



Falkland Islands Newsletter

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Act of Faith by the Falklands

The surprise agreement signed by the Argentine and British Foreign Ministers on July 14th was the result of an initiative taken by Falkland Islands Councillors. In agreeing to flights from Argentina and access for Argentines, Councillors knew that they would face opposition from some of those who voted them into office. So why did they do it?

There was a need for greater cooperation on fisheries, especially to combat poaching. There was a need to resume the flights from Chile that the Chilean Government had stopped as a reprisal for General Pinochet's detention in Britain and as a result of Argentine pressure. Councillors believed that to retain the support of the British Public and Parliament they had to allow access to Argentine passport holders. Councillors also had the broader aim of achieving good neighbourly relations and building on the goodwill engendered by the visits of President Menem to Britain and the Prince of Wales to Argentina.

Councillors acted upon the British Foreign Secretary's suggestion in early July that, if they were to capitalise on what the Argentines seemed ready to agree, they should move

quickly. They did so in the firm belief that they were acting in the best long-term interests of the Islanders.

The Argentines see any step towards the normalisation of relations between Argentina and the Falklands as a step towards a transfer of sovereignty. Indeed, after signing the agreement, their Foreign Minister said that negotiations on sovereignty would take place within eight years. That is why many Islanders and their supporters view the future with apprehension, and actively oppose the agreement.

But the effect of the agreement is to normalise relations, without even the hint of a concession over sovereignty. So now is the time for determination. Determination that Argentina fulfils its obligations under the agreement, with a comprehensive fish conservation accord to safeguard the Falklands economy. Determination, above all, that Argentina's false claim to sovereignty be resisted. That is a cause - and official British Government and Opposition policy - that unites all Islanders and their supporters.

Only when Argentina abandons this false claim will genuine goodwill and real harmony prevail.



The scene at the Foreign Office on July 14th, when the agreement was signed. Seated are HE Dr. Guido Di Tella, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Robin Cook MP. To the right of Mr. Cook in the photograph are Falklands Councillors, the Hon Mrs Sharon Halford and Mr. Michael Summers. *Photo: Courtesy of the FCO*

Negotiations with Argentina

In November of last year, the detention of General Pinochet in Britain caused Chile to abandon its traditional friendship with Britain and actively side with Argentina over the Falklands dispute.

Last March, the Chilean government, in reprisal for the detention of General Pinochet, but also in close collaboration with the Argentine government, stopped all flights from Punta Arenas in Southern Chile to the Falklands. Argentine pressure also prevented the opening of an already approved air-link with Uruguay and persuaded Uruguay to stop all but emergency medical flights between Uruguay and the Falklands. This was all intended to force Islanders to have communications with Argentina again and admit Argentine citizens.

This year very serious poaching of squid took place in Falklands waters, primarily by Taiwanese vessels. British government delays over the delivery of a naval gun, with which to arrest violators, and over the use of armed boarding parties, made it difficult for the Falklands to prevent this.

To get Argentine cooperation against the poaching and to negotiate their way out of the Argentine inspired blockade and in the belief that continued British Parliamentary support depended on the abandonment of the Falklands policy of excluding Argentine citizens - and in the hope of improving relations with Argentina - negotiations with the Argentines were begun by Falklands Councillors in May. These continued in New York in July. Many Islanders felt that isolation would be better than reopening communications with Argentina. Nevertheless, after careful consideration, the Council by a seven to one majority felt that the following agreement was in the best interests of the Falklands. It was reached on July 14th.

Joint Statement

I Introduction

United Kingdom and Argentine delegations met in London on 13 and 14 July in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, to continue the dialogue begun in London on 26/27 May and continued in New York on 2 July. The United Kingdom delegation was led by Secretary of State, Robin Cook, and the Argentine delegation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Worship, Guido Di Tella. The United Kingdom delegation included members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council.

The two Ministers recalled the Joint Statements made by the UK and Argentine delegations in Madrid on 19 October 1989 and 15 February 1990, which made possible the normalisation of relations between the two countries, and the re-establishment of successful co-operation in the bilateral sphere. They agreed that the formula on sovereignty in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement of 19 October 1989 applied to this Joint Statement and to its consequences.

They welcomed the improved understanding and degree of reconciliation in the bilateral relationship marked by the exchange of visits of the President of Argentina in October 1998 and HRH The Prince of Wales in March 1999.

The two parties reached agreement on the following points.

II Access and Air Services

1. Argentine citizens will be able to visit the Falkland Islands, on their own passports. This provision applies equally to Argentine citizens travelling by air and sea.

2. Full support for the immediate resumption of direct scheduled civil air services between Chile and the Falkland Islands, operated by Lan Chile or any other carrier agreed between the Parties. From 16 October 1999, these services will include stops in mainland Argentina, where they will be able to take on and discharge passengers, cargo and mail.

3. The possibility of flights between the Falkland Islands and third countries was welcomed with the option, from 16 October 1999, of making stops in mainland Argentina.

III Fishing

In the light of the shared commitment to the maintenance and conservation of fish stocks in the South Atlantic, existing levels of co-operation between the United Kingdom and Argentina will be enhanced. In this context officials will meet shortly to consider the question of the relative stability of fish stocks, poaching, and other questions related to it and to recommend coordinated programmes of practical measures with the objective of putting them in place before 9 October 1999.

IV Confidence Building

(i) With a view to the further development of reconciliation and mutual understanding: a memorial to members of the Argentine armed services killed in action in 1982 will be constructed at the Argentine cemetery in the Falkland Islands.

(ii) The Argentine Government is prepared to look at the question of toponomy in the Falkland Islands. To that end it will continue to consult the appropriate national institutions.

(iii) As the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the Argentine Republic agreed in October 1998, the two Governments will continue to work together to evaluate the feasibility and cost of clearing the land mines still present in the Falkland Islands.

V Procedures

(i) The implementation of the arrangements detailed in this joint statement will be recorded in an exchange of letters between the two Governments.

(ii) The Governments will jointly send the text of the present statement and the accompanying letters, in English and Spanish, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the General Assembly under the appropriate item of the Agenda of the next regular session.

(iii) This joint statement, as well as the arrangements deriving from it, will be kept under review by the two Governments.

The document was signed by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook MP for Britain and by Foreign Minister Dr. Guido di Tella for Argentina. Two Falklands Councillors, the Hon Mrs. Sharon Halford and the Hon Mr. Michael Summers, who were technically members of the British delegation, signed as witnesses.

Side Letter to the Joint Statement

More detail about the Agreement is to be found in the following side-letter to it that was sent to Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Di Tella by Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook MP. It was also dated 14th July 1999.

His Excellency Dr. Guido Di Tella,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Worship,
Republic of Argentina

I have the honour to refer to our Joint Statement signed in London on 14 July 1999. This Statement provided for an exchange of letters, to which the formula on sovereignty in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement issued at Madrid on 19 October 1989 applies, to record the understandings between our Governments on its detailed implementation.

In this respect I have the honour to propose the following arrangements:

I Visits

(1) An Argentine passport valid for the duration of the intended stay will be needed by an Argentine citizen for visits to the Falkland Islands.

(2) Argentine passports presented by visitors to the Falkland Islands will be stamped on the same basis as all other passports presented by visitors to the Falkland Islands.

(3) The number of visitors to the Falkland Islands at any one time needs to reflect local capacity including the availability of accommodation. Visitors will be required to arrange accommodation in advance and to have a return ticket and sufficient funds for their intended stay.

II Air Services

(1) The Argentine Government will seek the consent of the Chilean Government to the immediate resumption of civil air services between Chile and the Falkland Islands, operated by Lan Chile or any other carrier agreed between the Parties.

(2) It is envisaged that civil air services between Punta Arenas and the Falkland Islands will take place once a week. From 16 October 1999 they will make initially two stops per month at Rio Gallegos, one in each direction. This arrangement will be kept under review.

