

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

30 SEP 1968

MORNING TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENTS PUT  
**THE WORLD IN FOCUS**



ALARM BELLS are ringing in the South Atlantic. Is Britain preparing to do a deal with Argentina in the interests of international harmony so that sovereignty is exchanged over this colony, which has been occupied almost exclusively by the British since 1833?

During the past three years rumours, officially denied by Britain, have swept the islands that the British are prepared to sell out—but the population of just over 2,000 almost exclusively of British extraction, do not want to be sold.

The Falkland Islands, consisting of two large islands and 100 islets, are the subject of dispute between Great Britain, Argentina, and Chile. They were once under the control of Spain, which never did much in the way of colonisation there.

### British title

The British title to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands goes back to 1765, when Captain John Byron set out on a survey expedition and claimed the islands for Britain and left a small party on one of the islands.

A year before that the French had left a party on East Falkland and the British and French continued to

dispute the sovereignty of the islands.

The British party was withdrawn voluntarily in 1774. When the Spanish Empire was breaking up the republic of Buenos Aires in 1829 claimed to have inherited the rights of Spain, and sent Louis Vernet to develop a colony, in the Falklands, but two years later he seized three US sealing vessels. The US corvette Lexington laid waste the settlement and proclaimed the islands "free of all governance."

The British Government, who had never renounced their claims, duly stepped in in 1833 and again populated the islands. The first colonists were British soldiers, their wives and children.

Half the population live in the capital, Port Stanley, and the rest are scattered on 100 other islands.

Almost all are engaged in rearing sheep. They are fiercely loyal in their allegiance to Britain. On no account do they want to come under the control of Argentina or Chile, both of whom have claims on the islands.

Feelings about the Falklands burn strongest in Argentina, 300 miles away. Although the claims of the Argentinians are extremely slender, children there are being brought up in the belief that a foreign power (Britain) is in occupation of national territory.

# Islanders' wishes key to Falklands

By ANDREW MACKENZIE

A department of the Foreign Office in Buenos Aires keeps watch over affairs in the Falklands. The population of the islands is counted as part of the Argentine in the national census, and any inhabitant of the islands unfortunate enough to visit Argentina is liable to be drafted into the armed forces.

There is no direct shipping route between the islands and Buenos Aires because, for customs purpose, the Argentinians claim that the Falklands are part of their territory, so, in order to observe the conventions, a ship calling first at the Falklands then goes to some foreign port, mostly Montevideo, before going to Buenos Aires.

### UN instruction

Such situation has raised difficulties between Great Britain and Argentina. When the Argentine raised the question of sovereignty over the islands in the United Nations in 1965 the two nations were instructed to discuss the matter between them.

Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said this year that "the islands have constituted a running sore at our relations with Argentina for over a century. Without betraying our obligation to the islands we want to do what we can to improve relations with Argentina and

Latin America as a whole."

Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, put the matter on the record in March when he said that a transfer of sovereignty could only be made as part of an agreement which would secure a permanently satisfactory relationship between the islands and Argentina in which there would be no harassing, no inconveniences, and an arrangement in which if there were a transfer of sovereignty there would be the fullest safeguards of the special rights of the islands.

The Government would only agree to such a cession if it were clear to us that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interests.

This is the crux of the matter. It must be admitted that confidential talks between Great Britain and the Argentine are taking place over sovereignty of the islands.

We have no doubt about the legal basis of our claim, but the issue has been raised in the United Nations, stuffed with anti-colonial powers, by the Argentina, and we have no option but to discuss it.

It has been made clear by the British Government that in the Falklands, as in Gibraltar, the wishes of the inhabitants come first.

I can see the Union Jack flying over the Falkland Islands for a long time to come.

45

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 1 OCT 1968

## 'INDIGNATION AND UNREST' IN FALKLAND ISLANDS

3003

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER  
Commonwealth Correspondent

THE Executive Council of the Falkland Islands has asked Sir Cosmo Haskard, the Governor, to tell Mr. Thomson, Commonwealth Secretary, that "indignation and unrest" is prevalent throughout the colony concerning Anglo-Argentinian discussions on the future of the islands.

I understand that the British Government might send a Minister to the islands later this year.

The Falkland Islands Emergency Committee, set up in London to watch the interests of the islanders, said last night that members of the Council had expressed their "utmost bewilderment and dismay" at reports, officially denied, concerning the future sovereignty of the island.

### Facts demanded

These reports, they said, must have some foundation in fact. "The people of the colony demand to know what is going on, and if they are to be consulted about the future before it is too late.

"The time has come for Her Majesty's Government's habit of

trading on the allegiance to the Queen and to Britain to cease."

The elected members of the Legislative Council have asked the Emergency Committee and MPs "to redouble their efforts to ensure that the sovereignty of the Islands does not pass to the Argentine," and to "lift the secrecy which everlastingly exists in negotiations between Britain and the Argentine."

The welfare of 2,100 "innocent British people" was at stake.

The British Government has denied in recent weeks that any step would be taken to transfer British sovereignty over the islands without the full consent of the islanders. Their interests would be paramount.

Negotiations between Britain and Argentina have been going on under a resolution of the United Nations on decolonisation.

Extract from  
Scottish Daily Mail, Edinburgh

- 1 OCT 1968

## Envoy to Falklands?

Britain may send a Minister to the Falkland Islands next month to reassure the 2,000 islanders that they will not be handed over to Argentina without their consent.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 2 OCT 1968

## New secret talks over Falklands

Another secret meeting between British and Argentine diplomats has taken place in London over the future of the Falkland Islands, it was revealed yesterday. Both nations have also told the UNO committee on colonialism that they are seeking a settlement as soon as possible.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 3 OCT 1968

## Chalfont to soothe Falklands

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is being sent to the Falklands next month to tell the islanders about the Government's plans for their future. He will do so while he is in South America accompanying the Queen on her state visits to Brazil and Chile.

The Government is anxious to quell the islanders' growing fears that British sovereignty will be passed to the Argentine behind their backs.

Extract from  
Manchester Daily Express

- 1 OCT 1968

## 'End this secrecy' plea from Falkland Islands

A DEMAND that Britain let the people of the Falkland Islands know "what is going on" was made yesterday by unofficial members of the colony's executive council who are worried about talk of the islands being handed over to the Argentine.

They sent a message to London—to the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee—urging that the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. George Thomson, be made aware of the "indignation and unrest" among the islanders.

Although the story, revealed 11 days ago by the Daily Express, has been officially denied, the

islanders believe there must be some foundation of fact.

They warned that if the people were not to be consulted about their future the time would come for the British Government's habit "of trading on their allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and to Britain to cease."

Their appeal sought a redoubling of efforts "to ensure the sovereignty of the islands does not pass to the Argentine and to lift the veil of secrecy which everlastingly exists in negotiations between the two countries."

And it pointed out: "The welfare of 2,100 innocent British people is at stake."

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

- 2 OCT 1968

## Falklands protest over new talks

By JOHN DICKIE, Diplomatic Correspondent

NEW FEARS of a deal between Britain and Argentina over the future of the Falklands arose last night.

Despite repeated assurances that the Government has no intention of transferring sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders, resumption of Anglo-Argentine talks has revived deep suspicion.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, has had another round of discussions with Brigadier Don Eduardo McLoughlin, the

Argentine Ambassador. Lord Chalfont is believed to be paving the way for a final session in New York, where Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to see the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Meanwhile anxiety among the islanders has reached such a pitch that the Governor has been obliged to tell Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson of "the indignation and unrest now prevalent throughout the colony."

Extract from  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass, U.S.A.

23 SEP 1968

# British wrangle looms over Falkland charge

By David P. Shaw  
Staff correspondent of  
The Christian Science Monitor

London

The British Government stands accused of preparing to "sell out" the Falkland Islanders. And that charge is enough to spark a major row in Parliament when it reconvenes in mid-October.

The accusation stems from a forthcoming report to the United Nations General Assembly on progress of Anglo-Argentine talks.

A British national newspaper, the Daily Express, has disclosed what it describes as an agreement "in principle" to hand over this South Atlantic colony to Argentina, which calls the islands "an integral part of our national soil."

(However, history states that a Briton discovered the islands, that Britain named them, and although they were at one time a Spanish territory, Britain has firmly been in occupation for more than 130 years.)

The deal, the newspaper claims, follows a tussle between two British ministers, For-

eign Secretary Michael Stewart and Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson.

Falkland Islanders said assurances were given in the House of Commons earlier this year that their interests would be protected.

## Speedy reaction

Reaction to the newspaper disclosure has been swift.

In Whitehall it is pointed out that Britain will be making a progress report on its discussions over the Falkland Islands to the United Nations who called for Anglo-Argentine talks three years ago. The British Government's position remains unchanged; no transfer of sovereignty without the consent of the 2,000 islanders.

While not commenting on the accuracy of the story, a Foreign Office spokesman said that it was untrue that Mr. Stewart and Mr. Thomson "are at loggerheads on this issue."

The Conservative Opposition's spokesman for the colonies, Bernard Braine, Member of Parliament for South-West Essex, said:

"If the story is correct that the Labour government has agreed in principle to hand over the Falkland Islands then this is a shocking betrayal of a British community which looks to Britain for protection."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

23 SEP 1968

—Falklands—

sell-out  
'untrue'

says

Stewart

Express Diplomatic  
Correspondent

ONLY if the inhabitants agree will the Falkland Islands be handed over by Britain to the Argentine.

This was emphasised in a statement authorised by Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart at the weekend.

The statement said: "It is not the policy of the Government to transfer sovereignty over these islands against the wishes of the islanders."

"This was made clear six months ago, and is still Government policy."

## DECISION

The statement, issued through a Foreign Office spokesman, claimed that a Daily Express story about Government policy about the Falklands published on Friday was "untrue."

This report said that a decision "in principle" to allow the colony "eventually" to pass under the sovereignty of the Argentine had been taken by the Government.

Although Mr. Stewart's official statement makes it plain that this cannot be done against the "wishes" of the islanders, it is not denied that the Government has decided that a transfer could take place once the islanders are in favour.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
The Times, London

26 SEP 1968

DO I detect a diplomatic clanger on the route-map of Varig, the Brazilian airline? As the desultory and intermittent dialogue continues between Argentina and Britain on the future of the Falkland Islands (at present a British colony), Varig has quietly pre-empted the final decision. The Falklands appear on the map, which is distributed to all the airline's passengers, as: Islas Malvinas (Argentina). 3062

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
South London Advertiser

27 SEP 1968

NICK <sup>3003</sup>  
SCHOFIELD  
SAYS

**A**N exclusive story in the Daily Express last week set my blood tingling. The Government is finally to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine contrary to the wishes of the 2,000 islanders. My God! What a dirty sell out. Our pseudo benign Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, whose negative appearances on television make me want to vomit may have thought he had "conned" the islanders, but the truth of the matter is, that they feared, even knew, they would be sold out.

The sell out statement due soon after Parliament reassembles on October 14, is bound to cause a tremendous row. Apparently the so-called experts on this subject have the cynical idea that once the long-term decision is announced the population of the Falkland Islands, largely British in origin — will emigrate and the territory they eventually hand over will be inhabited by sheep. From an even more cynical point of view, have the Government asked the sheep what they think of the decision? So 2,000 souls will have to change their way of life, after all the promises that "never would the Falkland Islands be handed over" have come to nought. What a sorry comment on our political integrity.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

1 OCT 1968

## What's going on ask Falklanders

Britain may send a Minister to the Falkland Islands next month to reassure the 2,000 islanders that they will not be handed over to Argentina without their consent, writes *Geoffrey Wakeford*.

Reports that Britain might give up her sovereignty over the islands caused 'utter bewilderment and dismay,' says members of the Colony's Parliament, who want to know what is going on.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

1 OCT 1968

## 'Tell us the truth' demand by Falklanders

The people of the Falkland Islands are demanding to know what their future will be, a statement from the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee in London said yesterday.

The statement, issued by Mr F. G. Mitchell, the committee's secretary, said that if the people were not to be consulted over their sovereignty, the time had come for the Government's habit of trading on their allegiance to the Queen and Britain to cease.

Referring to indignation and unrest in the colony, the statement says: "The unofficial members of executive council have called on the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee and their good friends in Parliament to redouble their efforts to ensure that sovereignty of the islands does not pass to the Argentine and to lift the veil of secrecy which everlastingly exists in negotiations between the two countries."

# Trouble-shooter ready to soothe Falklands

By

SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH and MAURICE TROWBRIDGE

**A** GOVERNMENT Minister is expected to go to the Falklands shortly to tell the 2,000 inhabitants that Britain is ready to let the Argentine have sovereignty over their islands.

After two years of secret negotiations between the two countries, final agreement on the long-standing dispute is near.

**BUT** the overriding condition for the transfer will be that the islanders must first give their consent. The British Government's plan is that this consent, to put it

mildly, is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, the Argentinians will have won a major diplomatic victory by having the principle of transfer conceded. This is what they have been demanding for years.

## SOURD

The Government's decision is certain to cause a major storm when it is made known in the Commons soon after Parliament resumes next month.

The reasoning behind the Government's intention is that the Falkland Islands dispute has for too long soured relations between Britain and the Argentine.

The Whitehall view is that by conceding the sovereignty principle relations between the Argentine and the Falklands would quickly return to normal, and allow co-operation in the economic and development fields.

This, in turn, it is argued, could lead to the islanders taking a more friendly view of their nearest neighbour, and, eventually, accepting that they would be as well off under Argentine sovereignty as with Britain.

Disclosure in the Daily Express yesterday that a deal was near caused joy in the Argentine, dismay in the Falklands, and sharp reaction in London.

A joint Foreign and Common-

wealth Office statement drew attention to the Foreign Secretary's undertaking in the Commons six months ago that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

It went on: "Therefore, the statement in the Daily Express that Mr. Stewart (the Foreign Secretary) has decided 'that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and that H.M. Government had decided accordingly, is untrue."

**JACK COMBEN** reports from Buenos Aires: The news has been greeted here with amazement and glee. It is the number one topic, and has even superseded the Estudiantes-Manchester United world championship match next Wednesday.

It must be denied: Page 8

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

21 SEP 1968

**THE INDEPENDENT  
NEWSPAPER**

**OPINION**

**THIS STORY  
MUST BE  
DENIED**

**T**HE report that the British Government means to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine has been received in Buenos Aires with "amazement and glee."

It has been heard throughout Britain with stupefaction, incredulity, and horror.

For this would be the ultimate, the worst of all betrayals. It has been denied by an anonymous official in the Foreign Office. That is not enough. It must be categorically and authoritatively denied by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary.

In the Falkland Islands are living 2,164 (or thereabouts) people of British stock. Is it suggested that they do not have the same right to determine their political future as, say, the 2,273 people of the Scillies?

If Mr. Wilson or Mr. Stewart says they have not, then these Ministers are not speaking for the British people.

☆

**T**HEY are putting forward the odious doctrine that the gentlemen in Whitehall know better what is in "the best interests" of the Falklands than the inhabitants who have been there for close on 200 years raising sheep.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

21 SEP 1968

**TALKS CONTINUE  
ON FALKLANDS**

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Talks between Britain and Argentina on the future of the Falkland Islands are understood to be continuing but to have achieved only limited progress in some aspects of the dispute.

A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday denied reports that the British Government had decided to yield to Argentina's claim to the islands. Britain's policy remained that sovereignty should not be transferred against the wishes of the 2,000 islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

21 SEP 1968

There are powerful reasons why the Falklands should wish to stay British. They have been brought up in that allegiance.

Besides, if the Falklands were to be given away to suit the convenience of the Foreign Office, why not the people of Gibraltar?

If a people wish to be British, British they should stay.

That is the essential principle on which self-respect and honour are founded.

Extract from  
Daily Sketch, London

21 SEP 1968

## Probe by <sup>3003</sup> Tories in Falkland dispute

**T**ORIES will closely question the Government when Parliament reassembles over Cabinet plans for the Falkland Islands.

The Foreign Office yesterday denied that there was a Cabinet decision to hand the islands—population 2,000—to the Argentine, writes **JOHN HUNT**.

But some Tories fear that the Government eventually intends to give up British sovereignty over the islands.

Mr. Bernard Braine, Tory front bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, said yesterday: "We shall be demanding a more detailed assurance."

### BELIEF

The Falkland Emergency committee—made up of MPs, representatives of the island's trading company and other interests—is likely to discuss the matter at a meeting soon. A member, Mr. E. W. Hunter Christie, said yesterday that he believed the Government had originally made up its mind to give the islands to the Argentine. But it had backed down because of public opinion. He added: "The intention is still there."

19 SEP 1968

## THOROUGHLY BRITISH

<sup>3003</sup>  
Argentine is to reassert her claim to the Falkland Islands at the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

This is the latest stage in the Argentine's long campaign to take over this small island territory in the South Atlantic.

But their claim to sovereignty over the Falklands has no justification whatsoever.

The islands were discovered by Britain in the 16th century, and have been governed by us for nearly 140 years.

The sturdy islanders are British through and through by descent and sentiment.

They do not want to be swallowed by the Argentine—separated from them by 300 miles of sea.

There can be no question of handing over the loyal Falkland islanders to a foreign nation—no matter what the U.N. may decide.

Extract from  
The Times, London

21 SEP 1968

## Falklands move

### <sup>3003</sup> denied

The Foreign Office yesterday firmly denied any intention by the Government to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina. The Government's policy remained as stated by the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons, that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

21 SEP 1968

### FALKLAND ISLANDS REPORT

#### Call for statement

3003  
By Our Parliamentary  
Correspondent

A report yesterday that the Government had agreed in principle to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina prompted an immediate statement from Mr Bernard Braine, one of the Conservative Party's Front Bench spokesmen on foreign affairs.

He said that if the story was correct then it was a shocking betrayal of a British community who looked to Britain for protection. He continued: "It is also a cynical breaking of a solemn pledge to Parliament that there would be no surrender of sovereignty without the islanders' consent."

He added that if the report must deny it immediately.

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

21 SEP 1968

### Falklands story untrue-FO

3003  
The Foreign Office yesterday categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said the Government's policy was not to transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

Extract from  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass, U.S.A.

21 SEP 1968

3003  
London  
The British Foreign Office Friday categorically denied a report that Britain is ready to give sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

A spokesman said it remained British policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

Extract from  
Morning Advertiser, London

21 SEP 1968

## Falklands: Report is denied

3003  
THE Foreign Office yesterday categorically denied a report that the Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to the Argentine.

"Policy on the islands remains as stated in the Commons. Sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders," said a spokesman.

He added: "Therefore, the statement in the 'Daily Express' that Mr. Stewart (the Foreign Secretary) has decided 'that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and that the Government had decided accordingly, is untrue"

### INQUIRIES

Mr. Edward Heath, leader of the Opposition, said in York yesterday he had asked Mr. Reginald Maudling, deputy leader, to make inquiries about the report.

Mr. Heath said the Conservative position had always been that it was unjustifiable to cede the islands to Argentina unless it was at the wish of the islanders themselves.

Mr. Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for South-East Essex and Opposition Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, said yesterday that if the report was true, it would be a "shocking betrayal."

"It is also a cynical breaking of a solemn pledge to Parliament that there will be no surrender of sovereignty without the islanders' consent," he added.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

21 SEP 1968

### FALKLANDS NOT TO BE 'HANDED OVER'

The Foreign Office in London yesterday categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

A spokesman said: "H.M. Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons, which made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

The statement in the Press, he added, that Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary had decided "that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine." and that the British Government had decided accordingly, was untrue.

Extract from  
Yorkshire Post, Leeds

21 SEP 1968

## Falkland transfer denied

3003  
Yorkshire Post Diplomatic Correspondent

THE FOREIGN Office yesterday denied reports that Britain has agreed to transfer the Falkland Islands to the Argentine and that the Cabinet reached such a decision.

The position remains as stated at various times in recent months by Mr. Stewart in the Commons that there would be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the inhabitants.

Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition, said in York yesterday that he had asked Mr. Maudling, Deputy Leader, to make inquiries at the Foreign Office after he had been told of the report on the telephone.

Mr. Heath said that the Conservative position had always been that it was unjustifiable to cede the islands to the Argentine unless it was at the wish of the islanders themselves.

Extract from  
Sun, London

21 SEP 1968

## Falklands report denied

3003  
A report that Britain has decided to hand the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic, over to the Argentine was denied by the Foreign Office yesterday.

There have been talks between Britain and Argentina on the Falklands, but the islands would not be handed over unless a majority of the 2,000 inhabitants approved.

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

21 SEP 1968

LONDON LETTER—Gap no easier to bridge: Falkland islanders must decide: Filming industry: Wymondham boy's fantasy drawings

## Rhodesia: no grounds yet for hope

ALDWYCH HOUSE, W.C.2, Friday night.

THERE has only to be an announcement that somebody else is going out to Rhodesia for the word "hope" to pop up in headlines once more.

But in Whitehall any jubilation about the visit of Mr. James Bottomley, the Assistant Under-Secretary at the Commonwealth Office, is regarded as premature. He was there last March, and he is going back to sound the ground and find out what developments there have been since Mr. Thomson himself saw the head of Britain's Residual Mission on his passage through Pretoria.

It is true that Mr. Smith has gained a victory over the extremists in his own party, but in order to achieve it he has moved further than ever from the six principles which Britain still maintains to be the indispensable foundation of any settlement. The gap, in fact, does not look any easier to bridge than it was a year ago.

### No betrayal

IF THE STORY is correct that the Labour Government has agreed in principle to hand over the Falklands, then this is a shocking betrayal of a British community who look to Britain for protection. . . . If the story is not correct, then the Government must deny it forthwith.

That is in fact what the Government was doing today through the Foreign Office news department, and with a speed which made it apparent that this trenchant statement by Mr. Bernard Braine, Tory

From our own staff

M.P. for Essex South-East, could have had as little to do with the case as the flowers that bloom in the spring.

There has been no Cabinet decision on this issue, in principle or otherwise, but Mr. Stewart has made it clear that the consent of the islanders is an absolute condition of any settlement. What is not yet clear is what reaction by the islanders to proposals for a change of sovereignty would make the Foreign Secretary most happy.

### Productive film-making

AMONG its many activities, the Industrial Society makes short training film strips, and so far over 100 have rolled off the stocks. The person responsible for them is Miss Maud Reed, and today she was showing her latest productions, together with some new versions of older ones. "In the best traditions of Hollywood, we remake the most popular ones when necessary," she explained.

Among this batch of remakes was "The Whitehead Story," the original of which was the first film strip produced by Miss Reed for the society 11 years ago. She says she resisted the temptation to call it "Son of Whitehead." Like most of its companions it describes an industrial problem and then poses questions for discussion.

Although visually the film strips comprise only



Still that man in front.

black and white stills, this is a positive advantage when it comes to filming on location. The unit hardly disrupts work at all when it moves on to the factory floor.

### Norfolk show stealer

THE "Sunday Mirror's" annual exhibition of children's art always brings with it an atmosphere of engaging freshness, although with over 800 items crammed into the Royal Institute Galleries in Piccadilly one can come away feeling rather exhausted as well.

Norfolk's young artists provide about 20 of the exhibits, including 11 from the Hospital Secondary School, Great Yarmouth, and in 17-year-old Alun Hood, of Wymondham, the county has one of the stars of the whole show. His two large fantasy drawings inspired by pop songs immediately command attention, even in as large a collection as this. They are fashionably art nouveau in style, and so full of meticulous detail that one needs to study them square inch by square inch. His "Lucy in the sky with diamonds" not only gets the rare distinction of being highly commended, but has been reproduced separately as an "extra" to the catalogue.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

21 SEP 1968

Falklands deal denied 3003

The British Government yesterday denied a London newspaper report suggesting that there had been a deal to hand over the Falklands Islands colony to Argentinian administration.

Extract from  
Scottish Daily Express, Glasgow

20 SEP 1968

# Falklands sell-out

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

THE Government has decided to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

between Britain and the Argentine over the Falkland Islands that the "interests" of the 2,000 islanders would be paramount.

But it now appears that Whitehall — and particularly Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart — has decided that the best interest of the Falkland Islands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine.

The Government's thinking appears to be based on the cynical idea that once this long-term decision is announced, the population of the Falkland Islands — largely British in origin — will emigrate and the territory

they eventually hand over will be islands only inhabited by sheep.

It has been feared in the Falkland Islands for some time that a deal of this kind might be the result of secret talks held between Mr. Stewart and the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brigadier Eduardo McCloughlin.

And it has also been strongly suspected that the governor, Sir Cosmo Haskard, has known that these moves were under way but that he has been forbidden by London to talk about them.

Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson, whose job is

to disappear under the planned merger of the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office on October 17, is believed to have fought hard against the decision to "sell out."

But it appears that Mr. Stewart — backed by Mr. Wilson — has swung the Cabinet decision in favour of making an announcement promising eventual sovereignty to the Argentine.

But it is clear that the Opposition will regard the Government's decision as a complete denial of all its previous promises and will fight hard to have it reconsidered.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Evening News, London

20 SEP 1968

# Have we anything left to give away?

BY FREDERICK COLBERT

is worth more than £62,000,000 a year. Our aid totals £420,000 a year.

## RHODESIA

Britain's biggest headache — of more than 150,000 square miles in the heart of the vast continent of Africa — is Rhodesia.

Perhaps only temporarily, it has been taken over by the regime of Mr. Ian Smith, and we no longer export and import goods to and from there.

## CARIBBEAN

Last year a string of islands which sit like a giant's stepping stone across the warm waters of the Caribbean entered a new form of association with Britain.

They are Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia.

Each has control of its internal affairs and the right to declare itself independent.

Britain is responsible for external affairs and defence.

But all is not tranquil in the islands of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, which lie in the northern part of the Leeward group in the Eastern Caribbean.

Militarily, the islands are unimportant, but they are worth more than £10,000,000 a year in trade.

Aid to the group of seven islands amounts to more than £3,000,000 a year.

Also in the Caribbean area are the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands and British Honduras.

The Bahamas Islands, off the south-east Florida coast, are British dependent territories, but have internal self-government.

Exports to Bahamas and imports of Bahamas materials are worth something like £8,000,000 a year to Britain, which pays £16,000 a year to the islands to finance technical assistance.

## SEYCHELLES

Both the Seychelles group of islands, in the Indian

Ocean and British Honduras on the other side of the world, want closer links with Britain.

While the Seychelles, captured by Britain in 1794, is likely to have its wishes granted, British Honduras is not.

## HONDURAS

There is a dispute over British Honduras, which is bordered by Guatemala, Mexico and the Caribbean. Guatemala's claim to the territory is long standing.

Our trade with British Honduras is worth nearly £3,000,000 a year, and our aid amounts to £707,000.

Scattered throughout the world there are numerous other small islands to which Britain still holds claim.

In the Caribbean there are the Cayman, Turks, Caicos, Montserrat and St. Vincent Islands.

In the West Pacific are Fiji, Pitcairn, Tonga, Solomon, Gilbert and Ellice and the New Hebrides Islands.

But be sure, some day, someone will want them.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Northern Despatch, Darlington

20 SEP 1968

# Falklands 'sell-out' denied

A REPORT that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to Argentina was promptly denied by the Foreign Office today.

The report suggested that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that sovereignty over the Islands should be transferred to the Argentine. Conservative MPs have been curious and anxious for some time at the negotiations between Britain and the Argentine on the future of the Falklands.

The Foreign Office statement said: "The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons. Statements made there make it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

"Therefore the statement that Mr. Stewart has decided 'that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and the Government has decided accordingly, is untrue."

The question of the future of the Falklands—the group of 200 islands about 400 miles off the southern coast of Argentina—has hit the headlines again.

Successive British governments have always said they would never give them to Argentina.

And reports today that the Government has agreed "in principle" that the colony must eventually pass under the sovereignty of Argentina were quickly denied by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office added that "It remained its policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

Observers of the dis-

appearing red flecks on modern maps may well ask: Is there anything else left for Britain to give away?

Well, yes, surprisingly there is. Britain still has a number of associated states which she looks after financially and militarily and a larger number of dependent territories.

Not surprisingly, there are powers throughout the world which are just waiting to grab them.

## GIBRALTAR

There is Gibraltar, of course. The Rock, only two and a half miles square, was ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Spain lays claim to the territory.

Its value as a military base in the troubled Middle East area is inestimable. If Britain lost Gibraltar

she would almost surely lose the £4,000,000 worth of trade she does with the territory.

But we give £619,000 in economic aid each year.

## HONG KONG

The Crown Colony of Hong Kong, off the Canton Province of mainland China, was ceded to Britain by China in 1841.

There is no doubt that China wants the territory back, but she is content to sit and wait because the territory is useful as a trouble spot through which to embarrass the West and also as a means of exporting and importing the goods she needs to buy and sell.

It is also a British military base, and its value to Britain as an export centre

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

20 SEP 1968

# Britain gives in to Argentine's demands

# FALKLANDS SELL-OUT



MR. STEWART  
"The best interests"

By SQUIRE BARRACLOUGH

**THE GOVERNMENT** is to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine. It has now been decided in principle — after a tremendous tussle between Ministers — that the Colony must eventually pass under the sovereignty of the Argentine.

A statement to this effect is expected to be made soon after Parliament reassembles on October 14—and it is bound to cause a tremendous row.

Ministers have so far insisted in the long-drawn-out dispute between Britain and the Argentine that the "interests" of the 2,000 islanders would be paramount.

But it now appears that Whitehall, and particularly Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart, has decided that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine.

The Government's thinking appears to be based on the cynical idea that once this long-term decision is announced the population of the Falkland Islands—largely British in origin—will emigrate, and the territory they eventually hand over will be inhabited only by sheep.

It has been feared in the Falklands for some time that a deal of this kind might be the result of secret talks held between Mr. Stewart and the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brigadier Eduardo McLoughlin.

It has also been strongly suspected in the Falklands that the Governor, Sir Cosmo Haskard, has known that these moves were under way but that he has been forbidden by London to talk about them.

## A fight

Commonwealth Secretary Mr. George Thomson, whose job is to disappear under the planned merger of the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office on October 17, is believed to have fought hard against the decision to "sell out."

But it appears that Mr. Stewart, backed by Mr. Harold Wilson, has swung the Cabinet decision in favour of making an announcement promising eventual sovereignty to the Argentine.

The Government is expected to argue that the Falklands are naturally part



of the Argentine and that they can have no future apart from the mainland. It could also argue that Britain's relations with the Argentine are of major importance in terms of commerce and defence. But it is clear that the Opposition will regard the Government's decision as a complete denial of all its previous promises and will fight hard to have it reconsidered.

Extract from

## The Birmingham Post

Date 21 SEP 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

TWO MINERS believed to have been overcome by gas died at Cwmillery Colliery, Abertillery, Monmouthshire, yesterday. They were Alun Madden, of Nantyglo, who leaves a widow and seven children, and John Arthur Tedstone, of Llanhilleth.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE yesterday categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to the Argentine.

Extract from

## The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

21 SEP 1968

Date

## Falklands "sell-out" denied

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Reports that Britain is about to "sell out" the Falkland Islands and turn them over to the Argentine were strongly denied yesterday by the Foreign Office.

An official said:—"The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons.

Statements there made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders. Therefore, the report in the "Daily Express" that Mr Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had decided that "the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine is untrue."

In a debate in the House of Commons on March 26 Mr Stewart said the Government would agree to a cession, only if this were acceptable to the Falkland Islanders.

The same goes for any other kind of arrangement with the Argentine that might come out of the talks between the governments which have been going on in a desultory fashion for several months.

Extract from  
Swindon Evening Advertiser, Wiltshire

20 SEP 1968

## FALKLAND DENIAL

A report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to Argentina was promptly denied by the Foreign Office today. The report suggested that the Foreign Secretary has persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that sovereignty over the islands should be transferred to the Argentine.

The Foreign Office said today "The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons Statements made there make it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from

The  
Lancashire Evening Telegraph  
BLACKBURN

20 SEP 1968

Date.....

### Falklands not to be 'sold out'

The Foreign Office today categorically denied a report that the Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to Argentina. It remained their policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders, a spokesman said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

## The Star

SHEFFIELD

20 SEP 1968

Date.....  
(See information overleaf)

## BRITAIN WON'T HAND OVER FALKLANDS

By Gerard H. Corr, our Parliamentary Correspondent

THE Government have no intention of handing over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine. Sovereignty of the colony will not be transferred against the wishes of the 2,000 islanders.

This clear statement of intent came from the Foreign Office today following a report that Britain was preparing to give up the South Atlantic islands.

It said a report that Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart "had decided that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with Argentina" was untrue.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Bolton Evening News

20 SEP 1968

International Press-Cutting Bureau

Extract from THE

## Oxford Mail

OXFORD (Evening)

Date..... 20 SEP 1968

### FOREIGN OFFICE DENIES ISLANDS HAND-OVER PLAN

The Foreign Office today categorically denied a report that the Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to Argentina.

It remained their policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders, a spokesman said.

# New move in Rhodesia?

## BOTTOMLEY IN SALISBURY TO SEE GOVERNOR

By Our Political Correspondent

FRESH HOPES rose today that the Government may be making a new bid to end the rift with Rhodesia.

Speculation that a new move may be under way came with the disclosure that Mr James Bottomley, an assistant under secretary at the Commonwealth Office, had arrived in Salisbury for an exchange of views with the Governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs.

Some MPs thought the visit was connected with a new probe into the possibility of ending the deadlock with the Smith regime. They recalled that only recently Mr Smith had publicly offered to reopen talks with Britain to seek a settlement of terms for independence.

Mr Bottomley, it was thought, was certain to discuss the current political situation in Rhodesia following the ruling by the Rhodesian judges that the rebel regime is the lawful government, and the decisive by-election victory which Mr Ian Smith's ruling Rhodesia Front Party has scored over Right-Wing extremists.

The by-election is seen as evidence that Mr Smith still commands majority support in Rhodesia.

### FALKLANDS ROW

Meanwhile another row threatens to break today over a newspaper report that the Government has agreed in principle to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine. Mr Bernard Braine, a Conservative Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, called on the Government to deny the report.

He said: "If the report is correct that the Labour Government has agreed in principle to hand over the Falklands then it is a shocking betrayal of a British community who look to Britain for protection."

It would also amount to the breaking of a solemn pledge to Parliament that there would be no surrender of sovereignty without the islanders' consent.

"If the report is not correct then the Government must deny it forthwith," he said.

The Foreign Office later issued a statement claiming the newspaper report was untrue and stating that the Government's position remained as outlined in the House of Commons, that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the Falkland Islanders.

20 SEP 1968

# FALKLANDS AND ARGENTINE: GOVERNMENT DENIAL

The Foreign Office in London today denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said, "HM Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons.

"Statements in the House of Commons made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

"Therefore, the statement in the 'Daily Express' that Mr Stewart (the Foreign Secretary) has decided 'that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and that HM

Government had decided accordingly, is untrue.

"The Government's policy, which was stated in very clear terms by the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons on March 26, 1968, is 'HM Government would agree to such a cession only —first, on the condition only have mentioned that it must be part of an agreement fully satisfactory in other respects, and, secondly, only if it were clear to us, to the Government in the United Kingdom, that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interest'.

### An Absolute Condition.

"On April 1, 1968, Mr Stewart, in reply to a question, said, 'If no agreement envisaging transfer of sovereignty at all were reached, this question would not arise (the question of a referendum), but the wishes of the islanders are an absolute condition'.

"It is understood there is no truth in the suggestion that there has been a Cabinet decision on the matter, or that Mr Stewart and the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr George Thomson, have been at odds about it.

20 SEP 1968

## Falklands sell-out denied

The Government today issued a swift and categorical denial of a report that the Cabinet has agreed to a "sell-out" of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

The report suggested that the Government had decided in principle that sovereignty over the islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic, should eventually pass to the Argentine.

A statement authorised by Mr Stewart, Foreign Secretary, said that policy on the islands remained as stated in the House of Commons.

20 SEP 1968



3003 BERNARD BRAINE

## 'Falkland' sell-out' —Tories angry

PHILIP MARSHALL  
A report that the Government has decided to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine drew an indignant Tory response today.

Mr Bernard Braine, MP, a Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, said that if the story was true it was "a shocking betrayal of a British community who look to Britain for protection."

He went on: "It would also be a cynical breaking of a solemn pledge to Parliament that there would be no surrender of sovereignty without the islanders' consent."

"If the story is not correct, then the Government must deny it forthwith."

### In principle

It was being suggested that the Government had now decided in principle that sovereignty over the island and its 2000 inhabitants in the South Atlantic, should eventually pass to the Argentine.

Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez said in Buenos Aires today he had no knowledge of any British intention to return to Argentina the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands. Asked to comment on a London report to this effect, he said he was surprised, and added: "I have no information on the matter."

ABERDEEN

20 SEP 1968

## Falkland Islands report 'untrue'

THE FOREIGN OFFICE in London today categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said: "H.M. Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons. Statements in the House of Commons made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

"Therefore the statement in the 'Daily Express' that Foreign Secretary Mr Michael Stewart has decided that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine and that H.M. Government had decided accordingly is untrue."

Mr Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for South-East Essex and Opposition front bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, said today that if the report were true, it would be a "shocking betrayal."

Speaking at his Rayleigh, Essex, home, he said: "If the story is correct that the Labour Government has agreed in principle to hand over the Falklands, then this is a shocking betrayal of a British community who look to Britain for protection."

The story suggested that the Government had now decided in principle—after a tough struggle between Ministers—that the South Atlantic island, with its 2000 inhabitants, must eventually come under Argentine control.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Oldham Evening Chronicle, Lancs.

20 SEP 1968

### Falklands hand-over is denied

The Foreign Office in London today categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said: "The Government's policy on the Falklands Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
Gloucestershire Echo, Cheltenham

20 SEP 1968

**FALKLANDS: FOREIGN OFFICE DENIAL**  
Foreign Office today categorically denied report that government had decided to hand Falklands Islands over to Argentina. It remained their policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against wishes of islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

20 SEP 1968

### FALKLAND DENIAL

THE Foreign Office categorically denied a report that the Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to Argentina. It remained their policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Brighton Evening Argus, Sussex

20 SEP 1968

## The FO denies island sell-out report

A REPORT that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to Argentina was promptly denied by the Foreign Office today.

The report suggested that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that sovereignty over the islands should be transferred to the Argentine.

Conservative M.P.s have been curious and anxious for some time at the negotiations between Britain and the Argentine on the future of the Falklands.

The Foreign Office statement said: "The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons. Statements made there make it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

"Therefore, the statement (in the Daily Express) that Mr. Stewart has decided 'that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and the Government has decided accordingly, is untrue."

The Government have made it clear they would only hand over the islands if the islanders themselves agreed.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Sunderland Echo, Durham

20 SEP 1968

### GOVT. DENIES FALKLANDS HAND-OVER

THE Foreign Office in London today categorically denied a report that the Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said the Government's policy remained as stated in the House of Commons - that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders.

He said reports that the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, had decided "that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine" were untrue.

It is understood that there is no truth in the suggestion that there has been a Cabinet decision on the matter, or that Mr Stewart and the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr George Thomson, have been at odds about it.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

20 SEP 1968

### No Falklands deal: Argentine

ARGENTINE Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Medvez said in Buenos Aires today he has no knowledge of an alleged British intention to return the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

A story in a British national newspaper today said the British Government had decided to hand over the territory to Argentina, which has claimed it since British Forces occupied

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

20 SEP 1968

'BETRAYAL' ROW BREWS AS ...

# Falklands deal denied by FO

FOREIGN OFFICE chiefs, surprised by a statement that the Government was to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine, today said: "The report is not true."

But Tory MPs immediately launched a probing action. Mr Bernard Braine, Opposition Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, said any hand-over would be a "shocking betrayal of a British community who look to Britain for protection."

Following a London newspaper's declaration that "Britain gives in to Argentina's demand," the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office reacted in unison.

An official said, "The position is the same as it was when Mr Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, recently told the Commons that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

Top Whitehall circles today also denied reports of a split between Mr Stewart and Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson.

● Argentina Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez said in Buenos Aires today he had no knowledge of an alleged British intention to return the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Extract from the

## Evening Gazette

MIDDLESBROUGH

20 SEP 1968

### 'No knowledge of hand over'

Argentina's Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, says he has no knowledge of an alleged British intention to return the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

A story in a London newspaper said the British Government had decided to hand over the territory to Argentina, which has claimed it since British forces occupied it early last century.—AP.

Extract from  
Scarborough Evening News, Yorks.

20 SEP 1968

### "NO KNOWLEDGE OF FALKLANDS HAND-OVER PLAN"

Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez, of Argentine, says he has no knowledge of an alleged British intention to return the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

A story in today's Daily Express said the British Government had decided to hand over the territory to Argentina, which has claimed it since British forces occupied it early last century.

