peck Memorial.

Mathew McMullen made his debut as a senior rider winning the Argos Gallop on *Porsche* and getting three seconds on *San Diego*.

7-year old Clint Short won the Pinza Gallop on *Nancy* and best young jockey for 1996.

On the track, Steve Down won the one mile run.

The tug-of-war was won by Cully's Heroes

### Estancia Shearing Competition.

Twenty entries took part in the shearing competition this year. Tom Kennedy was first with 46.65 points, 2nd came John Jones with 48, 3rd Hugh Grierson with 48.75, and 4th Paul Phillips with 51.15.

In the "international" team competition, a new event, John Jones and Peter McKay of the Falklands won, Paul Phillips and Andrew Smith, also of the Falklands, came second. Hew Grierson and Willie Dickson came third for Scotland. Fred Parker and Greg Davidson came fourth for New Zealand, and Tom Kennedy and Robbie Mackellan came fifth for Ireland. Mark Fox and Dave Gillett brought up the rear for Cumbria.

Another new event, wool handling, took place under the scrutiny of Heidi Blake and Collen Mowatt. Lisa Jaffray won, with Harry Lewis second and Michelle Jones Third.

Mike and Jean McKay provided the barbecue. Chris Clarke and others ran the bar.

### Falkland Islands Defence Force Shooting Awards 1996

**Soldier of the Year:** Pte Tom Blake

**Top JNCO of the Year:** Cpl John Horne McDonald.

**Champion Shot All Weapons:** Cpl Paul Watson

**Champion Rifle:** Cpl Paul Watson

**Hierachy Challenge (Pistol):** Capt Peter Biggs

**Champion Lady Shot:** L/Cpl Rhoda Irwin

### Falklands Fishing Licences for First Season 1997

Out of some 223 application for Falklands fishing licences, the following grants have been made and accepted:

9 Type A Licences: Finfish except Toothfish and Hake.

92 Type B Licences: Illex Argentinus & *Martialia Hyadesi*.

14 Type C Licences: *Loligo Gahi*.

31 Type O Licences: Combined Illex and restricted finfish

16 Type W Licences: Restricted finfish (Blue Whiting and Hoki).

Many licences are now being taken up by fishing vessels which are either Falklands flag vessels or ones in which Falklands Companies have a share interest.

# Falkland Islands Development Corporation

# Development Update

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## **Oil Exploration**

The seismic survey stage of the oil exploration phase is well under way, but as predicted the impact on the local economy and business is minimal. The Development Corporation is concentrating on maximising the opportunities for Falkland Island companies at each stage of the process, and it is anticipated that these will increase steadily as the drilling programme approaches.

Many FI companies are engaged in talks with British companies and we hope that Joint Ventures will be formed which will be genuinely beneficial to both parties. FIDC actively encourages the operating and support services companies to make use of local facilities and services, which will allow the transfer of technology and expertise to the Falklands. Until the prospects for oil become clearer we must find a balance between providing the ideal infrastructure for the current phase of activity and the known requirements of the Falkland Islands economy in the medium term.

## **Falkland Islands Development Corporation and Tourist Board Staff**

We welcome John Fowler as manager of the Tourist Board, and look forward to seeing the effects of many new initiatives in the presentation and marketing of the Falkland Island tourism business. Cherilyn King has left the FITB, and temporarily the Islands, and the FITB information office is being staffed by no less than eight ladies working part-time. Debbie Gilding, FIG management trainee, has joined us for four months.

Both Ian Cox and Ian Dempster have agreed to extend their contracts with FIDC which gives welcome continuity and expertise, particularly on the major projects like the new abattoir, and the development of the Oil exploration phase.

## **Seaman's Mission**

In September 1996 Exco approved a scheme to fund the building of a seaman's mission which is to be sited beside the FIPASS road. This project which is the brain child of Mike and Kirsten Hughes has been coordinated by FIDC. A temporary facility consisting of two "wiseplan" units is already operational, and the permanent building will be completed in the spring.

Mike and Kirsten and their two children sailed to the Falklands from the UK in their own converted trawler in 1996, and soon recognised the need for an organisation of this type. The mission is affiliated to the Seaman's Christian Friend Society in the UK, and welcomes seamen and other visitors of all religions and denominations.

The Falkland Islands fishing industry has indicated a willingness to support the venture and so far the number of visiting seamen using the mission has been very encouraging.

# Falkland Islands Development Corporation

# Development Update



Interior photographs of the temporary Seaman's Mission building - already in use by visiting sailors.