(3) In the event that the Punta Arenas service does not continue, one of any successor or substituting civil air services will make a stop in mainland Argentina, initially at a rate of two stops per month, one in each direction.

(4) Flight clearances issued by the Argentine authorities for civil air services to the Falkland Islands will enable the carrier or carriers to postpone flights for natural or technical reasons.

(5) Should civil air services between the Falkland Islands and third countries be operated then the option of making stops in mainland Argentina may only be exercised after 16 October 1999 by the operators based on overall commercial considerations and subject to the appropriate authorisation by the parties.

(6) The Argentine Government will seek the support of its Mercosur partners for these arrangements.

III Transit

The Argentine authorities will consider as "in transit" all passengers, cargo and mail arriving by air in the Argentine mainland which is en route to or from the Falkland Islands when they are not destined for the Argentine mainland.

IV Fisheries

(1) The British and Argentine Governments will convene a meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. It will discuss ways of developing their mutual interest in the conservation of fisheries resources of the South Atlantic including the relative stability of stocks and their economic significance for the area. The meeting's agenda will also include consideration of multilateral arrangements relating to the high seas fisheries.

(2) They will, also, explore and recommend practical ways of dealing with poaching in the South Atlantic including amongst other things the exchange of information and data, ways of enhancing fisheries protection measures and helping develop secure fisheries communications channels.

V Confidence-building

The details of the memorial referred to in Paragraph IV (1) of the Joint Statement of 14 July 1999 will be agreed mutually.

VI Humanitarian Visits

(1) The Joint Statement of 14th July replaces the special arrangements based on humanitarian considerations and the provisions in Paragraph 10 of the Joint Statement of 15 February 1990 for visits to the Falkland Islands by close relatives of Argentine nationals buried there, including civil charter flights between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands for the purpose of these visits.

(2) Argentine nationals visiting the Falkland Islands will continue to be able to visit cemeteries where members of the Argentine armed services killed in action in the 1982 conflict have been buried.

VII Detailed Arrangements

Officials of our two Governments will discuss the detailed implementation of these arrangements as a matter of urgency.

I should be grateful if you could confirm that the foregoing represents the understanding of our two Governments with regard to this matter.

Robin Cook

Editors' Note

The word toponymy (not toponomy) in the Joint Statement opposite is the study of place names. The reference to it in article IV (ii) is an undertaking by the Argentines to remove the offensive names that were imposed on the Falklands during the Argentine occupation in 1982. The best known of these is the name "Puerto Argentino" for Stanley.

Chilean Flight Blockade Lifted

Chile's original decree number 209 that banned all Chilean planes flying to and from the Falklands expired at the beginning of July - by when Falklands Councillors were already in discussion with Argentina.

To support Argentina in these negotiations, Chile then issued another decree banning flights for another 180 days. This was announced in *Clarín* on July 11th, just three days before the agreement with Argentina was signed.

Argentine inspired

Dr. Di Tella always said that he could have the Chilean ban on flights lifted, which suggests that it was really Argentine inspired all the time. Sure enough, just a week after the agreement with Argentina was signed, the Chilean ban was lifted, although General Pinochet remained in detention. LanChile flights began again on August 7th with the invasion of Argentine journalists referred to opposite.

The original ban on flights from Punta Arenas had met with strong disapproval in Punta Arenas. The extension of the ban in July did so too. Senator Jose Ruiz di Giorgio of the governing Christian Democrats in the southern Chilean region of Punta Arenas, described it as "absolutely lamentable". He went on to say: "they are not going to solve the problems of Pinochet with this measure" and he pointed out that bilateral trade with the Falklands was worth five million dollars.

The Demo That Never Was

Following the incident when a young Argentine nationalist, Martin Matzkin, unfurled the Argentine flag at the Argentine cemetery at Darwin, a report appeared in *The Times* saying it had provoked a demonstration by 2,000 Islanders. This erroneous report was also used later by the *Guardian* to pour scorn on Islander over-reaction.

In fact, the Darwin flag incident did not provoke any demonstration at all - and even with the newly born and old age pensioners there are not 2,000 Islanders in Stanley.

The Demo that was

The Matzkin incident featured in the Argentine press and did annoy Islanders, as requests by Argentina to fly its flag at the cemetery had been rejected in the negotiations. It certainly contributed to the demonstration of some 150 Islanders that did occur on the airport road as the Argentine journalists were leaving three days later. So did another incident when Argentines put advertising material on the fence at Government House in order to make a beer commercial. Worst of all, two days before the Argentines left, press reports quoted Argentine Defence Minister, Jorge Dominguez, saying that President Menem would visit the Islands on the first flight from Rio Gallegos, on October 16th, in defiance of an agreement with the Argentine Government that high profile figures would not go to the Falklands without an official invitation.

President Menem to Visit?

In fact, it is still uncertain whether President Menem had intended to go to the Falklands on October 16th. But following this demonstration, it was announced that he definitely would not. If President Menem had gone on October 16th, he would have been able to speak to Argentina from the Falklands on October 17th, the annual Peronist day of celebration. Just a week before the Argentine Presidential election, this would have been a political coup worth tens of thousands of votes.

Veterans Passport Challenge

At their conference in Salta on September 5th, the Congress of the *Federación Nacional de Veteranos de Guerra de Malvinas*, which is the umbrella organisation for Argentine veterans of the 1982 war, resolved not to return to the Falklands until they could do so without using their Argentine passports. They also announced they were preparing a petition containing some 700,000 signatures opposing the bill in the Argentine Congress that proposes to change the name "Puerto Argentino" back to Stanley.

Editors Comment

The action of the Argentine veterans clearly shows that the Falklands "dispute" is far from over, and that with the ink hardly dry on the recent agreement, Argentina is already pressing for more concessions. All visitors to the Falklands have to use their passports - even Britons.

Invasion of Journalists

With the first Lan Chile flight from Chile since the lifting of the Chilean/Argentine blockade, some forty Argentine journalists arrived in the Falklands on August 7th. The attitude of many of these was hostile, arrogant and intrusive and they produced some of the most malicious journalism the *Newsletter* has ever seen. Those Islanders known to oppose the recent agreement were targeted, and the Argentines gloated over the divisions in Falklands society it had caused.

Argentine newspaper, *La Nación*, was unusually aggressive. Its reporter, Diego Pérez Andrade, had been a Telam journalist in the Falklands during the '82 war.

Direct Flights Re-established

Following the declaration by the British and Argentine Governments on Oct 8th (see page 8) that the fisheries protection measures agreed on July 14th were in place, the go-ahead was given for Lan Chile Flights from Punta Arenas to begin monthly stop-overs at Rio Gallegos, Argentina.

In accordance with the Agreement, these began on October 16th (just as the *Newsletter* was about to go to press). The first passengers were mainly relatives of Argentine servicemen killed in action in the '82 War, but several journalists and a few businessmen were also on the flight.

There is still considerable doubt in the Falklands over whether the fisheries agreement is fully implemented yet, and some criticism has been expressed over the wisdom of allowing stopovers at Rio Gallegos to begin. However, out of respect for the families of the dead, no demonstrations took place.

Argentine Access Poll

The only poll on this subject was organised privately by four Islanders with strong links to tourism. It took place before the Agreement was negotiated, but after Islanders knew that flights to and from Chile were likely to be cut off. 916 voters replied to this, which is 64% of the electorate.

A slight majority, 51%, opposed access by Argentines, 47% accepted it as long as there was effective control over the influx. Forty per cent did not oppose flights stopping in Argentina and 26% were against this. A majority, 56%, opposed direct flights by Argentine airlines, and only 9% were in favour of this. It is estimated tourism income could be boosted from half-a-million pounds a year to four-and-a-half million with increased visitors from Argentina and elsewhere.

No Let-Up in Sovereignty Campaign

Islanders' fears that the agreement would encourage Argentina's pursuit of its false sovereignty claim were swiftly born out. Foreign Minister Dr. Di Tella said he believes that within eight years - two Presidential terms - Argentina will be able to hold negotiations with Britain on Falkland Islands sovereignty. The Islanders, backed by successive British Governments, insist that sovereignty cannot be negotiated, but Argentina continues to ignore this vital condition of its relations with Britain.