Asked to comment on the information, Senor Costa Mendez said he was surprised. "I have no information on that matter," he said.

Extract from  
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks.

20 SEP 1968

### Falkland report denied

THE FOREIGN OFFICE in London today categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said: "HM Government's policy on the Falklands remains as stated in the House of Commons. Statements in the House of Commons made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

#### BEST INTEREST

"Therefore, the statement in a national newspaper that the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, has decided that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine and that HM Government had decided accordingly, is untrue."

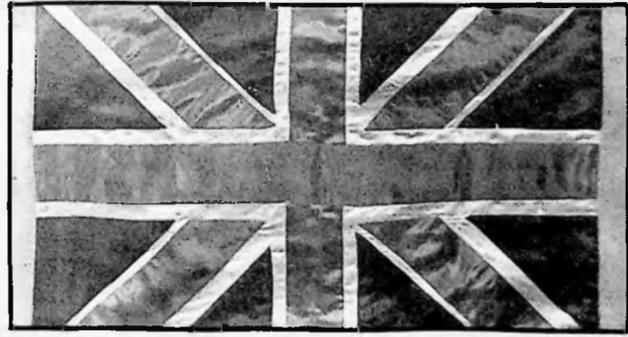


La palabra que se repite en Londres  
**En el Metro,**  
**en la calle,**  
**en los autobuses,**  
**en las cafeterías,**  
**en los parques,**  
**en las salas de fiesta**

- Pero a Isabel le da miedo dejar el trono en manos de su hijo
- Los discursos de la reina inglesa los oye ahora la mitad de gente que antes



# ABDICACION



Es curioso lo que pasa en Inglaterra. Se vive en un ambiente de ansiedad, de duda, de inseguridad... Los ingleses advierten que su reina es una mujer como las demás, ni infalible ni invulnerable.

Se habla en el metro, en las calles y en todas partes de un solo tema: abdicación.

Desde 1939 resuena ya en los oídos británicos esta palabra. Piensa el pueblo inglés que Isabel II dejará en breve la Corona a Carlos. Y no les parece mal. Las cosas han variado mucho, en poco tiempo.

Saben que Isabel sufre choques terribles en su

espíritu. Vive angustiada. Durante su último corto discurso televisado (10 minutos) se notó la palidez del rostro de la hija de Jorge VI.

Tan perfecta, irreproachable y digna como siempre, sin embargo sus gestos eran forzados. Por primera vez, los súbditos de Isabel admiten que la realeza es una tarea sobrehumana para ella.

No se extrañan de que el próximo viaje de Isabel a América se haya acortado y que ya no vaya a Argentina y las islas Falklands (Malvinas), como se pensaba. Isabel (42 años), según la prensa británica, debe ceder el trono a su hijo.

Se sabe que el porcentaje de oyentes que escuchan los discursos de Isabel en Navidad son el 50 por ciento de los que años atrás los oían. Se quejan de lo que la reina gana y los adversarios del trono afirman que sería mejor emplear ese dinero en construir autopistas. Ha perdido el prestigio que tenía cuando era joven. Y lo mismo le ocurre a su esposo Felipe. Ambos lo saben. Saben que están pasados de moda y que, con la edad, la popularidad decrece mucho.

Isabel II no osa tomar decisiones. Teme equivocarse. Posee una fortuna inmensa, pero le da miedo echar sobre las débiles espal-

das de Carlos el peso del Imperio. Pero el heredero va a cumplir 20 años.

Dieciséis tenía Alfonso XIII cuando, en su primer consejo de ministros, éstos tuvieron que acatar órdenes firmes y terminantes del monarca español.

Isabel II quisiera que su hijo se casara antes de ser rey. Todo son problemas para esta gran mujer, que desea, sí, salvar el trono, pero no sabe cómo hacerlo y tanto miedo tiene a equivocarse y echarlo todo a rodar...

Charles HARDTFIELD  
 (S.U.N.C.)



INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
STAMP MAGAZINE

London - SEP 1968

#### FALKLAND ISLANDS

On many occasions I have heard of considerable difficulties in obtaining a used copy of the 1940 K.G.VI 1d. scarlet (S.G.147a, B.K. CW.20). Mint are available, but used are seldom encountered in fresh condition. Why? Well the scarlet is soon affected by moisture and a small measure of over-soaking effects a drastic change in colour appearance.

It is probable that the stamp has a very restricted period of currency (some 12-18 months). Wartime conditions prevailed and relatively few copies exist in dealers' stocks. S.G. quotes at 5/-, whereas B.K. CW. lists 3/-, but in my opinion both prices are too low for this elusive item. The more highly catalogued carmine (a nice item with a contemporary dated postmark) frequently turns up in K.G.VI collections, but the humble scarlet is usually missing. On a relative scarcity basis it must rate 10/-. If a nice copy comes your way—you know what to do.

Recorte de INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
CUTTING BUREAU

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Dublin Evening Press

20 SEP 1968

#### Falklands—no handover

The British Foreign Office today categorically denied a newspaper report that the government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to Argentina. It remained their policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders, it said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Reading Evening Post

20 SEP 1968

FALKLANDS: ARGENTINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH INTENTION TO RETURN FALKLANDS ISLANDS TO THE ARGENTINE. TORY MP MR BERNARD BRAINE SAID IF GOVERNMENT DID HAND OVER ISLANDS IT WOULD BE "SHOCKING BETRAYAL"

\* \* \* \* \*

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Exeter Express & Echo, Devon

20 SEP 1968

**FALKLANDS STAY  
BRITISH**  
Foreign Office categorically denied report that British Government had decided to hand Falklands Islands over to Argentina. Spokesman said: "Statements in House of Commons made it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against wishes of islanders."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS - CUTTING  
BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from the

**Shields Gazette**  
and Shipping Telegraph

Incorporating The Shields Evening News

Date 20 SEP 1968

## FALKLAND ISLANDS SELL-OUT DENIED

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A REPORT that the British Government had decided to hand the Falkland Islands over to the Argentine was promptly denied by the Foreign Office today. The report suggested that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that sovereignty over the islands should be transferred to the Argentine.

Conservative M.P.s have been curious and anxious for some time at the negotiations between Britain and the Argentine on the future of the Falklands.

The Foreign Office statement said: "The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands remains as stated in the House of Commons. Statements made there make it clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

"Therefore, the statement (in the Daily Express) that Mr. Stewart has decided that the best interests of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine and the Government has decided accordingly, is untrue."

The Government has made it clear that it would only hand over the islands if the islanders themselves agreed.

### Restrictions

The discussions between the two Governments have been undertaken as a result of a United Nations resolution. But the British Government insists that the Argentine should show willingness to improve the position of the islanders by removing restrictions on travel and communications with the mainland.

While the talks continue and the Argentine Government adopts a reasonable attitude, the British Government considers it is safeguarding the interests of the islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING  
BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

DERBY EVENING  
**TELEGRAPH**

Date 20 SEP 1968

## Falklands: no transfer deal says F.O.

THE Foreign Office in London today categorically denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand the Falklands Islands over to the Argentine.

A spokesman said "H.M. Government's policy on the islands remains as stated in the House of Commons when it was made clear that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

### 'UNTRUE'

"Therefore, the statement in the 'Daily Express' that Mr. Stewart (Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart), has decided 'that the best interest of the Falklands will be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine' and that H.M. Government had decided accordingly, is untrue."

It is understood that there is no truth in the suggestion that there has been a Cabinet decision on the matter, or that Mr. Stewart and the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. George Thomson, have been at odds about it.

Earlier today Mr. Bernard Braine, Conservative M.P. for South-East Essex and Opposition Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, said that if the report that the Government was to hand over the islands were true, it would be a "shocking betrayal."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Gloucester Citizen

20 SEP 1968

## Foreign Office denies Falklands sell-out

THE Foreign Office today denied a report that the British Government had decided to hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

A statement that the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, has decided that the best interest of the Falklands would be served by some kind of unification with the Argentine and that the Government had decided accordingly, was untrue, said a spokesman.

The Government would agree to such a cession only if it were clear that the islanders themselves regarded such an agreement as satisfactory to their interest.

There is, it is understood no

truth in the suggestion that there has been a cabinet decision on the matter, or that Mr. Stewart and the Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. George Thomson, have been at odds about it.

Earlier today, Mr. Bernard Braine, Opposition front bench spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, had said that if the report that the Government was to hand over the Falkland Islands were true, it would be a "shocking betrayal."

Extract from  
South Wales Evening Post, Swansea

20 SEP 1968

## 'No knowledge of Falklands hand-over'

**F**OREIGN MINISTER Nicanor Costa Mendez says he has no knowledge of an alleged British intention to return the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

A story in today's London Daily Express said the British Government had decided to hand over the territory to Argentina, which has claimed it since British forces occupied it early last century.

Asked by the Associated Press to comment on the information, Senor Costa Mendez said he was surprised. "I have no information on that matter," he said.

Extract from  
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

18 SEP 1968

## Argentina will press Falklands claim

**A**RGENTINA will reassert her claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands at the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, sources in the Argentine Foreign Ministry reported last night in Buenos Aires

They said that the Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez would fly to New York on October 2 to make a speech on Argentinian foreign policy, and that this will cover the Falkland Islands dispute.

Secret talks have been going on for more than a year between the British and Argentinian Governments since the United Nations recommended bilateral negotiations to settle the problem.—A.P.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks.

18 SEP 1968

## Falklands claim

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from  
Glasgow Evening Times

18 SEP 1968

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Extract from  
Scarborough Evening News, Yorks.

18 SEP 1968

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

18 SEP 1968

## FALKLANDS CLAIM

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

WEST LANCASHIRE  
**EVENING GAZETTE**  
BLACKPOOL

Date: 18 SEP 1968

## Argentina to press Falklands claim

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They said that the Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, would fly to New York on October 2 to make a speech on Argentinian foreign policy, and that this would cover the Falkland Islands dispute.—  
Associated Press.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

**Belfast Telegraph**

Head Office:

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London Office: Thomson House  
200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1

Date. **18 SEP 1968**

**FALKLANDS CLAIM**

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from

**The Lancashire Evening Telegraph**

BLACKBURN

**18 SEP 1968**

Date.....

**Argentina  
wants to rule**

3003 Argentina will re-assert her claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands at the next meeting of the United Nations general assembly, according to sources in the foreign ministry in Buenos Aires.

They said that the Foreign Minister, Senior Nicanor Costa Mendez, would fly to New York on October 2 to make a speech on Argentinian foreign policy, and that this will cover the Falkland Islands dispute.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 Strand, London, W.C. 2

Extract from the

**Evening Express**

ABERDEEN

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Dundee Evening Telegraph

**18 SEP 1968**

**Argentina To  
Press Falklands  
Claim**

3003 Argentina will reassert her claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands at the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, according to reports from Buenos Aires today.

The Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez is to fly to New York on October 2 to make a speech which will cover the Falkland Islands dispute.

Secret talks have been going on for more than a year between the British and Argentinian Governments since the United Nations recommended bilateral negotiations to settle the problem.

Date... **18 SEP 1968**

**QUICK LOOK**

**Argentina's  
new claim**

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Secret talks have been going on for more than a year between the British and Argentinian Governments since the United Nations recommended bilateral negotiations to settle the problem.

Extract from  
Montreal Star, Canada

- 6 JUL 1968

### Queen postpones Argentina visit

Reuters

LONDON, July 6 — Queen Elizabeth has dropped plans to visit Argentina during a South American tour in November.

A Buckingham Palace statement said the Queen and her husband Prince Philip will go to Brazil and Chile as planned.

The Queen will fly from London to Recife, Brazil Nov. 1 and be joined by her husband who will arrive the same day from Mexico after attending the Olympic Games.

The royal couple will sail to Rio de Janeiro aboard the

royal yacht Britannia for the official beginning of the tour Nov. 5.

They will go from Brazil to Chile for an official visit Nov. 11 to 18.

This will be the first visit to South America by a reigning British monarch.

The decision to skip Argentina was clearly connected with recent relations strained because of their dispute over the British-ruled Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

Argentina claims sovereignty over the islands and Anglo-Argentine talks about their future have been going on since January, 1966.

Extract from  
Sydney Daily Telegraph, Australia



### Queen to visit Sth. America

LONDON, Sat. — Queen Elizabeth will visit Brazil from November 5 to 11 and Chile from November 11 to 18.

The Queen, who will be accompanied by Prince Philip, will be the first ruling British monarch to visit South America.

But her tour will not include Argentina, with which relations have been strained in recent months because of Argentina's claim to the British colony of the Falkland Islands.

A Foreign Office statement said that after full consultations with the Argentine Government the British Government had advised Queen Elizabeth that the present was not the most appropriate time for a visit to Argentina.

The statement said it was hoped the Queen could visit Argentina on a later occasion.

In GLASGOW, police searched the City Hall just before the Queen arrived on a visit today after an anonymous telephone call saying a bomb had been placed there.

Police found nothing and said it was presumed it was a hoax.

Extract from  
Japan Times, Tokyo

### Elizabeth Cancels Argentine Visit

LONDON (Kyodo-Reuter)— Queen Elizabeth of Britain has dropped plans to visit Argentina during her South American tour this November, it was announced here Friday.

A Buckingham Palace statement said the Queen and her husband Prince Philip would be going to Brazil and Chile as planned. They will be in Brazil from Nov. 5 to 11 and in Chile from Nov. 11 to 18.

This will be the first visit to South America by a reigning British monarch.

But the Foreign Office announced that the Government had advised the Queen that the present was not the most appropriate time to visit Argentina.

The announcement said it was hoped she might go there on a later occasion, but there was no indication when this might be.

The possibility of a royal visit to Argentina has been under discussion for some time between the British and Argentine governments.

The decision to abandon the idea is clearly connected with the recent strain on relations between the two countries because of their dispute over the British-ruled Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

EL TRONO, EN PELIGRO

# SE CREE QUE VA A ABDICAR



## ISABEL DE INGLATERRA



LA REINA  
ESTA  
PERDIENDO  
PRESTIGIO  
ENTRE SUS  
SUBDITOS

## DEJARA LA CORONA A SU HIJO CARLOS

Es curioso lo que pasa en Inglaterra. Se vive en un ambiente de ansiedad, de duda, de inseguridad... Los ingleses advierten que su reina es una mujer como las demás, ni infalible ni invulnerable.

Se habla en el metro, en las calles y en todas partes de un solo tema: abdicación.

Desde 1939 resuena ya en los oídos británicos esta palabra. Piensa el pueblo inglés, que Isabel II dejará en breve la Corona a Carlos. Y no les parece mal. Las cosas han variado mucho, en poco tiempo.

Saben que Isabel sufre choques terribles en su espíritu. Vive angustiada. Durante su último corto discurso televisado (10 minutos) notaron con terror la palidez del rostro de la hija de Jorge VI.

Tan perfecta, irrecprochable y digna como siempre, sin embargo sus gestos eran forzados. Por primera vez, los súbditos de Isabel, admiten que la realeza es una tarea sobrehumana para ella.

No se extrañan que el próximo viaje de Isabel a América se haya acortado y que ya no viaje a Argentina y las islas Falkland (Malvinas), como se pensaba. Isabel (42 años) según la prensa brit-

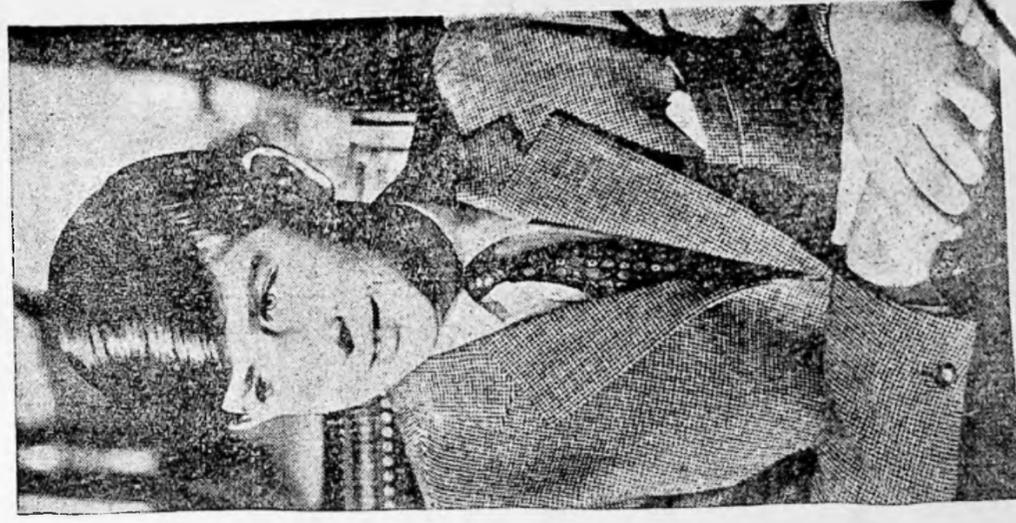
tánica debe ceder el trono a su hijo.

Se sabe que el porcentaje de oyentes que escuchan los discursos de Isabel en Navidad son el 50 por ciento de los que años atrás los oían. Se quejan de lo que la reina y los adversarios del trono afirman que sería mejor emplear ese dinero en construir autopistas. Ha perdido el prestigio que tenía cuando era joven. Y lo mismo le ocurre a su esposo Felipe. Ambos lo saben. Saben que están pasados de moda y que con la edad, la popularidad decrece mucho.

Isabel II no osa tomar decisiones. Teme equivocarse. Posee una fortuna inmensa, pero le da miedo echar sobre las débiles espaldas de Carlos, el peso del Imperio. Pero el heredero va a cumplir 20 años.

Dieciséis tenía don Alfonso XIII cuando en su primer consejo de ministros, estos tuvieron que acatar órdenes firmes y terminantes del monarca español.

Isabel II quisiera que su hijo se casara antes de ser rey. Todo son problemas para esta gran mujer, que desea sí, salvar el trono, pero no sabe cómo hacerlo y tanto miedo tiene a equivocarse y echarlo todo a rodar... CHARLES HARDTFIELD



CUTTING BUREAU  
**Hoja del Lunes**

Extract from  
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,  
London

26 JUL 1968

de ...  
Fecha 22 JUL 1968

Falkland Islands

# LA REINA ISABEL QUIERE ABDICAR

## Su salud y su popularidad han perdido mucho en los últimos tiempos



Se advierte en estos momentos en Inglaterra un malestar indefinible, se vive en un ambiente de ansiedad, de duda y de inseguridad. Los ingleses, casi a su pesar, y no sin remordimientos, se dan cuenta de que su reina es una mujer como las demás, ni infalible ni invulnerable, y se hacen una pregunta: ¿durante cuánto tiempo podrá aguantar todavía? Se habla de ello en las calles, en los bares, en los clubs y en el «metron», y nadie siente reparo en pronunciar una palabra que suena muy desagradablemente en oídos británicos desde 1936: abdicación.

Se ha llegado hasta ese extremo. Los británicos creen que Isabel dejará dentro de poco tiempo la corona a Carlos. Hace sólo unos años esta eventualidad habría parecido impensable. Pero las cosas han cambiado. La sonrisa radiante que los retocadores de fotografías de los diarios dibujan sobre los labios de la reina no oculta ya su inmenso cansancio ni su angustia.

Los ingleses han tenido esta penosa revelación al contemplar la televisión que transmitía un discurso de Isabel. Un discursito de 10 minutos. Pero durante esos 10 minutos los telespectadores pudieron observar claramente el rostro agotado de su reina.

### SALUD DEFICIENTE

Sí, la reina aparecía, como siempre, perfecta. Irreprochable en dignidad y atuendo. Pero detrás de este disfraz de desfile había una mujer agotada. Ese día todos los ingleses se conmovieron, incluso los que no sentían grandes simpatías por Isabel, y por primera vez se ha admitido que la reina asume una carga sobrehumana.

Por tanto, no ha habido gran sorpresa cuando Buckingham anunció unos días más tarde que el viaje a América del Sur que Isabel se proponía hacer este verano será «muy acortado» y que no irá a la Argentina y las islas Malvinas, o Falkland, como dicen los ingleses, como estaba previsto. preocupadas y las personas próximas.

En el Palacio las caras aparecen más a la reina no ocultan su inquietud. Isabel sólo tiene 42 años, pero en el por venir no podrá pensarse en pasearla por el mundo varios meses al año. Su salud no se lo permite. Y algunos periódicos ingleses, con gran franqueza,

escriben que ya es hora de que la reina transmita el cetro a su hijo.

Un artículo del periódico «The Londoner» dice, entre otras cosas: «¿Cuánto tiempo podrá Su Majestad recorrer los mares y los continentes? ¿Ocuparse de los asuntos del Estado? ¿Educar a sus hijos?» Por otra parte, hay que mirar las cosas a la cara: desde que fue coronada en Westminster en 1953, la reina ha perdido las tres cuartas partes de su popularidad.

Esta es la triste realidad. Hace mucho tiempo que no hay aglomeraciones cuando pasa la reina. Antaño, la menor de sus salidas paraba la circulación en Londres durante horas. Según ha revelado un sondeo de la BBC, el porcentaje de los auditores que escuchaban el discurso de Navidad de la reina ha disminuido en un 50 por 100 en los cinco años últimos.

No le ahorran las críticas. Los periódicos publican cartas de los lectores quejándose de que «la Corona cuesta demasiado al país». Algunos añaden que la lista civil de la reina estaría mejor empleada en la construcción de carreteras.

### PASADOS DE MODA

Otros se indignan ante la idea de las fortunas que se invierten cada año nada más que en el mantenimiento del yate real «Britannia» del que la reina no se sirve casi nunca. El príncipe Felipe, siempre lúcido, se da cuenta de que entre el pueblo inglés y la reina se ha torcido algo. Pero tiene la alegación de asumir las críticas que se dirigen contra Isabel. «Sé perfectamente —declaró hace poco— que la reina y yo hemos perdido la aureola de la juventud. Estamos pasados de moda y hemos alcanzado la edad en que la popularidad se escapa.»

¿Qué solución tiene el problema? La respuesta es la abdicación. La reina no ha tratado el asunto con nadie, excepto con Felipe. Ella es también inteligente y no ignora nada de lo que se dice ni de lo que sucede. Entre todas las clases de la sociedad inglesa domina una opinión en el momento actual: para mantener la realeza en Inglaterra hay que infundir sangre joven y nueva a la Corona.

Pero Isabel no se atreve, por el momento, a adoptar una decisión. No por afición al poder ni por miedo de carecer de dinero, por-

que es una de las mujeres más ricas del mundo. Lo que la retiene es el miedo de depositar demasiado pronto sobre los hombros de su hijo Carlos la pesada Corona, bajo la que ella actualmente se dolega.

Dijo al príncipe Felipe recientemente: «Nuestro hijo es demasiado joven. Quisiera que disfrute algo de la vida.» «Te comprendo —contestó Felipe—; pero, por otra parte no puede ser eternamente príncipe de Gales.»

Indudablemente, Felipe se acordaba de Eduardo VII, el hijo de la reina Victoria. Tenía 59 años cuando sucedió a su madre. En espera de reinar, todo lo que hizo fue crearse una reputación de juerguista y ocioso. No hay ninguna razón para que Carlos no tenga la misma edad que Eduardo en el momento de subir al Trono. Felipe teme que para entonces haya perdido la fe y no haya adquirido el hábito del deber.

La cuestión se decidirá probablemente en estas vacaciones. El príncipe saldrá de Cambridge dentro de dos años. Puede suponerse que Isabel le cederá el poder cuando termine sus estudios universitarios.

### DILEMA

Todo depende de la reina, la cual tiene miedo de que Carlos no esté todavía a la altura de la misión que se espera de él. Pero se da cuenta de que se impone un cambio en las viejas estructuras. Ya ha tenido con su hijo largas conversaciones a este respecto. La juventud actual necesita responsabilidades y la reina está sorprendida de la madurez de su hijo y de sus amigos. El mundo está en marcha. Las tradiciones se derrumban.

Pero, a su pesar, la reina piensa en los 20 años de Carlos que necesitan todavía alegría y despreocupación. Le gustaría que se casara, que tuviese hijos antes de ser rey. Un hombre responsable de su hogar conoce mejor sus deberes, sus cargas y su oficio.

¿Este es el grave problema de la reina Isabel II de Inglaterra? ¿Qué debe salvaguardar? ¿La alegría de vivir de su hijo o una monarquía que puede aparecer tan fácilmente como una veía?

JOHN DU PRE

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Hoja del Lunes

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
"Hansard" House of Commons Reports,  
London

26 JUL 1968

3003 Falkland Islands

**Mr. J. Biggs-Davison** asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs whether he will lay an Order in Council, similar to that which is to be made for Gibraltar, declaring that Her Majesty's Government will never hand over the people of the Falkland Islands to another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes.

**Mr. George Thomson:** There are no proposals for constitutional changes in the Falkland Islands which would necessitate the making of a new Order. H.M.G.'s policy concerning the Falkland Islands has been made clear in the House on a number of occasions and I would refer the hon. Member to the assurances given to the people of the Falkland Islands by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 26th March.— [Vol. 761, c. 1458.]

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Ilford Recorder, Essex

25 JUL 1968

**The islands  
that want  
to stay  
British**

**CHIGWELL MP** Mr. John Biggs-Davison has been elected chairman of an organisation which supports the Falkland Islanders' desire to stay British.

It is called the UK-Falkland Islands All-Party Group and is within the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Evening Standard, London

30 JUL 1968

## PRESSURE GROUP IS PRAISED

If interested parties had not come together and formed a special pressure group to try and keep the Falkland Islands British, there could have been "very serious repercussions" by now, said Mr. Patrick Ainslie, chairman of the £3,000,000 Falkland Islands Company, today.

Addressing shareholders at the group's annual meeting, he praised the work of the Falkland Islands Emergency Committee, a non-commercial venture which has been actively backed by the company.

The committee includes two

MPs from both sides of the House of Commons, and naturalist Mr. Peter Scott.

Its secretary is Mr. Francis Mitchell, London manager of the Falkland Company, which, since 1851, has been the only large-scale commercial concern operating in the islands. As well as its main interest in sheep farming, the company controls stores and a shipping link.

Commenting after the meeting on the campaign's success, Mr. Mitchell said: "We've had a tremendous amount of support, and people are getting to know what the question is all about." What the 2000 Islanders hoped for was a firm, long-term assurance that their home would not be turned over to the Argentine, he added.

Extract from  
Montreal Star, Canada

- 3 JUN 1968

**An embarrassment**

# The shreds of Empire

LONDON — The creation of the Commonwealth of free and independent states has left Britain holding a number of tiny colonies around the world that are proving highly embarrassing. They number 16, they contain fewer than 5,000,000 people, and what is chiefly embarrassing about them is their affection: many of them are determined to remain British. Without Hong Kong there are just about a million people involved, a mere drop in the ocean compared with the Empire at its multi-millioned peak, but these million are already involving Britain in some ticklish situations.

The problem of Gibraltar is typical. The population is a mere 25,000. The place is about the size of Hyde Park (two and a quarter square miles). It is one of the strangest little communities in Europe. Most of the people speak Spanish. Yet overwhelmingly they want to stay with Britain. They don't wish to be absorbed into Spain. The British, no doubt, since Gibraltar is really past its useful life, wouldn't mind making an amicable agreement if they could deal with a democratic government. But no British government could really hand over Gibraltar to a fascist government, and it is astonishing that the United Nations, both in their special committee on colonialism and in the General Assembly, are insisting that Gibraltar be decolonized. That is to react like Pavlov's dogs.

Much against the grain, the British government got into talks with the Spanish government about Gibraltar's future. But the early editions of the talks were preceded by the Spaniards imposing special restrictions against movement across the land border between Gibraltar and Spain. Those talks soon ground to a halt. Ever since then land traffic between the two places has been restricted to people on foot, and to Spanish workers who live in Spain and work in Gib.

Now Franco has closed off the frontier to everybody, except

the Spanish workers. That has effectively ended the chances of a compromise. There seems little point in further talks. The British government is pledged not to change Gibraltar's status against the wishes of her people, so further action will have to await a change of government and of attitude in Madrid.

This may cost Britain quite a lot to support a tiny community cut off from all its neighbors. But the price will have to be paid.

**British Honduras**

Britain is likely to have similar difficulties with the tiny Central American colony of British Honduras. This lies beside Guatemala. It has a steamy, tropical climate (I've heard it said by visitors that Belize, the capital, is one of the most unpleasant spots on earth), it has 8,600 square miles, and 106,000 people. Guatemala would like to have British Honduras, and has ceaselessly laid claim to it. An American mediator, Bethuel Webster, has worked for two years in an effort to find a compromise that will satisfy both sides. But his recent report has already been rejected by both main political parties in British Honduras.

Mr. Webster suggested that BH should become fully independent before 1970, but that this independence should be tempered by the establishment of a joint commission comprised of three members from both countries and an independent chairman, who would deal with a very wide range of subjects of vital interest to both countries, such as freedom of movement, customs duties, movement of goods to third countries and so on.

Once again, the objections of the colonists make a compromise difficult. They have an entirely British West Indian way of life, and they face a close relationship with a very Central American state of 4,000,000. They face with dismay the possibility of being constantly outvoted by four to three on the proposed joint commission.

By BOYCE RICHARDSON

Their attitude is summarized by a remark made to me by a British Honduras resident who lives in England and has formed a movement to fight for continuing freedom in her country. "Now listen to this," she said, reading out clauses from Mr. Webster's report, "if you are feeling like being ironic. British Hondurans shall be accorded in Guatemala the same treatment as Guatemalans. Do you know anything about Guatemala?"

And much the same story can be told about the Falkland Islands. They are a bunch of 200 tiny islands just off the tip of South America. "The main feature of the weather is the strong wind which blows throughout the year," says the official description. But 2,000 people live there, tending three-quarters of a million sheep.

The first British settlement was established in 1766. The Spaniards pushed them out four years later. The British left behind a plaque claiming continuing sovereignty over the islands. The Spanish gave up their settlement after 35 years, and in 1820, the Buenos Aires government, which declared its independence from Spain in 1816, claimed sovereignty. They started up a settlement, but in 1832 two British warships arrived there, pushed out the remaining Argentines, and established a British colony which exists to this day.

The Argentines have been claiming the islands for donkey's years. But the Falklanders are British and proud of it. Two thousand may not be many people, but the very suggestion that the government may hand them over to the Argentines was enough recently to set the Tory knights from the shires baying and crying about a scandalous sellout of loyal subjects.

Britain, in this day and age, really doesn't want to have any quarrels in South America, Central America, or Spain; but the filial embrace is demanding that mother Britain protect her young with an instinctive parental solicitude.

The Star's London Bureau

Extract from

**The Nassau Daily Tribune**

P. O. BOX 207

NASSAU - BAHAMAS

27 JUN 1968

**Tories boil over  
Falklands talks**

LONDON (AP) — Secret talks between Argentina and Britain on the Falkland Islands are to resume despite the threat of a row in Parliament over continued negotiations, informed

sources said today.

A group of 50 Conservative lawmakers have signed a motion demanding the exclusion of all questions of the Falklands sovereignty from any talks with Argentina.

The Conservatives are worried by what they consider as the Labour government's silence about the future of the islands.

They say that the government has never specifically excluded the transfer of sovereignty from the talks, which have been going on at intervals since July 1966 in accordance with a United Nations resolution.

Argentine Ambassador to London Eduardo McLoughlin is due back shortly from consultations in Buenos Aires and is expected to meet Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

27 JUN 1968

**Administration  
of Falklands**

London, June 26.  
A British Minister refused to say last night whether Britain and Argentina were discussing Argentine participation in the administration of the Falkland Islands.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office dealing with South American affairs, was asked in a television programme if there might be "an intervening period when Argentina might have a Consul-General and take a greater part in the administration of the Islands." Argentina claims the Falkland Islands, a small British Colony off the east coast of South America.

The Daily Express commented in an editorial today Lord Chalfont had admitted in the television interview there was a possibility of an Argentine Consul - General sharing administration of the Islands.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from  
Toronto Globe, Canada

- 3 JUL 1968

**Queen advised  
against making  
Argentine visit**

LONDON (AP) — British ministers have decided against advising the Queen to visit Argentina and the Falkland Islands when she journeys to Brazil and Chile next fall.

A high official source, reporting this yesterday, said the Queen's advisers feel such a state appearance in Argentina and the disputed Falklands can be arranged at a later time when political and other circumstances are more favorable.

A Buckingham Palace announcement this week is expected to set forth details of the itinerary to be followed by the Queen and Prince Philip in their summer journey.

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Wolverhampton Express & Star

5 JUL 1968

# Now he farms 77,000 acres

By Allan Weir, our  
agricultural correspondent

A former pupil of Bromsgrove School was one of the most interested, and also one of the most concerned, overseas visitors to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, this week.

His name is Sydney Miller, and although he was educated in Worcestershire, he has lived for 63 years of his life in the Falkland Islands, where his ancestors settled 100 years ago.

Mr. Miller has, for the past 35 years, managed a sheep farm on the Falklands, a farm of 77,000 acres, which he describes as being "of medium size" for the country.

Next year he retires, and his third son, Simon, will take over the enterprise.

While Mr. Miller was looking round the trade stands considering what equipment he might purchase, his mind was also on the Falkland Island troubles with the Argentine, for he is, in addition to being a sheep farmer, an elected member of the Falkland Islands legislative council, a post he has held since 1956, and an executive council member since 1964.

As such, his was one of the four signatures on the document sent by the executive council to Britain's Press and to every member of Parliament, appealing for true information about the talks

being conducted between the Argentinian Government and Britain, concerning the future of the Falklands.

With Mr. Miller at the show was his wife, Betty, whose ancestor was a sergeant major in the Royal Marines garrison in the 1840s, and who decided to settle in the country.

In his release from the forces he had a pension of 2s. a week, and with this and his savings he bought a parcel of land. On this his eldest son founded a sheep farm, which is still in Mrs. Miller's family.

Mr. Miller's maternal grandfather was a Danish sailor who became a naturalised Falkland Islander 100 years ago.

Of the future of the Falkland Islands Mr. Miller told me: "As far as I am concerned the response from the British Press and the British public gives me great encouragement. Indeed, I have no qualms about our future lying where we in the Falklands want it—with Britain."

With his Arabian horse Orient Masque that he bred himself, Mr. J. H. Bryant, of Wightwick Stables, Compton, Wolverhampton, had a second place in the colt or gelding class, and with his yearling colt Love Dance he had a third place.

Orient Masque has been shown six times by Mr. Bryant and has brought home five rosettes.

R.S.



Extract from  
The Times, London

10 OCT 1968

## Falklands treasure hunt

ONE member of the British Antarctic Survey, which has just set out from Southampton on R.S.S. Shackleton, plans to stay on in the southern hemisphere after the surveying season is over—and hunt treasure. He is 31-year-old Frederick Hetherington, a Birmingham electronics engineer, and founder member of a newly-registered company, Falkland Marine Salvage.

He and his five collaborators in this enterprise, who are Falkland Islanders, believe that Spanish galleons may have foundered after seeking refuge among the islands on voyages round the Cape from Chile to Bermuda. Preliminary surveys lend fuel to their hopes: Hetherington says there are 285 known wrecks in the area, mainly on the south side of the Falklands.

He first met his partners in the firm during last year's survey, when they were doing freelance salvage work and he, as a practised skin-diver, was able to help when seaweed clogged ordinary diving equipment. Until they strike rich, the six—working from Port Stanley—expect to make a reasonable living by salvaging copper from more modern ships though, Hetherington believes, the profit margin is not large enough to attract established salvage organizations.

PHS

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

18 OCT 1968

LONDON: Negotiations with Argentina about the Falkland Islands were discussed at a 30-minute meeting at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Extract from  
Scottish Daily Express, Glasgow

19 OCT 1968

## Falklands pledge

UNITED NATIONS (New York), Friday.—Britain today reaffirmed its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. Sir Leslie Glass, deputy chief delegate of Britain, sent a letter to Secretary-General U Thant underlining the position.

Extract from  
The Times, London

17 OCT 1968

## UN told of Falklands claim

From Our United Nations Correspondent

New York, Oct. 16  
Argentina today insisted on its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, but promised to go on negotiating with Britain and to consider the islanders' interests.

"Our position is very clear", Dr. Costa Mendez, the Foreign Minister, told the United Nations General Assembly. "Its importance for my Government is paramount. It is nothing less than claiming the restitution to the national patrimony of a part of the territory of the republic torn away by force."

Nevertheless, he added, Argentina had agreed to negotiate recognition with Britain, and in so doing had remained "faithful to the tradition of the peaceful solution of controversy".

"The interests of the islands represent (for Argentina) a great concern", he said. "It would not be consistent with its basic laws nor with its international tradition were it not to reaffirm its irreversible decision to take these interests into account with the utmost fairness and justice."

Dr. Costa Mendez discussed the Falkland Islands controversy with the Foreign Secretary during Mr. Stewart's visit to the United Nations. Both sides have been scrupulous in avoiding any leaks about what they are saying to each other. The British position is that the islanders should not be consigned to Argentine rule against their will.

Extract from  
Exeter Express & Echo, Devon

15 OCT 1968

## ANOTHER TALK ABOUT FALKLANDS

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, and the Argentine Foreign Minister, Nicanor Costa Mendez, have held their second private talk on the future of the Falkland Islands.

The Ministers, who are in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly, spent 90 minutes examining the progress of the discussions on Argentina's claim to the British colony. Bilateral talks will be continued soon in London.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

18 OCT 1968

## Falklands talks will go on

Talks between Britain and the Argentine on the future of the Falklands are to go ahead despite Argentina's repetition of the United Nations of her claim to sovereignty over the islands, it was confirmed yesterday.

Extract from  
Dundee Evening Telegraph

18 OCT 1968

## FALKLANDS: TORIES FEAR SELL-OUT

By Our Lobby Correspondent.  
Scottish Conservative MPs, increasingly fearful of a Government sell-out of the people of the Falkland Islands, are calling for the quick end of talks with Argentine.

The merger of the Commonwealth Affairs Ministry into the Foreign Office, coinciding with a step-up of pressure by Argentina at the United Nations for recognition of her sovereignty over the Islands, has sharpened the Opposition's anxiety.

Backed by most of his Scottish colleagues, Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, Edinburgh South, today tabled a strongly worded Parliamentary motion demanding the Government should accede to the islanders' wishes to remain under the British Crown.

Discussions with the Argentine Government should be terminated as early as possible, say the MPs, to ensure that British sovereignty over the Islands remains undiminished and that the close ties between the people and the United Kingdom remains intact.

Extract from  
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

17 OCT 1968

A demand that the Government should break off the "long-drawn-out negotiations and discussions" with the Argentine over the Falkland Islands was made by a group of Scottish Conservative M.P.s last night.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from

**Belfast Telegraph**

Head Office:

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London Office: Thomson House  
200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1

Date

11 OCT 1968

**FALKLAND TALKS**

Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, last night had a 20-minute talk with Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina. UN diplomatic sources said the two Ministers agreed to meet again before Mr. Stewart's departure for Washington to-day.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

DERBY EVENING  
**TELEGRAPH**

Date 11 OCT 1968

**STEWART IN TALKS  
ON FALKLAND**

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, last night had a 20-minute talk at the United Nations with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Nicanor Costa Mendez, on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina.

**EL TRONO DE INGLATERRA**

3003

**EN PELIGRO?**

Se dice que Isabel II, abdicará en su hijo Carlos

A los ingleses no les parece mal

Es curioso lo que pasa en Inglaterra. Se vive en un ambiente de ansiedad, de duda, de inseguridad... Los ingleses advierten que su reina es una

mujer como las demás, ni imfalible ni invulnerable.

Se habla en el metro, en las calles y en todas partes de un sólo tema: abdicación.

Desde 1953 resuena ya en los oídos británicos esta palabra. Piensa el pueblo inglés, que Isabel II dejará en breve la corona a Carlos. Y no les parece mal. Las cosas han variado mucho, en poco tiempo.

Saben que Isabel sufre choques terribles en su espíritu. Vive angustiada. Durante su último corto discurso televisado (10 minutos) notaron con terror la palidez del rostro de la hija de Jorge VI.

Tan perfecta, irreproachable y digna como siempre, sin embargo sus gestos eran forzados. Por primera vez, los subditos de Isabel, admiten que la realeza es una tarea sobre humana para ella.

No se extrañan que el próximo viaje de Isabel a América se haya acordado y que ya no viaje a Argentina y a las islas Falkland (Malvinas), como se pensaba. Isabel (42 años) según la prensa británica debe ceder el trono a su hijo.