*Photos: FIDC*



## Devon Firm Creates Falklands Links

*A British firm which has expanded its commercial and other links with the Falklands is Windmill Foods of Crediton, whose Managing Director, Paul Janion, has become an enthusiastic supporter. In a visit in 1994, Mr Janion made contact with the Falklands Chamber of Commerce and the Community School, and presented a Crediton Town plaque to then Governor, David Tatham.*

*In this article written specially for the Newsletter, Mr Janion explains, in entertaining but pragmatic fashion, how it all came about.*

My trip Down South was triggered by an inquiry from David and Pat Gray, of Sea Lion Lodge. It was too good a challenge to miss. After several faxes, I telephoned David Gray. His Teeside brogue temporarily disorientated me. It was my first introduction to the cosmopolitan profile of the Falklands population which should not have surprised me. I instantly struck up a warm friendship with David, and Sea Lion Lodge became Windmill Foods southernmost customer. I had to go there.

In 30 years in business in the UK, I have become dismayed by the utter hostility of the current trading climate, dominated by a minority of extremely powerful but over-inflated corporate egos entering transaction with all-out aggression, which I find unnecessary and destructive. My contact with David Gray restored my faith in the traditional view I have always believed in, that "a good deal" occurs when all the participants come out feeling winners. It has been an honour and a privilege to supply these far-flung but no less-sceptred isles.

Windmill Foods is a family owned business specialising in an eponymously branded range of dried foods -- fruit, nuts, cereals, pulses etc. We are now shipping goods to Stanley Co-op and West Falklands Store where Eddie Chandler has become our agent in the Islands.

It seemed to me there was wider opportunity here. As former Chairman of Crediton Chamber of Commerce, I made contact with the Falkland Islands Chamber. Exchange of faxes revealed a common requirement of the Falklands business community. Most of all, they wanted reliability.

The aftermath of the 1982 Conflict and implementation of the Shackleton Report has spawned a newly found spirit of entrepreneurial independence which called for a focal point in the UK which could be relied upon to deliver products in good time, in good order, at a fair price.

There was also opportunity to develop two-way trade -- providing access to the UK market for budding Falklands suppliers of value added products from this unique if somewhat "raw" corner of the British economy. The Crediton and Falklands Chambers of Commerce offered a focal point for this axis, and the two Chambers are now

### Open Letter to My Mother

A one hour video film of the Falklands by Alicia Battistoni, and reviewed by Sir Rex Hunt in the November Newsletter. Copies available in either English or Spanish from: Alicia Battistoni, 27 Holly Court, Worcester Road, Sutton, SM2 6QB. Cost £12 inc pp - £7 of which goes to the Shackleton Fund.



Paul Janion presents Crediton Town Council's goodwill plaque to Governor David Tatham in 1994.

affiliated. One of our Rotary Clubs is planning to raise funds for a student exchange.

Valuable trading links have been established - both ways. We have helped in the sourcing of important suppliers and expertise for the islands, for example, technical help with the new abattoir and re-structuring of waste disposal, supply of boiler equipment for Fox Bay Mills, providing skilled staff etc. Windmill Foods import knitwear from A&E Sweaters. There is need for a more structured and corporate approach to the marketing of Falklands products in the UK. These are early days, but reliable working relationships are emerging. Local events raising the Falklands profile in our community included a successful dinner-lecture with Sir Rex Hunt and Geoffrey Moir as speakers.

### Newsletter Comment

Mr Janion plans his next visit this year. We congratulate him and his company for their initiatives, and welcome them as a Corporate Member of the Falkland Islands Association.

## Falklands Veterans Re-Union

All the men and women who served in the 1982 Task Force which liberated the Falkland Islands are invited to a mass re-union on the fifteenth anniversary of the Argentine surrender, on June 14, at Gosport in Hampshire.

The event, hosted by comedian Jim Davidson, is being organised by two Falklands veterans, Derek Cole and Adrian Ryan, who hope that as many as 20-thousand people may turn up. Separate marquees for the three services will be erected to help reunite former comrades. Derek Cole, aged 40, who served on HMS INTREPID says: "We want it to be a celebration of the surrender but there will be sadness for the 255 men who should be celebrating with us but are no longer here".

Anyone who served in the Falklands wishing to attend should send a stamped addressed envelope to "Falklands Reunion, PO BOX 47, Gosport, Hampshire, PO13 0AR".



## Photos of 1996



Above: Falklands Councillors, Mrs. Wendy Teggart and Mr. John Birmingham, meet the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind at the Conservative Party Conference.

Photo: David Carroll



Above Right: Miss Sukey Cameron, FIG representative in London, shakes hands with Mr. Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, at the Labour Party conference. In the background are Councillors Wendy Teggart and John Birmingham, who also met Mr. Cook, and Opposition Leader Mr. Tony Blair.