Dr. Di Tella described resumption of flights and access for Argentines as London's "chief concessions". "For Argentines", he said, "there will be growing ties; for the Islanders, the possibility of generating revenue through tourism..."

South America Changed

Dr. Di Tella mentioned "investments" as a possibility and said: "We have to make good use of the opportunities that are opening up for us". Referring to Argentina's "new understanding" with Chile and Brazil, which are a product of the Pinochet affair, he said: "The entire geostrategy in South America has changed. That old idea that England and Chile were natural allies and mutual enemies of Argentina no longer exists".

Dr. Di Tella appealed for restraint by Argentine visitors, warning against incidents which might cause the agreement to collapse. He urged them to respect the ecology and "not write anything on bathroom walls or elsewhere" (Islanders have bad memories of how Argentine troops violated their homes in 1982). A similar appeal came from Governor Lamont, who said it is necessary to "open the door in a smooth and controlled manner". He warned that "the treatment given Argentine visitors will largely depend on the visitors' attitude".

These appeals went unheeded by many of the Argentine press, and Argentine lawyer, Sr. Matzkin, displayed an Argentine flag at the Darwin cemetery claiming this was an emotional non-political tribute to Argentine war dead. (see opposite).

Di Tella to Visit

Although not invited, Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella, has announced that he will go to the Falklands on January 15th next year. Despite leaving office on December 10th, he still wants his trip to be political. He told *Clarín* he hoped to meet people he knew and said: "There are still matters to solve before the conditions are right to sit down with the British to discuss the central subject that is important to us". Councillors have said that he is welcome as a tourist.

Exchanges Wanted

Since the July agreement, two appeals have been made by Argentines for exchanges of young people. One came from Governor Romero of Salta, the other from Argentine war veteran, Carl Croxi, and Gabriel Parini of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, who both arrived on the first flight from Chile since the blockade was lifted. Both requests have been turned down.

Peace Educators Visit

Two "International Village Meetings" delegates arrived in the Falklands on the first flight from Rio Gallegos on October 16th. Their Buenos Aires based organisation has the purpose of "fostering peace, education and cross cultural friendship in conflictive regions of the world".

Parliamentary Commission

In a move to take advantage of the negotiations that Falklands Councillors had with Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr. Di Tella in May, the Argentine Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee came to London a week before and held meetings with the Minister of State, then Mr. Tony Lloyd MP, and the Chairman of the Select Committee for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Donald Anderson MP. They made an application for a permanent Argentine/British Parliamentary Commission to be established in order to discuss common problems.

Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook MP, replied to this request on August 24th, without even mentioning the Falklands, but merely suggesting that the existing Argentine/British Parliamentary friendship group, which is headed by Mr. Tom Cox MP, would be the appropriate forum for any discussions.

The suspicions of the Association that the Argentines wanted a joint Parliamentary commission to open sovereignty negotiations by the back-door were confirmed on September 11th, when a major and quite euphoric *La Nacion* article described Mr. Cook's letter as effectively giving the go-ahead for sovereignty negotiations! Such an interpretation was promptly denied by Governor Lamont in the Falklands and the FCO here. However, on September 22nd, both *La Nacion* and *Clarín* published more indications of the importance their politicians attach to this parliamentary group, leaving no doubt that they intend to use it to promote their sovereignty claim.

There is evidence in the Argentine press that three of the politicians from the Argentine Foreign Affairs Committee that came to Britain to request a Parliamentary commission may have been active in lobbying Argentina's neighbours to stop flights to the Falklands, and so maintain the blockade.

Self-Determination Plea at UN

The annual United Nations debate in the Decolonisation Committee on July 1st again passed its usual pro-Argentine resolution calling for Anglo-Argentine talks on sovereignty. Attitudes between the Argentine delegation and the Falklands Councillors, Jan Cheek and Sharon Halford, were described as friendlier than in the past because direct talks with Dr Di Tella that led to the July 14th agreement had already begun - and were continued during the Councillors' visit to New York.

Councillor Cheek described this as a "constructive dialogue" to live peacefully with Argentina. Both councillors insisted on the Falkland Islands' right to self-determination, which Councillor Halford called "the missing factor". Why, she asked, must the Falkland Islands return year after year to ask for recognition of this "right of all peoples" enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Both Antigua and Barbuda and Fiji also argued for self-determination to be included in the resolution. Ignoring these pleas Dr Di Tella reiterated Argentina's claim. He regretted it had not been possible to normalise relations fully in what he called a "truly sick relationship". He said he had a "dream" that, despite disagreements, they could all develop trust. "It is", he said, "so much easier, nicer and more pleasant to love than to hate, to be friends than strangers".

Editors Comment: The annual UN debate lost credibility long ago, because of the changing status of the Falkland Islands as an Overseas Territory and the oft-repeated wish of the Islanders to retain their links with Britain and not become a colony of Argentina. Dr Di Tella should remember which side caused the "truly sick relationship".

Political Reaction

The Anglo-Argentine agreement has had mixed reaction, both praise and strong criticism, in Britain, in Argentina, and in the Islands. Some people in the Falklands were in tears at the result, which they considered went against the election promises of several Councillors. Others, particularly some members of the business community, were in favour of it, in order to recover communications with Chile. Here are some of the comments:

Falklands Councillors: "Access by Argentine passport holders is a very difficult pill to swallow... We believe is a necessary step to take in order to retain the support of the British Public and Parliament... This agreement contains elements which are difficult. But there are significant elements too which are positive in developing the security of our economy and enhancing our rights... We believe we have secured... a good deal for the Falkland Islands... However this agreement will only work and the wider process will only prosper if the present and future governments of Argentina demonstrate, by full implementation of the whole package, that they too are willing to join in building a new relationship of confidence and mutual trust".

Falklands Governor, Donald Lamont: "It is very important that both sides make it work well so that it can enhance confidence and relations... It is a very good agreement and a very important step forward for everyone... There will be no discrimination against Argentines... It is not easy for the Islanders (who) have many unpleasant memories of 1982".

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook: Describing the agreement as "historic", said: "It marks a change from an era of confrontation to a new chapter of dialogue and co-operation".

Argentine President Menem: "A great success... very pleased with the results".

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella: "The agreement... is proof that dialogue and trust can improve relations. It is the beginning of a process that offers great opportunities if we continue with imagination, goodwill and respect".

Argentine 1982 War Veterans' Federation: Declaring "absolute rejection and annoyance of the agreement", said: "The only parties to benefit are the British, who have succeeded in taking the shackles off their conflictive zone for economic interests; and the Islanders who have taken a new step towards gaining their independence". Federation president Hector Beiroa called for removal of the requirement for Argentines to show their passports and claimed the fishing clauses give Britain jurisdiction over Argentine waters.

Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso: "Strengthens peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic".

The British Media's Message - and Ignorance

British media reports on the agreement, generally welcoming it, were comparatively scant compared with Argentina's blanket coverage. Most British papers were blissfully ignorant of the fact that the Chilean blockade was largely Argentine inspired, and that it was Falklands Councillors and not Britain that had initiated the negotiations.



Above: On the first flight from Punta Arenas since the end of the blockade was Sr. Guiraldes, in full gaucho dress. Sr. Guiraldes is head of the Gaucho Federation, and on Argentine TV after his return, he said he was not in favour of dialogue with the Islanders in order to promote Argentina's claim. *Photo: Norman Clark*

Guardian: Under a headline "Falklands Accord makes Sense", an editorial said: "It enables both Governments to claim that progress has been made without sacrificing principle. For the Government of President Menem, the breakthrough is a reward for a patient diplomatic campaign. It has established beyond any reasonable doubt that Argentina is now firmly wedded to democracy... For the Islanders, too, the accord is good news... the agreement offers a way to mitigate their isolation, in both human and political terms, and while Britain continues to guarantee the Falklanders' security, its rejection would have been seen here (in the United Kingdom) as bloody-minded".