Se sabe que el porcentaje de oyentes que escuchan los discursos de Isabel en Navidad son el 50% de los que años atrás los oían. Se quejan de lo que la reina y los adversarios del trono afirman que sería mejor emplear ese dinero en construir autopistas. Ha

(Continúa en pág. anterior)

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

CUTTING BUREAU

**Información**

ALICANTE

3 OCT 1968

Fecha

International Press-cutting

1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from

**El trono de Inglaterra, en peligro?**

(Viene de la última Pág.)

perdido el prestigio que tenía cuando era joven. Y lo mismo le ocurre a su esposo Felipe. Ambos lo saben. Saben que están pasados de moda y que con la edad, la popularidad decrece mucho.

Isabel II no osa tomar decisiones. Teme equivocarse. Posee una fortuna inmensa, pero le da miedo echar sobre las débiles espaldas de Carlos, el peso del imperio. Pero el heredero va a cumplir 20 años.

Dieciséis tenía don Alfonso XIII cuando su primer consejo de ministros, estos tuvieron que acatar órdenes firmes y terminantes del monarca español.

Isabel II quisiera que su hijo se casara antes de ser rey. Pero los problemas para esa gran mujer, que desea sí, abandonar el trono, pero no sabe cómo hacerlo y tanto miedo tiene a equivocarse y echarlo todo a rodar.

**The Yorkshire Post**

LEEDS

Date 17 OCT 1968

**Falkland ours, says Argentine**

UNITED NATIONS, Wednesday. — The Argentine today reaffirmed its claim to the British administered Falkland Islands and said it could accept no solution to the dispute other than restitution of sovereignty over the territory.

"The Argentine demands recognition of its unquestionable sovereignty over the Falklands," Mr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, Foreign Minister, told the UN General Assembly.—Reuter.

**The Press and Journal**

ABERDEEN

Date 11 OCT 1968  
(See information overleaf.)

**Falklands talks in New York**

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, and the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, yesterday conferred in New York for an hour about the Falkland Islands.

No decisions on the future of the British colony were taken. The Ministers agreed that negotiations should continue in London in accordance with the appropriate UN resolution.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Extract from

The  
Birmingham  
Post

Date - 9 OCT 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

Extract from  
Nuneaton Evening Tribune

11 OCT 1968

**Stewart has talks on Falklands**  
Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had a 20-minute talk at the United Nations' with Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina. Diplomatic sources said the two ministers agreed to meet again before Mr. Stewart's departure for Washington today.

**New Antarctic adventure**

Fred Hetherington, aged 32, a former Navy diver-sailor, sailed out of Southampton last night for the Antarctic to probe the seabed for wrecks.  
Mr. Hetherington, who sailed aboard the Royal research ship, Shackleton, will first explore the lonely wastes of the Antarctic before coming back to the Falkland Islands on a private mission to explore the seabed for wrecks.  
Before sailing last night Mr. Hetherington, an electrical mechanic, said: "I am in charge of the satellite navigation equipment installed in the Shackleton, the first British vessel to use this method. It has been provided to the survey by the Natural Environment Research Council to aid

Birmingham Post  
Southampton Correspondent

the geophysical investigation of the Scotia Ridge.  
"The cloud cover in the Scotia sea is so persistent that normal sun observations are not often obtainable. The satellite system which incorporates a computer can read out the ship's position to an accuracy of about 100 yards.  
About the Falkland Islands, he said: "I am going there to join a salvage syndicate which I have formed with five others to salvage the wrecks of about 280 ships which found their graves off the East and South Islands, over the centuries.  
"We are certain they are there because we have seen the manifests of vessels which sank around the 1800's.

"The only form of knowing that ships have gone down there is by the survivors coming off them and surviving on the Falklands while people have been living there.

"These ships carried many cargoes of copper, mostly between Chile and the United Kingdom. There are exceptions, but we are going for the copper first because we need the money to get started."

He added: "Maritime lawyers will have to decide whether people who owned these wrecks have or have not got a claim. I don't think this will make me a rich man, but it will mean I can live very comfortably in the Falklands."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON S.W.1

Extract from

Birmingham  
Evening Mail

Date 12 OCT 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

The Falkland Islands, off the southern tip of South Africa, a British colony claimed by Argentina, have issued a new permanent set of 14 stamps

illustrating Flora of the two large and 200 smaller islands in the group.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS  
19 OCT 1968

Date

**Falkland pledge**

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Friday.—Britain today reaffirmed its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, rejecting the Argentine Government's claim to the territory.—Reuter.

Extract from  
"Hansard" House of Commons  
Reports, London

15 OCT 1968

3005 FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr. Wall asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a further statement on the future of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Mulley: Her Majesty's Government have continued their talks with Argentine representatives in accordance with the policy which my right hon. Friend explained to the House on the 27th of March and the 1st of April.

Following the publication in the British Press of inaccurate reports about Her Majesty's Government's policy in these talks a Foreign Office statement in the following terms was issued while the House was in Recess: "It is not the policy of Her Majesty's Government to transfer sovereignty over these Islands against the wishes of the Islanders."— [Vol. 761, c. 1458-67; Vol. 762, c. 3-5.]

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

## THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

Date 17 OCT 1968

(See information overleaf)

### 'Falklands ours'

Argentina yesterday reaffirmed its claim to the British-administered Falkland Islands at the United Nations and said it could accept no solution to the dispute other than restitution of sovereignty over the territory.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

17 OCT 1968

3007 Falklands claim

NEW YORK: Argentina reaffirmed its claim in the UN to the British-administered Falkland Islands and said it could accept no solution to the dispute other than restitution of sovereignty over the territory.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

17 OCT 1968

# FALKLANDS ARE OURS ARGENTINE TELLS UNO

From RICHARD KILIAN: New York, Wednesday

THE Argentine and Spain attacked Britain today in UNO'S General Assembly over Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, British Honduras and parts of what once was British Guiana.

The main attack was made by the Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez who has had two meetings with British Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart on the Falklands issue in the past week.

"Argentina demands recognition of its unquestionable sovereignty over the Falklands," he said. "In the course of negotiations with Britain we will not accept any solution that may depart from the basic principles set by the United Nations."

### 'TORN AWAY'

He said that the Falklands "had been torn away by force" by Britain.

Spain's Foreign Minister Fernando Maria Castiella proclaimed "solidarity" with the South American nation over the Falklands, with Guatemala over her claims to British Honduras, and with Venezuela over her desire to possess parts of what was British Guiana and is now the independent State of Guyana.

Castiella referred to Gibraltarans as "settlers . . . mere civilian servants of the British in a base where they are just occupiers."

"Spain does not intend to absorb that population or to deprive it of its British nationality. As long as Spain's territorial integrity was restored to Gibraltar she was ready to respect the form and style of life of the Gibraltarians," he said.

## 'No sell-out' demand by Tories

Express Political  
Correspondent

TORY M.P.s called for a no-sell-out on the Falkland Islands last night as fears grew that the new Foreign and Commonwealth Office merger would remove a safeguard for such territories.

Many M.P.s fear that Foreign Office interests will now be the prime factor dictating the fate of territories such as the Falklands and Gibraltar.

Deputy Tory leader Mr. Reginald Maudling raised the crucial issue of Whitehall safeguards for such territories when he quizzed Foreign Secretary Mr. Stewart in the Commons yesterday about the new mergers.

He pressed Mr. Stewart for an assurance that such territories would not be swamped "in the generalities of Foreign affairs."

And he asked if there were any grounds for supposing that such territories would lack the attention of the Commons

Mr. Stewart argued that it would be easier to deal with such problems in a single department.

And he insisted that there were no grounds for supposing that they would lack attention.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

16 OCT 1968

**LETTERS of protest**

**Dowdy,  
I call  
these  
girls of  
ours in  
Mexico**



The British girls' outfit  
Designer: Hardy Amies

WHO ON EARTH designed the outfits our girls are wearing in Mexico?

I am not a dress expert, but watching the opening parade on TV I burned with shame when our lassies, dressed like a female working party from an open-air prison, passed the reviewing stand.

They must have developed inferiority complexes after seeing so many smart girls, appropriately dressed, in front and behind them.

An expression common in the early part of this century crossed my mind — "dowdy frumps."

I hope that if any of them read this they will accept my apology that this country has placed them in this embarrassing position.

V. P. CLARK,  
Furness Drive, Shipton Road, York.

I WOULD like to thank Aubrey Matthews from the bottom of my heart for his Photonews

feature about the Falkland Islands, my home.

How can Mr. Wilson and the Government give us away or trade us? It is not Christian. Thank you, Daily Express, for helping us. I too will fight for the holding of our Conony.

(Mrs.) ANN BRUCE LINDENBERG,  
Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.

GOING through my personal mail, and also the mail we receive at business. I find that only one or two letters per day out of a very large postbag come by 5d. post.

FRANK GLAZER,  
Muswell Avenue, Muswell Hill, London. N.

I BELIEVE the P.M.G. recently claimed that we were one of the few countries which showed a profit on its postal services. We must also be one of the few countries where a letter can take four days to travel less than a mile, as in a letter I have just received.

(Mrs.) A. J. CAMPBELL,  
Chevealey Gardens, Burnham, Bucks.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

11 OCT 1968

**No decision on  
Falklands**

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, and Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez yesterday conferred at the United Nations about the Falkland Islands. No decisions on the future of the colony were taken.

Extract from the

**EVENING CHRONICLE**

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Date 15 OCT 1968

(See information overleaf)

**IN MY  
VIEW...**

IF there is one programme on television guaranteed to probe the story behind the news, it is "World in Action" (TTT).

Last night, only hours before the vital return match between Manchester United and the Argentinian team of Estudiantes, it took a look at the "blood bath" of the first leg.

Was the clash as dirty as most people in Britain think? "World in Action" went to Buenos Aires to find out and came up with a fine study of the fans' attitude to football.

I particularly liked the impromptu filming of the views of an Argentinian woman who wandered in front of the camera to defend her team.

It turned out that in international football there are many more things to consider than simply playing the game and winning.

"I was ashamed of my British ancestry," said a South American sports writer. He was hurt at the attitude the British Press had taken.

**Haunted**

And somewhere along the line, the British stand over the Falkland Islands was dragged into the issue, so it seems we are not the most popular nation in Argentina at the moment.

The ghost of a young man who sought adventure in the jungles of South America, haunted all the characters in last night's "Playhouse" production, "The Explorer" (TTT).

After a long absence from the small screen, Honor Blackman made a welcome return to play the woman who loved the explorer, but married his brother.

Michael Bryant's interpretation of the Scandinavian anthropologist just returned from the jungle was excellent and I think the play gained much from it. — Barbara Argument.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Southern Evening Echo, Southampton

11 OCT 1968

**FALKLAND TALKS**

303 UNITED NATIONS, Friday.

Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, last night had a 20-minute talk with Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina.—AP.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

15 OCT 1956

## COMMONWEALTH NOTEBOOK

# Awkward Relics of Empire

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER and NORMAN KIRKHAM

THE amalgamation of the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth Office takes place this week. One is bound to ask whether this is a mere administrative convenience, or whether one can deduce something more significant from it. The whole subject is wide open to speculation as far as the future of the Commonwealth is concerned.

There is a thread of logic running through the growth and development of the Empire, its later transformation to the "British Commonwealth" and, today, simply "the Commonwealth" which, in some minds, portends its final dissolution.

Its perpetuation as a world organisation can be vociferously supported. On the other hand, there are those who see it for its nuisance value alone and believe it should be dissolved.

There can be no gainsaying that the two offices have had divergent points of view. This was only too apparent when Lord Shepherd, Commonwealth Minister of State, was fighting for the future of Gibraltar under the terms and conditions of "anti-colonialism" laid down by the United Nations Committee of 24 (the most impartial body ever constituted in the whole history of international relations), and the Foreign Office, which was tugging in the opposite direction, to keep on the best terms possible with Spain. It is a pleasant thought that there might now be a co-ordination to policy on such conflicting attitudes.

It may take a long time before that large section of government finally loses its paternalistic attitude and is able to assume the air of detachment so frequently associated with the Foreign Office.

In this process of tidying up

## No Money

WHEN it comes to sheer dilatoriness, perhaps induced by the Mediterranean climate, it seems surprising that as late as October no contact whatever has been made between the Government of Malta and the British Government or with Bailey (Malta) Ltd., lessees of the famous dockyard, over the question of compensation for the nationalisation of the yard. Several months ago, when the Malta Government took over the yard from Baileys on the best possible terms that could be devised, the leaseholders were promised that a tribunal would be established to settle the question of compensation. No tribunal has yet been nominated.

It is surprising (or is it?) that promises made in the passion of the moment have to suffer the refrigeration of Whitehall bureaucracy.

## Sanctions that Failed

HEAVEN knows, the Rock of Gibraltar is famous for many events, but nostalgia might be permitted to evoke the shades of one of the most famous of newspaper correspondents, Sir Percival Phillips, special correspondent of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

If alive today he would have told the sad story of the failure of sanctions to stop the war between Italy and Abyssinia in 1936. It was Sir Percival who aroused the attention of the world when he gave the first detailed account of the agreement between the Emperor of Ethiopia and Mr. F. W. Rickett which resulted in the vast American oil concession on Ethiopian territory.

Why mention this? Because Sir Percival stayed at the Rock Hotel, Gibraltar, during the Spanish Civil War, whence he made his forays into Spain. He might have smiled sardonically at Mr. Wilson's attempts to bring Mr. Smith to his knees by sanctions.

the world and standardising political commitments, it is not surprising that the remnants of an old empire should cause so much distress. There appears to be a degree of indifference on the part of the British Government to this residuum. It may be, of course, that electoral and international problems are so crowding in upon Whitehall that these small colonial communities become overlooked.

While Mr. Wilson and Mr. Smith have been suffering the gentle swell of the Mediterranean aboard the Fearless safely secured in Gibraltar, the Gibraltarians themselves, no doubt giving lavish hospitality to their visitors, are wondering when (or whether) those heartfelt promises made to the people of the Rock by the British Government will begin to materialise. Their new constitution is still in the hands of Whitehall's constitutional lawyers, while their promised subvention to enable the Rock to expand its myriad attractions for the benefit of world tourists is being fumbled in the Treasury purse.

More than one onlooker in Gibraltar at the Fearless "grab-and-grapple" must have wondered at a world in which one colony is fighting to get shut of Whitehall while another, the host colony, is doing its damndest to maintain the connection.

Just looking at random at the imperial residuum one notices that the people of St. Helena, numbering around 4,600, the majority Anglican communicants and so attached to Britain as to be almost an embarrassment to Canterbury itself, are about to be taken over by a South African commercial undertaking. No wonder that

some on this tiny island are fearing that South Africa's commercial expansion will engulf the island and that it will become part of South Africa's economy.

Does it matter to Whitehall? The answer is that the rag-tag-and-bobtail must be hived off on the best commercial terms. It might bring comfort to St. Helena that, apparently unknown to the Commonwealth Office, its commerce will still be retained in British hands.

And the Falkland Islands? The machine grinds on

Mr. Mancham, leader of the majority party in the Seychelles, must have his feelings a little abraded when he comes to London to find himself acceptable only to the lower echelons of the Commonwealth hierarchy. In Paris, he is the honoured guest of President de Gaulle at a reception. Guess why? Would not President de Gaulle take advantage of the presence in his capital of the leader of a colony settled by French slaves in 1768 and declared free men less than half a century later.

## Breakaway Island

SIX thousand islanders of Anguilla, in the Caribbean, are waiting anxiously for the outcome of current talks in London on future administration of the territory.

Time is fast running out on efforts to find a solution to the simmering dispute which has split the tri-island federation of St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla. Anguilla broke away and declared itself independent last year, complaining of unfair treatment by the central Government in St. Kitts. Mr. A. C. Lee, an official from the Commonwealth Office, who took over administration of Anguilla under an interim settlement, leaves his post at the end of the year.

Mr. Robert Bradshaw, Chief Minister of the islands, who is given to wearing a brigadier's uniform and driving a vintage yellow Rolls-Royce, has come to London with his leading opponent, Mr. Ronald Webster, spokesman for the Anguillians. They are meeting Mr. Whitlock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Affairs, and officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Bradshaw's critics have described St. Kitts as the "powder keg" of the Caribbean, but he has refuted repeatedly charges that he is running a strong-arm Government.

Since Mr. Lee took over in Anguilla, the situation has become noticeably less strained, and one possibility is that he may be asked to stay on. The most likely alternative is that Anguilla will be placed once again under the wing of St. Kitts.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
"Hansard" House of Commons  
Reports, London

22 OCT 1968

3003 Falkland Islands

3. Mr. Boyd-Carpenter asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is now taking to reassure Her Majesty's loyal subjects in the Falkland Islands of the continuing determination of Her Majesty's Government to protect their right to continue to enjoy the protection of the British Crown.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Frederick Mulley): As my right hon. Friend explained to the House on 26th March and on 1st April, and as I said in reply to the hon. Gentleman the Member for Haltemprice (Mr. Wall) on 15th October, there will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the people of the Islands.—[Vol. 761, c. 1458-67; Vol. 762, c. 4; Vol. 770, c. 103.]

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: While welcoming what the right hon. Gentleman has just said, may I ask whether he is not aware that there is anxiety in the Islands in view of the series of transactions with the Argentine? Can he not contemplate an imaginative gesture of arranging either a Royal or a Parliamentary visit or by some method trying to reassure the islanders of our continued interest in our most loyal fellow citizens?

Mr. Mulley: As my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs said in July, we are considering the possibility of a Ministerial visit. I think, however, that the anxiety which, I acknowledge, exists in the Islands comes from misleading Press comment in this country than from anything that

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Gloucester Citizen

OCT 1968

3003  
THE question of the future of the Falklands—the group of 200 islands about 400 miles off the southern coast of Argentina—has hit the headlines gain.

Successive British governments have always said they would never give them to Argentina.

arises from the activities of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Braine: Will the right hon. Gentleman tell the House why, if the Government do not contemplate any transfer of sovereignty, the subject of sovereignty still continues to be the subject of discussion and negotiation with the Argentine?

Mr. Mulley: It is not that we have never contemplated the transfer of sovereignty but such a transfer would only be made if it conformed with the wishes of the islanders. As the hon. Gentleman knows, we have the problem of the United Nations resolution which we have to try to follow, and we also have the problem of improving relations between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Dundee Evening Telegraph

11 OCT 1968

Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, had a 20-minute talk with Argentine Foreign Minister, Mendez, in New York last night on the Falkland Islands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

17 OCT 1968

## MPs SAY 'HANDS OFF FALKLANDS'

By Our Political Correspondent  
Scottish Conservative MPs tabled last night a motion urging the Government to end talks with the Argentine and ensure that British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands remains "undiminished."

Leading sponsors of the motion include Mr. George Younger, vice-chairman of the party in Scotland. Mr. Michael Clark Hutchinson, vice-chairman of the Scottish Unionist Members' committee, and Mr. Jock Bruce-Gardyne, the committee's secretary.

# Is there anything left for Britain to give away?

While the Seychelles, captured by Britain in 1794, is likely to have its wish granted, British Honduras is not

There is a dispute over British Honduras, which is bordered by Guatemala, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Guatemala's claim to the territory is long standing.

Our trade with British Honduras is worth nearly £3,000,000 a year, and our aid amounts to £707,000.

And reports that the Government has agreed "in principle" that the colony must eventually pass under the sovereignty of Argentina were quickly denied by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office added that "It remained its policy that sovereignty would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders."

Observers of the disappearing red flecks on

Ocean and British Honduras on the other side of the world, want closer links with Britain.

Date 26 OCT 1968  
(SEE INFORMATION)



# Now world clouds are covering C. P. Snow's 'hope for hope'

KEITH BRACE, Birmingham Post Literary Editor, finds a distinguished British novelist in pessimistic mood.

LORD SNOW is not so cheerful about the immediate future as he was in 1962, when he said: "Our generation has known as much vice as any in human history. Now I believe the world is anxious to know just a little about virtue. I am more hopeful than I have been for 20 years."

The state of Lord Snow's optimism will mean nothing to those, Dr. F. R. Leavis notably among them, who reject the claims made for Snow as a major novelist and significant bridge-builder between the artistic and scientific worlds.

But to those of us who, whether we think him a major figure or not, respect his sane, concerned, pragmatic search for lasting values in a dangerously over-bureaucratized and increasingly non-humane world, his current gloom is disturbing.

It comes through powerfully in his new novel, *The Sleep of Reason*, to be published by Macmillan on October 31. This is the tenth and darkest (as he

ruefully agrees) in his eleven-volume sequence of novels, collectively called "Strangers and Brothers," about one man's experience of the "corridors of power" in the last four decades.

The other day, in the sunlit office he keeps in English Electric House high over Aldwych (he was a director until he joined the Government in 1964), he told me something of the background to the novel, in which his narrator Sir Lewis Eliot is involved in a murder trial, closely resembling the Moors murder trial, in his native Midland town.

"There was a brief period between 1962 and 1966 when you could realistically have entertained a hope for hope," he said. "I find it much more difficult now. Plenty of things are badly wrong, both in the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. and general prospects are clearly not very encouraging."

The deaths of the two Kennedys and Martin Luther King, the escalation of the Vietnam war, Negro and student rioting, the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia: these are some of the external events

which have clouded his optimism.

The issues are obviously not so clear-cut as in 1959 when he gave his famous Two Cultures lecture, suggesting that the world would be better off if scientists and non-scientists understood each other better, and if we trained more scientists to keep up with the forward march of science.

But Snow's real concern is with personal morality in a world of power "structures" which, whatever the young Maoists hope as they march against them tomorrow, Snow thinks we shall never do without: "Someone has to distribute bread and put on the lights, and if you walk around Moscow you see just as many great administrative structures as here."

He rejects the idea of a return to authoritarian government—"We must keep a vestigial generosity in our relationship with society"—though he recognises that there is a general trend back to the Right, as he noted among the academics in his 1960 novel, *The Affair*.

He is wary about the question of moral censor-

ship of books and other media, a subject canvassed by his wife, Pamela Hansford Johnson, in her book on the moors murders, *On Iniquity*. And an answer in Christian terms would hardly be acceptable to this "pious ganostic" as he calls himself.

He sees no answer to the moral "state of siege" in our society today (the title of the Fulton lectures he is to give in America next month) except a recourse to a personal morality.

*The Sleep of Reason* is about this state of moral siege, an edgy critique of the optimistic liberalism that dominated the thinking members of Snow's generation in his native Leicester in the 1920s and early 1930s.

From being a mere discussion-point among the Kardomah-intellectuals of his youth, many of these ideas have become doctrine and practice in the permissive Sixties and Snow/Eliot wonders if things have not gone too far.

Two young women, lesbian lovers, one of them a sister of a student known to Eliot, are accused of the sadistic

torture and murder of a small boy as part of an experiment in "making him behave."

The had formed part of a circle of free-thinking young people round George Passant, a local solicitor's clerk, a circle to which Eliot had belonged as a young man in the 1930s, imbibing Passant's passionate views about "ultimate freedom," "making the best of your lives" and doing what's natural.

Now, 30 years later, Eliot sees what this sort of thinking may come to. He is reluctant to disown his own past, but unable to reject completely the cause-and-effect logic of the murder. It is all painfully close to the Moors murder, as Snow admits, but with subtle differences that give the fictional murder a wider range of reference than the real one.

Snow himself, a cautious, modified liberal, says: "I never believed, like Passant, that if all the instinctive forces are let loose everything will go right."

He used to say — and still does — that it is important to "civilise the

managers," the men in power. His new novel suggests that the civilising process will have to start at home and go much deeper. It is an unfashionably balanced, middle-brow, middle-class morality, but with a bit of luck it should come into fashion again before the end of the century.

Lord Snow remains the sort of man to hold that sort of view, an East Midlander in speech and manner, matter-of-fact, courteous, given to Falstaffian bursts of laughter, but melancholy withal, with the slow, elegaic poetry of the East Midlands.

He is still in many ways the young man, who, like his young Lewis Eliot and many other provincial young men, walked the streets of his native town and later of London, wanting to be on the other side of the lighted blinds in the houses of the important — and being vaguely disappointed when he got there.

Because part of him is still looking in from outside he has kept awake during the sleep of reason that has overtaken some of his contemporaries.

Extract from  
Express, London

25 OCT 1968

# Lord Linley

(six, and down with chicken-pox)

## puts the state visit in danger

AS if the Queen's State Visit to South America next month is not troubled enough with the Argentine and Falkland Islands having been cut from her proposed itinerary, now the chilling prospect of total cancellation threatens at the 11th hour.

This time the reasons are not political. They derive from the nursery at Kensington Palace where Princess Margaret's son Viscount Linley, 6, has just gone down with chicken pox.

And fears for the 18-day South American visit stem from the Queen's recent contact with her favourite nephew.

At 42 she has never had chicken pox, an ailment which attacks adults much more strongly than children.

Today week the Queen is due to fly in a VC10 of Air Support Command to Recife, Brazil, where she will meet Prince Philip—who is moving on from the Mexico Olympics—and the royal yacht Britannia, which will steam to Rio de Janeiro.

Their official six-day visit to Brazil will be followed by seven days in Chile.

If the Queen actually catches Lord Linley's chicken pox it will take anything from 11 to 21 days after contact to show.

Last night, however, she was at the Royal Opera House gala performance with Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon. The latter has already suffered from the illness.

## Heady climate

LORD DELAMERE'S elder daughter, 43-year-old Mrs. Peter Barrington, is off to join her father for a prolonged winter holiday in Kenya where he is one of the richest land-owners.

Lord Delamere is a close friend of President Jomo Kenyatta. But she had misgivings about going—the climate is not kind.

"It is a heavenly place but it plays havoc with a woman's

hair. It is so dry there," she says.

This week Mrs. Barrington, who was formerly married to Sir Evelyn Broughton, has taken evasive action. She has enrolled at a new Knightsbridge clinic run by Hugo Sutherland, creator of new hair treatments.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Hereford Evening News

11 OCT 1968

## Stewart has Falkland talks

United Nations, Friday.—Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, last night had a 20-minute talk with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina.

Diplomatic sources said the two Ministers agreed to meet again before Mr. Stewart's departure for Washington today.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
"Hansard" House of Commons  
Reports, London

23 OCT 1968

## Falkland Islands

Mr. Clark Hutchison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will give details of the reply the British representative made to the speech of the Argentine Foreign Minister in the United Nations General Assembly on 16th October regarding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Whitlock: Yes. On 16th October the Deputy Permanent United Kingdom Representative at the United Nations sent a letter to the Secretary-General formally reserving the British position. This letter has been distributed to all delegations as a General Assembly document; its text is as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to the statement of His Excellency, the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, at the 1627th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, on 16th October, 1968, in which reference was made to the Falkland Islands.

As the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic stated, the Argentine and United Kingdom Governments are at present engaged in talks on this subject. These talks are being held in accordance with Resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly and the two Governments hope to report further on them in the course of the present twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

I am, however, obliged to state that the United Kingdom Government does not accept the statement of the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine in so far as it disputes the sovereignty of the United Kingdom Government over the Falkland Islands. The United Kingdom Government has no doubt as to its sovereignty over the territory of the Falkland Islands, and I wish formally to reserve the rights of the United Kingdom Government on this question.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a General Assembly document."

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1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Glasgow Evening Times

11 OCT 1968

## Stewart has Falkland talks

Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, has had a 20-minute talk in New York with Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez on the Falkland Islands, the British possession in the South Atlantic claimed by Argentina.

Diplomatic sources said the two Ministers agreed to meet again before Mr Stewart's departure for Washington.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

17 OCT 1968

# Stewart and Crossman head merged departments

BY OUR POLITICAL REPORTER

For the first time in modern history one Secretary of State, Mr Michael Stewart, today becomes responsible for Britain's relations with all other countries with the amalgamation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices.

Mr George Thomson ceases to be Commonwealth Secretary but will continue to serve for the time being in the new department and the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio.

From November 1, the Ministries of Health and Social Security will also be combined under Mr Richard Crossman, who will have the title of Secretary of State for the Social Services. Meanwhile Mrs Judith Hart and Mr Kenneth Robinson, the present Ministers, will continue in their posts.

Mr Thomson's appointment is believed to be temporary to allow him to deal with any developments which may arise over the recent discussions with Mr Ian Smith aboard H.M.S. Fearless at Gibraltar.

His future position in the Government, with that of Mrs Hart and Mr Robinson, will be decided in the Ministerial reshuffle expected soon.

The amalgamations announced in the Commons yesterday by the Prime Minister, are part of a process of rationalisation of Government departments. An order was laid before Parliament yesterday transferring responsibility for the Civil Service from the Treasury to a new Civil Service Department under the Prime Minister.

### EMPHASIS ON TRADE

This new arrangement, in line with a recommendation in the Fulton report on the Civil Service, will come into effect on November 1. As already announced, Lord Shackleton, Paymaster-General, will be responsible for the day-to-day work of the department.

Within the new Foreign and Commonwealth Office, there will be considerable emphasis on the development of trade abroad. As

trade promotion is mainly the task of the Diplomatic Service, it has been decided to establish an Export Promotion Department to assist in liaison between commercial officers overseas and the Board of Trade.

They will also be responsible for training commercial officers and improving still further the services available from diplomatic missions overseas to British business visitors and residents engaged in the export drive.

The economic side of the office has been reinforced by the establishment of an economists' department staffed by professional economists.

As a result of the merger, the number of permanent and deputy under-secretaries has been reduced by 25 per cent, while there has also been a reduction in the number of assistant under-secretaries. More than 100 posts have been cut in the first phase of the merger, in addition to 398 posts since the establishment of

the unified Diplomatic Service in January 1965.

All responsibility for the internal administration of the dependent territories and their relations with Britain will rest in one department, thus ensuring the maintenance of "a corpus" of specialised knowledge of the territories.

The special machinery set up to deal with the merger will continue in operation in order to deal with any alterations that may be necessary.

### FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative M.P. for Edinburgh South, and 12 other Scots Tory M.P.s yesterday tabled a Commons motion urging the Government to terminate talks with the Argentine; to ensure that British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands continues undiminished and that the close ties between the islands and the United Kingdom remain intact.

Extract from  
Cork Weekly Examiner, Eire

Extract from

Extract from  
Daily Sketch, London

17 OCT 1968

## The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

17 OCT 1968

### Falklands Ours, Says Argentina

At the United Nations yesterday Argentina reaffirmed its claim to the British-administered Falkland Islands, and said it could accept no solution to the dispute other than restitution of sovereignty over the territory.

"Argentina demands recognition of its unquestionable sovereignty over the Islas Malvinas (Falklands)," Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez told the General Assembly.

Sr. Costa Mendez said his Government was negotiating with Britain in accordance with the U.N. resolution calling for respect for national unity and territorial integrity as a basic principle in the decolonisation process.

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES

But he stressed that "in the course of negotiations, we will not accept any solution that may depart from the basic principles set by the United Nations, not only with reference to the protection of the interests of the population, but also as to the integrity of the national territory."

Argentina's position on the question was clear, he said. "It is nothing less than claiming restitution to the national patrimony of a part of the territory of the Republic torn away by force."

Date 17 OCT 1968

(See information overleaf)

### U.N. AIRING FOR CLAIMS ON BRITAIN

NEW YORK, Wednesday.

Argentina to-day reaffirmed its claim to the British-administered Falkland Islands and said it could accept no solution to the dispute other than restitution of sovereignty over the territory.

"Argentina demands recognition of its unquestionable sovereignty over the Islas Malvinas (Falklands)," the Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, told the U.N. General Assembly.

Senor Costa Mendez said his Government was negotiating with Britain in accordance with a U.N. resolution calling for respect for national unity and territorial integrity as a basic principle in the decolonisation process.

The Spanish Foreign Minister, Senor Fernando Maria Castiella, in a speech at the U.N., took pride in the decolonisation of Spanish Equatorial Guinea and complained that Gibraltar "is the only colony in Europe."

He told the General Assembly that "Spain is the only country in the world which while decolonising is suffering itself from colonisation."—Reuter.

### Falklands are ours says

### Argentina

ARGENTINA yesterday repeated that the British-administered Falkland Islands belonged to her.

Foreign Minister Mendez told the UN General Assembly in New York that the only solution his country would accept was "restitution of sovereignty."

He said his Government was negotiating with Britain in accordance with the UN resolution calling for "respect for national unity and territorial integrity" as a basic principle in the decolonisation process.

Extract from  
South Wales Evening Post, Swansea

28 OCT 1968

Falklands picture revives a Swansea memory . . .

SEEING a photograph of a large crowd of people in the Falkland Isles, the British colony in the South Atlantic, took my mind back to a day in Swansea 45 years ago. The photograph showed a crowd vehemently protesting against the threat of the colony being sold out to the Argentine. Placards declared, "Keep the Falklands British" and Union Jacks were very evident.

On July 23, 1923, the war memorial on Swansea's Promenade was unveiled by Admiral Sir F. C. Doveton

## The day of the two admirals

by H. DORIS WILLIAMS

Sturdee, hero of the Battle of the Falkland Isles. At the time I was teaching in the little school at Blackpill, closely connected with Clyne Castle, home of Admiral Heneage-Vivian. The staff of our school were asked to take the children up to the castle, and on the morning of the unveiling, having walked the children up the long drive, we lined them up in front of the castle.

Sturdee, a man of the sea, to honour the town by unveiling the memorial to the dead of the 1914-1918 war. One speaker called it "as much a shrine as the wayside cross or the great Cenotaph at Whitehall.

### Reflected glory

THE two admirals, the one so tall and commanding and the hero so diminutive beside him, dressed in full naval uniform, came out to "inspect" our little troop.

They spoke to us, then drove off to the unveiling ceremony. I have two snapshots which I took on this heart-warming little occasion.

Among my class were two children, twin brother and sister. I mention them because they were very conscious of hero-worship, as they had an uncle for a hero—Petty Officer Evans, who died with Captain Scott in the Antarctic. They were Edgar and Sarah Evans.

I remember how, whenever I told the Captain Scott story in my history lesson, all the children gazed at Edgar and Sarah with great admiration. They had a reflected glory.

### The unveiling

THE foundation-stone of the memorial had been laid, a year earlier by Earl Haig, leader of his men in battle in France and Flanders. I was not able to be present at the unveiling ceremony but I remember the Evening Post pictures, showing the hero, as it were on a pedestal and Admiral Heneage Vivian and Swansea civic leaders standing at the base.

It was Alderman Owen who spoke of those who had saved the country in the dark days of war, our brave boys, "our contemptible little army". He told how over 15,000 men had volunteered from Swansea and 2,274 had made the supreme sacrifice.

It was most appropriate that Swansea, being a seaport, should ask Admiral

### Complaints

TODAY as I drove past the Cenotaph, I recalled the old Mumbles railway which passed so near the spot. I know too, that an appeal was made to the owners to halt the train during the ceremony, but this was made in vain as it was considered not necessary.

The Mumbles Railway was private property it seems and this action brought many letters of complaint to the Post that week.

One wonders what the hero of the Falklands would think of the events of 1968 and the possible fate of the colony he fought so bravely to keep for Britain.

Perhaps the roar of the people "We stay British" reaches him somewhere.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
U.K. Press Gazette, London

28 OCT 1968

## BANNERS GREET EXPRESS MAN



AUBREY MATTHEWS in the Falklands with Chief-Inspector Terry Peck.

DAILY EXPRESS Manchester staff photographer Aubrey Matthews took a slow boat to the Falkland Islands—the voyage from Buenos Aires took three days—to get the exclusive picture of a mass meeting of islanders protesting against a possible "sell-out" of Britain's south Atlantic colony to the Argentine.

The "sell-out" report, also an exclusive, arose while Matthews was in Buenos Aires for the Manchester United/Estudiantes football match. Picture editor Peter Johnson and foreign editor Stewart Steven, having discussed with the Falkland Islands Company the possibility of photographing a mass meeting, ordered Matthews onwards.

When he arrived to join the paper's resident correspondent, John Smith, he found the entire population of the main island, Stanley—more than half the 2,000 Falklands population—greeting him with "Keep the Falklands British" banners and singing "God Save the Queen".

"I never realised how British they are down there," he said. "I felt like crying."



JOHN SMITH, Express Correspondent in the Falklands

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

18 OCT 1968



Cummins

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

- 4 NOV 1968

Date .....  
(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

## No Falkland deal, angry MPs insist

Birmingham Post Political Correspondent

The Commons erupted in angry protest yesterday because of the widespread belief that the Government proposes to sell out the Falkland Islanders to Argentina.

Mr. Heath, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, quiet-mannered Miss Margaret Herbison, a former Minister in the Wilson Cabinet, Mr. Shinwell, and Mr. Christopher Mayhew, all joined in hammering the Government.

It was plain for the Cabinet to see that Parliament will not have any gradual absorption of the Falklands by Argentina.

The extraordinary situation arose that Mr. F. Mulley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who made a statement in the Commons yesterday on the Government proposals, will be forced to make another today.

This will follow hasty consultations with Lord Chalfont, Mr. Mulley's opposite number

in the Lords, who recently visited the Falklands and Argentina to discuss the future of the islands.

At one point, it was suggested that Lord Chalfont should be brought to the Bar of the Commons to answer MP's questions.

Anger reached a new peak over the reported statement in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be "convenient."

The most devastating intervention was that of Miss Herbison, now a Labour Back-Bencher, who asked: "What further evidence does the Government want about the will of the people of the Falklands?"

Mr. Mulley replied: "I should have thought that the words 'No transfer against the wishes of the islanders' were clear enough for anyone to comprehend."

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

- 4 NOV 1968

Date .....  
(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

## Tell us more, MPs demand

Persistent questioning from all sides of the House and roars of disapproval from the Opposition, faced Mr. FRED MULLEY, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in the Commons.

He was subjected to a barrage of demands for further information about the visit of Lord Chalfont, his opposite number in the Lords, to the Falkland Islands.

The rowdy questioning of the Minister began when MR. BERNARD BRAINE, Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, asked the Minister to explain "the extraordinary statement" attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Conservatives roared disapproval when Mr. Mulley said that Britain was prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina. The issue was one for the islanders to decide.

He said the purpose of the talks was to "restore communications between the islanders and Argentina."

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME asked: "Will you give an assurance that sovereignty is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with Argentina and that it will not be so used?"

Mr. Mulley: "I am willing to give that assurance in the form asked. We know, and I am sure that Argentina knows, what the state of opinion of the island is."

## Worrying

MR. WOODROW WYATT (Lab. Bosworth): "What is worrying everybody is that the Government appears to be trying to persuade the islanders to hand their sovereignty over to Argentina, but nobody can understand why the Government is trying to do that."

MR. MULLEY: "The islanders would not be so pressurised to take a decision if they thought it would be against their interests, and Lord Chalfont would not so seek to persuade them."

The EARL OF DALKEITH (Con., Edinburgh N.) was cheered by Opposition Members when he suggested that Lord Chalfont should be invited to come to the Bar of the house to answer questions directly, but the Speaker, DR. HORACE KING, said that it would be necessary to go back a long way in history for a precedent for doing this.

MR. J. BIGGS-DAVISON (Con., Chigwell): "May I ask you whether the Leader of the House will inform us when we may have the further statement promised by the Minister to clarify his disastrous diplomacy?"

MR. FRED PEART, Leader of the House, said the Minister had stated that he would have talks on that matter with Lord Chalfont.

"I will see that this is done," Mr. Peart observed, amid Opposition shouts of "Tomorrow."

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1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

1 NOV 1968

**Ask the people**

A plebiscite of the people of the Falkland Islands was urged by Conservative backbencher Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh South) when he complained of the lack of information from the Government about progress of negotiations with the Argentine.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

1 NOV 1968

**Let the Falkland Isles decide, urges an M.P.**

A TORY M.P. urged in the Commons last night that the 2,000 Falkland Islanders should be allowed a plebiscite "so that it can be clear what their wishes are."

Mr. Michael Clark Hutchison (Edinburgh South) complained of lack of Government information about the talks that have been going on between Britain and the Argentine over the islands' future.

He said there was a climate of opinion in South American countries that Britain was ready to sell out the Falklands.

And he warned that unless some decision was reached, the islanders, who were all of English or Scottish descent, would go to Australia, New Zealand, or return to Britain.

Mr. Hutchison, urging a poll, said: "I suggest that this proposal should be put to the Argentine or to the United Nations. If it is not accepted, or if there is further prevarication, we should terminate negotiations forthwith."

"Let the Government for once stand up for right and British interests."