Photo: David Carroll

Right: HE Governor Ralph signs the visitors book during his visit to the British Antarctic Survey Headquarters at Cambridge.

Also present are, left to right: Dr. Dougal Goodman (Deputy Director, BAS), Dr. Barry Heywood (Director, BAS) and Mr. Tony Longrigg (High Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territory).

Photo: Chris Gilbert



## Falklands Exhibition - In Buenos Aires!

Falklands artist, Jimmie Peck, exhibited some of his excellent paintings at the Uriburu Gallery in Buenos Aires during December. Many of these showed huddled soldiers from the 1982 war, others were scenes in Stanley and Falklands landscapes. Mr. Peck, who paints in a style sometimes referred to as "sketch painting", sold most of his paintings. His exhibit was visited by many Argentine politicians, including Dr. Guido Di Tella.

The whole exhibition - and indeed just the presence of a Falkland Islander in Argentina - attracted much press comment. It represented a most courageous decision by Mr. Peck. He was repeatedly interviewed by the Argentine media to whom he courteously but robustly defended Falklands rights.

The exhibition was privately organised.



Jimmie Peck with one of his pictures

Photo: Penguin News

**THE FALKLANDS JOURNAL 1996**, edited by Dr. Jim McAdam, published by the Editor, Stanley, Falkland Islands. Softback A5. 146 Pages including foreword.

Contents: twelve articles including reports by the three winners of the Alastair Cameron Memorial History Prizes 1995, seven black and white photos, eighteen drawings or diagrams and maps ISSN 0256-1824. Price £7.70 post paid within the U.K.

"Dear to Hermes" is the second extract from the autobiographical notes of the late John Francis Wheeler, a biologist who took part in the Discovery Expeditions, submitted by Dr. F. Williams. This extract is an insight into his work at the Grytvick Whaling Station, South Georgia with interesting references to the Discovery, the William Scoresby and the Discovery II.

"New light on the Early Settlement of Port Louis, East Falkland: The French Occupation 1764-7", by R.A. Philpott, advances our knowledge of this early settlement one stage further, especially in terms of a newly discovered original manuscript with a 1765 map of Port Louis at the Biblioteque National in Paris and a plan of the Governor's house in the Archivo General de la Nacion in Buenos Aires.

Martin Seymour, a serving officer with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, who has completed six tours of duty in the Falklands, writes about "The wreck of the Helen A. Miller, a Baltimore built ship" in Port San Carlos, on which he dived in 1985, and his subsequent researches into the ship.

In "Falklands Islands Immigrants to the Magellanic Region", respected Chilean Historian Professor Mateo Martinic has written about the Falklands migration to the Magellanes between 1880 and 1920, listing names and dates and a brief account of resulting family foundations there.

A short article by naval historian Andrew David, brings to light "Thomas Edgar and his survey of West Falkland (1786-7)", whose name is commemorated in Port Edgar and his merchant vessel Hope in Hope Point and Hope Harbour.

The early Governor of the Falkland Islands featured this time is "George Rennie, Governor of the Falkland Islands 1848-1855", a remarkable man who in seven years developed the small settlement from the fifty poverty stricken early settlers existing on rations handed out gratis from the Government Store to a well organised prosperous society of 600 resident settlers with laws, a legal system and an effective court, self-sufficient, providing their own food and engaged in a variety of trades. Rennie was also a sculptor of considerable merit having exhibited his work on several occasions at the Royal Academy. Photos of two of his works, a statue and a bust are included in the article.

Part 9 (1994 - 1996) of "Scientific Papers and Publications Relevant to the Falkland Islands", by J.H. McAdam, is included as is the 1996 Supplement to the Annotated Bibliography of Books on the Falkland Islands published since June 1982, by T.G. Reid Jr.

The three Alastair Cameron Trust History Prize 1995 winning research report articles this time are "Mum's War Story", by Mark McPhee, aged 10, "The History of Football in the Islands", by Marti Barnes, aged 11, and "Falkland Sound", by Andrea Poole, aged 14. This latter article is especially valuable because it includes maps and brief descriptions of Swann Island, Tyssen Islands, Great Island, Ruggles Island, Speedwell Island, George Island and Barren Island, which are not available elsewhere.

R.N. Spafford

## Sir Nigel Fisher 1913 - 1996

It is with deep regret that we record the death on the 9th October 1996 of Sir Nigel Fisher, former M.P. and junior minister. Although not a founder member of the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee (later the Falkland Islands Committee), Sir Nigel joined at a crucial stage of the 1968 to early 1970s crisis period and through his vast experience and knowledge of Colonial and Commonwealth affairs at ministerial level made a major contribution to the Falklands cause. To a Committee dominated by lawyers and politicians he brought an incisive mind and an intolerance of verbosity.