Scotsman: Its editorial said: "A charm offensive.. by Argentina's Foreign Minister... and a spasm of pragmatism by Falkland Islanders have secured a significant warming of relations between their territories. The agreement ... is a model of common-sense... and produced a classic result from which everyone gains. The biggest joint gain is a co-operation agreement managing and preserving the abundant fish stocks... poached mercilessly by Taiwanese trawlers. If the fish can be saved by joint efforts, it should be possible also to share the oil riches that await exploration beneath the Argentine-Falklands sea... Britain rightly envisages no change in the Islands' protected status unless the inhabitants so desire... This should set the stage for further conversations and a gradual melting of the mistrust the Falklanders still feel towards their big neighbour".

Hostile Demonstration

There was more widespread coverage of the hostile reception by Islanders to their first Argentine visitors, giving the

Falklands the most publicity since the visit of Prince Charles, but with some adverse headlines. Once again much of the criticism concentrated on the two or three demonstrators whose behaviour hit the headlines, when the overwhelming majority had made a dignified protest.

Councillors' Welcome

According to Argentine journalists, they received a friendly welcome from Councillors, four of whom, Jan Cheek, Mike Summers, Lewis Clifton and Richard Cockwell, told them at a press conference they felt the first visit was "highly satisfactory". "Many others in future... will begin an interchange that is going to benefit us much more than anyone can imagine". Mike Summers quoted Dr. Di Tella that "negotiations must be based on respect". With an agreement preserving fishing and the environment, he was quoted as saying: "If we advance in a rational relationship, we can extend these agreements to other fields". Lewis Clifton said: "We all must work to make it work".

Councillor Norma Edwards Councillor Norma Edwards, the one councillor who did not vote for the Agreement, called for a comprehensive canvas of all Islander opinion before decisions were taken. She said any decisions should be by majority view of Islanders, put to the Islanders properly - "not by a few members of the Chamber of Commerce who'd done a survey. The Government should be canvassing people properly for a proper result as to where they want to go from here".

She criticised the Argentines for, as she put it, "teaching their children the wrong history, which they re-write to suit themselves. Once you can convince them that what they are teaching their children is wrong, you won't have generations of Argentines growing up believing all these silly things".

The suspension of the LanChile flight to the Islands had meant that some of the Islands business community were losing money. "If it's just money you want", she said, "the Great God Mammon has reared his ugly head and that's really the reason people are finding it acceptable all of a sudden.... But I don't think the vast majority of Islanders care too much. I don't believe the vast majority were willing to sell out for flights to Chile".

Councillor Edwards questioned the value of Dr Di Tella's pledges of no interference with flights to the Islands. "That promise", she predicted, "will probably last three months. I don't know that he can commit future Governments. We are still dependent upon Argentina to let those flights continue. When they want to put pressure on, they will do so".

Islander Opposition to Agreement Criticism and Demonstrations

While Falklands Councillors claimed the accord has "majority support", several hundred Islanders forcefully condemned it with demonstrations and criticism. What they regard as major concessions to Argentina with very little tangible in return has caused anger and resentment and divisions between



Some 350 Islanders demonstrate against the negotiations with the Argentines. This demonstration, three days before the agreement was signed, led the Argentines to believe that the negotiations would collapse.

Photo: Norman Clark

former friends and within families.

In a march on Government House (photographed above) on Sunday, July 11th, before the agreement, demonstrators carried flags and banners declaring "No Links with Argentina" and "Why don't Councillors Listen to the Electorate?". They sought a hearing from the Governor, Mr. Donald Lamont, to express their views.

They were declaring their concern and venting their frustration that there had been insufficient consultation with all Islanders to assess their attitudes and allow them to voice their opinions.

The Falkland Islands Association Stanley Committee, led by Mrs. Velma Malcolm, made strong representations to Councillors during the negotiations on three issues:

- (1) Blackmail and threats from Argentina which require protest to the British Government expressing Islanders' concern.
- (2) Recognition of the Falkland Islands as a country in its own right prior to any concessions.
- (3) Full information to the Islands' electorate before any "crucial and binding decisions".

The Stanley Committee were dissatisfied with Councillors' assurances and told them: "You cannot secure the best possible benefit for the Falkland Islands unless you have the full support of the electorate". The Committee challenged the Council to show the "strength of character and guts" to seek a vote of confidence or a referendum on "a major critical period in our history".

These demands were signed by Committee Members Velma Malcolm, Neil Watson, Terence McPhee, Betty Biggs, David Eynon, Gerald Cheek, and Shirley Hirtle.

Later a new group was formed to lobby against the agreement. This is led by, ex-councillor, Eric Goss MBE, David Eynon, Trudi McPhee, Mike Triggs, Neil Watson and Taff Davies. They now publish a newsletter, *The Independent*, to express their point of view.

Editors' Comment: It is wrong to dismiss the critics and demonstrators as an unrepresentative minority. They are in the main patriotic, strong-minded Islanders, who have suffered years of Argentine pressure and threats, the trauma of invasion. They are fully within their democratic rights to make their feelings known. As Councillor Mike Summers told Argentine journalists: In an open democratic society like ours, all have right to express their opinions.

Madrid Fishing Meeting

The Argentine British Agreement of July 14th required a number of collaborative fisheries protection measures to be put in place by October 9th. These, primarily aimed at the Taiwanese poachers that have plagued the Falklands recently, were outlined at an ad hoc meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission (SAFC) in Madrid on September 2nd and 3rd.

Councillors repeatedly made clear that the admission of Argentines on flights from Rio Gallegos, which was scheduled to start on October 16th, was dependent on the satisfactory completion of these obligations by October 9th. The Falklands was represented by Director of Fisheries, John Barton.

The obligations are outlined in the following clauses:

(4) The delegations agreed on the importance of ensuring the stability of fish stocks. They agreed that there should be further development of scientific cooperation building on the work of the Scientific Sub-Committee. This should include an enhanced exchange, in real-time, of scientific data on significant species in the area. They reiterated their support for joint research cruises and made clear their backing for the development of other practical measures, such as joint stock assessment workshops, to meet this objective.

(5) Both delegations recalled the economic significance of the South Atlantic fisheries. They agreed to co-ordinate the exchange of information about their respective regulatory policies and administrative measures both before and during the coming season and on the same basis thereafter.

(6) The SAFC agreed the need for timely adoption of longer-term measures to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks in the high seas of the South West Atlantic, and that this should be achieved through the early establishment of a multilateral fisheries arrangement.

(7) The delegations agreed that poaching undermined their shared commitment to the maintenance and conservation of fish stocks in the South Atlantic. In this context, they agreed to recommend to their respective Governments practical measures

to be co-ordinated and put in place by 9 October 1999 with the purpose of preventing poaching.

Deadline Met

On Friday, October 8th, one day before the deadline in the July 14th agreement, the British and Argentine Governments agreed that the fisheries protection measures required by the agreement were in place. This meant that the weekly flights to the Falklands from Punta Arenas, Chile, could begin monthly stopovers at Rio Gallegos, Argentina, as required by the agreement.

Another meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission is to be held in November to continue discussion of fisheries protection measures.



Director of Fisheries, Mr. John Barton, who conducted the negotiations at Madrid, photographed outside the Fisheries Department at FIPASS.

Editors' Comments

It is still too early to tell what has been achieved. But clearly there is a commitment to cooperate over anti-poaching measures, the preservation of the stock and, in the long term, to achieve a high seas agreement with the fishing nations; that is, an agreement to control fishing beyond the 200 mile limit.

Dorada Shoots

After much delay a 20mm cannon (right) arrived in the Falklands for the use of the fisheries protection vessels (FPVs). Five days later it was fired in anger from the *Dorada*.

Shan Fu 8 Incident.