INTERNATIONAL  
LONDON, S.W.1.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

1 NOV 1968

**No entry**

MICHAEL STEWART'S call at the Palace last night was no doubt an impeccable piece of protocol, and the poker-faced announcement that followed will be read with suitable awe from Rio to Santiago. Her Majesty will leave by air for South America this morning, boarding the Royal Yacht, Britannia, at Recife, etc. etc. But whatever happened to the sentimental stopover in Argentina, where Britain's links stretch back to the days when our engineers built the railways and our meat tycoons set the Hurlingham Club amid gracious lawns to remind them of home?

As we all know, they were blown sky-high at Old Trafford—a last gallon of petrol tossed on flames already lit by the little matter of the Falkland Islands. And whatever happened to the Falkland Islands? Well, say the men in Whitehall, if HM can't visit Argentina, she must stay away from the British dependency too. We mustn't offend our old friends in Buenos Aires. As for HM, she keeps out of politics and goes where she's told.

Extract from

**The Birmingham Post**

Date 4 NOV 1968

(SEE INFORMATION OVERLEAF)

**Parliamentary reports**

**Falklands pledge stands—Chalfont**

The present stage of talks between the Government and Argentina about the Falkland Islands will probably be ended soon, the Lords learned yesterday.

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, reported on his recent visit to the Islands.

He said that he had repeated there assurances given in both Houses of Parliament that it was not the Government's policy to transfer sovereignty over the islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders.

Lord Chalfont said that talks had been held with Argentina with the object of securing a satisfactory and lasting *modus vivendi* with the islands and Argentina.

In particular, we were concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since this would be of great benefit to the islands.

"We have made clear throughout the discussions that no transfer of sovereignty can be made against the wishes of the islanders," he said.

suspect

LORD CARINGTON, Leader of the Opposition, asked: "Are you aware—and there is nothing personal in this—that your activities and the motives of Her Majesty's Government are very suspect and are causing grave concern to large numbers of people on all sides of the House?"

He asked if Lord Chalfont would say whether the statement made by the Foreign Secretary in January 1966 that sovereignty was not negotiable with Argentina still stood, and whether he did discuss the question of sovereignty in Argentina on his recent trip.

Lord Carrington asked whether any economic pressures had been brought to bear on the Falkland Islands and whether Lord Chalfont had said that Britain would no longer be able to defend the islands.

"Are you aware that the transfer of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands without the express and free wishes of the people of these islands is totally unacceptable, and we shall oppose any such proposal to the bitter end?" he said amid cries of "Hear, hear" from Conservative peers.

Lord Chalfont: "I am sorry if you believe that the motives of the Government are suspect in this matter. They are not. We have acted in good faith."

"I have now explained to the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands details of our discussions. I have taken them fully into the confidence of the Government and they have said in return that they believe that the British Government is acting in good faith."

**Discussed**

The negotiability of sovereignty was being discussed with the Argentine Government.

Conservative peers shouted: "Why?" and Lord Chalfont said: "There will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. We have no doubt about our legal entitlement to sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont said that no economic or other pressures would be brought to bear on the Falkland Islanders.

Referring to what he called the "alleged report" that Great Britain could not defend the Falkland Islands, Lord Chalfont said: "I deny it categorically. I said that so long as sovereignty rests with us, their defence is our responsibility and that responsibility we will discharge."

Extract from  
Jersey Evening Post

27 NOV 1968

### SCORN AND CONTEMPT

(From the Rector of St. John)

Dear Sir,—I wish to record my scorn and contempt for the British Government in not allowing the Queen and Prince Philip to visit the Falkland Islands after their tour of Brazil and Chile. The Royal Yacht is never likely to be nearer to the Falkland Islands than she was last week.

I never thought that I should live to see the day when the mighty British people were reduced to such a grovelling state of cowardice that they were unable to summon enough courage to allow their Queen to visit her own loyal subjects in the Falkland Islands for fear of upsetting the rulers of Argentina.

Let it be said that the Queen and Prince Philip brought the utmost prestige to Britain and the Commonwealth by their dignity and charm in Brazil and Chile. People turned out by the million. Goodwill was like a springing well. Nothing that any country has can match our Queen. The recent tour was a smack in the eye for those who sneer and leer at the Monarchy as being out of date in 1968.

Did I detect an indifference to the tour by the national Press and television? It seemed to me that there were only a few snatches on television and the odd column in the Press. I am left with an overall impression that I have read less about the Queen lately than I have about Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull.

Yours faithfully,

PETER MANTON.

The Rectory,  
St. John.  
November 21, 1968.

Extract from  
Brighton Evening Argus, Sussex

28 NOV 1968

## Falklands rumour is denied

THE Foreign and Commonwealth Office today firmly denied rumours that Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islands Dependency in the South Atlantic was aimed at paving the way for a sell-out to the Argentine.

But it is admitted that some "agreed position" with the is being sought, which

Extract from  
Portsmouth Evening News, Hants

28 NOV 1968



INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING  
BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

## DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH

Date 28 NOV 1968

### FALKLANDS: 'NO PACT' — WHITEHALL

IT was officially denied in London that Britain was near a pact with Argentina over the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

Extract from  
Portsmouth Evening News, Hants.

28 NOV 1968

### Chalfont leaves Falklands

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was due to leave the Falkland Islands today in the British protection vessel H.M.S. Endurance at the end of his five-day visit.

On Saturday night he is to meet the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, at Buenos Aires, before flying home the next day.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

28 NOV 1968

## DON'T LET THEM DOWN

The people of the Falkland Islands are seriously concerned about their future.

Lord Chalfont, who is having discussions with the islands' executive council, has shown them a draft agreement to hand this British colony over to the Argentine.

This doesn't mean a handover is imminent. But it is an ominous sign.

How firmly do the British Government mean to stick to their promise not to cede the Falklands without the consent of the people?

The Falklanders are British through and through and have no wish to come under the rule of the Argentine.

There should, therefore, be no question at all of draft agreements and the end of British sovereignty.

Such an attitude can only encourage the Argentine to step up its claims.

If the hardy islanders want to stay British, we mustn't let them down.

Extract from  
Edinburgh Evening News

28 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS CRASH

A plane belonging to the Argentine newspaper "Cronica" crashlanded in the Falkland Islands, as Lord Chalfont continued talks with local leaders over Argentina's claim to the Falklands. Three men on the plane were taken into custody.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Bournemouth Evening Echo, Hants.

28 NOV 1968

## Falklands: Ambassador summoned

THE Argentine Ambassador to Britain was called to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office this morning to hear representations about the illegal landing in the Falkland Islands yesterday of Argentine-registered aircraft.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said "It is not true that we are near agreement with Argentine which would transfer sovereignty of Falklands to Argentina.

"We hope that we will soon reach an agreed position with the Argentine on the problem," he added.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, was due to leave the Falkland Islands today in the British protection vessel, HMS Endurance at the end of a five-day visit.

On Saturday night he will meet the Argentine Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, at Buenos Aires, before flying home the next day.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Exeter Express & Echo, Devon

28 NOV 1968

**FALKLANDS DENIAL**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office said in London today: "It is not true that we are near agreement with Argentina which would transfer sovereignty of Falkland Islands to Argentina. No agreement exists."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from the

## Evening Sentinel

STOKE-ON-TRENT

28 NOV 1968

Date.....  
(See information overleaf)

# WHITEHALL DENY A PACT TO TRANSFER FALKLANDS

It was officially denied in London to-day that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said in London: "It is not true that we are near agreement with the Argentine, which would transfer sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. No agreement exists. We hope that we will soon reach an agreed position with the Argentine on the problem."

The spokesman disclosed that the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brigadier Don Eduardo McLoughlin, was called to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to-day to see an assistant under secretary, Mr. John Beith.

Representations were made to the ambassador about the illegal landing in the Falkland Islands yesterday of an Argentine registered aircraft.

"A report which we have received from the Governor of the Falkland Islands, says that the occupants of the aircraft were two Argentine journalists and a pilot, and journalists say that the object of their visit was to interview Lord Chalfont," said the spokesman.

International Press-Cutting Bureau  
1 Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from

## The Press and Journal

ABERDEEN

Date... 29 NOV 1968

(See information overleaf.)

### 'COME CLEAN ABOUT THE FALKLANDS'

By GORDON LEAK

FOREIGN Secretary Michael Stewart, last night faced demands to "come clean" and announce the Government's plans for the future of the Falkland Islands.

He is being pressed to make a statement in the Commons early next week to say whether Britain intends to sell out to the Argentine.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Heath, Leader of the Opposition, said it was vital that the doubts raised by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, who is touring the islands, should be cleared up.

Tory leaders suspect a deliberate attempt by Lord Chalfont to scare the islanders into packing their belongings and leaving the Falklands.

Mr Fred Peart, Leader of

the House, said he would make sure Mr Stewart was made aware of M.P.s' fears.

#### ASSURANCE

He tried to calm angry M.P.s with an assurance that as far as he knew the Government's policy — that there would be no handover to the Argentine without the consent of the majority of the islanders — had not been changed.

But what M.P.s fear is that by the time the Government are ready to make an announcement there will be no islanders left on the Falklands to object.

The Falkland Islands, with a population of over 2000, have been a British dependency for nearly 150 years.

Lord Chalfont is expected to make a statement on his visit in the House of Lords next Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Cambridge News

### FALKLAND PAUCE IS DENIED

It was officially denied in London today that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. But the hope was expressed that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said in London today: "It is not true that we are near agreement with the Argentine, which would transfer sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. No agreement exists."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Edinburgh Evening News

29 NOV 1968

### CHALFONT'S FALKLANDS VISIT TO ARGENTINE

Lord Chalfont, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is to meet Argentine officials in Buenos Aires tomorrow after a five-day survey of the Falklands, the two bleak South Atlantic islands which Britain has ruled for 130 years.

"No specific agreement on the future of the islands is expected during Lord Chalfont's visit," a Buenos Aires Foreign Ministry official said. "But we assume we will be informed of his talks with the islanders."

Leaders of the Opposition in the House of Commons have claimed that the Labour Government plan to hand over the islands to Argentina.

Britain and the Argentine, heading a United Nations call, have been negotiating for more than a year now on the Argentine claim for sovereignty over the islands.

The islands were an important outpost to watch sea lanes between the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans during the last century. They were used as a naval base during the Second World War but have little strategic value at present.—A.P.

Extract from  
South Wales Evening Post, Swansea

28 NOV 1968

# 'NO PACT TO TRANSFER FALKLANDS'

IT was officially denied in London today that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said in London, "It is not true that we are near agreement with the Argentine, which would transfer sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. No agreement exists. We hope that we will soon reach an agreed position with the Argentine on the problem."

## INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

# LIVERPOOL ECHO

DATE 28 NOV 1968

# No pact to transfer Falklands

It was officially denied in London to-day that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said in London: "It is not true that we are near agreement with the Argentine, which would transfer sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina. No agreement exists. We hope that we will soon reach an agreed position with the Argentine on the problem."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
Ipswich Evening Star,  
Ipswich

28 NOV 1968

THE FOREIGN and Commonwealth office denied in London today that Britain is near an agreement with the Argentine which would transfer sovereignty of Falkland Islands to Argentina. "No agreement exists" said a spokesman.

Extract from  
Cork Examiner, Eire

28 NOV 1968

# PLANE CRASHES IN FALKLANDS

A plane carrying the director of the Buenos Aires newspaper "Cronica" and a reporter crash-landed on a road south of Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, yesterday.

The plane was piloted by former airline pilot, Miguel Fitzgerald, son of Irish immigrants who four years ago made a solo flight to Port Stanley to plant the Argentine flag on the islands in a demonstration supporting his country's claim of sovereignty.

The plane, one of two owned by the strongly nationalistic "Cronica", was badly damaged in yesterday's landing. None of the three persons aboard was injured.

Men from the 30-strong Royal Marine detachment stationed in the Falklands rushed to the spot and the Argentinians were taken into police custody.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Jersey Evening Post

28 NOV 1968

# Lord Chalfont to visit Argentina

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, leaves the Falkland Islands today after his five-day visit, writes a Press Association diplomatic correspondent.

On Saturday night he will meet the Argentine Foreign Minister, Señor Nicanor Costa Mendez, in Buenos Aires before flying home the next day.

Señor Costa Mendez has said that Lord Chalfont's overnight visit to Argentina will be a courtesy call and does not imply a renewal of the negotiations between the two countries on the future of the Falkland Islands, to which Argentina lays claim.

In the House of Commons on November 18, Mr. William Whitlock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the talks with the Argentine Government were to reach a permanent satisfactory relationship between the islands and the Argentine.

Extract from  
Luton Evening Post

29 NOV 1968

# Tory MPs fear Wilson sell-out

By GORDON JACKSON Our Political Correspondent

**TORY MPs fearing a sellout to Argentina demanded today a clear statement from Mr Wilson that the Falkland Islanders "are British, will remain British, and need fear no transfer against their will to an alien land."**

Nearly 100 Tories have signed a Commons motion about the future of the South Atlantic colony as Lord Chalfont began his journey home after talks with islanders.

Lord Chalfont is making a statement in the House of Lords early next week on his discussions.

The Foreign Office says an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the future of the islands with the Argentine government, who are stepping up demands for sovereignty over them.

## Argument

MPs fear that while there may not be an immediate take-over by the Argentinians, this will happen bit by bit over the next few years.

There are reports that a joint declaration by Britain and Argentina will be put before the UN before December 20.

The argument seems to be that the islanders would benefit economically from closer links with their near neighbours, the Argentinians.

In their Commons motion 95 Tory MPs express dismay at reports that the Government is contemplating the cession of the isles and their dependencies to the Argentine republic.

They affirm the growing importance to Britain of exploring the Antarctic sub-continent, and of possible future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU.  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON, S.W.1.

Extract from

## NEWS LETTER

BELFAST

Date 29 NOV 1968

(See information overleaf.)

### No transfer of Falklands

It was officially denied in London yesterday that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

Extract from  
Glasgow Evening Citizen

29 NOV 1968

## SOME LION, SOME ROAR . . .

<sup>3003</sup>  
I express even the mildest regret that the day has passed when Britain could, and did, ensure justice and decent treatment of British citizens abroad about their peaceful and lawful business is to invite yells of "reactionary chauvinism," "gunboat diplomacy" and "Col. Blimp." Let us risk it.

Kick the backside of the British lion these days and you are at risk not of a roar,

### The Friday Column

still less of a bite. A whine of protest perhaps, or even a placatory lick of the tongue.

A British journalist who has broken no law and faced no charge is held in solitary confinement by the Chinese. A British diplomat is slapped and humiliated in China. Other diplomats and their families are prevented from returning home. What does the British Government do? It sends "strongly worded" protests.

A Briton languishes in a Russian labour camp after a savage sentence for the "crime" of distributing leaflets in Moscow critical of the Soviet regime. The British Government protests.

Spanish military aircraft buzz Gibraltar air lanes whilst Spanish customs officials harry and harass British tourists. The British Government protests.

Spain claims Gibraltar and it needs the utmost efforts of the inhabitants of the Rock, backed by strong public opinion in Britain, to stiffen the Government's backbone sufficiently to say "No," although consultations on the matter still continue.

### The Falklands

The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are equally as determined as the people of Gibraltar to remain under British rule — and there are plenty of signs that the British Government is preparing to let them down.

Oh yes, Lord Chalfont has repeated the Government assurance given in Parliament that sovereignty will not be handed over to Argentina against the people's wishes. But Lord Chalfont has also cast doubt upon the likelihood of a worthwhile future for a succeeding generation in the Falkland Islands.

He has also shown the Islands' Executive Council a draft agreement which the British Government hopes to sign with Argentina, an agreement which would include what he terms an "agreed position" between the two countries on the future of the islands. He has sworn the Council to secrecy on the contents of the document — but it is reported that the islanders are very worried and there are persistent reports that the agreement, if signed, will result in the Falklands passing under Argentine sovereignty within possibly ten years.

And if that happens then Britain will have shed her last shreds of self-respect.

We all know that the days are gone when Britain could employ military force to protect her subjects and her interests. But this does not mean we have no retaliatory weapons. Protests, however strongly worded, cut no ice with the Russians, Chinese, the Spanish or the Argentinians. The severing of all diplomatic and trade links would. Yes it would harm us to a certain extent but it would harm them more. Russia has a very favourable trading balance with Britain. China has few diplomatic links with the outside world and needs foreign currency badly. So does Spain and the Argentine.

If only a tiny proportion of the belligerence shown by politicians in party wrangles in the Commons, or in the Gloucester City Council Chamber for that matter, was channelled to the protection of British citizens and British rights elsewhere, we might hold our heads a little higher in the world.

But then, they did ban the Red Army Choir didn't they . . .

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Glasgow Evening Citizen

29 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS — THE FEARS ARE GROWING

By Philip Marshall

<sup>3003</sup>  
FEARS continued to grow in Whitehall today that a secret deal is being arranged for the handing over by Britain of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

More than 100 Tory M.P.s have already signed a motion re-affirming the principle of self-determination for the colony.

There is hope that the islanders may organise a petition to the Queen.

There will be demands for a full statement of British intentions when Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, returns from the islands next week.

### Tactic

The Government has pledged that sovereignty will not be surrendered against the wishes of the inhabitants.

The tactic being adopted seems to be to spread alarm and despondency among the islanders to the extent that they will leave voluntarily, clearing the way for a transfer to the Argentine in a few years.

BUENOS AIRES. — Lord Chalfont is to meet Argentine officials tomorrow to discuss the situation, according to a news agency report today.

"No specific agreement on the future of the islands is expected during Lord Chalfont's visit," a Buenos Aires Foreign Ministry official said.

Extract from  
Portsmouth Evening News, Hants

29 NOV 1968

# Fears of secret Falklands deal

22 ABSTAIN

Twenty-two Labour M.P.s refused to vote in the Commons last night for the Chancellor's new revenue duties on cigarettes, whisky and beer, and the regulator imposing ten per cent. rise in purchase tax rates.

The order imposing these new tax additions was carried by 282 votes to 242—a Government majority of 40.

Tory M.P.s' concern over the Falkland Islands is expressed in a heavily-supported demand for the Prime Minister to make it clear that the Islands are British and will remain British, writes the Evening News Lobby Correspondent.

This attempt to get an unequivocal statement of Government intent is the result of widespread anxiety that a secret deal in the Argentine might bring about the transfer of the islands to the South American republic. After a Shadow Cabinet meeting last night, when angry words

were spoken on the subject, about 100 Tories, including Mr. Ian Lloyd (Portsmouth Langstone), Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles (Winchester), Mr. Walter Loveys (Chichester), and Lord Lambton (Berwick) came out in support of the demand for a Prime Ministerial statement.

M.P.s proclaim dismay that the Government may be contemplating the transfer of the Falklands and reaffirm the Islands' importance to Britain.

Nothing less than a categorical assurance that the islanders need not fear any transfer against their wishes will temper Tory anger.

The Government has pledged this already but to Tory minds the tactics adopted, especially by Lord Chalfont in his recent visit to the Island, seemed designed to spread alarm and despondency amongst the Falklanders. The Opposition is afraid that this could lead to the Island inhabitants pulling out, opening the way for Argentine to take over in a few years' time.

Lord Chalfont is expected to make a statement on the Falklands in the House of Lords early next week. He will be pressed to reveal how far negotiations about the Falklands have proceeded between Britain and the Argentine.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date 29 NOV 1968

## MPs ask PM to stand by Falklanders

E.P. Parliamentary

3003 Reporter

Nearly 100 dismayed Conservative M.P.s in the Commons have called on the Prime Minister "once and for all" to stand by the Falkland Islanders.

In a motion they say that Mr. Wilson must make it clear that the islanders are British, "and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

The M.P.s say they are dismayed by reports that the Government contemplates passing the islands and the islanders to Argentina.

### EXPLORATION

The motion affirms the growing importance to Britain of exploration of the Antarctic sub-continent, and of possible future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic.

M.P.s who have signed the motion include: Mr. Michael Alison (Barkston Ash), Mr. Joseph Hiley (Pudsey), Mr. Geoffrey Hirst (Shipley), Mr. John Osborn (Hallam), and Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott (Ripon).

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Northern Daily Mail, Hartlepool

29 NOV 1968

## Tories want Falkland Islands assurance

TORY M.P.s concern over the Falkland Islands is expressed in a heavily-supported demand for the Premier to make it clear that the islands are British and will remain British (writes our Lobby Correspondent).

This attempt to get an unequivocal statement of Government intent is the result of widespread anxiety that a secret deal in Argentine might bring about the transfer of the islands to the South American Republic.

After a Shadow Cabinet meeting last night, when angry words were spoken on the subject, about 100 Tories came out in support of the demands for a Prime Ministerial statement.

M.P.s proclaim dismay that the Government may be contemplating the transfer of the Falklands and reaffirm the islands' importance to Britain.

Nothing less than a categorical assurance that the islanders need not fear any transfer against their wishes will temper Tory anger.

The Government has pledged this already. But to Tory minds, the tactics adopted, especially by Lord Chalfont in his recent visit to the islands, seem designed to spread alarm and despondency amongst the Falklanders. The Opposition is afraid that this could lead to the island inhabitants pulling out, opening the way for Argentine to take over in a few years' time.

Extract from

# THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

29 NOV 1968

Date .....

## Islands row: envoy called

By JOHN FISHER

THE FOREIGN Office summoned the Argentine Ambassador, Brigadier Don Eduardo F. McLoughlin, yesterday and "made representations" to him about the illegal landing in the Falkland Islands on Wednesday of an Argentine-registered aircraft.

The aircraft was reported to contain two Argentine journalists, who said that they wanted to interview Lord Chalfont.

Britain does not hold the Argentine government responsible for the incident, but nevertheless feels that the "invasion" has added to Britain's difficulties in reaching an agreed position regarding the Argentine claims to the island.

Lord Chalfont has now left the Falkland Islands, and is on his way back to London. He is expected to dine with the Argentine Foreign Minister, but Foreign Office spokesmen in London stoutly maintain that the Falklands will not be discussed.

FOREIGN Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, last night faced demands to "come clean" and announce the Government's plans for the future of the islands, writes *Gordon Leak*.

He is being pressed to make a statement in the Commons early next week to say whether Britain intends to sell-out to the Argentine.

Extract from

Bournemouth Evening Echo, Hants.

29 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS

THE feeling grows that the end of the Falkland Islands as a British Colony is now in sight. Yet Lord Chalfont — the British Minister at present visiting this remote outpost of what was once the British Empire — solemnly declares that a pledge of no transfer of sovereignty without the prior consent of the islanders would be entrenched in any agreement that might be reached with Argentina.

The Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic group, were discovered by an Englishman in 1592, and have been claimed at various times by the British, French and Spanish. For the past 150 years they have been under continuous occupation by the British, but Argentina — as the successor of Spain — has never ceased to claim them.

Since all the 3,000 inhabitants are of British stock, it would seem that Argentina's moral claim to these islands is a good deal weaker than Spain's case for sovereignty over Gibraltar. The same principle should, however, apply in both instances: no change without the consent of the people.

The Government denies that an agreement with Argentina is imminent, but says it is hoped an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the problem. We trust that Lord Chalfont, when he makes a statement in the Lords next week, will explain what is the difference between the two, and clear up the other ambiguities which at present surround this subject.

If it is possible to satisfy Argentina without betraying the Falkland Islanders, well and good. But it would be a scandalous thing if these overseas Britons were denied the same rights to self-determination we have granted to so many former colonies in Africa and Asia.

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

29 NOV 1968

## Strange game

**N**OTHING less than an unequivocal pledge by the Government that the Falkland Isles are to remain British will dispel the feeling that a strange game is being played. Lord Caradon said three years ago that the islanders were not to be betrayed or bartered. Much dirty water has flowed under the bridge since then. Last week it deposited Lord Chalfont in the Colony, where throughout his official visit there have been rumours of a mysterious agreement which he hopes to sign with Argentina.

It is said that this document is not a treaty to transfer sovereignty, but a means of strengthening relations between the Falkland Isles and the country which wants to take them over. Its purpose is to convince Argentina that Britain will not let the islands go until the islanders themselves think so highly of their neighbour that they want to become Argentinians. If that is indeed the content of the agreement, it is tantamount to an admission that Britain is not particularly anxious to keep the Falklands.

The Tories suspect, perhaps with reason, that Lord Chalfont's achievement, if not his purpose, has been to make the islanders lose faith in their own future. That faith had already been shaken when the Government, yielding to United Nations pressure for "decolonisation," agreed to discuss the question of sovereignty with Argentina. There was a basic illogicality, which some people might prefer to call insincerity, about discussing sovereignty over islands whose inhabitants had once been told they were not to be betrayed or bartered.

In an attempt to keep sweet with the United Nations, with Argentina and with the people of the Falkland Isles, the Government has succeeded in getting itself disliked all round. It is in such a diplomatic mess that the Queen, on her South American tour, went neither to Argentina nor the Falklands. The inevitable consequence of trying to face several ways at once is that it becomes impossible to look anybody in the eye. That is a truth the Government seems incapable of learning, even after the lesson of Gibraltar.

Past governments maintained good relations with potentially hostile claimants, such as Argentina and Spain, by making it clear that certain matters were beyond discussion. Lord Chalfont had better have something convincing to say when he gets back.

Extract from  
Hull Daily Mail, Yorks

29 NOV 1968

## FUTURE OF THE FALKLANDS

**L**ORD CHALFONT'S VISIT to the Falkland Islands has done nothing to dispel the feelings of uneasiness about the future of this British-owned territory. It is held in some quarters that the islanders are being conditioned to accept ultimate transfer to the Argentine in spite of their manifest hostility to any such step and the repeated assurances by the Foreign Office that this is not the British Government's intention. For this reason, Lord Chalfont, on his return to this country, can expect to face some very probing questions from worried Conservative MPs.



What has particularly upset them is the Minister's reported statement to the islanders that they should think carefully about their future. Conservatives interpret this as meaning that it is now the Government's intention eventually to abrogate responsibility for the territory and that events are moving towards a deal with Argentina which, although it may not materialise for a considerable time, will, sooner or later, admit the Argentine's claim to sovereignty over the islands.

The Government has only itself to blame for the doubts that have arisen concerning its true intentions. The evasiveness and ambiguity which it has all along displayed have created feelings of resentment and dismay both at home and in the Falkland Islands. It must now stop hedging and hinting, for the islanders, who are among the most loyal of the Queen's subjects, are worthy of better treatment.

Extract from

## The Birmingham Post

29 NOV 1968

Date

### Tory call on Falklands

Reports that the Government is contemplating ceding the Falkland Isles to Argentina led to anxious discussion among Conservative Back-Benchers at last night's meeting of the 1922 Committee.

Afterwards, a group led by Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds), tabled a motion calling on the Prime Minister to make clear once and for all that the Falkland Islanders are British, will stay so and need not fear any future transfer against their will to an alien land.

Foreign Office assurance—  
Page 7

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

29 NOV 1968

# Argentini- ans try crash tactics



PORT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS, Thursday.

**T**HREE Argentini-  
ans who crash-landed a light aircraft here  
yesterday were being held on board the British ice patrol  
ship Endurance today.

At a Press conference in the vessel they complained about the accommodation and treatment on arrival here and said their cameras, passports and typewriters had been confiscated.

Their plane, belonging to the Argentinian newspaper "Cronica," crash-landed while the British Minister of State Lord Chalfont was discussing Argentina's claim to the Falklands with local leaders.

The three men, a pilot, a photographer and the publisher of the strongly nationalistic newspaper, said they wanted to interview Lord Chalfont.

### NOT UNDER GUARD

They are being housed in the library in Endurance where they were taken after being interviewed by local police. They are not under guard but confined to the fore part of the ship. An officer in Endurance said the cameras and typewriters would be returned to them later.

Reports that the Government is contemplating ceding the Falkland Isles and their dependencies to Argentina led to anxious discussion among Conservative back-benchers at a meeting of the 1922 committee.

After the meeting a group of Conservative M.P.s led by Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Member for Bury St. Edmunds, tabled a motion which called upon the Prime Minister, once and for all, to make clear that the Falkland Islanders were British, would remain British and need not fear any future transfer against their will to an alien land.

It was officially denied in London that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

Extract from  
Western Daily Press, Bristol

29 NOV 1968

# Sell-out fears for Falklands

**F**EARS mounted in Westminster yesterday that the Government plans to "sell out" the Falkland Islands to the Argentine.

M.P.s believe Ministers are preparing to surrender the islands despite a denial by the Foreign Office yesterday. This is because Government sources have said that hopes are rising of an "agreed posi-

tion" with the Argentine on the problem. Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is having talks with the islanders over the future of the colony, which has now spent 150 years under the British Crown.

● Three Argentinians, two representing a nationalistic paper wanting to interview Lord Chalfont, are being held in the Falklands. Their plane crash-landed at Port Stanley.

Extract from  
Dorset Evening Echo, Weymouth

29 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS

**T**HE feeling grows that the end of the Falkland Islands as a British colony is now in sight. Yet Lord Chalfont—the British Minister at present visiting this remote outpost of what was once the British Empire—solemnly declares that a pledge of no transfer of Sovereignty without prior consent of the islanders would be enshrined in any agreement that might be reached with Argentina.

The Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic group, discovered by an Englishman in 1592, have been claimed at various times by the British, French and Spanish. For the past 150 years they have been under continuous occupation by the British, but Argentina—as the successor of Spain—has never ceased to claim them.

Since all the 3,000 inhabitants are of British stock, it would seem that Argentina's moral claim to these islands is a good deal weaker than Spain's case for Sovereignty over Gibraltar. The same principle should, however, apply in both instances: No change, without the consent of the people.

The Government denies an agreement with Argentina is imminent, but says it is hoped an "agreed position" will be reached on the problem. We trust that Lord Chalfont, when he makes a statement in the Lords next week, will explain what is the difference between the two, and clear up the other ambiguities which at present surround this subject.

If it is possible to satisfy Argentina without betraying the Falkland Islanders, well and good. But it would be a scandalous thing if these overseas Britons were denied the same rights to self-determination we have granted to so many former colonies in Africa and Asia.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

29 NOV 1968

## Falklands: <sup>3003</sup> 'agreed position' hope

IT was officially denied in London yesterday that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman disclosed that the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brig. Don Eduardo McLoughlin, was called yesterday to see an assistant Under-Secretary, Mr. John Beith.

Representations were made to the Ambassador about the arrival in the Falkland Islands on Wednesday of an Argentine-registered aircraft.

The three occupants, who crash-landed at Port Stanley, were yesterday being held aboard the British ice patrol ship Endurance. The plane belonged to the Argentinian newspaper, "Cronica," and the occupants were a daring Irish-Argentinian pilot, the strongly-nationalistic paper's publisher, and a photographer. They said they wanted to gauge public opinion and interview Lord Chalfont.

### VISIT ENDS

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who has been having talks in the Falkland Islands, officially ended his five-day visit yesterday.

The spokesman said: "We have made it clear that there can be no question of a transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the inhabitants."

Persistent reports that the Government is contemplating ceding the Falklands and their dependencies to Argentina, however, led to anxious discussion among Conservative back-benchers at last night's meeting of the 1922 Committee.

After the meeting, a group led by Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Bury St. Edmunds, tabled a motion on the situation.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

29 NOV 1968

## Foreign Office <sup>3003</sup> still says: no isles sell-out

THE Foreign and Commonwealth Office officially denied in London yesterday that Britain was near agreement with Argentina on the transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

But the hope was expressed that "an agreed position" would soon be reached.

The spokesman disclosed that the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brigadier Don Eduardo McLoughlin, was called to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office yesterday to see an assistant under-secretary, Mr. John Beith.

"We have made it clear that there can be no question of a transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the inhabitants."

Reports that the Government is contemplating ceding the Falklands led to anxious discussion among Conservative Back-benchers at last night's meeting of the 1922 Committee.

Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala yesterday became co-sponsors of a UN draft resolution calling on Britain to return Gibraltar to Spain by October 1 next year.

Extract from

# The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

29 NOV 1968

Date.....

## Whitehall deny deal on Falklands

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and Argentina are not near to agreement on the Falkland Islands, a Foreign Office official said yesterday. It is hoped, however, that the two Governments will soon be able to reach "an agreed position" on the problem.

Answering a question in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr Edward Heath, Leader of the Opposition, Mr Fred Peart, Leader of the House, said that a statement would be made next week. Meanwhile, Mr Peart said, the Government's policy remains unchanged.

Essentially this policy consists of continuing to negotiate with the Argentinians, who claim that the Falklands belong to them, while reassuring the islanders that there will be no transfer of sovereignty without their consent and agreement.

Doubts have arisen, however, because of reports indicating that the Government have virtually made an agreement with Argentina under which the islands would pass into Argentinian hands within about 10 years.

Despite yesterday's official denials these doubts are likely to remain. Whitehall make no bones about their view that the islanders are being exceedingly foolish and tiresome in their refusal to contemplate Argentinian sovereignty.

### Obscure

On what basis Britain and Argentina can expect to arrive at an "agreed position" on this issue is totally obscure. Whitehall sources denied that any concessions to the Argentinians were being considered. If this is so how can there be an "agreed position?" Are the Argentinians going to renounce their claim? It seems, on the face of it, somewhat unlikely.

Perhaps the Government hope that the islanders—mostly sheep-farmers—will all emigrate to New Zealand, after which the islands can be handed over to Argentina without fuss.

Brigadier McLoughlin, the Argentinian Ambassador, was called to the Foreign Office yesterday, where he was seen by an official.

He was asked to explain the illegal landing on the Falkland Islands on Wednesday of an Argentinian-registered aircraft. It contained two journalists, who claimed they had come to interview Lord Chalfont.

Extract from

# LLOYD'S LIST AND SHIPPING GAZETTE

(SEE OVERLEAF)

29 NOV 1968

Date.....

**CRASH IN FALKLAND ISLANDS**  
Port Stanley, Nov. 27. — A plane carrying Hector Ricardo Garcia, director of the Buenos Aires newspaper "Cronica," and a reporter crash-landed on a road south of here to-day. The plane, which was piloted by Miguel Fitzgerald, was badly damaged but none of the three persons on board was injured. Men from the Royal Marines rushed to the spot and the Argentinians were taken into police custody. When questioned, they said they only wished to interview Lord Chalfont, the British Minister who arrived here several days ago to outline Britain's stand on the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands to the islanders. In Buenos Aires, an informed source said the plane left Buenos Aires for the islands yesterday.—Reuter.

Extract from  
British Industry Week, London

29 NOV 1968

Socialist and Tory back-benchers tried unsuccessfully to stop **House of Lords reform**. The Lords gave strong support to their fate.

**Lord Chalfont** became the first minister to visit the **Falkland Islands**. He is returning via **Argentina**.

The Commons' Estimates Committee reported Britain's overseas aid programme was well conceived and administered, and fulfilling its objectives. Estimated cost in the current year is **£227 million**.

Extract from

**Belfast Telegraph**

Head Office:

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London Office: Thomson House,  
200 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1

Date 29 NOV 1968

**TORIES FEAR  
FALKLANDS  
'SELL-OUT'**

FEARS THAT a "sell-out" to Argentina is imminent were expressed by Conservative MPs to-day as they demanded a clear statement from the Prime Minister that the Falkland islanders "are British, will remain British, and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

Nearly 100 Tories had to-day signed a Commons motion about the future of the South Atlantic colony, as the Foreign Office Minister. Lord Chalfont, began his journey home after talks with the islanders, writes Gordon Jackson, our London political correspondent.

Lord Chalfont will make a statement in the House of Lords early next week on his discussions.

According to the Foreign Office an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the future of the islands with the Argentine Government, who are stepping up their demands for sovereignty of the islands.

MPs fear that although there may not be an immediate take-over by the Argentinians, this will happen bit by bit during the next few years.

There are reports that a joint declaration by Britain and Argentina will be put before the United Nations before December 20 on the future of the lonely Atlantic islands.

The argument seems to be that the islanders would benefit economically from closer links with their near-neighbours, the Argentinians.

In their Commons motion 95 Conservative MPs expressed their dismay at reports that the Government is contemplating the cession of the isles, and their dependencies, to the Argentine Republic.

They affirm the growing importance to Britain of exploration of the Antarctic sub-continent, and of possible future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic.

Extract from

Dundee Courier & Advertiser

29 NOV 1968

**No pact on  
Falklands—F.O.**

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman denied in London yesterday that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who has been having talks in the Falkland Islands, is to meet the Argentine Foreign Minister in Buenos Aires tomorrow night.

The spokesman repeated there could be no question of a transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the inhabitants.

Extract from

Manchester Evening News

29 NOV 1968

**Chalfont to  
talk again  
over issues**

By a Special Correspondent  
LORD CHALFONT was on his way to Rio Gallegos, Argentina, today after his visit to the Falkland Islands.

On the same ship were three Argentine newsmen who crash-landed on the islands as they were attempting to fly in for an interview with him.

Chalfont is expected to discuss Argentina's claims to the islands with officials in Buenos Aires before he returns to London.

Before he left the Falklands he repeatedly assured the islanders that Britain would not ignore their wishes in any agreement with Argentina.

Extract from  
Southern Evening Echo, Southampton

29 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS

THE feeling grows that the end of the Falkland Islands as a British colony is now in sight. Yet Lord Chalfont—the British Minister at present visiting this remote outpost of what was once the British Empire—solemnly declares that a pledge of no transfer of sovereignty without the prior consent of the islanders would be entrenched in any agreement that might be reached with Argentina.

The Falkland Islands have been claimed at various times by the British, French and Spanish. For the past 150 years they have been under continuous occupation by the British, but Argentina—as the successor of Spain—has never ceased to claim them.

Since all the 3,000 inhabitants are of British stock, it would seem that Argentina's moral claim to these islands is a good deal weaker than Spain's case for sovereignty over Gibraltar. The same principle should, however, apply in both instances: no change, without the consent of the people.

The Government denies that an agreement with Argentina is imminent, but says that it is hoped an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the problem. We trust that Lord Chalfont, when he makes a statement in the Lords next week, will explain what is the difference between the two, and clear up the other ambiguities surrounding this subject.

If it is possible to satisfy Argentina without betraying the Falkland islanders, well and good. But it would be a scandalous thing if these overseas Britons were denied the same right to self-determination we have granted to so many former colonies in Africa and Asia.

Extract from

The  
Lancashire Evening Telegraph

BLACKBURN

29 NOV 1968

Date (See

# Tory MPs demand that Falklands be kept British

By GORDON JACKSON

Our Political Correspondent

FEARS that a "sell out" to Argentina is imminent were expressed by Conservative MPs today as they demanded a clear statement from Mr Wilson that the Falkland Islanders "are British, will remain British, and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

Nearly 100 Tories had today signed a Commons motion about the future of the South Atlantic colony, as Foreign Office Minister, Lord

Chalfont, began his journey home after talks with the islanders.

Lord Chalfont will make a statement in the House of Lords early next week on his discussions.

According to the Foreign Office an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the future of the islands with the Argentine Government who are stepping up their demands for sovereignty of the islands.

### Declaration

MPs fear that although there may not be an immediate takeover by the Argentinians, this will happen bit by bit during the next few years.

There are reports that a joint declaration by Britain and Argentina will be put before the United Nations before December 20 on the future of the lonely Atlantic Islands.

The argument seems to be that the islanders would benefit economically from closer links with their neighbours, the Argentinians.

In their Commons motion 95 Conservative MPs express their dismay at reports that the Government is contemplating the cession of the isles, and their dependence, to the Argentine republic.

They affirm the growing importance to Britain of exploration of the Antarctic sub-continent, and of possible future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic.

Extract from  
Cambridge News

29 NOV 1968

## Falklands appeal

Almost 100 Conservative M.P.s have signed a Commons motion calling on the Government "once and for all to make it clear that the Falkland Islanders are British, will remain British and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

The M.P. for Bury St. Edmunds, Mr. Eldon Griffiths, is the sponsor of the motion.

Sir Harry Legge-Bourke (Isle of Ely) and Sir David Renton (Huntingdon) are among those who have signed the motion.

Extract from the

# Shields Gazette

and Shipping Telegraph

Incorporating The Shields Evening News

Date 3.0 NOV 1968

## CHALFONT GIVES SOVEREIGNTY VOW TO FALKLANDS

3003 FALKLAND ISLANDERS today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants. A statement issued by the colony's Executive Council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said.

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina today, in the British ice-patrol ship Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

### EXPERTS

Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts who will advise the Falkland Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

The statement issued at the conclusion of the talks with Lord Chalfont added: "No one can dispute that an economy based wholly on wool production is anything other than extremely vulnerable, or that plans must be made to diversify production."

Such a programme would, however, take a long time to exert an influence on the economy.

The team is expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.

"It will almost certainly consist of a veterinary investigation officer, a sheep or beef cattle husbandry officer, a laboratory technician and a pastures specialist," the statement said.

—Includes Reuter and A.P.