The non party-political Committee included representatives from all the main parties and cross-party respect for Sir Nigel's views was evident. Notwithstanding the wide-ranging interests of his political career Sir Nigel believed in supporting to the full any cause he espoused. He regularly attended meetings and hosted several receptions to advance the Islanders' cause at a time when the Falklands had a significantly lower public profile than now. He was a valued trustee of the Falklands Appeal after the war. **F.G.M.**

### Falkland Islands Dinner

A Falkland Islands dinner in support of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund will be held at the Arnhem Gallery, Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on Friday April 18th.

Guest speakers will be Sir Rex Hunt and Geoffrey Moir. Chairman of the evening will be Professor Cyril Lloyd. Reception at 6.30pm. Dinner at 7.10. Guest Speakers and Charity auction at 9.00. Sale of Falkland Islands products at 10.20. Raffle at 10.50. Close 11pm. Musical entertainment throughout the evening.

Dress informal/lounge suit. Tickets £25. Proceeds to Shackleton Scholarship Fund. Cheques with application to Mr. G. Moir, DFC, 37 Kingscote Road, Croydon, Surrey CRO 7DP.

### Miles Apart

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T: 01638-577627 Fx: 01638-577874	T: 1301-571-8942

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# The Falkland Islands Association

**President:** The Rt. Hon. the Lord Braine of Wheatley. **Vice Presidents:** General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, MSC, DL, The Hon. L.Buxton, Sir Cosmo Haskard KCMG, MBE, Sir Jack Hayward OBE, Mr. E.W.Hunter-Christie, The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, Mr. A.Monk OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham, CBE, Major R.N.Spafford, Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley GCB, Councillor R.E.Walker.

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**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. E.C.J.Clapp.  
**Admin Secretary:** Mrs. S.Syborn.

The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its Constitution states that its objectives are :

**"To assist the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves without being subjected to pressure direct or indirect from any quarter"**

The Association is independent, but maintains close links with many other Falklands organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It publishes a quarterly newsletter, which all members receive, covering political and social events in the Islands, wildlife, tourism, philately, and many other subjects. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

## Membership Application

I/We would like to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future for themselves and to help them develop their islands in accordance with their wishes.

I/We wish to join the Falkland Islands Association. (Individual members annual subscription £15, Pensioners and Students £5, Corporate members and Trading Organisations, minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500)

I enclose a cheque for ..... payable to the Falkland Islands Association, (or use bankers order form below).

Full Name .....  
 Address .....  
 Occupation..... Telephone Number .....  
 Connection with the Falklands, if any .....  
 Signature ..... Date .....

Please return to: The Falkland Islands Association, 2 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB Please do not use this form for renewals

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To..... Bank  
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 Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, Piccadilly Circus Branch, 19 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7RL. Bank Code 56 00 29 for credit of: THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION Account No. 24223999 the sum of ..... pounds on receipt of this order and thereafter annually on the anniversary thereof.  
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## Dates For Your Diary

**Friday, April 18th**  
 Falkland Islands Dinner, Croydon.

**Wednesday, June 11th**  
 Lincoln's Inn Reception

**Saturday, 6th December,**  
 Battle Day and AGM

## ADVERTISING

The present circulation of the newsletter is 4,000 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, to all Members of the House of Commons, Members of the House of Lords, all British Members of the European Parliament, and to the Press, Radio and Television. Many copies circulate in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth and foreign Countries. 800 copies are distributed in the Falkland Islands. Advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page .....£250  
 Half Page .....£125  
 Quarter Page.....£65  
 Eighth Page .....£35  
 Short Insertions.....£3 per line

Discounts for 4 insertions by negotiation.

A special concession is offered to members of the Association living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

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### Editorial Committee:

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 Mr. R.Elgood.  
 Mr. P.J.Pepper (Co-Editor).



Above: His Excellency Governor Richard Ralph inspects members of the Royal Marine Band on Battle Day.

Photo: Norman Clark

Right: Falklands pop group: "The Fighting Pigs", with the "Coca Cola Girls", during their successful tour of Santiago de Chile.

L to R are: Fred Robson, Len McGill, Dave Hall, Ray Robson and Peter King. The group, whose name belies both their talents and behaviour, played at five venues, including the popular *La Fabrica Disco*, where they featured with the top Chilean group *Joe Vasconcellos*. They already have invitations to return.