At 6.25 on the morning of May 15th, a fishing vessel was sighted by the fisheries protection vessels *Dorada* and *Criscilla* in the Falklands Fisheries Conservation Zone. The vessel had its jiggling lights on, its arms down and was not under way - all characteristic signs of a vessel engaged in fishing for squid.

When the FPVs were still five miles off, the suspect vessel started steaming northwards at 10 knots, and the FPVs gave chase, calling on the vessel to stop by radio, flags and other recognised signals. The vessel ignored these but was identified as the *Shan Fu 8* of Taiwan - which did not hold a Falklands Fishing Licence.

At about 10.00 the *Dorada* fired the first of a series of warning shots across the bows of the fleeing fishing vessel, and continued to order it to stop by radio. It ignored these orders and continued to steam northwards.



At around 14.00, the order was finally given to fire on the vessel and a number of shots were seen to hit it causing some damage. The vessel continued to flee northwards, and at nightfall the pursuit was abandoned, and the FPVs turned back to deal with other poaching vessels seen during the pursuit.

Governor Lamont Sworn In

In his swearing-in speech, the new Governor, Mr Donald Lamont, called the Falkland Islands "a success story". "We must ensure that old prejudices and misconceptions about the Islands are challenged and overcome". The fishing industry was of "cardinal importance", with determination to crack down on illegal fishing. He emphasised the British Government's commitment to Falkland Islands' self-determination and British sovereignty, reflected in actions as well as words, giving the Islanders confidence to deal with issues vital to their future. A good neighbourly relationship with Argentina provided the best basis for South Atlantic stability and the Islands' long-term security. He supported what he called the Councillors' "bold and constructive initiative" to hold direct talks. He warned the Argentines



The swearing-in ceremony: L to R: Major Marvin Clarke, of the FIDF, the new governor, HE Donald Lamont, and Chief Executive, Andrew Gurr. *Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark*

"to recognise that noises of aggressive nationalism echo very loudly in the Islands and the trauma of 1982 remains fresh in the memory. They must attune their expectations accordingly".

New Falklands Ministers

The new Foreign Office Minister of State with responsibility for the Falkland Islands, Mr. John Battle, aged 48, once had ambitions to be a priest and was National Co-ordinator of the Church Action for Poverty charity from 1983 to 1987. He is married with one son and two daughters. His personal interests include folk music and poetry.

His political career began as a Leeds City Councillor and a research assistant to a Leeds Member of the European Parliament. He entered Parliament in 1987 as MP for Leeds West, became a Labour Party Whip and Chairman of the Back Bench Treasury Committee and the All Party Group on Overseas development.

In Opposition he was Labour spokesman on Housing and Planning and Energy, and became Minister of State for Trade and Industry in 1997. His political interests are Latin America and Korea, poverty and wealth at home and abroad, housing, economic policy, international development, science, engineering and technology.

He explains his outlook as a "poverty-bashing radical Irish Catholic and a non-sectarian broad left politician who supports Irish unity". He opposes abortion and supports Leeds United. He describes himself as tall and slim, bearded, with a long face and glasses; a worker-priest or street politician type who once retreated to a silent Trappist monastery. He studied for the priesthood at Liverpool's Upholland College, and won a first-class BA honours degree in engineering at Leeds University, where he also studied the World War One Poets.



Baroness Scotland

The new Under-Secretary of State for the Overseas Territories is Baroness Scotland of Asthall, Britain's first woman black minister, a life peer since 1997 with a brilliant career as a barrister, as a QC and judge. She will also have ministerial responsibility for North America, Information including the BBC World Service, the British Council, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Administration and Resources. She qualified as a barrister at the age of 21 and has specialised in family and public law, and child abuse. Her experience includes the Commission for Racial Equality and membership of the Millennium Commission. She is a member of the Bar of Antigua and Dominica.





Above: The Liberation Day ceremony on June 14th at the Liberation Monument in Stanley



Above: The editorial team for Focus, that for the third year running has won the International section of The Times Educational Supplement Newspaper day Competition



Lucky Winner: Islander Craig Clark collects the biggest win ever on the Falklands Football Pools from Burnard Peck at the Philomel Store. Craig won £3,500



Above: Islander, Vi Bonner, on her 90th birthday



Above: Governor Ralph in one of the final tasks of his governorship receiving the Falklands War plaque from the now scrapped P & O liner Canberra. It was brought to the Falklands on the P & O Royal Princess and presented to the Museum by Captain Robin Baker

All photographs courtesy of Norman Clark except where shown



Kosovo. Above Right: Islander Graham Bound, a reporter for Soldier Magazine and Mercopress, interviews Islander Christofer Jaffray, a member of the Royal Horse Artillery, serving near Pristina. *Photo: Simon Weston, Soldier Magazine*

Below: Falklands boy scouts and others hold a cheque for £14,700 collected for humanitarian relief in Kosovo.



Frozen Islanders warm themselves at a bonfire after the Mid-Winter Swim, which raises money for charity.

One Gold, Two Silvers, Three Bronzes Island Games in Sweden

The small Falkland Islands, total population 2,300, competing against much larger populations such as Greenland, Gotland, Jersey and Guernsey, achieved their best ever record in an international sporting competition - winning their first ever gold medal and five other medals in the Island Games which this year were held on the Island of Gotland, Sweden, from June 26th to July 2nd. All six medals were in shooting that traditionally has been a Falklands forte.

Shooting

With its small population, the Falklands were given little chance of winning any medals, but in the muzzle loading black powder rifle competition, Police Sergeant Graham Didlick, who emigrated to the Falklands from Britain 12 years ago, scored 85 out of 100 to win the Gold. He beat more fancied shooters such as Conny Soderstrom from Gotland, who scored 81 to win the silver, and Gerry Weir from Jersey who scored 71. This medal success was a fitting reward for the Councillors' decision to provide £10,000 towards the cost of sending the Falklands team. Many other contributors gave another £20,000. The icy Mid-Winter Swim, see page 11, also raised funds for this.

Graham Didlick and Ped as a team picked up two more silver medals in the blackpowder breach loading events. While Graham won two more bronze medals in the pistol shooting, bringing his score to 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze. Two other shooters, Ken Aldridge and Tim McCallum won the bronze medal in the 300 metres Full Bore rifle shooting event behind Gotland and Jersey.

Other Successes

In other events Falklands competitors did better than ever before. 40 year-old Hugh Marsden came 8th out of 25 starters in the Half-Marathon. Eight young Falklands swimmers all bettered their personal bests, and established new Falklands records in every single event they entered for. In Golf, Leon Marsh of West Falkland, broke the Falklands record with an 82.

St Helena

This year Saint Helena won its first medal since 1985 when Simon Henry won a bronze in shooting.



Above: Members of the Falklands team in the front row at the end of games celebrations.

Below: Hugh Marsden (right) running in the half-marathon.



Congratulations

The Falklands finished 15th overall, just behind Gibraltar, which won 1 Gold, 5 Silvers and 3 Bronzes. The overall winner was the host island, Gotland, with a population of 58,000, that won 37 Golds, 27 silvers and 29 Bronzes.

Team Manager, Patrick Watts, said the Falklands should be proud of their sportsmen and women who had, against much bigger islands, proved their ability to compete and win medals, despite the lack of top class facilities in the Falklands. Falklands Governor, Donald Lamont, who is President of the Falklands Games Association, sent a message of congratulations to the team - and so does the Newsletter.

Defence Force Success

For the first time ever an FIDF contingent was invited to send a team to the 1999 Military Skill at Arms Combat Shooting Competition at Bisley.

The twelve man team was led by Major Marvin Clarke, and several members won bronze bars in the National Rifle Association service rifle competition, which is known as the the Cambridgeshire competition. Pte Nick Francis won two, as did WO2 Andy Brownlee, Capt Peter Biggs, Cpl David Peck, and Pte Ian Betts all won one bronze bar.

As with any Falklands team, a lot of time was spent answering questions, and spreading the Falklands message - although in a place like Bisley this was preaching to the converted.