LORD CHALFONT

International Press-Cutting Bureau  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

## Halifax Courier & Guardian

(HALIFAX, ENGLAND)

Date..... 3.0 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS WELCOME BRITISH ASSURANCES

3003 Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, Saturday.  
FALKLAND ISLANDERS today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty of the islands to Argentine against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's Executive Council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said: "We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina, today, in the British ice-patrol ship Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts who will advise the Falkland Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

### Based on wool

A statement issued at the conclusion of the talks with Lord Chalfont said: "No one can dispute that an economy based wholly on wool production is anything other than extremely vulnerable, or that plans must be made to diversify production."

The team is expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.

"It will almost certainly consist of a veterinary investigation officer, a sheep or beef cattle husbandry officer, a laboratory technician and a pastures specialist," the statement said.—Reuter and Associated Press.

Extract from  
South Wales Argus, Newport

## Falklands welcome Chalfont pledges

**FALKLAND ISLANDERS** today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont, in the name of the British government, that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British government in this matter."

### Talks

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina, today, in the British ice-patrol ship *Endurance*. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine foreign minister.

Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts who will advise the Falkland

Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

A statement issued at the end of the talks with Lord Chalfont said: "No one can dispute that an economy based wholly on wool production is anything other than extremely vulnerable, or that plans must be made to diversify production."

The team is expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.

"It will almost certainly consist of a veterinary investigation officer, a sheep or beef cattle husbandry officer, a laboratory technician, and a pastures specialist," the statement said.



Lord Chalfont

Extract from  
Northampton Chronicle & Echo

30 NOV 1968

## Falklands put trust in Whitehall

Port Stanley, Falkland Islands,  
Saturday.

**FALKLAND** Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's Executive Council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due in Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine foreign Minister.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

30 NOV 1968

## FALKLANDS: 5 BASIC POINTS

Britain and Argentina have already reached agreement on five basic points in talks on the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands, a Buenos Aires newspaper reported yesterday.

The newspaper said that the first point was to settle the whole affair peacefully, and, secondly, it was also agreed that the interests of the population of the islands should be taken into account in any settlement.

The third point is the alleged aim of the British Government to acknowledge eventually Argentine sovereignty of the islands. The fourth is to set a date for such acknowledgment once London is sure that Argentina will protect the islanders' interests.

The last, and most important, point calls for a period of four to ten years to test the new system of guarantees to the Falklands' population, after which both countries would agree to closer relations and better communications between the islands and the Argentine mainland.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

30 NOV 1968

## Falkland 'pact'

**BRITAIN** and Argentina have already reached agreement on five basic points in talks on the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands, a Buenos Aires newspaper said yesterday.

DATE..... 3.0. NOV. 1968.....

## FALKLANDS TO STAY BRITISH'

FALKLAND Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's Executive Council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British

Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina today, in the British ice-patrol ship Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Extract from

WEST LANCASHIRE  
**EVENING GAZETTE**

BLACKPOOL

Date..... 3.0 NOV 1968.....

*Chalfont flies to Buenos Aires*

## FALKLANDS WELCOME ASSURANCES

PORT STANLEY (Falkland Islands),  
Saturday.

FALKLAND Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts

who will advise the Falkland Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

The statement issued at the conclusion of the talks with Lord Chalfont said, "No one can dispute that an economy based wholly on wool production is anything other than extremely vulnerable, or that plans must be made to diversify production."

Such a programme would, however, take a long time to exert an influence on the economy.

The team is expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.

"It will almost certainly consist of a veterinary investigation officer, a sheep or beef cattle husbandry officer, a laboratory technician and a pastures specialist," the statement said.

Extract from  
Swindon Evening Advertiser  
Wiltshire

## Falklands welcome Chalfont promise

FALKLAND Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the Colony's Executive Council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

### 'GOOD FAITH'

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina today, in the British ice-patrol ship Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Meanwhile Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts who will advise the Falkland Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

The team is expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.—Reuter and AP.

Extract from  
Greenock Telegraph, Renfrewshire,  
Scotland

30 NOV 1968

## Falklands hail statement

FALKLAND islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:—

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made



LORD CHALFONT

aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date

## BRITISH ISLANDS

GOVERNMENT by leakage has its penalties. The stubborn refusal of rumour to be laid to rest by official denial is an early manifestation of the sickness, and the future of the Falkland Islands its latest victim. The inspired leaks which seem part of the present Administration's technical bag of tricks could well be at work in the present case since it is hard to believe that the islands are a vital British interest and easy to argue that their retention represents nostalgia for Empire and the days when Her Majesty's ships clung to distant stations in all weathers. As Mr Heath emphasised yesterday, the case for retaining the Falklands is not dependent on the national interest or nostalgia but on one simple fact; those who live there wish to maintain their present connection with this country. The connection may owe something to accident—most historical connections do—but it is hard to see any Argentinian connection at all. Even the geographical connection depends on the existence of the continental shelf linking the islands to Patagonia. By that test a French claim for the Isle of Wight (not to mention the

Channel Islands) could be encountered any day.

The British Government have chosen to discuss the Argentinian claim. A firm "No" should have been enough, and it is not too late for the House of Commons to extract one. There need be no agreement with the Argentinians. There is nothing to negotiate about. By the simple tests of self-determination the Falkland Islanders have made their position clear and no more formal test, such as a plebiscite or referendum, would make it any stronger nor the Argentinians more likely to accept it. There are times when an impasse has to be lived with and if this seems like one at least it is less harmful than breaking faith with a few thousand British people in the South Atlantic. Should, however, the Government be wavering it might consider that beyond Port Stanley lie potentially valuable islands like South Georgia and further south still a substantial slice of British-controlled Antarctica with who knows what valuable resource untapped. Abandoning the Falklands could also put these at risk.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON, S.W.1.

Extract from The

LIVERPOOL  
DAILY POST

30 NOV 1968

Date

## Falkland agreement report

Britain and the Argentine have already reached agreement on five basic points in talks on the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands, a Buenos Aires newspaper reported yesterday.

In a despatch from London La Prensa detailed the agreement as follows:

The first point is to settle the whole affair peacefully. Then it also was agreed that the interests of the population of the Islands should be taken into account in any settlement.

The third point is the alleged aim of the British Government to acknowledge eventually the Argentine sovereignty of the Islands. The fourth is to set a date for such acknowledgment, once London is sure the Argentine will protect the Islanders' interests.

The last and most important point calls for a period from four to ten years to test the new system of guarantees to the Falklands population, after which both countries would agree to closer relations and better communications between the Islands and the Argentine mainland.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is expected in Buenos Aires on Saturday night from the Islands for what is officially a courtesy visit.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

30 NOV 1966

## THE FALKLANDS MYSTERY

THERE are all the signs that the British Government is preparing to do a shabby deal with the Argentine over the Falkland Islands. Time and again the 2,000 inhabitants of these windswept territories in the South Atlantic have expressed their desire to remain British. This is hardly surprising since all the islanders are descendants of Scottish, Welsh and Westcountry sheep farmers who emigrated in the 19th century. English is the language and the settlement has clearly no affinity with Spanish-speaking Argentina. The Argentine claim goes back more than 100 years, but there must be some statute of limitation in international affairs.

Lord Chalfont, who was once Minister for Disarmament and once Minister for Europe — and can show few positive results from either office — has just been on an official visit to the islands. According to reports of his meetings with islanders, his mission seems to have been designed to soften them up for an eventual Argentine take-over. Reports stress the fears that sooner or later the islanders are going to be sold down the river. He is to make a statement in the Lords next week, and it is to be hoped that he will be a good deal more frank than the Foreign Office.

All along, the Foreign Office has been evasive and equivocal on the issue. Lord Caradon gave a pledge three years ago that the islanders would not be betrayed, and that Britain would protect them. Yet since then, the Foreign Office has admitted that it had discussed the sovereignty of the islands with the Argentine Government, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Stewart, has implied that Britain is ready to give the islands away if only the islanders would agree. Why there should be this servile desire to butter up the Argentine is a mystery. It is true that the notorious United Nations Committee on De-Colonisation has urged the two countries to have talks, just as it has over Gibraltar. But this Government ought not to be so blind as to take instructions from an obviously biased United Nations committee.

We do a fairly large trade with the Argentine, but overwhelmingly in her favour, not ours. If we have reached the stage when we would barter British citizens' freedom for the possibility of a few more exports, then this country has sunk lower than any of us imagined. We shall be glad to hear to the contrary, but all reports of Lord Chalfont's visit suggest that he has been busily writing off the Falklands as an economic unit. In that case, why should Argentina want them? For national pride, it might be said. But has that spirit entirely vanished from Britain? Lord Chalfont must not be surprised if he meets a very suspicious audience next week. What will be next on the list for a sell-out?

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Jersey Evening Post

30 NOV 1968

## Islanders welcome Chalfont assurances

<sup>3003</sup> Port Stanley.  
FALKLAND ISLANDERS today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont about the future of the island.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council said: "After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people. "We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due today  
Rio Gallegos, Southern Arg

ina, aboard the ice-patrol ship, H.M.S. Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Southern Evening Echo, Southampton

30 NOV 1968

## Falklands: <sup>3003</sup> 'We trust Britain'

PORT STANLEY,  
Falkland Islands, Saturday.  
FALKLAND Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people. "We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont was due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina, today, in the British ice-patrol ship Endurance. He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr. Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Britain has agreed to sponsor a team of agricultural experts who will advise the Falkland Islanders on the development of their farming industry.

Lord Chalfont said: "No one can dispute that an economy based wholly on wool production is anything other than extremely vulnerable, or that plans must be made to diversify production."

The team are expected to arrive in the colony next August and will remain there until the following spring.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
Barnsley Chronicle, Yorks.

30 NOV 1968

## Rotarians hear <sup>3003</sup> about life in Falkland Islands

At their weekly luncheon gathering at the Queen's Hotel, on Tuesday, members of the Barnsley Rotary Club heard Mr. B. Lamplugh, a Sheffield University student, speak of life in the Falkland Islands. His talk was followed by the showing of a very interesting film.

Under the Volunteer Service Overseas scheme, Mr. Lamplugh spent 12 months in the Islands. He described the history of the Islands' transport—land rover or horse—and the lack of proper roads. He mentioned that the land was of such poor quality that a sheep had an acre to itself.

Thanks were expressed by Rotarian Harry Mills. President Bernal Armitage presided.

Extract from  
Wolverhampton Express & Star

30 NOV 1968

## Was this man's



3003

## journey really necessary ?

IN THESE days when students and holiday-makers are restricted to £50 travel allowance it is a little puzzling to find a member of the British Government, along with a party, travelling 9,000 miles to spend five days to seek the answer to a question which is already known.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, finds so little to do in his department that he and his party can spend a week on a "fact-finding tour of the Falkland Islands" to find out whether the 2,000 British inhabitants want to remain British or join the Argentine.

Now that we have to count our pennies, I would ask Lord Chalfont if he thinks his journey to the other side of the world is really necessary, especially in view of all the information on the subject available at the Commonwealth Office.

Besides, what do we maintain Governors of Colonies for?

There is also a Legislative Council on the islands which knows every adult in the population.

But if the government could not trust any of the

asks our Foreign  
Affairs consultant

local officials to assess the situation, there is also the bulky file of letters expressing loyalty to Britain by the Falklanders. There are also scores of newspaper reports on the same subject.

The islanders, all pure British, just can't understand what all the fuss is about.

As one islander said to Lord Chalfont: "If you agree we are British why talk about it with the Argentine?"

I gather Lord Chalfont's remarks to the people were that Britain would never change the status of the colony against the population's wishes.

But is this correct? The Falklanders — and many British M.P.s — believe there is something sinister going on and that despite all the protestations a deal is about to be done by Britain with the Argentine.

Would it not have saved time and expense if the British Government had made its statement quite clearly in a policy broadcast, or even passed on the words to the Governor? Surely in a place with so few people he could almost have had the message passed round with the rates.

Extract from  
Lincolnshire Daily Echo, Lincoln

30 NOV 1968

## Falklanders welcome Chalfont assurances

Falkland Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty of the colony to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

Extract from the

## Evening Express

ABERDEEN

30 NOV 1968

Date.....

## Islanders put trust in Britain

FALKLAND Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's executive council after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont in the name of the British Government that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people.

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."

Lord Chalfont is due at Rio Gallegos, Argentina, today, in the British ice-patrol ship *Endurance*.

He will fly to Buenos Aires tonight for talks with Dr Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Extract from  
East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich

30 NOV 1968

## 100 M P s BACK GRIFFITHS

Nearly 100 Tory M.P.s have signed a motion sponsored by Bury M.P. Mr. Eldon Griffiths, asking the Government to make clear that "the Falkland Islanders will remain British, and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

Among those who have signed the motion are Mr. Julian Ridsdale (Harwich), Mr. Antony Buck (Colchester) and Sir Harwood Harrison (Eye).

Extract from

The  
Birmingham  
Post

30 NOV 1968

Date

Government telling only half the truth

# Falklands 'sell-out' hint will start storm in Commons

By C. F. MELVILLE

Birmingham Post Diplomatic Correspondent

A Parliamentary storm will break next week when Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, tells the Commons of his talks in the Falkland Islands and Argentina on the future of the islands. He will indicate that an Anglo-Argentine "agreed position" on the future sovereignty of the Falklands is likely to be announced before Christmas.

What Lord Chalfont says will reinforce the suspicions of many M.P.s of a "sell-out" by the Government—despite his reiteration to the islanders of the assurance in London by Mr. Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, that there would be "no transfer of sovereignty without the consent of the inhabitants."

I am able to say that the Government is speaking only half the truth when it says that there will be no transfer of the sovereignty of the Falklands without the consent of the inhabitants.

It remains silent on the other half—which is that it is trying to persuade the inhabitants to give their consent.

It hopes to be in the position after a sell-out to claim that it acted with the consent of the islanders—without admitting that it used its persuasive arts on them.

The Government's reasons for this attitude are that the Falklands are of no economic value to Britain and that we can no longer afford to provide for their defence.

Moreover, the Government wants better relations with Argentina for economic reasons, and believes that the easiest and cheapest way of achieving this would be by satisfying Argentina's claim to the islands.

This being so, Lord Chalfont was instructed to tell the islanders that whole British policy remained "no transfer without consent," they would do well to consider that owing to the fall in the price of wool, and owing also to Argentina having cut off their communications with the mainland, they would not have a viable economic future by remaining British.

They were told also that Britain could not help them financially.

## Falklands may be handed over

BRITAIN'S deal with the Argentine over the Falkland Islands will be announced by the Government as soon as the right atmosphere has been created.

The pact, described by the Foreign Office as "an agreed position," would come into force as soon as the agreement of the 2,000 Falkland Islanders had been obtained. The "agreed position"

would be set out in two inter-linking clauses.

One clause would proclaim that the Argentine Government was willing to restore communications both by air and sea between the Argentine mainland and the islands.

The second part of the declaration would state that Britain would have no objection to transferring the sovereignty which she now holds to the Argentine Republic provided that this is the wish of the islanders.

### Economic lever

The Government hopes that the restoration of communications with the mainland that would follow an Anglo-Argentine agreement would improve the economic conditions of the islands to an extent that would induce the inhabitants to accept eventual Argentine rule.

It also believes that those who would not be prepared to accept the transfer would emigrate—mainly to New Zealand.

Already the Argentine Government has intimated that it is prepared to wait and to agree to a system of "phased take over"—even over a period of years—provided that in the end it gains possession of the Falklands.

It has given assurances that it would not emulate Spain's tactics in trying to gain immediate possession of Gibraltar.

Finally I can reveal that even some months ago, it was being said unofficially in Whitehall: "Why should there be any fuss just because a little bit more of the world's map may one day cease to be coloured red."

In the circumstances, it is not surprising that the people of the Falklands are both puzzled and worried.

### Due back on Monday

Lord Chalfont is due back in London on Monday after his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands.

He is expected to arrive in Argentina today and is to meet the Foreign Minister, Senor Nicanor Costa Mendez, in Buenos Aires tonight.

The leader of the Opposition, Mr. Edward Heath, in a letter to Lord Chelmer yesterday, wrote: "We can best serve the interests of the Falkland islanders by making clear beyond doubt that Parliament and the British people will firmly support them in their determination to remain British."

He was replying to a telegram sent to him on Thursday by Lord Chelmer on behalf of the political committee of the Carlton Club.

Extract from

THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

30 NOV 1968

Date

(See information overleaf)

Extract from

# The Press and Journal

ABERDEEN

30 NOV 1968

Date.....  
(See information overleaf.)

## FALKLANDS: HEATH'S PROMISE

THE LEADER of the opposition, Mr Edward Heath, in a letter to Lord Chelmer yesterday, wrote "We can best serve the interests of the Falkland islanders by making clear beyond any doubt that Parliament and the British people will firmly support the determination of the islanders to remain British. There is no reason why the lives of these loyal subjects of the Crown should be disrupted because of the timidity and old-fashioned prejudice of Socialist Ministers."

Mr Heath was replying to a telegram sent to him by Lord Chelmer on behalf of the political committee of the Carlton Club. He wrote that he feared the anxiety over the future of the Falkland Islands which was expressed in that telegram.

He added: "I entirely agree with what you say about the harm done by the equivocal manoeuvres of Ministers on this issue."

The letter ends: "Please assure your committee that my colleagues and I will wholeheartedly defend the cause of the Falkland islanders."

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

### Falklands talks

Britain and Argentina have reached agreement on five basic points in talks on the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands, a Buenos Aires newspaper reported yesterday.  
—AP. 3003

Extract from

# The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

30 NOV 1968

Date.....

## Britain may give up the Falklands

By Our Diplomatic  
Correspondent

Although there has, so far, been no official indication of the likely terms of the so-called "agreed position on the Falkland Islands" which Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has said Britain and Argentina hope to arrive at in the near future, the main points are now becoming fairly clear.

It is expected that the Argentinians will agree to a resumption of sea and air communications between the islands and the mainland, and the British Government will probably declare that they have no objection to conceding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands provided the islanders can be persuaded to accept it. In other words Britain will say that it has no real dispute with Argentina on this matter, and that it is up to the islanders to decide their own future.

### "Not wanted"

It is profoundly hoped in Whitehall that the islanders will eventually agree to become part of Argentina and thus relieve the British Government from what is regarded as a tedious and pointless commitment.

The islanders, however, have never been able to look at things in this way. It will require a revolution in their attitude if they are ever to accept the idea of Argentinian sovereignty. So the "agreed position," if and when it materialises, is unlikely to take matters much further.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes:—Mr Edward Heath, leader of the Conservative Party, accused the Government last night of "equivocation, timidity and old-fashioned prejudice" over the Falkland Islands and pledged the support of his party for the islanders' cause.

He said this in a letter replying to a telegram from Lord Chelmer on behalf of the political committee of the Carlton Club, which had expressed anxiety about the future of the islands.

A statement on the position is expected on Tuesday. It will be made in the Lords by Lord Chalfont and probably by Mr Michael Stewart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the Commons.

Extract from  
Morning Advertiser, London

30 NOV 1968

## HEATH DEFENDS FALKLAND ISLANDERS

THE Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Edward Heath, in a letter to Lord Chelmer yesterday, wrote: "We can best serve the interests of the Falkland Islanders by making clear beyond any doubt that Parliament and the British people will firmly support the determination of the islanders to remain British."

"There is no reason why the lives of these loyal subjects of the Crown should be disrupted because of the timidity and old fashioned prejudice of Socialist ministers."

### TELEGRAM

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He wrote that he feared the anxiety over the future of the Falkland Islands which was expressed in that telegram.

He added: "I entirely agree with what you say about the harm done by the equivocal manoeuvres of Ministers on this issue."

The letter ends: "Please assure your committee that my colleagues and I will wholeheartedly defend the cause of the Falkland Islanders."

Extract from  
Wolverhampton Express & Star

30 NOV 1968

## Pledge boosts Falklands

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands, Saturday. — Falkland Islanders today welcomed assurances by Lord Chalfont that Britain would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the inhabitants.

A statement issued by the colony's Executive Council, after a meeting on this week's visit by the British Minister, said:

"After four days of detailed discussions with Lord Chalfont, during which we were made aware of the nature of the talks between the British and Argentine Governments, we wish everyone to know that we welcomed the assurances given by Lord Chalfont, in the name of the British Government, that sovereignty over the Falkland Islands will not be transferred against the wishes of our people."

"We all believe in the good faith of the British Government in this matter."—Reuter.

Extract from  
Wolverhampton Express & Star

29 NOV 1968

# FALKLANDS: FEAR OF A SECRET DEAL

3003  
In spite of Ministerial assurances, fears of a secret deal under which Britain would hand over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine were growing at Westminster this afternoon.

Tory M.P.s flocked to sign a Commons' motion calling on the Prime Minister to make clear once and for all that the Falkland Islanders are "British, will remain British, and need not fear any transfer against their will, to an alien land."

The M.P.s who have signed include Mr. Hugh Fraser, Stafford and Stone, Mr. John Biffen, Oswestry, Sir Gerald Nabarro, South Worcester-shire, Mr. Harold Gurden, Selly Oak, and Sir Harmar Nicholls, Peterborough.

There is talk at Westminster that the islanders may organise a petition to the Queen.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, now holding talks on the islands, will face demands for a full immediate statement when he returns next week.

Mr. Wilson and his Ministers have pledged that sovereignty

By Ernest Prince, our political correspondent

will not be surrendered against the wishes of the islanders.

But some Tories are insist-

ing that the Government line is to quietly encourage the islanders to emigrate because of the lack of prospects there, thus clearing the way for the handover to the Argentine in a few years time.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

29 NOV 1968

## What was Lord Chalfont up to?

3003  
After visiting the Falkland Islands, Lord Chalfont, the Government's emissary, appears to have left the islanders in better heart about their future than the British people dare be. We have more experience of promises meaning less than they seem to. The Government's procedure has at all events been most mysterious. Lord Chalfont followed spokesmen in both Houses of Parliament in publicly refusing to countenance the transfer of the islands to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders. At the same time he persuaded the islanders to offer comments on their attitude to a theoretical transfer of sovereignty. If this is conditioning the islanders to the possibility of being abandoned by Britain, it is a disgraceful stratagem. Yet if Lord Chalfont was operating in the world of theory only, what was the point?

The Government are anxious to improve relations with the Argentine. But the sovereignty of the Falklands should have no part in such negotiations. The future of the islands must be decided by the islanders alone, without pressure from either Buenos Aires or London. Since there is no doubt that

virtually all of them would vote to remain under British rule, the Argentinians should be made to understand that their nationalistic aspirations can never be fulfilled. But as long as the British Government equivocate (or seem to, which is as bad), the Argentinians will continue to nurture hopes of regaining the *Islas Malvinas*, as they call them.

To barter away the future of 2000 British subjects would be a disgrace not easily forgotten. But there is also a general principle which ought to lie behind the Government's intentions. That is the need to convince the world that we mean what we say. If the Falkland Islands were sacrificed to the ambitions of an alien military regime, the dictatorship of Spain would step up pressure on Gibraltar. Further, any vestige of confidence that the world retains in our undertaking to end the Rhodesian rebellion would be lost. Some so-called anti-colonialist nations support the Argentine's claim, but they should be told that we will apply to the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar the same principle as they (and we) demand for Rhodesia—that the majority of the people should freely decide their future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

29 NOV 1968

## ANXIETY REFLECTED IN TORY MOTION

3003  
Reports that the Government are contemplating ceding the Falkland Isles and their dependencies to Argentina led to anxious discussion among Conservative back-benchers at last night's meeting of the 1922 Committee.

After the meeting a group of Conservative M.P.s, led by Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds), tabled a motion which said:—

"That this House, upholding the principles of self-determination, and dismayed by reports that H.M. Government contemplates the cession to the Argentine Republic of the Falkland Isles and their dependencies, affirms the growing importance to Britain of exploration of the Antarctic sub-continent and, if possible, future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic, and calls upon the Prime Minister, once and for all, to make clear that the Falkland Islanders are British, will remain British and need not fear any future transfer against their will to an alien land."

Among signatories to the motion is Mr Michael Clerk Hutchison (Edinburgh, S.).

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

29 NOV 1968

## Falklands challenge to Wilson

By Our Political Correspondent

**A**NXIOUS and angry speeches about the Government's equivocal attitude to the Falklands were made by Conservative back-benchers at last night's private meeting of the "1922" Committee.

The recurrent theme was that Lord Chalfont's visit had served only to increase fears that, sooner or later, the islanders were going to be "sold down the river."

After the meeting M.P.s flocked to sign a motion sponsored by Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) and other members of the 1922 executive.

These included the two vice-chairmen, Sir Tufton Beamish (Lewes) and Sir Ian Orr-Ewing (Hendon N.), and a joint secretary, Mr. Philip Goodhart (Beckenham).

### 'Dismay' at reports

The motion invites the House to uphold the principles of self-determination and express its dismay at reports that the Government contemplates the cession of the Falklands and their dependencies to the Argentine Republic.

It calls upon the Prime Minister "once and for all to make it clear that the Falkland islanders are British, will remain British, and need not fear any future transfer against their will to an alien land."

Extract from  
Bristol Evening Post

29 NOV 1968

## M.P.s seek pledge for Falklands

Three West Country M.P.s are among the 100 Tory M.P.s who have argued a Commons motion asking the Government to make it clear that the Falkland Isles are British and will stay British.

The three are: Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury), Sir Edward Brown (Bath), Mr. David Webster (Weston-super-Mare)

Extract from

## The Birmingham Post

Date 29 NOV 1968

## 'No agreement to transfer Falklands'

It was officially denied yesterday that Britain was near agreement with Argentina over a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The hope was expressed, however, that "an agreed position" would soon be reached on the problem.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said in London yesterday: "It is not true that we are near agreement with the Argentine, which would transfer sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina."

The spokesman disclosed that the Argentine Ambassador in London, Brig. Don Eduardo McLoughlin, was called to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office yesterday to see an assistant under secretary, Mr. John Heath. Representation were made about the illegal landing in the Falklands yesterday of an Argentine registered aircraft.

Extract from  
Reading Evening Post

29 NOV 1968

## MPs fear Falklands 'sell-out'

FEARS that a "sell-out" to Argentina is imminent were expressed by Conservative MPs today as they demanded a clear statement from the Prime Minister that the Falkland Islanders "are British, will remain British, and need not fear any transfer against their will to an alien land."

Nearly 10 Tories had today signed a Commons motion about the future of the South Atlantic colony as the Foreign Office minister, Lord Chalfont, began his journey home after talks with the islanders.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

29 NOV 1968

# Falklands 3003 assurance sought by M.P.s

By Our Political Correspondent

Conservative M.P.s pressed the Government in the Commons yesterday for a statement next week on the visit of Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to the Falkland Islands. Mr Edward Heath, Leader of the Opposition, said the visit seemed to raise "important doubts" and asked that the minds of M.P.s should be "put at rest."

Mr Fred Peart, Leader of the House, said the Government's position had not changed since the last policy statement, but this assurance did little to ease the agitated breasts of Conservatives.

It is probable that Mr Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, will make a statement in the Commons next week, probably on Tuesday, while Lord Chalfont will make a similar statement in the Lords.

## SUSPICIOUS

Despite repeated assurances that Britain would not surrender sovereignty of the dependency to the Argentine against the wishes of the 2000 inhabitants, Tories are deeply suspicious that some understanding with the Argentine. Some Conservatives believe that some form of shared responsibility with the Argentine is being considered. Others suspect that the Government tactics are such as to create despair among wool-farmers on the islands, whose emigration in large numbers would mean a transfer of sovereignty could be accomplished without difficulty.

Conservatives insist that if the islanders want to remain British, as they have stated frequently, they should be backed by the British Government.

## REQUEST

In the House yesterday, Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C., Edinburgh S.) asked for copies of "any agreement or understanding" between the U.K. and the Argentine on the Falklands to be made available to M.P.s. Mr Peart undertook to tell the Foreign Secretary of this request.

It was stated that Lord Chalfont is to pay a short courtesy visit to Argentina next week-end on his way back to London.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

29 NOV 1968

# Falklands 3003 leader 'much happier'

PORT STANLEY (Falkland Islands), Thursday.—Lord Chalfont, British Minister of State, left the Falkland Islands for Argentina tonight aboard the British ship Endurance, after five days of intensive talks on the future of this British colony.

As he left, a member of the colony's executive council, Mr S. Miller, said: "We are much happier this afternoon than we were last night." His comment came after the executive council met Lord Chalfont again this morning in secret session.

The Endurance is expected to reach Rio Gallegos in Southern Argentina early on Saturday. Lord Chalfont will then fly to Buenos Aires, where he is expected to dine with Dr Costa Mendez, the Argentinian Foreign Minister.

## PLANE CRASH

Also on board 'the Endurance' are three Argentinians who crash-landed their aircraft south of Port Stanley last night.

The three men, Miguel Fitzgerald (42), the pilot, Juan Carlos Nava (40), a reporter, and Hector Garcia (36), director of the nationalistic newspaper "Cronica," are being shipped back to Rio Gallegos after a strong British protest over their illegal entry, which they claim was a bid to interview Lord Chalfont.

Lord Chalfont is due back in Britain on December 2 to report to the Prime Minister, Mr Wilson. The "agreed position" document between Britain and Argentina is expected to be published in both countries shortly before Christmas.—Reuter.

Extract from  
Watford Evening Echo, Herts.

29 NOV 1968

# Wilson 3003 gets Falkland Isle demand

TORY MPs fearing a sellout to Argentina demanded today a clear statement from Mr Wilson that the Falkland Islanders "are British, will remain British, and need fear no transfer against their will to an alien land."

Nearly 100 Tories have signed a Commons motion about the future of the South Atlantic colony as Lord Chalfont began his journey home after talks with islanders.

Lord Chalfont is making a statement in the House of Lords early next week on his discussions.

The Foreign Office says an "agreed position" will soon be reached on the future of the islands with the Argentine government, who are stepping up demands for sovereignty over them.

## Argument

MPs fear that while there may not be an immediate takeover by the Argentinians, this will happen bit by bit over the next few years.

There are reports that a joint declaration by Britain and Argentina will be put before the UN before December 20.

The argument seems to be that the islanders would benefit economically from closer links with their near neighbours, the Argentinians.

In their Commons motion 95 Tory MPs express dismay at reports that the Government is contemplating the cession of the isles and their dependencies to the Argentine republic.

They affirm the growing importance to Britain of exploring the Antarctic sub-continent, and of possible future exploitation of the continental shelf under the South Atlantic.

Extract from  
Northern Daily Mail, Hartlepool

- 4 DEC 1968

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

- 4 DEC 1968

## Manchester <sup>14</sup> Evening News

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4, 1968

### 3003 Plain words wanted

STATEMENTS by Ministers on the Falkland Islands do nothing to allay suspicions that the Government hopes eventually to "sell out" the staunchly British colony to Argentina.

The House of Commons has a way of scenting something fishy, and so has the public.

They sensed it yesterday in the vague declarations by Mr Fred Mulley, Foreign Minister of State, and Lord Chalfont, who has just returned from the islands.

Both said it is not intended to "transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders," but Mr Mulley added that the islanders may change their minds — and gave the impression he hoped they would.

#### Still fears

LORD CHALFONT, reporting on his visit, surprisingly avoids any reference to a statement attributed to him in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a "joint effort" to convince the islands that a change of status would be convenient.

Miss Margaret Herbison, one of the most loyal Labour MPs sums up public feeling when she says that in spite of ministerial assurances "there are still fears" that the islands are going to be handed over.

The Government must stop its dallying over the islands and tell the public the whole truth in straight words. There must be a guarantee that Britain will never again put the islands' sovereignty on the agenda in any talks with Argentina.

## NEW ROW OVER FALKLAND ISLANDS EXPECTED

A NEW row over the Government's intention towards the Falkland Islands was expected to break out in the Commons later today, where M.P.s on both sides are gravely concerned about the future of the islanders, writes our Lobby Correspondent.

Tory M.P.s and some Socialists are suspicious that Ministers may be prepared to accept that the sovereignty of the islands will eventually be handed over to the Argentine.

The Government, through Junior Foreign Office Minister, Mr Fred Mulley was making a second attempt to satisfy M.P.s that all is well following Lord Chalfont's (another Foreign Office Minister) visit to the Falklands.

Mr Mulley yesterday struggled for almost an hour to dispel Tory alarm on this issue but his effort only served to increase the doubt.

It was because of protests to this effect that the Government took the unusual step of arranging a repeat performance by Mr Mulley after he had time to confer with his Ministerial colleagues and other Ministers.

These issues are distracting M.P.s from the more serious diplomatic aspects of the Russian anger over the Government's outspoken protest against the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The feeling is growing among M.P.s that an immediate rebuttal must be made of the Soviet charge that the Government is re-creating the cold war atmosphere.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

- 4 DEC 1968

## Falkland Company

TO THE EDITOR <sup>3003</sup>

Sir,—I am writing to refute certain statements about this company which appear in a report from Stanley which appears in your issue of November 28.

This company, which owns a little over half the land in the colony, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1851. The Charter imposed on the company certain obligations to provide ancillary services in the colony, obligations which it has fulfilled with responsibility and care over a period of 117 years. The company has no monopoly interests in the colony other than interests which no other commercial body would undertake either because the financial return is negative or below normal expectations.

Wool prices naturally fluctuate with the level of demand and the economic climate but the realised average price per lb. this year for the company's wool is over 2d a lb. higher than 1967. None the less the present price of wool is at a level at which it will be difficult to maintain the existing standard of living indefinitely. In a period of depressed wool prices we need to exercise economies as would any other company in our

position. The economies have not been at the expense of our employees nor do they involve any reduction in our capital expenditure programme.

Our diversification policy in England is of tremendous help to the economy of the Falklands. The success of the policy has enabled us to maintain our development programme in the colony.

The company, far from resisting any increase in taxation, has repeatedly suggested to the Colonial Government various means of increasing revenue from trading sources. It has also regulated its affairs, by forming new companies, for example, so as to divert taxation to the colony.

The economy of the islands must be viewed over a period of years and it is, therefore, misleading to refer to a budgeted deficit of £130,000. A deficit was, in fact, budgeted for in the previous financial year but a surplus was achieved.—Yours faithfully,

J. H. Yorath.

The Falkland Islands  
Company Limited,  
120 Pall Mall,  
London SW 1.

Extract from  
Evening News, London

- 4 DEC 1968

## Stumbling along the Chalfont way

3003  
"Any serious writer on military affairs who does not lose at least one friend a month should reconsider his position," wrote Baron Chalfont of Llantarnam in a Times book review

He must be wondering today whether the same maxim shouldn't be applied to Ministers of State at the Foreign Office.

The hour Alan Gwynne-Jones, then defence correspondent of the Times, spent with the Prime Minister in October, 1964, was the most trouble-free of his political career. Immediately he became Minister of Disarmament the storm clouds appeared

First he annoyed trade union MPs by his appointment. He had no political experience,

and by going straight into the Lords avoided fighting an election.

By saying Britain was as responsible as anybody for the spread of nuclear weapons he committed the ultimate diplomatic sin—running down Britain abroad. The Tories tabled a censure motion.

### Fourth choice

He was appointed head of our Common Market negotiating team, promptly announced that he had it on good authority from the French Government that there would be no veto this time, and then heard the veto.

He managed to give journalists there the impression that if Britain was kept out of the Common Market we would

leave NATO and cut ourselves off from Europe. There was a storm in the Commons.

And now the Falklands. The Minister said to have been fourth choice for his job—Sir Solly Suckermann, Kenneth Younger and Sir John Cockcroft were approached first—has once again annoyed MPs by revealing on television that he gave the islanders information he hasn't yet mentioned in the Lords.

And still he stumbles along: before his speech in the Lords yesterday the other peers had no idea what he was going to say. Instead of issuing an advance copy of his speech to the Opposition, Lord Chalfont circulated his brief from the Civil Service by mistake.

1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

## The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date ..... - 4 DEC 1968

## Pledges to Peers

3003  
THE PRESENT stage of talks between the Government and the Argentine about the Falkland Islands will probably be ended soon, Lord Chalfont told the Lords yesterday.

Replying to Lord Carrington, Leader of the Opposition Peers, he said: "I have now explained to the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands details of our discussions.

"I have taken them fully into the confidence of the Government and they have said in return that they believe that the British Government is acting in good faith."

The negotiability of sovereignty was being discussed with the Argentine Government.

### Shouts of 'Why'

Conservative Peers shouted "Why" and Lord Chalfont said: "There will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. We have no doubt about our legal entitlement to sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont said that no economic or other pressures would be brought to bear on the Falkland islanders.

Referring to what he called the "alleged report" that Great Britain could not defend the Falklands, Lord Chalfont said: "I deny it categorially. I said that so long as sovereignty rests with us their defence is our responsibility and that responsibility we will discharge."

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

- 4 DEC 1968

## The islands that wait

3003  
IN December 135 years ago two tiny islands came under the British flag; today their future is seriously in doubt although the island residents are nearly unanimous in their wish to remain British.

The islands are the Falklands—West and East. They are divided down the middle by Falkland Sound—just a thin strip of ocean cutting the two land formations.

Residents are worried that the British Government plans to let them go under the flag of the Argentine. The islands are about 1,000 miles east of Cape Horn and most of the 2,200 residents are of British and Scottish descent.

Colonisation began by British and Scottish families seeking the wild adventure of the unknown islands. By 1870 all of West Falkland had been leased to settlers. In 1892 the Falklands officially became a British protectorate.

There are 2,200 people on the isles, which in terrain and weather resembles Dartmoor.

Hills, with large outcrops on the summits, rise to 2,000ft. Rivers and streams are numerous, and the rainfall is high.

Hail, rain, gale-force wind, sunshine, and cloudless skies can follow one another within 24 hours, but the residents are said to be content with their lot, although anxious about their political future.

They made this clear to Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Commonwealth Office, when he visited the Isles last month.

Extract from  
Jersey Evening Post

### 'GIVE C.I. TO FRANCE'

3003  
Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, refused suggestion by Earl of Buckinghamshire in House of Lords today to hand over Channel Islands to France in view of talks with Argentina on Falkland Islands.

The Labour Earl suggested it would be "only logical" to do so. He said: "While assurances are given to people of Falklands that there will be no change of sovereignty—a position which the Argentine will not accept—can he explain how we could sign an agreement by which the Government would be twofaced to the people of the Falklands and to the people of Britain?"

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

- 4 DEC 1968

## Falklands report soon

3003  
By our Political Correspondent  
FOREIGN Secretary Michael Stewart will make a Commons statement on the Falkland Islands next week, MPs were told tonight.

Extract from  
Dundee Evening Telegraph

- 5 DEC 1968

### Island Fog

WE must hope that the British Government's intentions are clearer to the Falkland Islanders than they are to the people of Britain or, it may be added, to both Houses of Parliament.

Did Lord Chalfont face the island breezes to put the case for or to canvass opinion on "change of status" or "change of relationship"?

In other words, did he envisage a "take-over" by the Argentine in the interests of Britain's trade with that country or was he simply there to ask the islanders to consider if they would prefer to be Argentinos?

All may be made clear, but all is not clear yet after sharp questioning in Lords and Commons. Are the islanders to choose without pressure being put on them?

They rub along as it is, not exactly on the crest of prosperity's wave, but without the financial turmoil which has been Britain's lot.

Will they be better off under the Argentinos who, in recent years, have at times experienced difficulty in governing themselves?

And if our Government gently eases them into those arms, what would the position be if a batch of a little more than 2000 Argentine emigrants turned them into a minority? What minority rights would they enjoy?

Winston Churchill once declared that he did not want to preside over the dissolution of the British Empire—as it turned out events caught up on him.

Our Government may have no intention of presiding over the dissolution of the far-flung parts of the Commonwealth, but it should beware of allowing the impression to go abroad that it is ready to put them on the bargain counter.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1

Extract from  
Cork Examiner, Eire

- 4 DEC 1968

### Commons Row On Falklands

Amid persistent questioning from all sides of the House of Commons and roars of disapproval from the opposition, Mr. Fred Mulley (Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) yesterday faced a barrage of demands for further information about the visit of Lord Chalfont, his opposite number in the Lords, to the Falkland Islands.

The questioning of the Minister began when Mr. Bernard Braine, opposition spokesman on Commonwealth affairs asked the Minister to explain "the extraordinary" statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley said that the object of Lord Chalfont's visit was to explain the position in the light of a good deal of confusion that had arisen—not to persuade or direct the opinions of the islanders themselves.

Conservatives roared disapproval when Mr. Mulley said Britain was prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina. The issue was one for the islanders to decide. He said the purpose of the talks was to "restore communications between the islanders and Argentina."