Right: Some of the Falklands team at Bisley: Back Row: Cpl Peck, Cpl Harris, Capt. Biggs, Major Clarke, Cpl Smith. Front Row: Pte Betts, L/Cpl Ford. Photo: D.Ford



Argentina told: Heed Democracy Plea

A renewed plea for Argentina to drop its sovereignty claim was applauded by several hundred Falklands supporters at their annual re-union in London's Lincoln Inn (on June 17th) celebrating the anniversary of the Islands' liberation from Argentine invasion in 1982. A keynote speech by the Falklands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron, urged Argentines who persist with this claim to heed the words of the Prince of Wales, on his March visit to Buenos Aires, that a modern, democratic Argentina should be ready to live in friendship with the Islanders, in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, free from fear and hostility.

The reception was attended by Islanders and some of their elected councillors, Members of Parliament, and other influential supporters.

Miss Cameron stressed the need for conservation of South Atlantic fisheries, the largest source of Falkland Islands' revenue. She hoped the arming of one of its fishery protection vessels, which has already fired warning shots, would be a sufficient deterrent to illegal fishing, which threatens stocks.

On sovereignty, Miss Cameron said: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance".

Bandsmen from the Royal Air Force beat retreat.

Wind Power in 50-Million Pound Building Contract

In its first exclusive partnership with a contractor to manage a public works programme, the Falkland Islands Government has awarded Morrison Construction a £50-million contract for building and civil engineering work.

The five-year programme includes the construction of roads and public buildings and installation of wind turbines for power generation, taking advantage of the regularity and high speed of the winds in the Islands.



Above: The new Chief Executive, Dr. Michael Blanch



Above: The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, Mrs Tatham, Governor Richard Ralph, Commander Michael Ranken and ex-Governor David Tatham at Lincoln's Inn.

Royal Visitor for FI Stand

Below: UK Falklands Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron, Ian Cox of the Falklands Development Corporation and Doug Cartridge of the Falklands Agriculture Department greet Prince Andrew at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.



New Chief Executive

Dr. Michael Blanch has been chosen to be the new Falklands Chief Executive, replacing Mr. Andrew Gurr, in December.

Dr. Blanch is 52, married, and has two sons aged 20 and 17. His wife Penny is a qualified pharmacist and will accompany him on his two year assignment to the Falklands.

Dr. Blanch got his PhD in Economics in 1975 and has held several senior posts in borough and county councils around Britain. He is currently Chief Executive of the largest borough in London, Bromley, and before this was a very successful Chief Executive for Eastbourne. On the BBC programme "Calling the Falklands" he has already called for the diversification of the Falklands economy - amongst other benefits, making it less dependent on fishing income.

Dr. Blanch was a member of the Territorial Army for a total of 26 years and won the Territorial Decoration. His last post with the TA was as Chief of Staff of the 3rd Armoured Division. His interests include mountain biking, sailing, walking and entertaining.

Beef Specialist

The Agriculture Department has appointed Mr. Jeremy Challacombe, aged 52, as the new specialist adviser for beef production. Mr. Challacombe holds dual Australian/British citizenship and until recently was Director of Rural Services at Adelaide University. He is accompanied by his wife Susanne, and arrived in the Falklands on September 20th.

Falklands Wins Newsday Competition - Yet Again

For the third year running students from the Falkland Islands Community School in Stanley have won the International section of the Times Educational Supplement Newspaperday Competition, and are photographed outside the school on page 11.

Not every member of the team could go to London to collect the prize, but three did. They are photographed (right) in the Churchill room of the House of Commons with the prize certificate and two presenters from the BBC Newsround programme. Left to Right, they are: Roxanne Crowie, 15, Newsround Presenter Lizo Mzimbo, Cara Ford, 14, Newsround Presenter Kate Sanderson, and William Normand, 15.



More Motocross Success

As we have almost come to expect, Falklands motocross riders again did well in competition in the UK.

Jonny Summers won the Best Overseas Rider prize at the Welsh Two Day Enduro in June, and came second in the under 21 section. Dereck Jaffray came eighth in the expert 250cc class.

Jonny Summers went on to come third in the Howy Hare and Hounds competition at the Cotswold Club. Jonny Summers, Wyn Hope and William Jones also won the ET James One Make Team Prize riding Suzukis.

Right: Jonny Summers in the Falklands.



Cowboy Country

A visit by Hank Wangford's famous country music band, the Lost Cowboys, brought much-appreciated live music to the Falkland Islands and valuable publicity. A full-page article in the Sunday Telegraph and a late-night BBC Two television programme highlighted what life is like in rural areas of the Islands, on the sheep farms, and described some of the prolific wildlife — penguins, albatross, dolphins and other species which impressed the band.

The BBC video diaries programme called "Lost Cowboys" showed the band performing and the Islanders working hard, and playing hard at their traditional entertainment of a sports week at Fox Bay, with steer-riding, shearing and horse-racing.

The article began: "The Falklanders are frontier folk. So it should come as no surprise that they love country music ... and give Hank Wangford a mighty warm welcome". Hank Wangford learned about "world-class" fly-fishing, and Island history from the Falklands Museum curator, John Smith.

He and his colleagues were showered with hospitality from, among others, the Cockwells at Fox Bay and Neil and Glenda Watson, with whom he went riding and sheep-droving. He was impressed by the cooking, especially Glenda's spicy Upland Goose stew. "Falkland Islands food", he wrote, "is startlingly tasty ... Mutton roasted slowly is peerless... The sea trout, mullet pate, and delicious squid were sensational".

He was surprised to find so much knowledge about country music among Islanders, not least 82-year-old Su Binnie with his huge collection of albums and his reminiscences about life as a shepherd and horseman in the Islands.

Hank was invited by the Falklands Tourist Manager, John Fowler, and two of his band were sponsored by the Shackleton Fund which awards scholarships for academic work and visits which enhance the Islanders' quality of life.

Honour for Gene Williams

Gene Williams has been honoured by Pope John Paul II in recognition of his exemplary Christian witness and worthy service to St. Mary's Church. The award, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For Church And Pontiff) was presented to Mr. Williams on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the construction of St. Mary's, on Sunday, 26 September 1999.

Gene Williams began work for the Falkland Islands Government in 1944 and was Head Gardener at Government House from 1953 until his retirement in 1993, but is still retained as a consultant.

Education Successes

Mr. Kevin Hewitt of Stanley has obtained a First Class BSc Honours Degree in Building Control from Napier University, Edinburgh. Kevin's very credible achievement is the culmination of many years of study overseas.

Emma Jane McAdam, who now lives in Northern Ireland, has won an MA (Hons) in Modern History from Dundee University.

After success at "A" Level, Rodrigo Cordiero is going up to Southampton University to read Geology; Nicola Harris and Mark Pollard are both going up to Manchester Metropolitan, Nicola to read Environmental Management and Mark to read Information Technology; James Marsh is going to Southampton to read Business Studies; Kelly Moffat is going up to Leeds Metropolitan to study Physiotherapy.

Already secure of places at University are Alex Lang, who will be going up to Loughborough to read Electronic Engineering; Samantha Payne who is going up to Southampton Institute to study Fashion Design and Matias Short, who will be going up to Cardiff University to read Fine Arts.

One Man's War

On the night of 11 June 1982, Lance Corporal Denzil Connick hunched himself against the sleet, fixed his bayonet and waded through the Murrell River, his mind chiefly on the battle to come, and survival. A true angler, though, he still found time to wish that he was fishing the river rather than using it as the start line for the assault on Mount Longdon with 3 Para.

Forty eight hours later, an Argentinean shell exploded in Denzil's position killing two other Paras, blowing off his left leg at the hip and riddling his right one with shrapnel. He was very lucky to survive. Denzil was evacuated to the hospital ship, *Uganda*, and flown home to Britain four weeks later.

The years since then have not been easy, but he has recovered remarkably well. Today, aged 43, with a charming wife, Theresa, and two sons, Matthew and Stephen, he is Secretary of the South Atlantic Medal Association, SAMA(82), an association which provides mutual support for those who fought in the Falklands War.