Sir Alec Douglas-Home asked "will you give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talk with the Argentine and they will not be so used? There is a feeling that they are being used in some sense as a bargaining factor and this would be quite wrong."

Mr. Mulley: "I am willing to give that assurance in the form asked. We know and I am sure that Argentina know what the state of opinion of the island is."

Extract from the

### Evening Express

ABERDEEN

- 4 DEC 1968  
Date.....  
(See information overleaf.)

# Falklands: A Commons statement

MR FRED MULLEY, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons today that Lord Chalfont did not suggest yesterday "that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the Falkland Islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

Mr Mulley said: "On all points in the Falklands and in the Argentine, as I repeatedly told the House yesterday, Lord Chalfont made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

Lord Chalfont is also a Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Mulley said that in accordance with the undertaking given to the Commons yesterday, he had inquired into statements made in the Commons about Press reports of remarks attributed to Lord Chalfont when he was in Argentina.

The statement referred to yesterday was made in the context of creating a framework in which obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between the islands and mainland would be overcome, particularly over communications, economic and cultural links.

Mr Mulley quoted extracts from two Argentine newspapers, "Clarim" and "Nacion." They asked the question: "Does this mean that the problem would be to convince the islanders?"

Answer: "I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain but that Argentina also has to solve the problem. Britain's relations with the islands are very good, so it is a question of Argentina promoting good relations between herself and the inhabitants of the islands."

Mr Mulley said Lord Chalfont confirmed the accuracy of the reports.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

### The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

- 5 DEC 1968

Date .....

### Channel Isles

next?

The Earl of Buckinghamshire (Lab.) asked whether "in view of negotiations being carried out with Argentina about the Falkland Islands, it would be only logical to hand over the Channel Islands to France."

Lord Chalfont: "No."

Extract from:

# The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

5 DEC 1968

Date .....

Earl worked  
for Council  
3003



The Earl of Buckinghamshire

THE Falkland Islands controversy brought questions in the Lords yesterday by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who shovelled snow in the streets of Southend on the day he succeeded to the title. That was in January, 1963, when he was Mr. Vere Frederick Cecil Hobart-Hampden. He was living with his sister-in-law in Southend and for 12 years had worked with Southend Corporation Parks Department.

Lord Buckinghamshire is the 9th Earl. His predecessor was a distant cousin, whose home was at Little Hampden Lodge, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

The new Earl lived and worked in Australia for 30 years from 1919 as a sheep farmer and on the railways. After succeeding to the title he gave up his job with Southend Corporation.

## Not prepared

Mr. William Hamling (Lab. Woolwich W.) declared that he was not prepared to see the Government of the Falkland Islands handed over to a Government which treats Left Wing parties as some of the Tories opposite would like to.

Mr. Mulley promised a full statement on the talks with Argentina which are still in progress, and also said he would investigate Press reports that Lord Chalfont had said the Government should convince the islanders that a status change would be convenient.

Extract from

# THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

DEC 1968

Date .....  
(See info)

# Pressure on Falklanders is denied

LABOUR M.P.s, led by Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, M.P. for Easington, tabled a motion in the Commons yesterday urging Mr. Bernard Braine (Con., South-East Essex) to make an apology for what he said about Lord Chalfont.

Extract from  
Morning Star, London

4 DEC 1968

# Commons row over Falkland Islands

From ROGER BAGLEY

THERE were angry Commons scenes yesterday as MPs tried to obtain a clear guarantee from the Government over the future of the Falkland Islands.

For nearly 40 minutes Tory and Labour Members tried in vain to dispel their fears that the South Atlantic islands may be handed over to Argentina.

Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was making a statement on Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islands and on talks with the Argentinian Government.

Said Mr. Mulley: "It is not the policy of the Government to transfer sovereignty without the wishes of the population of the islands." In the talks with Argentina, the aims had been to secure "a satisfactory and lasting modus vivendi with the islands and Argentina."

## Suspicion

In particular, they wanted to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since at present many goods were shipped from hundreds of miles away.

MPs demanded that the question of the Falkland Islands should be taken off the agenda of all future discussions with the Argentine Government. Until this happened, declared Tory leader Mr. Heath: "There will be grave suspicion about the Government's motives."

Mr. Mulley replied: "We do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders may change their minds."

Mr. Braine had earlier rejected repeated demands to withdraw his remarks about Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and the question of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Angry exchanges followed. The motion also demanded that he should withdraw all the allegations made against Lord Chalfont on Tuesday during discussions about the islands.

The incident arose out of a statement in the House yesterday by Mr. Fred Mulley, Joint Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, about remarks made by Mr. Braine on Tuesday.

These referred to a report suggesting that Lord Chalfont had told a Press conference in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina should make a joint effort to persuade the Falkland Islanders that a change in status might be convenient.

## WITHDRAW

Mr. Mulley said yesterday: "I could not find any newspaper quotation that measured up to the words Mr. Braine used in the House. I am sure he was quoting from memory, and that was why I was not able to give the House assurance that I would otherwise have done, that Lord Chalfont had not used these words," he said.

Mr. Braine went on to quote a Daily Telegraph report that Lord Chalfont had said that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient.

Mr. Mulley then pointed out that Mr. Braine had read the "correct version." He said that the day before Mr. Braine had used the words "change of status."

A statement on the Falklands will be made in the Commons next week by Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Mulley added.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

- 5 DEC 1968

# Another statement promised on Falkland Islands

BY OUR POLITICAL REPORTER

Mr Fred Mulley, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, denied categorically that Lord Chalfont had suggested that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the Falkland Islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

On all points, in the Falklands and in Argentina, Lord Chalfont had made it clear "that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders," said Mr Mulley, who had come to the House for the second time in two days to try to explain alleged statements by his colleague.

Labour M.P.s shouted "Withdraw! Withdraw!" at Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the chief opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, and Mr Bernard Braine, another of their spokesmen, who referred to Lord Chalfont's alleged statement in the House on Tuesday. But this Mr Braine refused to do, an attitude which clearly left Mr Mulley wondering about his opponent's understanding of plain language.

## Assurances

Sir Alec implied that all the trouble was caused by the various statements made by Lord Chalfont. "We are trying to extract information—and we had to do exactly the same thing over Gibraltar—like squeezing water out of a stone to get the Minister to make a specific statement that sovereignty would not be transferred."

Having given assurances on the island's sovereignty ad nauseam on Tuesday and again yesterday, Mr Mulley evidently felt Sir Alec's comment a little uncharitable, if not odd.

In the event, he told the House that Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, will make yet another statement on the Falklands next week.

The House did not exactly groan at the prospect of a third statement, but M.P.s could hardly be blamed if they began to think repetition only clouded the issue.

There was some murmuring about inaccurate Press reports, but Mr Mulley reckoned the "difficulty in this case arose from Mr Braine giving a wrong interpretation of a Press report to the House."

Under further questioning about the discussions on sovereignty, it emerged that one of the reasons why these had taken so long was because Britain had insisted throughout that the wishes of the islanders were of paramount importance.

Later a group of Labour back-benchers, led by Mr Emanuel Shinwell (Easington) and Mr Douglas Houghton, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, tabled a Commons motion calling on Mr Braine to "make a proper apology and also a withdrawal of the allegations" he made on Tuesday.

A group of Conservative M.P.s, led by Mr Neil Marten (Banbury) soon came to Mr Braine's defence, putting

down an amendment to Mr Shinwell's motion, pointing out that Mr Braine did not make allegations against Lord Chalfont, but "simply asked the Minister of State to explain a Press statement attributed to Lord Chalfont."

The amendment said this was "in accordance with Parliamentary practice, and congratulates Mr Braine on his pertinacity in drawing attention to the confusion caused by the conflicting reported statements of Lord Chalfont."

One of the sponsors of the amendment is Sir Fitzroy Maclean (Bute and N. Ayr).

Replying to a series of written questions from Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (C., S. Edinburgh) about the unauthorised landing of an Argentine aircraft in the Falklands on November 27, Mr Mulley said representations had been made immediately to Argentina by the Government deploring the incident and requesting that every possible step should be taken to prevent any similar incidents in future.

Editorial—Page 8

## 'Channel Islands next?'

The Earl of Buckinghamshire (Lab.) asked whether or not, "in view of negotiations being carried out with Argentina about the Falkland Islands, it would be only logical to hand over the Channel Islands to France," but Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, answered "No."

He added later: "As I said yesterday, we have had confidential inter-Governmental discussions, and I cannot add to that."

Baroness Horsbrugh (C.) asked if there were any other

islands where the Government could make the same arrangements as for the Falklands.

Lord Chalfont replied that as no arrangements had been made for the Falklands, he could not answer the question.

The Earl of Swinton (C.) pointed out that the Falklands had come under the sole sovereignty of Britain many years before Argentina had become independent of Spain.

Lord Chalfont replied: "I cannot add to what I said yesterday, but we have no doubt about our legal title to the sovereignty."

- 5 DEC 1968

# FALKLAND 'PACT' HITS SNAG

BRITAIN and Argentina may not, after all, reach an "agreed position" on the future of the Falkland Islands, writes MICHAEL LEAPMAN.

The Government had hoped that, following many months of talks, they would be able to reach a limited agreement with Argentina before Christmas.

The main effect of such an agreement would be to improve communications and ease travel between the Falklands and the Argentine.

It would have also meant that Argentina would not raise its claim to the islands again at the United

Nations—who first asked the two countries to enter into discussions.

The Argentinians themselves are being stubborn in insisting that the "agreed position" should make allusion to Argentina's eventual rights to sovereignty over the island.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, found no give in their position when he visited Argentina last week.

Britain, at the other extreme, wants to include in any agreement the statement that sovereignty will not be changed without the consent of the islanders. Parliament insists on this.

Although neither side envisaged a formal, written agreement covering all points in dispute, this fundamental divergence makes it unlikely that even the most limited accord can be reached.

If the talks break down the Government fear that Argentina may step up harassment of the islands.

Certainly all plans to improve communications with the mainland would be dropped.

Ministry officials deny that Lord Chalfont tried to persuade the islanders to change their minds about staying British on his recent visit to the colony.

Mr. Fred Mulley has denied a newspaper report that Lord Chalfont, his fellow Foreign Office Minister, said Britain and Argentina should try to persuade the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Last night Labour M.P.s—including Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, Mr. Douglas Houghton and Mr. Michael Foot—tabled a motion calling for an apology from Mr. Bernard Braine, the Opposition spokesman who first mentioned the newspaper report in the Commons.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

3003  
- 4 DEC 1968

# Chalfont to answer challenge

OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

ASSURANCES that the Government would not transfer the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders were received with doubt and suspicion in both Houses of Parliament yesterday.

In the Lords, peers suggested that the Government's motives in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine were "very suspect". In the Commons it was alleged that sovereignty was being bargained for trade.

These imputations were denied firmly by Lord Chalfont, who reported on his visit to the islands, and by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who told MPs there was no question of transferring sovereignty.

In the Commons, the Earl of Dalketh suggested that Lord Chalfont be summoned to answer questions about his alleged statement in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley promised to put the point to Lord Chalfont and report to MPs. An explanatory statement is to be made today.

Lord Chalfont, in the Lords, denied that economic pressures had been brought to bear on the islanders, and that they had been told Britain could no longer defend them.

## Slippery mission

He had given assurances that sovereignty would not be transferred without their consent. There were shouts of "Oh" when he added: "If at any time the people of the Falkland Islands wish to change their minds, we will not stand in their way."

A similar remark by Mr. Mulley, in the Commons, sent Tory MPs into an angry demonstration. Protests came from both sides and Sir Alec Douglas-Home said there was a feeling that sovereignty was being used as a bargaining factor.

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (L., Bosworth) said the Government appeared to be trying to persuade the islanders to hand over sovereignty. Mr. Jeremy Thorpe said Mr. Mulley's statement had been "somewhat equivocal". Mr. John Peyton (C., Yeovil) said their was suspicion that Lord Chalfont had been sent on a slippery mission.

## Second incident

Our Political Correspondent writes: The trouble from which Mr. Mulley is trying to rescue Lord Chalfont arises from reports that he told journalists that Britain and the Argentine were convinced that links between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine were necessary, and that a change might be convenient.

In October last year Lord Chalfont was in similar trouble over remarks attributed to him at Lausanne. He was, at the time, Minister in charge of Common Market talks and was alleged to have said that Britain planned disengagement from Europe if her application to the Six was rejected.

# Chalfont

# to answer challenge

OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

ASSURANCES that the Government would not transfer the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders were received with doubt and suspicion in both Houses of Parliament yesterday.

## A bunch of protest shocks MPs

MR. John Wells (C., Maidstone) munched an apple throughout the Prime Minister's question time in the Commons yesterday to draw attention to the plight of the British apple industry. He said afterwards that he would probably do so again.

He first appeared at the Bar of the House, stood there, and then crossed the floor of the House, still munching, to sit on a step between the Opposition benches, facing Mr. Wilson.

This shocked those on the Government benches and Mr. Charles Pannell (L., Leeds West) raised Mr. Wells's behaviour as a point of order.

The Speaker, Dr. Horace King, deferred the matter until after question time, when he ruled that he had no control over Members' "masticating habits," that it had not been unknown in the past for M.P.s to eat oranges in the Chamber, but that the discontinuance of this practice had not "defracted from the dignity of the House."

Mr. Wells, who had no chance to make the object of his demonstration known in the Chamber, said afterwards: "I shall probably do it again. I had a two-fold purpose. I wanted to draw attention to the disadvantage the apple industry suffers from import quotas and to demonstrate the possibilities of the British apple industry if properly encouraged."

## Deposits 'not against EFTA'

The Government were challenged in the Commons yesterday by the Opposition to state whether the 50 per cent imports deposit scheme was legal or not. Sir Peter Rawlinson, opposition spokesman on law, moved to exempt European Free Trade Association countries.

The Bill amounted to a new duty of Customs, banned under the EFTA terms, he said.

Sir Elwyn Jones, Attorney-General, replied that in his view an import charge was not a revenue duty, nor an internal tax nor any other form of internal charge on goods. The EFTA convention "does give the right to member-states to take far more drastic measures to protect their balance of payments than we have done by the terms of the Bill," he said.

Extract from  
**THE JOURNAL**  
Newcastle upon Tyne

3003  
Date - 4 DEC 1968

(See information overleaf)

# Row over Falkland sell-out fears

BY ROGER CARROLL

A ROW exploded in the Commons and the Lords last night over fears of an imminent sell-out of the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Repeated Ministerial denials of a transfer of control to Argentina failed to reassure anxious M.P.s, and a call by a former Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Duncan Sandys, for an emergency debate was loudly cheered.

The Speaker, Dr. Horace King, turned down his request but a further Government statement on the Falklands was promised by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In the Lords, another Foreign Office Minister, Lord Chalfont, whose recent visit to the Falklands and Argentina had reawakened suspicions of a sell-out, firmly denied that this was the Government's intention.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Northampton Chronicle & Echo

- 4 DEC 1968

## FALKLANDS: "NO DOUBT"

Lord Chalfont told House of Lords he could not add to yesterday's Falklands statement. Government had no doubt about its legal title. Commons told there can be no transfer of sovereignty against wishes of islanders.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Punch, London

- 4 DEC 1968

I FEEL drawn to the Falklands, whatever happens there. After last week's survey, estimating our 1968 balance of payments deficit at £656,000,000, a report that those other islands look like being down £130,000 by the year's end makes restful reading.

# Lords: advice against diplomacy in public over Falkland Islands

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at 2.30 p.m.

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement on his visit to the Falkland Islands, said: I visited the Falkland Islands from November 23 to 28 to establish direct Ministerial contact with the people of the islands and to explain to them the Government's policy in their talks with the Argentine Government.

During my stay in the colony, I was able to meet a large part of the islands' population both in Stanley, the capital, and in the settlements, and I repeated to them the assurances that Ministers have given the House on many occasions this year, namely that it is not the policy of the Government to transfer sovereignty over these islands against the wishes of the islanders.

I also had a number of meetings with the islands' Executive Council which was enlarged for the duration of my visit to include the unofficial members of the islands' Legislative Council.

## Good faith

On November 25 the Executive Council told me that in my meetings with the general public they would wish me to state first that I had discussed in detail with the Executive Council the present position reached in the talks with Argentina and the position which we hoped to reach soon; and second that the members of the Executive Council accepted that the British Government had been acting in good faith in the talks with Argentina and that the agreed position, if it is reached, would be fully in keeping with the promise that the Government would not transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the Falkland Islanders; and accordingly I was able to give this additional assurance.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary explained in the Commons on March 26 last, following the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2065 of December, 1965, we have had talks with Argentina with the object of securing "a lasting and satisfactory modus vivendi between these islands and Argentina". In particular we are concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland since this would be of great benefit to the islanders.

We have made clear throughout these discussions, as the House has been informed on many occasions, that no transfer of sovereignty can be made against the wishes of the Falkland Islanders.

I hope it may shortly be possible to conclude the present stage of the discussions and their outcome will then be reported to the House.

## Suspect motives

LORD CARRINGTON (C.),—There is nothing personal in this, but Lord Chalfont's activities and the motives of her Majesty's Government are suspect and cause grave concern to a large number of people. Does the statement made by the Foreign Secretary in January 1966—that sovereignty was not negotiable—still stand?

Did Lord Chalfont have discussions on the question of sovereignty with the Argentine Government and have either he or the Government brought any economic pressure to bear on the Falkland Islanders?

Has he said, as he is reported to have said, that Britain would no longer be able to continue to defend the islands, and will he give a further undertaking that no pres-sure, whether economic or any other, would be brought to bear on the Falkland Islands?

LORD CHALFONT.—I am sorry if the Opposition believe the motives of the Government are suspect. We have acted in good faith and I have explained to the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands the details of our discussions. I have taken them fully into the confidence of the Government and they have said in turn that they believe that the British Government is acting in good faith.

In pursuance of the United Nations resolution, we are discussing sovereignty with the Argentine Government and I can repeat only that there will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. We have no doubt about our legal title to sovereignty, and the best way I can reassure the House, as I hoped to reassure the people on the islands, is to say that their wishes are paramount.

If at any time in the future the people of the Falkland Islands wish to change their minds about this matter for any reason at all, we shall not stand in their way.

Some alleged report had been referred to, saying that he had stated: Great Britain could no longer defend the Falkland Islands. I am not sure where Lord Carrington read this report, but I am glad to take this opportunity to deny it categorically. I did say that as long as their sovereignty resided with Britain their defence was our responsibility and that responsibility should be discharged.

## Oath of secrecy

LORD OGMORE (L.).—While Lord Chalfont has given a full explanation to the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands, he has not given a full explanation to the House. We are still very much in the dark on the nature of these conversations.

Lord Chalfont will remember that he has had a letter from Algrinate Industries Ltd. offering a big development plan for the islands and it is said by the managing director, Mr. Merton, that he has never had a reply from Lord Chalfont. If this is true, it does not indicate a great desire on Lord Chalfont's part to put the Falkland islanders in a position where they are able to maintain their economy in a flourishing manner.

LORD CHALFONT.—The difficulty is that if I were to make a statement of the details in this House, it would be a public statement whereas the statement to the Government of the Falkland Islands is made under the oath of secrecy that members of that government take.

I regret it should sometimes be necessary to carry out diplomacy in secret or in confidence, but this is necessary. It would certainly not be in the interests of intelligent foreign policy to conduct diplomacy in public.

My visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires was purely a courtesy visit and I can assure Lord Ogmores that no negotiations of substance were entered into with the Foreign Minister or the Argentine Government at all by me.

I have indeed received a letter from the managing director of Algrinate Industries. I received it in Chile the day before I left for the Falkland Islands, and therefore perhaps it is not surprising that he has not received my reply.

The same firm has been in touch with the Government of the Falkland Islands long before they were in touch with me and therefore to suggest that the Falkland Islands have been kept in ignorance of this is wide of the mark.

When this firm contacted the Governor of the Falkland Islands to tell him about this scheme, they indicated it was not likely to take

place in the near future. This firm makes industrial products from seaweed and they said in fact that their supplies of seaweed would be sufficient to make it unnecessary for them to go outside Europe for their supplies for at least five or 10 years. The Governor then replied that he was sorry that there did not seem to be anything but a remote possibility beyond a pilot scheme.

LORD CACCIA.—Would not much the simplest statement to make be that these islands will not be transferred to the Argentine Government and that this does not arise? If instead the Minister says that they will not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders, is not this a different statement altogether and putting the onus on the islanders?

Surely the onus is on the British Government to say this is not transferable territory and we do not accept the legal claims of the Argentine Government.

LORD CHALFONT.—To say we should use the word "never" in diplomacy is something I should take as a doubtful proposition. If the time were to come when the islanders were to decide that their interest lay in some change, we should not want to stand in their way. And this is the view we have taken over Gibraltar.

Simply to say, when a foreign state has made a claim of this kind and we have been required by the United Nations to discuss it, we will never transfer sovereignty, would not be a wise form of diplomacy. But we have no doubt about our legal title to the sovereignty over the islands.

LORD CARRINGTON.—There is a great deal of disquiet because we do not know what is happening—what the Government is saying to the Argentine Government or what Lord Chalfont said to the Executive Council. The sooner he can make public what he is doing the more we shall believe what he has said.

LORD CHALFONT.—It might be possible to conclude the present stage of the negotiations soon and this could be reported to the House. It may be these doubts will not be fully cleared up until a public statement can be made.

But I was, under the oath of secrecy, able to tell the Executive Council a good deal more than I was able to tell the House. I took them fully into my confidence and they have the islanders as much at heart as anyone. They said the British Government were acting in good faith with the talks with the Argentine Government. I hope if I am not able to reassure the House the council's words will do so.

The Sea Fisheries Bill was read a second time.

The Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill was read a second time.

Extract from  
Western Daily Press, Bristol

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Morning Advertiser, London

- 5 DEC 1968

## MPs LINK FORCES TO DEFEND FALKLANDS

LABOUR and Conservative MPs joined forces during a Commons debate yesterday to ram home the point that they will not stand for the Falkland Islands being handed over to the Argentine.

Big names who sprang forward to support the islanders' demand to remain under Britain included Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Minister, and Mr. Ted Heath, Leader of the Opposition, for the Tories.

Prominent Socialists included Mr. Mannie Shinwell, veteran MP for Easington, and Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Bosworth).

And the general feeling in the House was that MPs felt more deeply about this problem than Mr. Fred Mulley, Joint Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Many members were disturbed by statements attributed in the Press to Lord Chalfont, Britain's roving envoy, who recently visited the Argentine and the Falklands to dig into feelings and ideas about the South American republic's claim to sovereignty over the island group.

Some MPs suspected Lord Chalfont had been too soft towards the Argentine.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home wanted an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falklands was in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in talks with the Argentine, and that they would not be so used in the days ahead. If members had that assurance, the House might be satisfied.

Mr. Mulley told him: "I am willing to give that assurance in the form in which it is asked."

Mr. Heath stressed: "You have declared the islanders have no wish to give up British sovereignty, and the great majority of this House are determined to support them in this view. Therefore . . . there can be no point whatever in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine."

### 'TRUE OR NOT?'

And the Tory leader warned that "there is bound to be the gravest suspicions about the Government's motives."

Mr. Shinwell demanded: "In view of the statements attributed to Lord Chalfont as they appear in the Press as well as in this House today, is it not possible for you to ask Lord Chalfont whether there is any truth in these statements?"

Mr. Mulley told how Lord Chalfont, on his visit, was accompanied to every meeting except the confidential talk with the executive council, by five journalists.

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt joined in the debate by declaring:

"What is worrying everybody is that the Government appears to be trying to persuade the islanders to hand their sovereignty over to Argentina, but nobody can understand why the Government are trying to do that."

Mr. Mulley: "I think anyone who thinks the islanders have been pressurised by Lord Chalfont completely misjudges the character of the islanders themselves and of Lord Chalfont."

"The islanders would not be so pressurised to take a decision if they thought it would be against their interests and Lord Chalfont would not so seek to persuade them."

### 'BUT WHY?'

Sir Arthur Harvey (C, Macclesfield) asked why the Government had created doubts about this matter in the first place. Would it consider publishing a White Paper of all the facts and all the things Lord Chalfont had said?

Mr. Mulley declared it would be appropriate to consider a White Paper when present discussions had been concluded.

Mr. Alfred Morris (Lab, Co. Wythenshawe) suggested that, as the islanders emphatically wanted to remain British, the matter should be "left in abeyance until the day when they say they have changed their minds."

"The matter cannot be left in abeyance," said Mr. Mulley, "because we want, if we possibly can, to improve their position with regard to communications."

"It was not satisfactory for the islanders to be left in an isolated position."

The most outspoken comment of all brought cries of surprise from both sides of the House.

The Earl of Dalkeith (Con., Edinburgh North) suggested: "Lord Chalfont should be invited to come to the bar of the Commons and answer questions there."

But the Speaker commented: "We would be going back a long way in history if we attempted that procedure."

# Falklands: Now it's up to Stewart

By Our Parliamentary Reporter

THE political situation over the Falklands was unchanged yesterday, and both Houses now await the return of Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart from India next week.

Mr. Stewart will make a statement on the present state of discussions, MPs and peers were told.

In the Commons, Sir Alec Douglas Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said they were trying to extract information, as in the case of Gibraltar.

It was like squeezing water out of a stone.

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, repeated during questions an explanation already given in the joint statement of reports from a press conference which had been the subject of a row in the Commons on Tuesday.

The Government had been challenged in the Commons on Tuesday about reports attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires.

### Economic

It was said to have been claimed that Lord Chalfont had said Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Lord Chalfont told the peers yesterday that when the questions on the problems of "convincing the islanders" had been put to him, he had understood that they were in the context of problems of communication and economic and cultural links.

These points had also been covered in the statement made in the Commons by his colleague Mr. Fred Mulley.

Sir Alec said in the Commons that the Opposition looked forward with "keen anticipation" to the Foreign Secretary's statement next week.

"If it confirms what Mr. Mulley said, well and good, but we will reserve the right, if we want to, to debate this matter after that statement."

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 5 DEC 1968

Yesterday in Parliament

# MULLEY TRIES AGAIN TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS ON FALKLANDS

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday.

**MR. MULLEY**, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, denied in the Commons today that Lord Chalfont had said of the Falklands that "Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

In his second statement on the subject in two days he said of his fellow Minister of State, to loud Government cheers: "My right honourable and noble friend made no such statement."

Mr. Braine, an Opposition Front Bench spokesman, who yesterday invited Mr. Mulley to explain this "extraordinary statement" attributed to Lord Chalfont, encountered shouts of "withdraw" from the Government side when he rose to put a supplementary question. "There is no question of withdrawal," he said.

## Journalists' reports

Mr. BRAINE invited Mr. Mulley to deny "categorically" a report in *The Daily Telegraph* last Monday that Lord Chalfont had said in Buenos Aires that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient and it must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina.

"Does the Minister recall that yesterday he told the House that Lord Chalfont was accompanied by five journalists. If these journalists have been sending back incorrect reports, is the Government not to blame for not making its position crystal clear?"

Mr. MULLEY said he was sorry Mr. Braine had not been more candid. Yesterday, he made no reference to any newspaper nor any date.

"You have now read the correct version. Yesterday, inadvertently, I hope, after the word 'change,' you talked about 'a change of status,' which is a quite different situation from 'a change of relationships' about which Lord Chalfont was talking and which has been confirmed by Argentine newspapers.

"If any MP is in any doubt, I would point out there were five other British newspaper correspondents present, several representing newspapers wholly critical of our policy on the Falkland Islands.

"Not one of them thought fit to report this as a significant statement, and had it been as important as Mr. Braine suggests *The Daily Telegraph* might have put it in a more prominent position in that newspaper."

In his statement, Mr. Mulley said that in accordance with his

undertaking, he had inquired into statements made in the House yesterday about Press reports of remarks attributed to Lord Chalfont in Argentina.

"I have discussed this fully with my right honourable and noble friend and I have now received from Her Majesty's Ambassador the relevant Argentine Press reports of the Press conference in question.

"The statement to which reference was made yesterday was made in the context of creating a framework in which the obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between the islands and mainland will be overcome, particularly with regard to communications and economic and cultural links."

He quoted the relevant extracts from the two Argentine newspapers *Clarín* and *Nación*:

**QUESTION:** Does this mean then that the problem would be to convince the islanders?

**ANSWER:** I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain but that Argentina also has to solve the problem. Britain's relations with the islands are very good so it is a question of Argentina promoting good relations between herself and the inhabitants of the islands.

**QUESTION:** Has a date been fixed for the change of sovereignty?

**ANSWER:** We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders.

## Stewart statement

"My right honourable and noble friend confirms the accuracy of these reports."

On the present state of the discussions with the Argentine Government, Mr. Mulley said that Mr. Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, would be making a statement next week.

Sir ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME, Shadow Foreign Secretary, encountered immediate Labour protests when he declared that he had some sympathy with Mr.

Mulley trying to explain the various statements made by Lord Chalfont.

Mr. SHINWELL (Lab., Easington) intervened to claim that Mr. Mulley had "just confounded" the allegations made against Lord Chalfont and in the circumstances Mr. Braine should withdraw his previous remarks.

After THE SPEAKER had indicated that this was "a point of argument, not a point of order," Sir ALEC went on: "We have been trying to extract information. We had to do exactly the same thing over Gibraltar.

"It is like squeezing water out of a stone trying to get the Minister to make a specific statement that sovereignty would not be transferred."

Mr. MULLEY said he could not find any newspaper quotation that measured up to the words used by Mr. Braine. "I am sure he was quoting from memory. That was why I was not able to give the assurance I could otherwise have done that Lord Chalfont had not possibly used those words."

There was laughter when Mr. SHINWELL (Lab., Easington) suggested that the BBC be asked not to pay Mr. Braine's appearance fee, as he had repeated on television allegations which he had made in the Commons yesterday and which had now been found to be without foundation.

Mr. HAMLING (Lab., Woolwich, W.) said reliance on incorrect Press reports did much to harm the confidence of the Falkland islanders in the British Government.

Mr. MULLEY replied: "I think the difficulty in this case arose from Mr. Braine giving a wrong interpretation of a Press report to the House yesterday. For this reason I regret that he will not withdraw it."

## Sovereignty issue

Mr. SANDYS (C., Streatham) said since it was clear that the Falkland Islanders were determined to remain British could Mr. Mulley at least tell the Commons what the negotiations with the Argentine were about?

Would he also say whether it had been made clear to the Argentine Government that the question of the transfer of sovereignty was not discussable in the negotiations.

Mr. MULLEY replied that the two Governments had been asked by the United Nations to hold the talks and it would have been difficult to refuse. Since the dispute concerned sovereignty, naturally this issue had been discussed.

\*A report from Buenos Aires in *The Daily Telegraph* on Monday stated: Lord Chalfont said both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he said: "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina." The report did not say "a change of status."

Extract from  
Nottingham Guardian Journal

3003  
4 DEC

## Bargain ruled out by Mulley

**A**MID roars of disapproval from Tory MPs, Mr. Fred Mulley told the Commons yesterday that Britain was prepared to talk with Argentina on Falklands sovereignty "to restore communications between the islanders and Argentina."

Mr. Mulley, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said the Falklands visit of Lord Chalfont—his opposite number in the Lords—was not to persuade or direct the opinions of the islanders.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home asked: "Will you give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talk with the Argentine and will not be so used?"

Mr. Mulley: "I am willing to give that assurance. We know and I am sure that Argentina know what the state of opinion of the island is."

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Lab. Bosworth): "What is worrying everybody is that the Government appears to be trying to persuade the islanders to hand their sovereignty over to Argentina, but nobody can understand why the Government are trying to do that."

### No pressure

Said Mr. Mulley: "I think anyone who thinks the islanders have been pressurised by Lord Chalfont completely misjudges the character of the islanders themselves and Lord Chalfont."

"The islanders would not be so pressurised to take a decision if they thought it would be against their interests, and Lord Chalfont would not seek to persuade them."

The Earl of Dalkeith (C., Edinburgh) was cheered by rowdy Opposition members when he suggested that Lord Chalfont could be invited to the bar of the House to answer questions directly.

But the Speaker, Dr. Horace King, said that it would be necessary to go back a long way in history for a precedent for doing this.

Extract from the

## Evening Gazette

MIDDLESBROUGH

4 DEC 1968

Date:  
(See t

## Mulley: No sell-out over Falklands

**M**R. FRED MULLEY, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said this evening that Lord Chalfont did not make a statement—as suggested yesterday—that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the Falkland Islands that a "change of status would be convenient."

Mr. Mulley told the House of Commons: "On all points in the Falklands and in the Argentine, Lord Chalfont made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

Mr. Mulley said in accordance with undertaking given to the Commons yesterday, he had inquired into statements made in Commons then about Press reports of remarks attributed to Lord Chalfont when he was in Argentina.

He had discussed this fully with Lord Chalfont and had now received from the British ambassador relevant Argentine reports of the Press conference.

### Obstacles

The statement referred to yesterday was made in the context of creating a framework in which obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between the islands and the mainland would be overcome, he said.

Mr. Mulley quoted extracts from two Argentine newspapers, Clarin and Nacion. Question: "Does this mean then that the problem would be to convince the islanders?"

Answer: "I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain but that Argentina also has to solve the problem."

Extract from  
The Times, London

## Tories detect signs of Falklands retreat

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Stewart, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, is to make a definitive statement in the Commons on the Government's attitude towards British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands when he returns from his Indian visit next week.

Should Mr. Stewart fail to give a firm assurance that Britain is not discussing the cession of sovereignty to Argentina, the question will be raised in a foreign affairs debate, requested by the Opposition for next Thursday.

After a second statement from Mr. Mulley, Minister of State, in the Commons yesterday, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and other leading members of the Tory foreign affairs committee were confidently reading between the lines that the

Government have been driven off any intention they may have had of discussing cession by the strong reaction of the House.

A slightly different Labour view to be heard last night was that at least some Ministers are well content that the Commons outcry has made certain that a transfer of sovereignty cannot now be a serious political possibility unless there is a clear demand from the islanders themselves.

Dr. José Maria Ruda, Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations, was called to Buenos Aires yesterday for urgent consultations on the Falkland Islands, according to sources in New York quoted by Reuter.

Leading article, page 11; Business News, page 21.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Northampton Chronicle & Echo

## The Falklands — are we REALLY interested?

by  
CELIA  
CURTIS

THE increasing confusion over the government's intentions as to the future of the Falkland Islands, shows up diplomatic double-talk for what it really is.

On his arrival home, Lord Chalfont, said that the economic future of the island would be brighter if the present monoculture economy could be diversified.

What exactly did he mean? Let me translate. Lord Chalfont meant that Britain has lost interest in these remote islands because they are an economic liability. But if Argentina can offer some economic benefits so much the better, and the islands will be hers all in good time.

Lord Chalfont was also pressed for a comment on the disclosure of plans by a British company to establish an industry in the islands to export seaweed as a raw material for the extraction of chemicals.

With estimated annual sales of at least £12 million it would transform the economy of the colony.

Lord Chalfont replied that he had not seen the reports and could not comment.

But Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of the company, Alginat Industries Ltd., said the Government had known his plans for some time and he had held extensive discussions with the ministry of overseas development.

Lord Chalfont himself had been told of the scheme about six months ago and Mr. Merton wrote him a letter in South America, which had not been

answered.

Clearly, these facts underline the Government's determination to cede the islands. On Tuesday Lord Chalfont addressed the Lords and Mr. Fred Mulley made a statement on the Falklands.

For whose benefit is the government acting out its charade? There cannot be a single Falkland islander out of the entire population of 2,000 who failed to see through the purpose behind Lord Chalfont's visit.

Britain colonized the Falklands for the strategic control they could give of the South Atlantic and even paid the passage out for farmworkers to settle there in the early years. And ever since, life on the islands (there are 200) has been moulded by the farming settlements and the 29 farms rely on one crop, wool.

The dispute between Britain and Argentina began when Britain colonised the islands 135 years ago and Argentina has formally protested to Britain about the "unlawful occupation" every year ever since.

The Falklands are a unique British colony. Entirely of British stock, the islanders created

a rural prosperity through their own hard work, exploiting no natives because there were none. The colony is too small to become independent. The people retain their ties with the mother country with fierce resistance even though most of them have no hope of travelling the 7,000 miles to Britain.

Unlike many other Colonial territories, the Falklands do not get regular financial grants from Britain. In the last financial year the credit balance in the budget was £15,000. This year, with a sharp fall in world wool prices, there is likely to be a budget deficit of more than £100,000. But the islands' reserves are sound enough for this prospect to be treated with only mild concern.

Lord Chalfont gave a strong impression that he did not favour any heavy injection of financial assistance from Britain to diversify the economy.

The Overseas Development Corporation under the Atlee Government lost £450,000 on a mutton refrigeration plant for the islands before it was later abandoned as a total failure.

Lord Chalfont left behind a community, baffled as to the outcome of their future. The overwhelming majority told him they wanted to stay British. Yet his words of "agreed positions" and "settlements" made them more uncertain of where they would belong.

The fact remains that the islands are no longer of use to Britain. They are an embarrassment and their fate, sadly, is only too clear.

- 5 DEC 1968

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

4 DEC 1968

# Mulley fails to ease the fears

By ALAN YOUNG

LORD CHALFONT denied categorically yesterday that he had tried to pressurise the Falkland Islanders into accepting Argentina's rule.

Reporting to the Lords on his visit to the islands and to Argentina, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, insisted that any change in sovereignty could come about only with the agreement of the islanders.

But neither he nor his Foreign Office colleague, Mr Fred Mulley, in the Commons were able to dispel the deep suspicion among Tories and Labour that the Government was preparing a deal with Argentina.

Mr Mulley spent an uncomfortable 20 minutes in the Commons dealing with a barrage of mostly hostile questions from his own back-benchers as well as from the massed Tory ranks.

Sir Alec Douglas - Home demanded assurances—and so did Tory leader Mr Heath.

Mr Mulley tried to give them—and left everyone even less happy than before. When he had finished there were angry chants of 'Resign, resign' from the Tories.

## Suspect

In the Lords Lord Chalfont promised that no economic or other pressures would be put on the islanders and insisted that his talks with the Argentine Foreign Minister had been a courtesy meeting only.

'We have made it clear throughout the discussions that no transfer of sovereignty can be made against the wishes of the islanders,' he said.

But, queried Tories sharply—if that was so, why continue to talk about sovereignty?

Lord Carrington, Tory leader in the Lords, said: 'Your activities, and the motives of the Government, are very suspect and are causing grave concern to people on all sides.'

Lord Chalfont rejected the charge. 'We have acted in good faith,' he said.

But—and this was repeated in the Commons by Mr Mulley—there might come a time when the islanders themselves would change their minds.

'The British Government would certainly not want to stand in their way,' said Lord Chalfont.

During rowdy questioning in the Commons one Tory suggested Lord Chalfont should be asked to appear at the Bar of the House to answer MPs' queries—an idea quickly rejected by the Speaker.

Miss Margaret Herbison, Labour MP and a former Minister, spoke of 'great fears' among the islanders.

Tory Mr John Peyton said: there was a deep suspicion that Lord Chalfont was sent on 'a very slippery mission.'

Eventually, the leader of the Commons, Mr Fred Peart, promised another statement today.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

4 DEC 1968

# NO TRANSFER 'AGAINST FALKLAND'S WISHES'

## M.P.s remain dissatisfied

By IVOR OWEN, our Parliamentary Correspondent

REPEATED assurances by Mr. Fred Mulley, the Foreign Office Minister of State, that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands will not be transferred to the Argentine against the wishes of the population failed to satisfy either the Opposition or many Labour back-benchers in the Commons yesterday.

Only a promise by Mr. Fred Peart, the Leader of the House, that a further statement will be made today quelled the storm, which centred on a reported comment by Lord Chalfont, the Foreign Office Minister of State, who recently visited the islands, that Britain and the Argentine ought now to make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley said he had had no opportunity to check with Lord Chalfont whether he had made such a statement—it was described as "extraordinary" by the Opposition Front Bench—but in face of mounting pressure he undertook to do so and report back to the House.

Lord Chalfont, who reported to the Lords on his visit to the Falklands, was not questioned by peers about the accuracy of the words attributed to him, but he strongly denied that the Government's motives in discussing the sovereignty issue at all with the Argentine were "very suspect."

M.P.s seemed even more angry with Lord Chalfont than his fellow-peers, and Mr. J. Biggs-Davidson (Con., Chigwell) regretfully conceded that it was not possible to impeach him, while a suggestion by the Earl of Dalkeith (Con., Edinburgh North) that Lord Chalfont should be called to the Bar of the Commons so that he could be questioned by M.P.s was ruled out of order by the Speaker (Dr. Horace King).