This year he and I went to the Falklands. He as a guest of the Falkland Islands Government, chiefly to represent SAMA(82) but also to fish; I, sponsored by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, chiefly to provide fly fishing instruction for Islanders, but also to facilitate Denzil's fishing. The trip got a flying start when the House of Hardy, very generously, provided Denzil with over £600 worth of new tackle, including their 'magic wand', the superb four-piece, 10ft, #7 rated Ultralite travel rod, ideal for sea trout fishing in the Falklands.

Denzil is a gentle, easy going man with a twinkle in his eye and a wry, soldier's sense of humour. He has largely come to terms with the way the war changed his life and shows no bitterness, but this, his first visit to the Islands since the conflict, was understandably emotional. With Terry Peck, the tough and jovial Chief of Police in the Falklands during the conflict who, on the run from the Argentineans, had joined 3 Para, acted as their guide and accompanied them during the attack on Mount Longdon, Denzil travelled all over East Falkland, visiting the landing site at San Carlos and most of the battlefields, war graves and memorials. Most poignantly, he retraced his steps up Mount Longdon, laying a wreath at the top and completed the march into Stanley which had been so rudely interrupted almost seventeen years earlier.

Meanwhile, I was running a fly fishing course for a dozen eager souls in and around Stanley - tackle assembly, casting sessions, and a delightful day's fishing on private water, generously arranged by the Malo Angling Club.

Denzil and I did fish the Murrell, snaking from east to west below the northern face of Mount Longdon. Here Nick Bonner, our guide, landed a handsome 4 lbs sea trout in the salt water of the estuary.

At the beginning of our second week, we flew to Port Howard staying in the comfortable lodge run by Robin Lee, a charming host and considerable expert on all aspects of the islands, particularly their fishing.

On our first afternoon, we fished Bold Cove, catching a few respectable brownies and, incidentally, some local 'mullet' - actually, a cod-like fish which takes a fly readily, fights almost as ferociously as the sea trout and is good on the table, too.

The next day, Robin drove us past the wreckage of a couple of Argentine fighter aircraft to Green Hill Pool, on an attractive tributary of the Warrah. Here, on his third cast, Denzil's rod arched and his reel shrieked as a bright, brilliant sea trout fizzed across the pool. We netted it and weighed it



Denzil Connick fishing the Murrell estuary beside an old Argentine observation post
Photo: Peter Lapsley

before slipping it back. It tipped the scales at 6lbs - a beautiful hen fish, as fresh as they come.

We caught three more fish that day, averaging around 3½ lbs apiece, in brilliant summer sunshine. The following day, the heat haze was blown away by a gale which flattened the grass on the hills and tore down the valleys, producing white horses on the Chartres, perhaps the prettiest and most productive of all the Islands' rivers. I spent the middle of the day running a casting clinic for half a dozen people who had travelled from all corners of West Falkland, a sizeable island. Try teaching a roll cast in a fifty mile and hour wind which streams the line out horizontally as soon as the rod tip is lifted more than three or four feet from the water's surface!

By the time I began fishing at 3.30, Denzil, aided by Robin, had caught ten sea trout averaging about 3 lbs apiece and was sitting, contemplating the wonderful wilderness scenery. The best of my seven fish, a six pounder, came shortly before we packed up for the last time a couple of hours later.

This was not my first visit to the Falklands and it won't be my last, but it will almost certainly remain the most memorable - for the warmth and the extraordinary kindness of everyone we met there; for the variety of lovely places we were able to visit and for the wonderful wilderness landscape; and for the fascinating and sometimes spectacular fishing. Most of all, though, it was good to see Denzil, armed with a rod instead of a rifle, so successfully laying to rest the ghosts that have been with him for almost seventeen years. **Peter Lapsley**

Rear Admiral Hugh Balfour - Falklands Veteran

We regret to record the death of Rear Admiral Hugh Balfour, aged 66, who, during the 1982 conflict, was captain of the anti-aircraft missile destroyer *Exeter*, sister ship of the *Sheffield* sunk by an Exocet missile. *Exeter* was one of the most effective vessels on front-line duty in Falklands Sound, detecting and shooting down Argentine aircraft and guiding the Task Force Sea Harriers on to enemy targets. Hugh Balfour was born in Malta where his father served with the Royal Navy. He served on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and led a task force to the South Atlantic at a time of tension in 1977. He left the Royal Navy in 1985 as Director of the Maritime Tactical School and commanded the Sultan of Oman's Navy during the Iran-Iraq war. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son.

Saint Helena - Airport Needed

Saint Helena had no indigenous population. It was discovered and named by the Portuguese in 1502, but not settled. It was used by the British East India Company from 1659. But it was not properly settled until refugees arrived from the Great Fire of London in 1666. Charles II guaranteed full British citizenship to Saint Helena residents in 1673.

From day one the Island became a haven not only for hungry and thirsty ships' crews, but also a political prison - whose most famous inmate was Napoleon (Ascension Island was occupied by the British to prevent any attempt to rescue him).

Birthright Lost

With the collapse of the flax industry in 1962, the local economy was devastated, so Islanders had to leave for Britain to find work. But, with the British Nationality Act in 1981 (See Opposite), Islanders were defrauded of their birthright, and deprived of the right to live and work in Britain. They effectively became political prisoners too. They had no airport, and so no tourist industry. Their local economy was in ruins, and they were trapped by legislation intended to prevent Chinese people from Hong Kong from flooding into Britain. The dead hand of the FCO ruled the roost, and dissatisfaction, particularly over unemployment, led to harassment of Governor Smallman in 1997.

Solution

With the election of the new Labour Government, a new policy towards Britain's then "Dependent Territories" was announced. At the "Dependent Territories" Conference in 1997, Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, announced that "Dependent" territories would become "British Overseas Territories". A new partnership was announced too, with citizens of the territories guaranteed self-determination and promised full British citizenship, with, of course, the right to live and work in Britain. Baroness Symmons was appointed as Minister for the territories. The only quid-pro-quo requested by the British Government was the removal of certain old fashioned practices in some territories - such as capital and judicial corporal punishment to bring them into line with British norms. These did not exist in St. Helena.

Waiting Patiently

St. Helena is now moving into the new Millennium with an already popular new governor, Mr. David Hollamby, a new Bishop, and a new Chief of Police - all major changes for a small population. Now the people are waiting for passage of the "White Paper" into law to make the promised changes. Sadly, this is delayed while the Government waits for other Overseas Territories to make the changes that the Government requested to bring their laws into line with Britain's. St. Helena presumably has to wait too. Fortunately, more work permits and training permits are already being made available.

Airport Needed Now

But there is one item the Islanders shouldn't have to wait for any longer - an airport. Unemployment is currently 21% and Saint Helena will never overcome this until it has a landing strip that can at least handle planes coming from Wideawake air base on Ascension.



Jamestown photographed from beside Jacobs Ladder, the famous 699 step stairway to the fortifications above the town.

The terrain in Saint Helena is rugged, which is why it will be expensive, but an airport will be built sooner or later. So, all the time this isn't done, it's effectively costing money. At the moment St Helena is only served by sea, but this isn't enough for development and St. Helena recently received a subsidy of £26 million for three years.

As soon as there is an airport, the economy will explode into life, and Saint Helena will then be self-sufficient - and much more. Then a subsidy will be quite unnecessary.

There will be major celebrations on May 21st, 2002, the five hundredth anniversary of the Island's discovery. Let us hope that an airport can be opened before then



The new Governor of St. Helena, His Excellency Mr. David Hollamby.

Photo: Harold Briley

St Helena Tourism

St Helena offers a number of tourist attractions. There is the interesting, largely 19th century capital, Jamestown, and any number of 18th and 19th century fortifications. There is particularly good sport fishing. But, most famous of all is Napoleon's Grave Site. After his defeat at Waterloo in 1815, he was imprisoned at Longwood House, outside Jamestown, until his death in 1821. His body was repatriated to Les Invalides in Paris in 1840. The grave site and Longwood House were given by Queen Victoria to France and are maintained by the French consul on St Helena.