## Fierce protests

Mr. Mulley staunchly tried to defend Lord Chalfont, but found himself engulfed in fierce protests when, after insisting that it had already been made clear to the Argentine Government that the sovereignty of the Falklands would not be transferred while the islanders wished to remain British, he added: "We do not rule out the possibility that in future the islanders may change their minds."

These words brought enraged cries of "Oh" and "Resign" from the Opposition benches, and he was accused by Mr. Jeremy Thorpe the Liberal Leader of being "somewhat equivocal," while from the Government back benches Mr. F. Blackburn (Lab., Stalybridge and Hyde) asked: "Are you surprised after the words you have used, that there is suspicion in the House?"

Earlier Mr. Mulley assured Sir Alec Douglas-Home that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with the Argentine, explaining that the main purpose of the discussion was to bring about an improvement in communications and facilities for the people of the islands themselves.

Although the Argentine mainland was only 300 miles away the position which the islanders were using at the moment was 1,000 miles away, and this was having an adverse influence in a variety of ways.

## Seaweed project

Dealing with reports that the economy of the Falklands might be transformed by a seaweed development project, Mr. Mulley said the matter had only recently come to light through the B.B.C. and the Press and no scheme had been put to Lord Chalfont during his visit. It might be five years, or even a longer period, before it became an interesting project, and as recently as July the Governor of the Falklands had expressed disappointment to the managing director of the British company concerned that even the prospect of a pilot plant for the scheme was so remote.

3003

Extract from

## NEWS LETTER BELFAST

Date 5 DEC 1938  
(See information overleaf.)

# THE FUTURE IS AT LAST IN THE GRASP OF THE FALKLANDS

# After two centuries, colony is allowed to decide

THE Falkland Islands are to be allowed to decide their own future—such was the gist of an official statement this week on the fate of this Crown colony to which Argentina lays annual claim.

The islands, which are in the South Atlantic, are 300 miles east of the entrance to the Straits of Magellan.

The group is made up of the East Falkland Island and the West Falkland Island and nearby small islands which make up a total of 4,618 square miles.

In the main, the population is made up of the descendants of early settlers—largely Scottish and a sprinkling of Norwegians.

The capital and chief town is Port Stanley, on the East Island.

The Falklands, which

were discovered by the English explorer and navigator John Davies in 1592, were claimed and occupied at various times by England, France, Spain and Argentina.

America, too, has had a certain involvement for, during a seal-fishery dis-

pute, a U.S. warship forced the Argentinians to abandon the outpost.

In 1765, Great Britain laid firm claim to the islands and, although they were formally ceded to her by Spain in 1771, they were not effectively occupied by the British until 1833.

Argentina does not recognise British ownership—hence the annual claim to the islands by that country.

The islands are not of great financial value, their chief asset being a strategic one—they command the approaches to the Strait of Magellan and provide a base for Antarctic whaling ships.

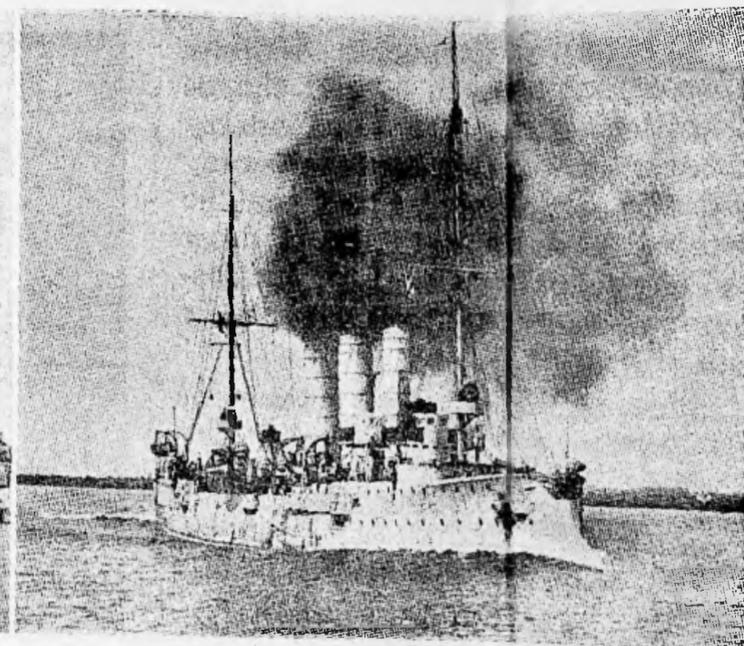
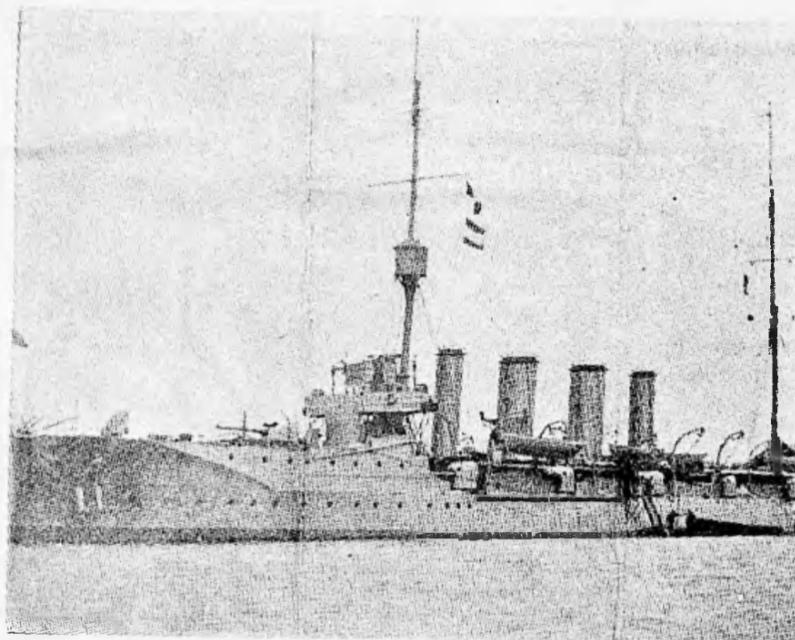
### Sheep

Life in the Falklands is not easy. The islands are, in the main, rolling treeless moors covered with scanty grass and moss and peat bogs.

The principal occupation of the islanders is that of sheep-raising, there being something close to 1,000,000 sheep owned by less than 50 ranches.

The cool moist climate is said to produce a particularly fine, light wool.

The population at the last census was 2,172 and the only local foodstuffs available, apart from lamb



H.M.S. Glasgow (left), a light cruiser with two 6-inch and ten 4-inch guns. The German light cruiser Leipzig—ten 4.1-inch guns—was sunk by the Glasgow and Cornwall ships at Falkland Islands on December 8, 1914.

and mutton, are small crops of barley, oats, potatoes and eggs gathered from the millions of penguins which nest on the islands.

### Seaweed

All other food, as well as wood, machinery, clothing and coal, has to be imported.

This week, however, a plan was announced which could revolutionise the islands' economy. A company wants to harvest a vast area of seaweed which would be used for alginates—and it estimates that £12m worth of seaweed could be exported annually.

But the plan of Alginate Industries Ltd., and the resultant boost for the islands, depends greatly on the Falklands retaining sovereignty with Britain.

This month sees an important anniversary for the islands. It was on December 8, 1914, that the Ger-

man Admiral, Count Maximilian von Spee, and his squadron of five cruisers and three supply vessels appeared off the islands where the British Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee was coaling his squadron.

The Germans tried to run for it but were overhauled by Sturdee and four

of the German cruiser were sunk—the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nürnberg and Leipzig—without loss to the British force.

The fifth cruiser, the Dresden, escaped, but was found and destroyed three months later off the Juan Fernandez Islands in the South Pacific.

Von Spee and his two sons, as well as 1,800 seamen, perished in the Falklands battle.

The British victory not only virtually cleared the seas of the German navy, but revenged the loss of Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock's squadron at the hands of Von Spee off

Coronel, Chile, shortly after the outbreak of war.

It is interesting to recall that the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee—named after Von Spee—scuttled herself off Montevideo, Chile, on December 17, 1939, after a running fight with a British light cruiser force.

Extract from  
Daily Sketch, London

4 DEC 1968

# MPs 'KEPT IN DARK OVER FALKLANDS'

RODNEY FOSTER: Parliamentary Correspondent

**M**INISTER OF STATE Lord Chalfont last night put the biggest question mark yet over the future of the Falkland Islands. He admitted that the Government had not told Parliament all that went on in the talks with the Argentine.

At Westminster afterwards, MPs were more convinced than ever that the Government planned a "sell-out" to the Argentine.

Lord Chalfont made his admission in a BBC "Twenty-Four Hours" interview.

He said that while in the Falklands he spoke to individual islanders and the local executive council—the government—who were sworn to secrecy.

"I explained to the council the position and took them fully into the confidence of the British Government," he said.

"This is a thing we have not yet been able to do with either House of Parliament because that would reveal our discussions."

## WISHES

Lord Chalfont said the discussions had to remain secret as "we have not yet reached a position of agreement."

Lord Chalfont added that he had made it clear there was no question of transferring British sovereignty against the islanders' wishes.

Opposition spokesman Mr. Bernard Braine challenged Lord Chalfont to say why the British Government could not plainly declare that the Falklands were British and would remain British.

But Lord Chalfont stuck to his declaration that there would be no transfer against the islanders' wishes.

# Demand to hear Lord Chalfont in Falklands row

3003

AMID PERSISTENT questioning from all sides of the Commons and roars of disapproval from the Opposition, Mr. Fred Mulley, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, yesterday faced a barrage of demands for further information about the visit of Lord Chalfont, his opposite number in the Lords, to the Falkland Islands.

The rowdy questioning of the Minister began when Mr. Bernard Braine (Essex, SE), Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, asked him to explain "the extraordinary" statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and the Argentine must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley said that the object of Lord Chalfont's visit was to explain the position in the light of a good deal of confusion that had arisen—not to persuade or direct the opinion of the islanders themselves.

Conservatives roared disapproval when Mr. Mulley said that Britain was prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with the Argentine.

The issue was one for the islanders to decide, he added, and the purpose of the talks was to "restore communications between the islanders and the Argentine."

## 'BARGAINING'

Sir Alec Douglas-Home asked: "Will you give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talk with the Argentine and will not be so used? There is a feeling that it is being used in some sense as a bargaining factor and this would be quite wrong."

Mr. Mulley: "I am willing

to give that assurance in the form asked. We know and I am sure that the Argentine knows what the state of opinion of the islanders is."

Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Lab., Bosworth): "What is worrying everybody is that the Government appears to be trying to persuade the islanders to hand their sovereignty over to the Argentine, but nobody can understand why the Government is trying to do that."

Mr. Mulley: "I think anyone who thinks the islanders have been pressurised by Lord Chalfont completely misjudges the character of the islanders and of Lord Chalfont."

## 'LEFT IN AIR'

Mr. Duncan Sandys (Cons., Streatham): "Don't you realise if this is left in the air this alleged statement by Lord Chalfont about a joint duty of the Argentine and British Governments to convince the islanders that it is to their advantage to make a change would cause very serious anxiety and difficulty?"

"Will you ask Lord Chalfont whether or not that statement was made, in order that the matter can be cleared up, and will you make a statement tomorrow?"

Mr. Mulley: "I will put the point to Lord Chalfont and report to the House accordingly."

The Earl of Dalkeith (Cons., Edinburgh North) was cheered by Opposition Members when he suggested that it would be for the convenience of the House if Lord Chalfont could be invited to come to the bar of the House to answer questions directly.

The Speaker, Dr. Horace King, however, said that it would be necessary to go back a long way in history for a precedent for doing this.

Later, when Mr. Mulley said: "We do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders might change their minds," there were loud cries of "Oh" and repeated shouts of "Resign" from Opposition Members.

The Speaker, calling for order, commented that the islanders did not need the help of noise in the House.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date - 4 DEC 1968

- 5 DEC 1968

# Falklands: over to Mr Stewart

## PARLIAMENT

A statement by Mr Mulley, Minister of State, Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs, reasserting that sovereignty of the Falklands would not be transferred against the wishes of the islanders was repeated in THE LORDS by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State.

Lord Carrington, Leader of the Opposition, said the statement had not done much to reassure anyone. Referring to reports of questions put to Lord Chalfont in Argentina, he said the assumption in one of them was that only the date for the change of sovereignty had to be fixed.

"Have you observed the Argentine Foreign Minister's statement which says that he will not sign any agreement which does not

recognise Argentina's sovereignty over the islands? In view of that, what on earth is the point of continuing discussions?"

Lord Chalfont said that when the questions on the problems of "convincing the islanders" (referred to in yesterday's statement) were put to him, his understanding was that they were in the context of problems of communication and economic and cultural links because these were the subjects he had been discussing immediately before the question was put.

"When the question was put to me about the date being fixed for the change of sovereignty I said that we were not thinking in such terms, that this would depend entirely on the islanders. I am not going to try to convince you any harder about our good faith. I am just putting the record straight.

"I cannot comment on statements reported to have been made by the Argentine Foreign Minister

and as far as removing the item from the agenda I think the House will agree that we should wait until Mr Stewart returns from India, when he will be making a report."

### IN THE COMMONS . . .

Mr Mulley, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: "On all points, in the Falklands and in Argentina, Lord Chalfont made clear that there could be no transfer of sovereignty against the islanders."

He had discussed the matter of the statements fully with Lord Chalfont, and had received from our ambassador the relevant Argentine press reports of the press conference in question.

"The statement to which reference was made on Tuesday was made in the context of creating a framework in which the

obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between islands and mainland will be overcome, particularly with regard to communications and economic and cultural links.

He quoted from the two Argentine newspapers "Clarín" and "Nación":

QUESTION—Does this mean, then, that the problem would be to convince the islanders?"

ANSWER—I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain but that Argentina, also, has to solve the problem. Britain's relations with the islands are very good, so it is a question of Argentina promoting good relations between herself and the inhabitants of the islands.

Mr Mulley went on to quote extracts from the same papers on the issue of sovereignty:

QUESTION—Has a date been fixed

for the change of sovereignty? ANSWER—We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders.

Mr Mulley said that Mr Bernard Braine, Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, had suggested that Lord Chalfont said: "Britain and Argentina may take a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

The Minister went on: "Lord Chalfont made no such statement." He added that the issue was further raised yesterday of the present state of the discussions with the Argentine Government.

Mr Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, had discussed these problems himself with the Argentine Foreign Minister in October. Mr Stewart would make a statement next week on his return from India.

### From memory

Mr Mulley referred to Mr Braine's remarks on Tuesday and said: "I could not find any newspaper quotation that measured up to the words he used in the House—I am sure he was quoting from memory and that was why I was not able to give the House the assurance that I would otherwise have done, that Lord Chalfont had not possibly used these words."

Mr Braine, who was frequently interrupted by Labour Members with cries of "withdraw" said: "Will you now categorically deny the report in Monday's 'Daily Telegraph' that Lord Chalfont told a press conference in Buenos Aires on Sunday that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, and that it must be a joint effort between Britain and Argentina?"

Mr Mulley: "I am sorry that you have not been more candid with the House. You read just now a quotation from Monday's 'Daily Telegraph'. When you made your point yesterday not only did you not give any reference to any newspaper or any date, but you have now read the correct version.

"Yesterday, inadvertently I hope, after the word 'change' you talked about the words 'change of status,' which is quite a different situation from the change of relationship about which Lord Chalfont was talking, and which has been confirmed by Argentine newspapers."

### Five others

Five other British newspaper correspondents had been present at the interview, some representing newspapers which had been wholly critical of the Government's policy on the Falkland Islands. "Not one of them thought fit to report this as a significant statement. If it had been as important as you suggested, then the 'Daily Telegraph' might have put it in a more prominent position in their newspaper."

Mr Mulley told Mr Albert Murray (Lab. Gravesend) that anyone who knew the problem of the Falkland Islands would realise that the fact that they had not access to Argentina "is a cause of very great difficulty for them."

Sir Robert Cary (C. Withington) asked about the possibility of a visit by a full-scale parliamentary delegation to the islands.

Mr Mulley said this could be considered. "But the difficulties of getting to and fro demand a great deal of time."

Sir Dingle Foot (Lab. Ipswich) said that both Britain and Argentina were bound by the UN Charter to have regard, first and foremost, to the wishes of the islanders.

Mr Mulley said it was because of the UN Resolution that these discussions were first set on foot. "Right from the very beginning

in that debate in the UN Lord Caradon made it clear that, in our judgment, the interests and wishes of the islanders must be paramount throughout.

Mrs Jill Knight (C. Edgbaston) asked Mr Mulley to give an undertaking that he would not emulate Lord Chalfont—"who, after making his statement yesterday, later went on television to admit not giving all the information he had in that statement."

Mr Mulley: "I had the pleasure of watching the television programme concerned last night—that was not the impression I gained from it." He himself had not so far received an invitation to appear on television.

Mr John Mendelson (Lab. Penistone) said that all Lord Chalfont said on television was that in the middle of diplomatic negotiations one could not publish all the points involved. "Isn't it time that this personal vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's ability and integrity should cease forthwith?"

Sir Knox Cunningham (UU Antrim S.): "Will you, on behalf of the Government, say that there will be no further discussion of the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina?"

Mr Mulley said he thought all MPs welcomed the undertaking that the Foreign Secretary would be making a statement.

Mr David Steel (L. Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) said the Government would get out of their difficulty if they stopped using the words "there will be no transfer

MR MULLEY answered written questions about the unauthorised landing of an Argentine plane carrying Argentine journalists on the Falkland Islands last Wednesday. He said that representations were immediately made to the Argentine Government requesting that such incidents should not recur.

Because the pilot and two passengers did not have entry visas they were declared prohibited immigrants and returned by ship to Argentina. No compensation was claimed for damage to land or livestock.

of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders" and said instead "the islanders do not wish any transfer of sovereignty and therefore there will be no change."

Mr Mulley replied that he would put "this most helpful suggestion" to Mr Stewart.

Mr Duncan Sandys asked what the negotiations were about. "Will you tell us whether it has been made clear to the Argentine Government that the transfer of sovereignty is not discussable in the negotiations?"

Mr Mulley replied that the discussions arose because the two governments were requested to discuss their dispute by the UN General Assembly. While one might not agree with the Argentine on this matter it was difficult, in the light of the resolution, to refuse to discuss it.

Since the dispute arose over sovereignty this had to be discussed in this context. "One of the reasons they have taken so long, and have not come to a conclusion, and may well not come to an agreed conclusion, is because we have insisted throughout on the paramount importance on the wishes of the Falkland islanders. We cannot agree to any transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

Mr Mulley told Sir Cyril Osborne (C. Louth) that the Executive Council was the government of the Falklands and its members were bound by an oath of secrecy. In the normal course of diplomatic practice it was never possible to divulge details of negotiations without consent of the other party.

### THE LORDS

## Women on £6 for a 41-hour week

Lady Summerskill said during a Lords debate on poverty in Britain that she was concerned about women who worked long hours for very low wages.

This was poverty among women who seldom indulged in strikes or marches. "Their passive behaviour enables employers to exploit their cheap labour without fear of retaliation." Some 10 per cent worked 41 or more hours a week and earned less than £6.

"It is argued that women do not have dependants and in many cases

do not even have to keep themselves—oh, how sick I am of hearing these same, fallacious old arguments. About 10 per cent of all families in England and Wales fall into one of two categories—those which have no husband to support them and those of single women who have to look after elderly parents." She called for equal pay.

Opening the debate, Lord Beaumont of Whitley (L.) said: "To a certain extent, politicians are to blame, because they are reluctant to highlight this tragedy."

He added: "Because of the success of trade unions there is no great interest or political party

which can identify itself with the poor. We are reaching a situation where there are not very many voters in poverty."

There were possibly 100,000 people really down-and-out. "Probably one person out of every 10 in this country falls into the general poverty bracket."

Lord Sandford, a Church of England clergyman, speaking from the Opposition front bench, said measures like the recent increases in the scale of family allowances had been a great boon to poorer families.

The Ministry of Social Security should have greater discretion in the distribution of special supple-

mentary benefits. He also asked for more flexibility in dealing with poorer families who could not pay their rents.

Lord Wells-Postell (Lab) said: "Too many people have got far too much money in our community. On November 23, the day after the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his statement on taxation, the press reported individuals spending as much as £350 in wines and spirits in order to defeat the new taxes."

Some people were apparently willing to spend £1,000 for a four-day trip on Queen Elizabeth 2 at Christmas (now cancelled for technical reasons).

Extract from  
Daily Mirror, London

4 DEC 1968

## Chalfont shocks MPs by TV talk of discussions with the islanders

# FALKLANDS

# 'SECRET OATH' ROW

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTING BUREAU  
184 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from the

## Daily Record

Scotland's National Newspaper  
GLASGOW

5 DEC 1968

Date.....  
(See information overleaf)

## 'End vendetta on Chalfont'

**T**ORIES were accused yesterday of waging a public vendetta against Government Minister Lord Chalfont.

The allegation followed repeated assurances in the Commons that Britain was not considering handing over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Foreign and Commonwealth Minister of State, Fred Mulley, gave this renewed pledge. He also promised a further statement next week from Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart.

### Integrity

Mr. Mulley said there was no truth in a suggestion that Lord Chalfont had said Britain and the Argentine "may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

During a bitter Commons row on Tuesday, Tory Bernard Braine had asked Mr. Mulley to explain this "extraordinary statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires."

To the anger of Labour M.P.s who rallied round the Government, Mr. Braine yesterday refused to withdraw his words.

Left-winger John Mendelson

said: "Is it not time this vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's integrity should cease?"

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said they were trying to extract information, as in the case of Gibraltar. It was like squeezing water out of a stone.

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont said: "There is no question of the sovereignty being bartered away with the Argentine or with anyone else."

**T**HE extraordinary admission that Falkland Islanders have been given secret information withheld from the British Parliament was made by Lord Chalfont on TV last night.

Immediate anger was voiced by MPs, who in stormy Commons exchanges earlier in the day had made plain their suspicion that the Government may put pressure on the islanders to accept Argentine rule.

Lord Chalfont, whose disclosure is expected to cause a new row in the House, was speaking in BBC's "Twenty-four Hours" programme on his just-completed visit to the Falklands and Argentina. He agreed that "at the moment" the wishes of the Falkland Islanders were to remain British.

### Reveal

He had spoken to the islands' government, the Executive Council, who "have sworn an oath of secrecy," he said.

"I took them fully into the confidence of the British Government.

"This is a thing we have not been able to do with either House of Parliament, because that would reveal our discussions."

The council assured him that they believe he was acting in good faith, and he thought that this should go some way to reassure MPs.

Lord Chalfont said that no agreement had yet been reached in the talks on Argentine's claim to the British colony.

But the Government wanted to ensure that if, in the future, the interests of the islanders lay "in a different direction," no option had been closed.

This was the point that worried MPs and peers of all parties during question-

By JOHN DESBOROUGH  
and DAVID THOMPSON

ing in the Commons and the Lords yesterday.

They noted that, despite repeated Government denials of "pressure" on the islanders, that both Mr. Fred Mulley, in the Commons, and Lord Chalfont, in the Lords, said that if the islanders change their minds about remaining British, "we will not stand in their way."

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

F 4 DEC 1968

## PARLIAMENT

# Falkland sovereignty discussed

The question of the negotiability of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands was being discussed with the Argentine Government, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said yesterday.

But he went on to reaffirm, in a statement on his recent visit to the Falklands, that there would be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

He had repeated in the Falklands assurances given in both Houses here that it was not Government policy to transfer sovereignty over the islands to Argentina against the islanders' wishes.

He added: "I had an opportunity of meeting with the islands' executive council which was enlarged so as to enable me to meet the unofficial members of the legislative council.

"On November 25 the legislative council told me that in my meetings with the general public they would wish me to state that I had discussed in detail the present position reached in the talks with the Argentine Government and the position which Britain hoped to reach soon and, secondly, that members of the executive council accepted that the British Government had acted in good faith in talks with the Argentine and that the agreed position if it is reached, would be fully in keeping with the promise that the Government would not transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the Falkland Islanders.

### Modus vivendi

"As the Foreign Secretary said on March 26 last, and as I have explained on more than one occasion, following the United Nations general assembly resolution 2065 on December, 1965, we have had talks with Argentina with the object of securing a satisfactory and lasting modus vivendi with the islands and Argentina.

"In particular we are concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since this would be of great benefit to the islands.

"We have made clear throughout the discussions that no transfer of sovereignty can be made against the wishes of the islanders. I hope it may shortly be possible to conclude the present stage of these discussions, whose outcome will be reported to the House."

### IN THE COMMONS . . .

A similar statement was made in the Commons by Mr Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Bernard Braine (C. Essex E.) asked the Minister to explain "the extraordinary" statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr Mulley said that Britain was prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina. The issue was one for the islanders to decide. The purpose of the talks was to "restore communications between the islanders and Argentina." The absence of such communications had caused very great hardship.

Mr Mulley told Mr Michael Hutchison (C. Edinburgh S.) that Lord Chalfont did not have any formal talks or negotiations in Argentina. He made a courtesy visit.

Of the question raised by Mr Hutchison of a seaweed harvesting project which could help the Falklands economy, Mr Mulley said: "We have known about the possibility and I use the word advisedly, for some months."

Only in July the Governor of the Falklands expressed disappointment that even the prospect of a pilot plant for the seaweed scheme was "remote." The developments of the last few days concerning the seaweed scheme were "only known to us through the courtesy of the BBC and newspapers."

Mr James Davidson (L. Aberdeen W.) asked what, if any, concessions or undertakings had so far been given by Argentina. "Will you give an undertaking that, before there is any question of a change

in sovereignty, the people of the Falklands will be allowed to give an indication of their views through a referendum?"

Mr Mulley: "Any talk of a referendum is certainly very premature." He could not reveal details of negotiations with Argentina until they were concluded.

Mr Duncan Sandys (C. Streatham) said that the matter of Lord Chalfont's alleged remarks in Buenos Aires should be cleared up in the form of a statement today (Wednesday).

Mr Mulley: "I will put the point to Lord Chalfont and report to the House accordingly."

Mr Douglas Jay (Lab. Battersea N.) asked whether it was a fact that the majority of the islanders wanted to remain British.

Mr Mulley: "In present circumstances, there is no question but that they wish to remain British."

### Cannot pass

Mr John Boyd-Carpenter (C. Kingston-upon-Thames) said that Lord Chalfont did not find time during five days in the Falklands to refer to the seaweed possibilities, but found time to say that if the islanders wanted Government aid, they must increase taxation.

Mr Mulley said that the seaweed scheme was first made public, through the BBC and the press, on Friday, but there was no scheme of the kind one had read about in the newspapers at the time of Lord Chalfont's visit.

Mr Heath: "The Minister has declared that the Falkland islanders have no wish to give up British sovereignty. Will you not recognise that the great majority of this House is determined to support the islanders in this view? Therefore, sovereignty cannot pass.

"Will you recognise that there can be no point in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine, and that it should be taken off the agenda immediately?" Until this happened, there would be grave doubts about the Government's motives in discussing this matter at all.

Mr Mulley said that they had made clear to the Argentine Government that, "unless the Falkland islanders so desire, we rule

out transfer of sovereignty. We do not rule out the possibility that, in the future, the islanders might change their minds."

While the Government stood behind the islanders if they desired to remain British, if in some different set of circumstances in future they changed their minds, he would hope that, whoever was the Government, would be prepared not to stand in their way.

Sir Cyril Osborne (C. Louth) who said he was a member of a parliamentary delegation to the islands, said he wished to raise two points.

One of the questions was that their economy was shrinking. Wool was going down in value and they were having great difficulty in keeping young fellows on the islands. They wanted to know whether the Government would give them some economic aid if they ran into more difficulties as we had given economic aid to the new countries in Africa and Asia.

"On our way back we were pressurised in Buenos Aires by British colonists there who said they represented much greater industrial and financial interests than the Falkland islanders. The islanders were frightened that the British colonists were pressurising the Government to take this action. Can we have a statement on this?"

### Low tax

Mr Mulley: "On the question of aid, we give no aid to the islands at present because the need has not arisen. The average income per head in the islands is about £500.

"It is almost, per capita, the same as this country and the rates of tax are extremely low. I believe it is about 2s in the pound and the highest rate of tax is 5s 9d in the pound, starting at £6,000.

"On the question of capital aid, we have made it clear to the executive council that, if they put forward specific and realistic schemes, we shall consider what we can do."

No such proposals had been made since April 1950 when the islanders failed to get a grant for exporting frozen mutton. On the question of the Government being pressurised by Anglo-Argentines in Buenos Aires, this was not the case.

Extract from  
The Times, London

# Purpose of talks with Argentina: improving communications and facilities for islanders

MR. MULLEY, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Sheffield, Park, Lab.) repeated the statement made by Lord Chalfont in the Lords on his visit to the Falkland Islands.

MR. BRAINE (South-East Essex, C.).—Is it not the case that the object of Lord Chalfont's mission was to tell the Falkland islanders that if they retain their present status their future is bleak? Why has no account been taken of recent proposals which might transform the economy of the islands?

Will the Minister of State explain the extraordinary statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must now make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient? (Opposition cheers.)

In view of the unchanging wishes of the Falkland islanders to remain British, and the support that has on both sides in the House and in the country, will the Government take the issue of sovereignty off the agenda of any further talks with Argentina? (Renewed cheers.)

## Absurd situation

MR. MULLEY.—The purpose of Lord Chalfont's mission was to explain the position, in view of the uncertainties that had arisen, and not any wish to persuade or direct the views of the islanders. We have no information about the so-called attributed quotation in Buenos Aires.

On the question of taking sovereignty off the agenda, the purpose of the talks is to restore communication between the islanders and Argentina. The absence of such arrangements at present is a great hardship. We have the absurd situation of imports to the islands from Argentina going all the way to Montevideo, and then 1,000 miles back to the islands.

In these circumstances, we are prepared to talk about sovereignty but only in the context if the islanders themselves wish. (Opposition cries of "No.") The Government stand on the position, but it is for the islanders to say and not us.

## Expressed will

MR. HAMLING (Woolwich, West, Lab.).—While welcoming the thrice repeated assurance that the Government's policy is that independence will be maintained so long as the islanders want it, will the Minister clear up the statement attributed to Lord Chalfont and whether that was a genuine statement or newspaper talk?

Some of us are not prepared to see the Falkland Islands handed over to a Government which treats left-wing parties like some Opposition members here would wish to do. (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. MULLEY.—I give the assurance that it is not the intention of the Government to transfer these islands to Argentina unless there is an expressed will by the islanders.

We are not responsible for what appears in newspapers: I have no knowledge about that. I cannot believe it was said because it would be totally at variance with the many and excellent statements Lord Chalfont made both in press conferences in Argentina and in the Falkland Islands.

MR. CLARK HUTCHISON (Edinburgh, South, C.).—Does the Minister realize that although there may be no transfer of sovereignty, the spiritless talks Lord Chalfont had with the islanders caused confusion and depression among them? What steps are the Government going to take to rectify the damage done? (Opposition cheers.)

Will a statement be made about the new seaweed project? Can the House be given an exact record of the talks between Lord Chalfont and the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs and his officials?

MR. MULLEY.—Quite apart from creating confusion, I understand that Mr. Clark Hutchison sent a telegram to the trade union leader in the islands asking him to organize a petition, and had a reply back from that gentleman, who is a leading member of the Executive Council, saying that the Executive Council was satisfied with the assurances they have received. (Ministerial cheers.)

Lord Chalfont did not have any formal talks or negotiations in Argentina. He met, as a courtesy, the Foreign Minister. It would be inappropriate to circulate any record of talks following a dinner party.

We have known about the possibility of seaweed developments for some months. It was put to the Governor and others in the Falkland Islands that this was a fairly remote possibility. The dramatic developments of the last few days have been known to us only through the courtesy of the B.B.C. and the newspapers.

## Assurance given

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.).—Would the Minister give the House an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with Argentina, and that it will not be so used in the days ahead in which the talks are going to take place? (Opposition cheers.) There is a feeling that it is being used in some sense as a bargaining factor and that would be totally wrong. (Cheers.)

MR. MULLEY.—I am very willing to give that assurance in the form in which it is asked. Anyone with the remotest experience of diplomacy would know that it was unwise to try to use it in bargaining fashion when we attach the firm condition that it can only be done with the wishes of the islanders. We know, and I am sure that Argentina knows, what the state of opinion in the Falkland Islands is.

The only purpose of the discussions and negotiations with

Argentina is to try to improve the situation in terms of communication and facilities for the people of the islands.

MR. WYATT (Bosworth, Lab.).—Lord Chalfont said some odd things once at Zurich. What is worrying everybody is that the Government are trying to persuade the islanders to hand over sovereignty to the Argentine and nobody can understand why the Government are trying to do that.

MR. MULLEY.—I take issue over what I thought were unfair remarks about Lord Chalfont. Anyone who thinks that the islanders were pressurized underestimates the character of the islanders and of Lord Chalfont. The islanders would not be pressurized if it was against their interests and Lord Chalfont would not pressurize them.

## Nearest mainland

MR. ALFRED MORRIS (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab.).—As the islanders have made it repeatedly and emphatically clear that they wish to remain British, can the matter now be left in abeyance until the improbable time that they change their minds?

MR. MULLEY.—The matter can not thus be left in abeyance—(Opposition shouts of "Why not?")—because we want if we can to improve their position in regard to communications. It is not satisfactory that for a remote island the only port that can be used is a thousand miles away when the nearest mainland is less than 300 miles away.

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.).—If left in the air, the alleged statement by Lord Chalfont about the joint duty of Argentina and Britain to convince the islanders that it would be to their advantage to change, will cause serious anxiety and difficulties. Will he ask Lord Chalfont whether that statement was made so that the matter can be cleared up? Will he undertake to make a statement tomorrow?

MR. MULLEY.—I will put the point to Lord Chalfont and report accordingly to the House.

MISS HERBISON (North Lanarkshire, Lab.).—There are great fears among the people of the Falkland Islands that they are going to be handed over to the Argentine. What further evidence do the Government want about the will of the islanders, and if they need no further evidence, why cannot the Government state that the will of the people to remain as they are is going to be met by this Government no matter what other discussions there are to help the islanders? (Cheers.)

MR. MULLEY.—If I have not been able to make the Government's position clear in this respect I do not know what words in the English language mean. I would have thought the words "There will be no transfer against the wishes of the islanders" are clear enough for anyone to comprehend.

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—The Minister has declared that the islanders have no wish to give up British sovereignty. The great major-

ity of this House are determined to support the islanders. Therefore sovereignty cannot pass, and there can be no point in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine and the matter should immediately be taken off the agenda.

Until this happens, there is bound to be the gravest suspicion about the Government's motives for discussing the matter at all.

MR. MULLEY.—It is not as simple as that, as I would have thought Mr. Heath would have known. It is not a question of an agenda. It is a case of discussions in the light of the United Nations resolution, and it was only through that resolution that we were able to get these talks going.

We want to utilize the situation to reach the best understanding we can between the islanders and the Argentine, and have made it clear to the Argentine that unless the islanders so desire we shall not transfer sovereignty. We do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders may change their minds. (Opposition cries of "Oh" and "Resign!")

The simple proposition which I put to the House is that while we stand fully behind the islanders if they so desire to remain British, if in some different set of circumstances in the future this Government, and I would hope any government, would be prepared not to stand in their way if they changed their minds.

At the present time there is no question of the islanders not wishing to stay British and this has been the clear position we have put in our talks with Argentina.

MR. MAYHEW (Woolwich, East, Lab.).—What evidence have the Government that the islanders in some future circumstances might not wish to be British, and if they have given no such suggestion, are they not entitled to resent the statement coming from Mr. Mulley? (Cheers.)

MR. MULLEY.—I do not think there is any resentment. There has been concern over a long period in the islands because the economy is based on wool and the markets have been falling, because they are so isolated and because of what is best for their young people. It is these concerns rather than the wish to remain British that have been exercising their minds.

MR. BLACKBURN (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab.).—Why is the Minister surprised that after all the words he has used there should still be suspicion? (Cheers.) Why not simply say that the islanders want to remain loyal to this country and therefore there is no question of a transfer of sovereignty?

MR. MULLEY.—I thought that this was what I had in fact said. (Opposition cries of dissent.)

MR. SANDYS unsuccessfully sought leave to adjourn the House for an emergency debate.

MR. PEART, Lord President of the Council (Workington, Lab.), said, after a point of order, that a further statement would be made tomorrow.

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

5 DEC 1952

## Parliamentary reports

# Lord Chalfont is clear on all points, says Mr. Mulley

In a statement on the Falkland Islands, MR. FRED MULLEY, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said he had inquired into statements made in the House on Tuesday.

These were about Press reports of remarks attributed to LORD CHALFONT, his opposite number in the Lords, when he was in Argentina.

"On all points—in the Falklands, and in Argentina—Lord Chalfont made clear that there could be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders," Mr. Mulley said.

Mr. Mulley said that he had discussed the statements fully with Lord Chalfont and had received from our Ambassador the relevant Argentine Press reports of the Press conference in question.

"The statement to which reference was made on Tuesday was made in the context of creating a framework in which

the obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between islands and mainland will be overcome, particularly with regard to communications and economic and cultural links.

"In this context, and I quote the relevant extracts from the two Argentine newspapers *Clarín* and *Nación*: Question: 'Does this mean, then, that the problem would be to convince the islanders?'

Answer: 'I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain, but that Argentina also has to solve the problem. Britain's relations with the islands are very good, so it is a question of Argentina promoting good relations between herself and the inhabitants of the islands.'

"On the issue of sovereignty," Mr. Mulley said "again I quote relevant extracts from the Argentine newspapers concerned: Question: 'Has a date been fixed for the change of sovereignty?' Answer: 'We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders' (Labour cheers).

Mr. Mulley went on: "Lord

Chalfont confirms the accuracy of these reports.

"Mr. Bernard Braine, Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, had suggested that Lord Chalfont said that 'Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.'

"Lord Chalfont made no such statement. (Cheers). On all points, in the Falklands and in Argentina, as I repeatedly told the House yesterday, he made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

"The issue was further raised yesterday of the present state of the discussions with the Argentine Government.

"Since Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, discussed these problems himself with the Argentine Foreign Minister when he was in New York in October, the House would, I know, wish to have a statement from Mr. Stewart as soon as he returns from India.

Noisy interruptions began as soon as Members rose to put questions to Mr. Mulley.

Labour MPs shouted "Withdraw" to Mr. Braine as SIR ALEC DOUGLAS - HOME, Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman, said: "I have some sympathy with Mr. Mulley in trying to explain the various statements made by Lord Chalfont."

MR. EMANUEL SHINWELL (Lab., Easington), on "a point of order," said: "The Minister has just confounded allegations made yesterday against Lord Chalfont. Should we not ask Mr. Braine to withdraw the allegations?"

The Speaker, DR. HORACE KING, said Mr. Shinwell had not made a point of order, but a point of argument.

### 'Withdraw'

Roars of "Withdraw, withdraw," greeted MR. BRAINE when he went to the Opposition despatch box. He started by saying: "There is no question of withdrawal at all."

Interrupted by further chants of "Withdraw," he went on: "Are we to take it from what you have said this afternoon that you categorically deny..."

Once again Mr. Braine's words were swamped in a flood of shouting from the Labour Benches. The Speaker called loudly for order.

Mr. Braine continued: "Will you now categorically deny the report in Monday's *Daily Telegraph* that Lord Chalfont told a Press conference in Buenos Aires on Sunday that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, and that it must be a joint effort between Britain and Argentina?"

After recalling that Mr. Mulley had said that Lord Chalfont was accompanied by five journalists, Mr. Braine said: "If these journalists have been sending back inaccurate reports, is not the Government to blame for not making their position crystal clear?"

Mr. Mulley, amid cheers from his Back Benches: "I am sorry that you have not been more candid with the House. You read just now a quotation from Monday's *Daily Telegraph*.

"When you made your point yesterday, you did not give any reference to any newspaper or any date, but you have now read the correct version."

Extract from  
Northampton Chronicle & Echo

- 5 DEC 1968

# Call for referendum in Falklands

**T**HE Nationalist M.P.s in the House of Commons have started to take an interest in the independence of the Falkland Islands, writes a Press Association lobby correspondent.

Mrs. Winifred Ewing, Scottish Nationalist M.P. for Hamilton, is urging the Government to hold a referendum in the Falkland Islands, in order to put on record the wishes of the islanders on their future status as an international fact.