Argos Invests in Saint Helena

Argos Fishing of Stanley is now building a cold store at Ruperts Bay to process tuna caught by the local St Helena fishing fleet. The store should be finished by January, and the first exports should take place soon after then.

The cold store will have a total capacity of about 400 tons, and the plan at the moment is to export 150 to 200 tons to Spain and Britain in refrigerated containers on the Royal Mail Steamer, St Helena, which plies between Cape Town, St Helena and Ascension and goes on to Europe every three months.

The plant will be run by local labour, although Hugh Dowdall from Britain is there at the moment to set up the computer system and refrigeration units.



Above: St Helena tuna boats at work *Photos by Argos*

Left: Ruperts Bay, where Argos is building its cold store.



Saint Helena Royal Charter of 1673

There was a charter for the original settlement on St Helena in 1659. But the starting point for most discussions is now the ROYAL CHARTER OF 1673 granted by Charles II. The terms of this declaration are so clear and all embracing that we reproduce the relevant passage below (in its original spelling):

“that all and every person being our subjects, which do or shall inhabit within the said port or island, and every there children and posterity which shall happen to be borne within the presincts thereof shall have and enjoy all liberties, franchises, immunities, capacities, and abilities, of franchises and natural subjects within any of our dominions, to all intents and purposes, as if they had been abiding and borne within this our realme of England, or in any of our dominions.”

The idea that “all liberties, franchises, immunities and capacities...” did not include the right to go to Britain to work, as decreed by the 1981 Nationality Act, is quite preposterous.

Similarly, it is quite clear that these liberties were to apply to “every there children and posterity which shall happen to be borne within the presincts thereof...”.

As if this were not enough, could the phrase “as if, they had been abiding and borne within this our realme of England” have meant that they could not go to live in Britain?

Sadly, the British Nationality Act, demonstrated that modern legislation can at a stroke wipe away the most solemn declarations, even one deemed to be akin to the Constitution of an overseas territory.

British Nationality Act 1981

The British Nationality Act 1981 took away the right of the people of Britain’s then “dependent” territories to live and work in Britain - unless they had a parent or grandparent born in Britain. This was to prevent people from Hong Kong from flooding into Britain. Other “Dependent Territories” were included to prevent the law appearing discriminatory.

It wasn’t only a disaster for Saint Helena, it seriously harmed the Falklands too - after the failure by one vote of a Lords amendment to exempt the Falklands from its provisions. Together with the announced withdrawal of HMS ENDURANCE, it was also seen in Argentina as a sign of Britain’s lack of interest in the Islands.

Black Propaganda

During and after the 1982 war, Argentina used the Nationality Act’s prohibition on many Falkland Islanders coming to work or live in Britain to back up its propaganda that Britain considered Islanders to be second class citizens. This in turn supported several other propaganda lies.

The first was that the Argentine invasion somehow liberated Islanders from British abuse. Next, it was important for years afterwards to claim that as “second class citizens” Falkland Islanders were actually inferior beings that needed to have their true “interests” decided for them by their “betters”. This rationalised the idea that others, inevitably the Islanders’ enemies, should decide what their “interests” should be - and thereby inflict on them “interests” that were not theirs at all. This crude substitute for self-determination, and obvious intellectual fraud, was popular with the Argentine lobby in Britain until quite recently.

In short, the Nationality Act allowed Argentine nationalists to project their own contempt for the Islanders, who stood in their way, onto the British; it essentially rationalised their idea that “second class citizens” basically don’t have first class human rights such as self-determination.

Last, but not least, the Argentines added yet another lie onto the “second class citizen” concept the Nationality Act had spawned - that the word Kelper, the name in the Falklands for Islanders, was the derogatory name used by the British for them. That name is not known in Britain, a fact which always surprises Argentine visitors. Nevertheless, the word has become part of Argentine language as a term of contempt. It means a second class citizen, or someone without any rights. Its akin to the hideous Nazi word *untermensch*, or sub-human.

Whalers Rest - and Dram

The links between the Outer Hebrides and South Georgia were remembered this summer with the opening by John "Jock" Murray of his pub, the Whalers Rest (Right), in Stornoway, and the launch by him of a new whisky: the Whalers Dram. The first bottle of this was presented to Mrs Thatcher for saving the Falklands.

Jock Murray belongs to the last generation of British whalers to leave the Western Isles to fish the stormy waters of the Southern Ocean. From 1960 to 62, he was one of 400 men from Lewis alone, who were based in Leith, South Georgia working as far south as the edge of the pack ice. Many of these are amongst his regular customers.

The Western Isles have many other connections with the far south. A number of Falkland Islanders came from there.

Falklands Wool Prizes

Fleeces from the Falkland House Merino sheep flock run by former Island residents, Brian Paul and Annabelle Spencer in Wells, Somerset, have won several prizes at British agricultural shows. They included a Champion of the Show prize against strong competition at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells, where Prince Charles spotted their Falklands flag, shook hands with them and asked their connection and their views on recent Falklands developments. They told him how their Falklands Agency shop and visitor centre promotes Falklands products and interest in the Islands.

Brian Paul and Annabelle Spencer will be holding their Falklands exhibition at Croydon this year from the 18th to 30th of October.



Family Search

Mrs Maria Grimes nee Curran, granddaughter of Henry Curran (1907-1970) of Liverpool, is trying to trace any relations of Edward Curran formerly of Liverpool who emigrated to the Falkland Islands in 1888.

I am the great granddaughter of Maggie Golding (deceased) and would love to hear from any relations of Edward, his daughter May Peck nee Curran, or any other surviving relatives.

Mrs. Maria Grimes, 8 Gresley Close, Edge Hill, Liverpool, L7 5QY. Tel: 0151-281-5422

Advertisement

Newly compiled geological maps
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e-mail: oil.fig@horizon.co.fk**

Falklands Calendars

Calendars for the year 2,000 illustrated with colour scenes of the Falklands are available from Norman Clark in Stanley or from Falklands Printz at MPA.

Cost is £4.60 plus postage to the UK of £1.20. These may be ordered by post from Norman Clark at 53 Callaghan Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands, or by Fax at +(500) 21536.

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AWAY TO SEA by Captain A.W. Kinghorn. First hand account of a life at sea in Blue Star Line of London and Golden Line of Singapore, including chapter on author's Falklands Experience 1982 - 85 in command of Avelona Star and Keren. Hardback, 80 B/W photographs plus 3 in colour on dust cover. Price £19.95 inc p&p from author at 15 Kendal Avenue, North Shields, NE30 3AQ.

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, Dr. R.Elgood, Sir Cosmo Haskard, KCMG, MBE, Sir Jack Hayward, OBE, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hurd, CH, CBE, Mrs. V. Malcolm, BEM, Mr. A.Monk, OBE, Mr. C.E.Needham, CBE, Major R.N.Spafford, Councillor R.E.Walker.

Chairman: Sir Rex Hunt, CMG.

Vice Chairman: Mr. Saul Pitaluga.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E.C.J.Clapp, MBE.

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 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 minimum £50, Corporate Sponsorship £500).

Name

Address

.....

.....

Signature

Date Telephone

Please return to: Falkland Islands Association, Douglas House, 16 - 18 Douglas St, London, SW1P 4PB. Applicants who do not wish to cut this form from a Newsletter are invited to use a xerox of it. Members are requested not to use this form for membership renewals.

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Dates For Your Diary

Saturday, December 11th
Battle Day and AGM 1999

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

Discounts for four insertions by negotiation. A special concession is offered to Association members living in the Falklands, who own small shops and businesses, to advertise in the Newsletter at half the above rates.

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Above: May Queen for 1999, Miss Sara Hewitt. May Princess was Debbie Robson and Prince Charming, Daniel Biggs
Photo: Courtesy of Norman Clark