Mr. Gwynfor Evans, Welsh Nationalist M.P. for Carmarthen, is to question the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, tomorrow, about what acreage of the Falkland Islands is farmed, how many holdings there are, their average size and how many are owned by resident islanders.

On Monday, Mr. Ronald Bell, Conservative M.P. for South Buckinghamshire, will be asking the Foreign Secretary if he will visit the Falkland Islands.

At United Nations, 18 countries—13 of them Latin-American — have launched a formal onslaught on the Rock of Gibraltar with the aim of getting Britain out next year.

A motion introduced at the U.N. General Assembly's trusteeship committee called the continuation of "the colonial situation" in Gibraltar incompatible with the U.N. Charter and requested Britain to terminate it no later than October 1, 1969.

The motion calls on Britain "to begin without delay the negotiations with Spain for leaving the Rock."

Speaking for Britain, Dr. D. E. T. Luard assured the committee "Nobody wants to maintain the existing situation in Gibraltar in perpetuity."

Negotiations had failed because Spain insisted on Britain implementing last year's UN resolution that Gibraltar be handed over immediately, which



"Look . . . forget about the Falklands, Senor — how do you fancy taking Ulster and Wales off our hands?"

would have left nothing to negotiate about.

The Spanish delegate, Senor Jaime de Pinies, said Britain displayed "a rebellious attitude" to last year's resolution, and kept on bringing up "the old, hackneyed theme of independence."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge G

Extra  
Nottingham G

4 DEC 1968

# How can we believe this pledge on Falklands?

**T**HE fate of those most loyal of British subjects who live in the Falkland Islands appears to be in the balance, for now that a Minister of the Labour Government has pledged that they will not be handed over to Argentina, it seems likely that the reverse will happen.

I hope that I will be proved wrong, but if we are to judge from past experience as soon as a pledge is made it is broken within a very short time. To quote a few instances:

Mr. Wilson said before the 1964 election that taxes would not go up if Labour were returned to power, and yet they now levy more than £1 18s. for every £ before they were returned to power.

Mr. Wilson frequently said that he would not devalue the £ because this would lower the standard of living for us all, and then had the audacity to say that the £ in our pockets had not been devalued.

The aircraft workers were told before the cancellation of the TSR2 that their jobs were safe

under Labour, Mr. Brown promised 4 per cent. mortgages and Mrs. Barbara Castle said the day before the Bassetlaw by-election that no further squeeze was on



the way—and yet within days we had not one squeeze but two. How can we believe this pledge when nearly every other one has been broken?

J. S. DOBSON,  
Papplewick Lodge,  
Nottinghamshire.

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date .....4...DEC 1968

Diplomatic disaster, say Tories

# Lord Chalfont in another row over the Falklands

By JOHN FISHER, Political Staff



LORD CHALFONT  
Check on reports

L O R D CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign Office, is the centre of a new political rumpus over the future of the Falkland Islands. Conservative MPs last night were describing him as a "diplomatic disaster."

After a Commons row over remarks alleged to have been made by Lord Chalfont at a briefing for journalists in Buenos Aires at the weekend, Mr. Mulley, also a Minister of State at the Foreign Office, undertook to check the accuracy of the reports with

Lord Chalfont and inform the House.

Mr. Peart, Leader of the House, promised a further statement today.

Although confirming that there was no question of Britain transferring sovereignty over the Falkland Islands against the wishes of inhabitants, Lord Chalfont was reported as saying that Britain and the Argentine were convinced that links between the Falkland islands and Argentine were necessary.

The reports added that the Minister of State stressed that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might

be convenient. "It must be a joint effort by Britain and Argentine."

It is this that is the basis of the Opposition's complaint. They feel that the remarks underline suspicions that the British Government is prepared to help the Argentine Government put pressure on the islanders to change their view about remaining British citizens.

Their fear was not entirely allayed by the questions and answers in Parliament yesterday.

## Common Market 'threat' recalled

It is not the first time that Lord Chalfont has been in hot water for alleged remarks to journalists. The Minister of State offered his resignation to the Prime Minister a little over a year ago over reports that at an off-the-cuff briefing of journalists at Lausanne, Lord Chalfont, then the Minister in charge of Common Market negotiations, was claimed to have said that Britain planned disengagement from Europe if the application to join the European economic community were rejected.

This was taken to be a threat to the other Common Market countries and was widely reported in European newspapers.

Mr. Wilson had to make a special statement in the Commons, denying any change of Government policy towards Europe, and at the same time he said that he had not accepted Lord Chalfont's offer of resignation.

## Pledges to Peers

THE PRESENT stage of talks between the Government and the Argentine about the Falkland Islands will probably be ended soon, Lord Chalfont told the Lords yesterday.

Replying to Lord Carrington, Leader of the Opposition Peers, he said: "I have now explained to the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands details of our discussions.

"I have taken them fully into the confidence of the Government and they have said in return that they believe that the British Government is acting in good faith."

The negotiability of sovereignty was being discussed with the Argentine Government.

## Shouts of 'Why'

Conservative Peers shouted "Why" and Lord Chalfont said: "There will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. We have no doubt about our legal entitlement to sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont said that no economic or other pressures would be brought to bear on the Falkland islanders.

"If at any time in the future the people of the Falkland Islands wish to change their minds about this matter we will not stand in their way."

Referring to what he called the "alleged report" that Great Britain could not defend the Falklands, Lord Chalfont said: "I deny it categorically. I said that so long as sovereignty rests with us their defence is our responsibility and that responsibility we will discharge."

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 5 DEC 1968

## Peers' angry challenge to Chalfont

By Our Parliamentary Staff

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday.

**LORD CARRINGTON**, Leader of the Opposition, was cheered by his supporters in the House of Lords today, when he told Lord Chalfont: "We don't think we are getting a straight answer."

Lord OGMORE (Lib.) had also won applause from the same benches when he declared: "People fear that the British Government is trying to make a business deal with the Argentine at the expense of the Falkland Islanders."

Lord CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign Office, retorted: "I really think it hardly necessary to answer that. There is no question whatever of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands being bartered away with Argentina or anyone else."

Lord CARRINGTON was also concerned by a report that the Argentine Foreign Minister had said he would not sign any agreement which did not recognise Argentina's sovereignty over the islands.

"In view of that, what on earth is the point of continuing the discussions? Does he not realise that to remove the question of sovereignty from the agenda is just about the only way to allay the deep suspicion of the motives of the Government?"

When Lord CHALFONT declined to comment on the alleged statement, Lord CARRINGTON angrily asked: "Surely you must know whether the Foreign Minister did make this statement? He the Foreign Office no knowledge of what he said?"

Lord CHALFONT: It would be improper of me to comment on the remarks alleged to have been made to newspaper reporters by the Argentine Foreign Minister.

### Talks agenda

Lord CARRINGTON: Will you find out from the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires whether or not the Foreign Minister did or did not say this? If he said it, will you remove the question of sovereignty from the agenda of any talks?

Lord CHALFONT said he would clarify the situation, and would take any necessary action on it. He could give no undertaking of the sort suggested by Lord Carrington.

Lord CARRINGTON: Are you prepared to come to the House tomorrow and tell us whether or not the Argentine Foreign Minister did make this statement?

Conservatives shouted angrily when Lord CHALFONT replied: "I cannot undertake any such thing. Our discussions with the Argentine Government about this have been, and are, confidential. I cannot undertake to report to the House any statement made by the Argentine Foreign Minister to our Ambassador."

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

- 4 DEC 1968

## M.P.s will hear more today on Falklands

By Our Political Reporter

Doubts about the eagerness of the Government to uphold Britain's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands were still lingering in the minds of M.P.s of all parties last night, despite repeated assurances to the contrary given earlier to both Houses of Parliament by Lord Chalfont and Mr Fred Mulley, Ministers of State at the Foreign Office.

Conservatives were particularly worried by "the extraordinary statement" alleged to have been made in Buenos Aires by Lord Chalfont, that Britain and the Argentine must make a joint effort to convince the islands that a change of status would be convenient.

After repeated demands that the matter should be clarified, Mr Fred Peart, the Leader of the House, indicated that a further statement would be made today.

### "GREAT BENEFIT"

Both Foreign Office Ministers stated that it was not the Government's policy to transfer sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders, but after a United Nations resolution in 1965, the Government had had talks with the Argentine with the object of securing a satisfactory and lasting "modus vivendi" with the islanders and the Argentine.

"In particular we are concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since this could be of great benefit to the islands . . . it may shortly be possible to conclude these discussions . . ."

### DISAPPROVAL

In the Commons, Conservative M.P.s roared their disapproval when Mr Mulley reiterated the Government's willingness to discuss sovereignty, and they were scarcely mollified by an assurance that this delicate issue was not being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with the Argentine.

The Minister turned down a suggestion that as the islanders clearly wanted to remain British, the matter should be "left in abeyance."

Extract from the

**Evening Express**

ABERDEEN

Date: 4 Dec 1968  
(See information overleaf.)

Extract from  
Sun, London

- 4 DEC 1968

# Falklands facts 'kept secret'

By HAROLD HUTCHINSON, Political Correspondent

LORD CHALFONT made the extraordinary statement on television last night that the Government have not yet revealed the full facts about the Falkland Islands.

This is bound to be angrily raised in Parliament today, when another statement on the Falkland Islands is expected.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has just returned from the Falkland Islands, Britain's South Atlantic colony off the coast of Argentina.

In a BBC TV discussion, he said that he had talked to the islanders' legislative council.

He said: "They run the island's government and have sworn an oath of secrecy.

"I took them fully into the confidence of the British Government.

"This is a thing we have not been able to do with either House of Parliament because that would have revealed our discussions.

"We are still engaged in discussions about the Argentine claim to the islands. We have not reached a position of agreement."

## SUSPICIOUS

Since Parliament is already sure that the Government find the islands an embarrassment, the admission that they had not been told the whole story will cause trouble.

ROBIN PAGE, Parliamentary Reporter, writes:

In the Commons yesterday Foreign Office Minister Fred Mulley refused repeated attempts by MPs to make him say unequivocally that the Falkland Islands will remain British and not be handed over to Argentina.

Mr. Mulley, embarrassed and angry, found himself swamped by the wrath from every side of the Commons.

The Minister stuck stubbornly to his formula of words: "No transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

But his repetition of this phrase merely made MPs gravely suspicious.

Their suspicion exploded with a loud roar when Mr.

Mulley added at one point: "We do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders may change their minds" (about wishing to stay British).

He left behind the clear implication — rightly or wrongly—that Britain will not mind terribly if the islands are transferred to Argentina, and that the islanders' opinions are an awkward impediment.

The unlucky Minister found himself on the spot, too, as a result of an earlier remark attributed to Lord Chalfont.

This remark, said to have been made by Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires, was alleged to be: "Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

Mr. Mulley said he did not believe that a statement like that could have been made. But after many protests, he agreed to put it to Lord Chalfont and report back to MPs today.

The Conservative front-bench spokesman, Mr. Bernard Braine, demanded that the question of sovereignty should be removed from the agenda in the talks with Argentina.

## ASSURANCE

Mr. Mulley refused, saying that Lord Chalfont's talks were aimed at restoring communication between the Falklands and Argentina.

He did give an assurance demanded by Sir Alec Douglas Home that sovereignty of the islands would not be used as a bargaining factor.

Former Cabinet Minister Miss Margaret Herbison (Lab., Lanarkshire N) said: "In spite of all the assurances there are still very great fears among the islanders that they are going to be handed over to Argentina."

Mr. Mulley retorted: "I would have thought that the words 'no transfer against the wishes of the islanders' were clear enough for anyone to comprehend."

He must have been the only person in the House who thought that. There was a huge shout of "No!"

Argentinian Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina would not sign any agreement which did not include recognition of her sovereignty over the Falklands.

# New row over Isles' future The Government's Falkland secrets

From GORDON JACKSON

FRESH ALLEGATIONS that the Government is not telling all about the secret talks over the Falkland Isles were made today as Ministers made a second desperate attempt to get out of the growing muddle over the future of the islanders.

In the face of deep hostility and suspicion on all sides, another Parliamentary statement was being made by the Foreign Office about what went on in the secret talks between Lord Chalfont and the island council over the "take-over" demands of the Argentine Government.

Mr Fred Mulley, who repeated that there was no question of yielding sovereignty to the Argentinians without the consent of the islanders themselves, promised another statement to clarify the alleged remarks of Lord Chalfont, his fellow Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Lord Chalfont is reported as saying that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a "change" might be convenient. He is accused of saying: "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina."

But even before the dust had settled on the Commons row involving Mr Mulley, Lord Chalfont—who had made a similar statement in the Lords—went on BBC television and frankly admitted that the Foreign Office was unable to give the full facts of Parliament.

## CONFIDENCE

He said on "24 Hours" that he had explained the position to the Falkland Islands Council, and had taken them fully into the confidence of the British Government. "This is a thing we have not yet been able to do with either Houses of Parliament because that would reveal our discussions," he said.

Angry Tory MPs are demanding that as the islanders have no wish to give up their British sovereignty there is no point in discussing it further with the Argentine

Government, and the talks should be broken off.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Left-wing Labour MP, Mr Emrys Hughes, has put down a tongue-in-cheek motion about the "concern" among MPs about the future of the Falklands. He urges the Government "to support Japan in any demand it may make that the island of Okinawa, still occupied by the United States of America as a military, naval air and nuclear weapons base, be returned to Japan."

As the Foreign Office tried to cope with the Falkland Isles rumpus they were faced with the prospect of deepening of the cold war with the Soviet Union.

Following the frigid note from the Russians accusing Britain of "aggravating relations between the two countries," MPs were demanding that the Soviet ambassador to Britain should be called in and given a dressing down. They are calling for an equally frosty retort to be sent to the Kremlin rejecting Moscow's charges.

Britain is accused of using the events in Czechoslovakia following the invasion as a pretext for complicating her relations with the Soviet Union.

4 DEC 1968

# Commons row over isles' fate

By GRAHAM CAWTHORNE, Political Correspondent

Despite assurances in both Houses that Britain will not transfer the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the population, Parliament learned yesterday that the negotiability of sovereignty over the islands is being discussed with the Argentine Government.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, disclosed this during his report on his recent visit to the islands. He said: "There will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. We have no doubt about our legal entitlement to sovereignty."

He expected that the present stage of talks would probably end soon. The negotiations had been entered into "in accordance with the United Nations resolution because we believe this is in the best interests of the islanders." But he denied that Britain could not defend the Falklands, as had been suggested.

In the Commons, Mr Fred Mulley, Lord Chalfont's fellow Minister of State, encountered an all-party volley of criticism which was stilled only when Mr Peart, Leader of the House, promised a further statement today.

Mr Mulley said he had not been able to check with Lord Chalfont whether he had, as

reported, said in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary, and that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient.

Mr John Biggs-Davison (C Chigwell) regretfully conceded that it was not possible to impeach Lord Chalfont. Lord Dalkeith (C Edinburgh N) went so far as to suggest that Lord Chalfont should be called to the Bar of the Commons so that he could be questioned by MPs, but this was raked out of order.

When Mr Mulley said, "We do not rule out the possibility that in future the islanders may change their minds," there were furious cries of "No" and "Resign" from Conservatives, and the Liberal Leader, Mr Jeremy Thorpe, accused Mr Mulley of being "somewhat equivocal."

From the Labour benches Mr Blackburn (Stalybridge and Hyde) asked: "Are you surprised, after the words you have used, that there is suspicion in the House?"

Earlier, Mr Mulley had said the islands' sovereignty was in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with Argentina. The main purpose of the talks was to improve communications

## Government

## and Falklands

Sir, — Why does the Government seem to be ready to humiliate us in various parts of the world. Recently there was Gibraltar, now we have the Falkland Islands.

Is the Government so short of money that it is no longer able to afford the present minimal naval protection guaranteeing the colony's independence?

Has it become so emasculated that it is prepared to submit to Argentina's threat of economic sanctions if it refuses to acquiesce to their ludicrous claim to sovereignty over the colony?

Is the Government so ignorant of the future importance of the Antarctic continent that it is prepared to abandon our investment in the colony for all time?

Having lived and worked in the Falkland Islands I have seen for myself how, in 150 years, the people there have turned a barren waste into a self-supporting community with a good standard of living and a low rate of taxation.

Thank you for drawing the attention of your readers to the plight of the islanders. I hope many of them will respond by protesting to their MPs.

G. C. SMITH,  
Church Cottages,  
Leighthorne,  
Warwick.

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

Date ..... 5 DEC 1968

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Mr Mulley said he had not been able to check with Lord Chalfont whether he had, as

# Commons clash over Falklands

BY JOHN BOURNE, LOBBY EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT made it clear yesterday that there would be no concessions to the Argentine's demands on the Falkland Islands unless the islanders themselves wished sovereignty to be transferred. But Ministers denied strongly that any attempt would be made to bring economic or other pressures to bear on the islanders to change their allegiance.

This was the gist of long statements in Parliament by Lord Chalfont, who has just returned from his visit to the island, and Mr. Fred Mulley, his fellow Minister

of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Both were closely questioned but it was Mr. Mulley, in the Commons, who received the roughest handling—by MPs of all parties. He was accused of equivocation and was repeatedly attacked for his refusal to rule out discussions on the sovereignty of the Falklands with the Argentine Government.

There was uproar, and cries of "resign" from the Tory benches, when Mr. Mulley told Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition: "We want to utilise this situation to reach the best understanding we can between the islanders and the Argentine

Government, and have made clear to the Argentine Government that unless the islanders so desire, we rule out transfer of sovereignty. But we do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders might change their minds."

Later he added that if the islanders were to do so, he hoped the British Government would not stand in their way.

Mr. Mulley came under pressure from MPs, who wanted to know whether it was true, as reported, that Lord Chalfont had said in Buenos Aires that Britain and the Argentine must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Two Tory MPs, demanded that Lord Chalfont should himself be summoned to the Bar of the House, but this was ruled out by the Speaker. In the end the demands for an explanation became so strong that Mr. Mulley—who said that he could not believe that Lord Chalfont had said any such thing—agreed to question Lord Chalfont about it and report his reply to the Commons to-day.

Mr. Mulley's main thesis was that the purpose of the talks with the Argentine was to "restore communications between the islands and the Argentine." At the moment, imports had to be routed via Montevideo, 1,000 miles from the Falklands and this was causing very great hardship.

This, he said, was why the question of the Falklands remaining British could not be left in abeyance until the day when the islanders said they had changed their minds. "The matter cannot be left in abeyance because we want if we possibly can to improve the islander's communications."

## Economic aid

Questioned about economic aid to the islands, Mr. Mulley said that no aid was given at present because the need had not arisen. The average income per head was about £500—almost the same as in Britain—taxes were about 2s. in the pound and the highest rate of tax was 5s 9d, starting at £6,000.

Extract from The  
**LIVERPOOL  
DAILY POST**

Date

## Tilney gets a polite <sup>3003</sup> brush-off

Mr John Tilney (Waver-tree, C), a tireless campaigner for keeping alive the Commonwealth ideal, received a polite brush-off from the Prime Minister when he sought a Commonwealth peace-keeping force and a Commonwealth flag.

On the question of a peace-keeping force, Mr Wilson said that while the Government would be happy to join in one for Nigeria he thought there would be difficulties about keeping one permanently available.

Mr Tilney said it was not easy to find a site, or the money, to put up twenty-eight flagpoles when cities wanted to mark Commonwealth occasions. He suggested that a simple composite flag would represent all colours of the spectrum.

The Prime Minister replied, amid laughter, that if it was to represent all colours it would hardly be a simple flag, and he invited Mr Tilney to go to Marlborough House next month, for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference

# Yesterday in Parliament Barrage over the Falklands

Amid persistent questioning from all sides of the House and roars of disapproval from the Opposition, Mr Fred Mulley, Joint Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs yesterday faced a barrage of demands for further information about the visit of Lord Chalfont, his opposite number in the Lords, to the Falkland Islands.

The rowdy questioning of the Minister began when Mr Bernard Braine, Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth affairs, asked the Minister to explain the statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and the Argentine must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr Mulley said that the object of Lord Chalfont's visit was to explain the position in the light of a good deal of confusion that had arisen—not to persuade or direct the opinions of the islanders themselves.

### Bargaining

Conservatives roared disapproval when Mr Mulley said Britain was prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with the Argentine. The issue was one for the islanders to decide. He said the purpose of the talks was to restore communications between the islanders and the Argentine.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home asked: "Will you give an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falkland



LORD CHALFONT  
— His visit.

Islands is in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talk with the Argentine and they will not be so used? There is a feeling that they are being used in some sense as a bargaining factor and this would be quite wrong."

Mr Mulley said: "I am willing to give that assurance in the form asked. We know, and I am sure that Argentina knows, what the state of opinion of the island is."

Mr Duncan Sandys (Streatham, C): "Don't you realise if this is left in the air, this alleged statement by Lord Chalfont about a joint duty of the Argentine and British Governments to convince the islanders it is to their advantage to make a change surely that would cause very serious anxiety and difficulty

### Direct reply

"Will you ask Lord Chalfont whether or not that statement was made, in order that the matter can be cleared up, and will you

make a statement tomorrow?"

Mr Mulley said: "I will put the point to Lord Chalfont and report to the House accordingly."

The Earl of Dalkeith (Edinburgh North, C) was cheered by Opposition Members when he suggested that it would be for the convenience of the Lords if Lord Chalfont could be invited to come to the bar of the House to answer questions directly, but the Speaker, Dr Horace King, said that it would be necessary to go back a long way in history for a precedent for doing this.

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont repeated the assurances given in both Houses of Parliament that it was not the Government's policy to transfer sovereignty over the islands to the Argentine, against the wishes of the islanders.

He said talks had been held with the Argentine with the object of securing satisfactory and lasting *modus vivendi* with the islands and the Argentine.

"In particular we are concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since this would be of great benefit to the islands.

"I hope it may shortly be possible to conclude the present stage of these discussions, whose outcome will be reported in the House."

## Speaker gets to core of dignity

Mr John Wells (Maidstone C) caused something of a sensation by standing in the centre of the Commons floor munching an apple during questions to the Prime Minister

He then nonchalantly sauntered to his place, still munching.

Mr Charles Pannell (Leeds, Lab) and a former Minister, angrily drew the attention of the speaker to what was going on, but the speaker, Dr Horace King, said that he would deal with the point at the end of question time.

There was laughter when Mr Alfred Morris (Wythenshawe Lab) pointed out that by that time Mr Wells would have finished his apple.

### Dignity

Mr Wells sat down on the floor of the gangway and continued munching, finishing by putting the core in his pocket.

After questions, the Speaker said: "I understand that centuries ago Parliament was a place where Members brought in oranges to eat. That custom has disappeared through the years. I do not think its disappearance has taken anything away from the dignity of the House."

There is in fact nothing but custom to prevent M.P.s from eating or drinking in the Commons chamber. In the seventeenth century, oranges were regularly consumed there and it is still traditional for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to refresh himself with something stronger than water when delivering the Budget speech.

Extract from THE

# Oxford Mail

OXFORD (Evening)  
- 2 DEC 1968

Date .....

## The Falklands

3003  
If it is right for Britain to stand firm on Gibraltar, it is right for Britain to stand firm on the Falkland Islands. The principle is the same in both cases. It is that the people who live in a territory have the right to decide their own future. If the Falklanders want to stay British, then it is up to the British Government — whose predecessors organised the Falkland Settlement in the first place — to back them up.

The British Government thinks that economically the Falklanders need good relations with Argentina. This may be true but does not relieve Whitehall of its responsibility. It is our job to do everything to enable the islands to stay viable and to let the islanders settle their own fate. It may be that a prosperous solution for the Falklanders is still possible. An industrialist says today that they offer the world's largest untapped source of seaweed for chemical manufacture.

If it seems old-fashioned to the Argentinians for the islanders to want to stay British, it is old-fashioned nationalism for Argentina to make a claim to sovereignty.

Extract from  
Edinburgh Evening News

- 2 DEC 1968

## CHALFONT MAY BE QUESTIONED OVER FALKLANDS

3003  
Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was due back in London by air today after his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands.

He was returning amid mounting speculation as to Britain's ultimate intentions about Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

### STATEMENT

It is possible that Lord Chalfont may be questioned in Parliament this week on the matter, which might also be raised in the Commons.

A statement on the progress of discussions and the extent to which some sort of agreed position might have been reached will probably await the return from India of the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, a week tomorrow.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
184 Strand, London, W.C.2

EXTRACT FROM THE

## Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date - 2 DEC 1968

## Chalfont flies in

3003  
Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said at Heathrow Airport today, on his return from his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands and Buenos Ayres, that any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the islands' interests.

He was asked to comment on reports that Alginat Industries had proposed a seaweed scheme which, they claimed, could improve the islands' economy twelve-fold.

He was also asked for his view on reports that the project might be seriously affected if sovereignty of the islands was transferred to Argentina.

Lord Chalfont said that as he had not seen the reports he could not comment.

Extract from

## WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE

BLACKPOOL

Date..... - 2 DEC 1968

Government under fire

## Scathing attack over Falklands policy

- St Annes speech

SPEAKING at St Annes on Saturday, Mr Anthony Barber, MP, chairman of the Conservative Party, attacked the Government's attitude to the Falkland Islands.

Mr Barber said the Government's attitude to the 2,000 British people in the Falklands was sad and despicable.

The Argentine Foreign Minister said they had been waiting for 140 years to take over the islands and his government had no doubt chosen 1968 for the maximum pressure because they knew they were dealing with a British Government which had a relish for scuttle and breach of faith.

There were two reasons why the British people must insist that the Government stood firm.

Firstly, just because the number of islanders was small and they lived far from Britain was no reason to hand them over to an alien military dictatorship.

### Abandon

The people of the Falklands must be allowed to determine their own allegiance and for the British Government to abandon them would be an act of supreme national cowardice.

Secondly the present Government was already despised and derided abroad. If we succumbed to pressure from Argentina which had no legal or historical case we would lose what little overseas influence we still retained.

The Labour Government, said Mr Barber, had developed a remarkable ability for supporting everybody's case except Britain's.

### Wishes

In this instance the rights of Britain were crystal clear and the wishes of the Falkland islanders were now beyond dispute.

To stand up for the British in the Falklands was not the nostalgia of imperialism or jingoism. "It is simple justice and patriotism and there is nothing wrong with that," he said.

Mr Barber received a long ovation for his speech which was delivered to about 250 Conservatives at their North-Blackpool area council meeting at the Hotel Majestic, St Annes.

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

2 DEC 1968

# Falklands must agree to changes says Chalfont

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday

LORD CHALFONT, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said today that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary. Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falkland Islands, he said.

TO BUREAU  
on, S.W.1.

"But," Lord Chalfont said, "there is no question of changing sovereignty unless the islanders agree. They stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the islands' sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking to reporters shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic British colony claimed by Argentina.

During his visit, he explained to the people of the Falklands Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina.

He said the islanders were pre-occupied because of lack of communication with Argentina. "This led to lack of understanding," he added. "They believe that things might change if there were better communications and tighter links."

## NECESSARY

Lord Chalfont said both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he said: "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina."

The British Minister said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina disclosing an "agreement on position" about to be reached by the two countries.

This agreement would serve as a basis for further talks and show the points of agreement as well as difficulties. "The main difference is the islanders' will," he said.

## CONFLICT

A reporter asked whether the Falklands problem made Britain ineligible to mediate in a border conflict between Argentina and Chile in the Antarctic. (Chile made the request unilaterally last year.)

Lord Chalfont said that the Falklands issue did not really pose a problem as Argentina's opposition to this arbitration discouraged them from acting.

"It is no good acting as arbiter unless you are fairly sure that your decision will be accepted by both parties."—Reuter.

Extract from  
Nottingham Guardian Journal

- 2 DEC 1968

# The Falkland Islands

NO positive assurance has been given by the Government either to the British public or to those directly concerned as to what is to be the future status of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands.

According to a report from Buenos Aires, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said that Britain would not agree to a change of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders themselves, adding, however, that it was open to the Argentinians to persuade them to change their view—if they could.

Feeling that this requires some explanation, the Minister told Press representatives in the Argentinian capital yesterday that though all the islanders to whom he had talked said they did not want a change, "many realise that things could change for the better if there was more direct communication between the Argentine and the Falklands."

This relative lack of good communications is a useful card in the hands of the Argentinians. Holding it, they can bring a good deal of pressure to bear on the small Falklands community. For formally to open such communications would mean the acceptance of the British visa requirements, which in turn would mean recognising the islands as British territory, which officially they do not.

Negotiations have, on and off, been going on for a long time now, and it is very possible that they will continue for a long time yet to come.

Extract from  
Bolton Evening News

- 2 DEC 1968

# EVENING NEWS

102nd YEAR

## A matter of sovereignty

IT now becomes clear that the purpose of Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islands is to persuade the islanders that they would be more comfortable under Argentinian rule than British. While maintaining that the views of the islanders are paramount, he is reported as saying that both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary but that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that "a change might be convenient."

The similarities between this case and Gibraltar are self evident, although perhaps the Falkland Islands have even stronger reasons for wishing to remain British than the Gibraltarians.

## Responsibility

In terms of economic reality it may well be both that the islanders would be better off under Argentina and that Britain would be relieved of the responsibility, but most Britons are old fashioned enough to believe that those British dependencies which wish to remain British should be allowed to do so at whatever cost and however inconvenient the responsibility for Britain.

## Falkland wishes

For this is not a mere juridical question as Argentina maintains and as Spain maintains over Gibraltar. The wishes of the inhabitants in both cases are of supreme importance.

If the British Government sincerely holds this view, Lord Chalfont's mission is a waste of time. In view of the islanders' expressed determination it seems unlikely that he will succeed in persuading them to become Argentinians.

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald  
GLASGOW

Date 1-2 DEC. 1968  
(See information overleaf)

SOFT LINE

# TORIES OPPOSE ON FALKLANDS

## *Demand that islanders should remain British*

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Conservative M.P.s will back the Falkland islanders in petitioning the Queen to preserve the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands if the Government do not give satisfactory assurances in Parliament this week.

A statement is due to be made in both Houses to-morrow on the outcome of the visit to the Falkland Islands and the Argentine by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, who is due to arrive in London to-day.

His statements there about an "agreed position" between Britain and Argentina over the disputed sovereignty of the Falklands have been too equivocal in tone for the Opposition, compared with the Government's earlier promises that there will be no change against the wishes of the 2024 islanders.

More than 100 Conservative M.P.s have signed a motion expressing dismay and calling on the Prime Minister to make it clear that the Falkland Islanders will remain British and need not fear any transfer of their will to an alien land.

An amendment by Lord Chalfont upholds the view that the interests of the people of the islands are in Rhodesia and that no transfer should be taken into account.

Need for links  
with Argentina

Lord Chalfont said that the islanders must work out their own future with Argentina.

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Extract from  
East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich

- 2 Dec 1968

## Falklands: 'Agreement basis' for more talks'

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in Buenos Aires yesterday Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the islands, he told a Press conference, but added: "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless the islanders agree. Islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status, or a transfer of the islands' sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the South Atlantic British colony claimed by Argentina. During his visit he explained to the islanders Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina.

He said the islanders were pre-occupied because of lack of communication with Argentina. "This led to lack of understanding. They believe that things might change if there were better communications and tighter links."

### JOINT EFFORT

Lord Chalfont said both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he said "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina."

The British Minister said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina disclosing an "agreement on position" about to be reached by the two countries. This agreement would serve as a basis for further talks, and show the points of agreement as well as difficulties.

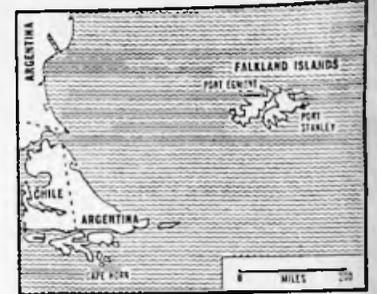
"The main difference is the islanders' will," he said.

Extract from  
Western Mail, Cardiff

## THE WORLD

# Who should rule the Falklands?

By RONALD HARKER



NOT for the first time in the post-imperialist era, Britain is landed with a problem in which ethnic development clashes with the logic of geography and has overtaken historical events: in which—as in Gibraltar—the claims of a foreign power to a colonial possession conflict with the wishes of the people.

The two islands of East and West Falkland are each just over 2,000 square miles of rock and moorland, in the South Atlantic, about 300 miles off the coast of Argentina.

Capt. Strong, of the ship *Farewell*, made the first recorded landing on the Falkland Islands in 1690, and the British established a garrison there in 1766. They quarrelled with Spain over possession, and then with the Argentinians, who won their independence from Spain in 1816 and felt they had also won the right to own all that their ousted Spanish overlords had left behind.

To register their claim, the Argentinians appointed a Governor in 1828, but four years later a small British squadron sailed into what is now Port Egmont and forced the Argentine garrison to surrender. Argentina protested, but the United States declined to regard the British action as a violation of the Monroe Doctrine, propounded by the United States President James Monroe in 1823, opposing any European intervention in the political affairs of the American continent.

The Argentinians, marking the island on their maps as Malvinas—as the Spaniards did before them—have never ceased to maintain their claim, and now, at last, have

brought Britain to the point of discussing the issue at the behest of the United Nations Committee on Colonialism.

But time and changed standards of human rights and responsibilities have brought into the dispute a third party who counted for nothing in the days of colonial rivalry; the people between.

So, who should rule the Falklands?

Most of the 2,000 Falkland Islanders — farmers, whose sheep outnumber them 300 to one—are of English and Scottish stock, descended from whalers and seal fishermen who settled there in the 19th century. Their language is English.

The colony is administered by a British Governor assisted by a partially-elected executive council and a partially-elected legislature.

When the islanders talk of "home" they mean Britain, though it is 7,000 miles away and most of them have never seen it.

Their way of life is not very different from that of the Shetland Islanders off the coast of Scotland, and indeed there are smaller islands very near the Falklands—part of British Antarctic Territory—which are known as the South Shetlands and South Orkneys.

The islanders grow flowers, protecting them from the frequent gales in small greenhouses attached to most homes. There must be more British Land-Rovers to the square mile than in any other place in the world. Most visitors take a bumpy ride along the few miles of road and then across country to watch the huge populations of

penguins, which even outnumber the sheep, parading in military formation across the shores. There are schools in Port Stanley in West Falkland and Darwin in East Falkland, but in country districts nine teachers travel to instruct their pupils.

You can shoot across the moors, fish for trout—which were introduced in 1963, and go on the scales at 6lb. and over—and join the social life revolving around the Governor, who is "Little Almighty God" in the vernacular.

As few Falkland Islanders have ever seen Britain, so few Argentinians have ever seen the Falklands, but all of them learn at school that they were usurped by the British when the Royal Navy frigate *Clio*, under Capt. James Onslow, expelled the Argentine Governor, Luis Vernet, in 1833.

And the Argentine Government goes out of the way to underline its displeasure by increasing the isolation of the islands. There is no direct communication between the islands and Argentina proper. No letters posted in the Falklands are allowed into Argentina. The monthly packet boat *Darwin* sails between Port Stanley, the only Falkland town and Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, 1,200 miles away, and does not dock at Buenos Aires.

Scientists on their way to British bases in the Antarctic have made rare visits, and the Royal Navy frigate *Endurance*, on patrol in the South Atlantic, pays occasional calls. Otherwise the only link from the outside world for the islanders is in BBC broadcasts.

This week, for the third time, an Argentine aircraft has sought to dramatise the claim to sovereignty by unauthorised landing on Falklands soil. When the first one arrived in 1964, the patriot-pilot, Miguel Fitzgerald, found the islanders friendly if somewhat surprised. They were impressed by his feat of putting his aircraft down on a rough racecourse—perhaps the only spot where he could land. Nobody had done it before.

Britain still sticks officially to a pledge that there will be no change of sovereignty over the Falklands without the agreement of the people who live there. But the people live with the knowledge that in the nuclear age, the value to a diminished military power of a remote castle is not what it was. Perhaps also they recall the adage that a castle that parleys is half taken.

Editorial comment: Page 6.

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

- 2 DEC 1968

## £90M Falklands bonanza

BY OUR LONDON STAFF

IF the Falkland Islands stay British, the British economy stands to benefit by around £90M because of a new industry in the colony.

This was announced today by Alginate Industries which intends to set up a multi-million pound plant at Port Stanley to extract chemicals from seaweed.

The company predicted today that the plant would bring in at least £12M a year in exports—providing a 12-fold increase in income for the islands, which up to now had been written off

as having no economic potential.

Alginate, extracted from seaweed, is used in all sorts of chemicals and as a binding substance in ice cream, salad cream, hand and barrier creams, toothpaste, sausage casings and pharmaceutical dressings.

The company has tested seaweed growth round the island and has discovered that it is ideal for producing alginate.

"If we could be assured of the Falklands' source of raw material, Britain would stand to capture the major share—90 per cent of which would be re-exported—of the future estimated £100M world production," the company said.

The company said that within a few years, northern hemisphere sources of alginate will be exhausted.

The Falkland Islands provide the only British source of supply in the southern hemisphere.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Commonwealth Office, said today on his return from a visit to the Falklands that any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the islanders' interests.

Questioned about his pledge that the wishes of the islanders would be paramount, Lord Chalfont said this was a reiteration of a promise made many times in Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Manchester Evening News

- 2 DEC 1968

# ISLANDS MUST NOT BE BETRAYED

IT is with a sense of shame and horror that one observes the apparent intention of finally betraying the Falkland Islands. This is the mother country and a normal mother does not abandon her children because there are only a few of them and because they are financially unattractive; rather she clings to them more fiercely than ever.

Mr Stewart, the Foreign Sec-

retary says it would not be expedient to stop the discussions on sovereignty; he does not deem it expedient to refuse to discuss the possible transfer of what was once called "The Rock of Gibraltar," and presumably he thinks it inexpedient to stop selling arms to the Lagos Government in Nigeria.

The sooner this country ceases to follow lines of expediency and does what is right, the better. I believed that the nadir of indignity was reached when the Queen was dissuaded some time ago from visiting her Falkland subjects for fear of offending the Argentine Republic with whom we have valuable trade connections. Whenever in history a small nation has been sacrificed on the altar of expediency (vide Czechoslovakia on two occasions) disaster has befallen the world.

In this case we are dealing with our own kith and kin, the descendants of Scottish crofters. I hope and pray that we are not to witness this final denouement and I call upon all the leaders of the Manchester community, irrespective of political affiliations in general, and the

clergy in particular, to mount a campaign of protest at this threatened betrayal, and if finance is required to support such a campaign it will be available.

Councillor Julian S Goldstone.

Arnfield Road,  
Withington,  
Manchester 20.

## Give answer

The Falkland Islanders have said quite clearly that they wish to remain British.

Why can't they be given a straight answer? I would be proud that they remain with us.

M A Shaw.

5 West End Avenue,  
Gatley, Cheadle,  
Cheshire.

## Drug problem

One of the major problems which face the community today is undoubtedly drug addiction. Yet a very learned person recently proposed the reduction of the punishment for conviction of persons found in possession.

It does seem to me that leniency already exists, judging from the result of a recent case.

Middleton.

Janos.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Western Mail, Cardiff

## A colony betrayed

THERE can no longer be any doubt, after Lord Chalfont's Press conference last night, about the British Government's intentions for the future of the Falkland Islands. The plan is clearly to do everything possible to persuade the islanders—who are, of course, 100 per cent. British—to fraternise with neighbouring Argentina and eventually to transfer their allegiance from Britain to that country. If that end is achieved Britain will have disposed of what is regarded in Foreign Office circles as a "wasting asset," of no economic benefit, no defensive value and a continuing thorn in the side of Anglo-Argentine relations. It would also be a gross betrayal of the 2,000 Falkland Islanders who are as loyal to Britain as the Gibraltarians or the Channel Islanders, and have as little interest in alien rule.

The outline of the deal with Argentina is now clear. An "agreed position" between the two countries will almost certainly be announced next month. It will outline ways and means for a gradual resumption of mail and post links which were cut off during the Peron dictatorship. It will open the way to an acceptance of Argentine sovereignty by removing the visa requirement of Argentinians who wish to enter the colony and it will mark the beginning of a period of joint persuasion upon the islanders to make them see that "closer links" with the Latin American republic are necessary. The likely result is either an exodus of farmers to New Zealand or an even grimmer determination on their part to remain British. In either case Britain's prestige will be damaged and the strength of her support for the loyal subjects in other remnants of empire brought into question.

Extract from  
**Birmingham Evening Mail**

2 DEC 1968

Date.....

(SEE INFO.....)

# 'The Falklands must agree on change'

3003 BUENOS AIRES, Sunday

Lord Chalfont, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said today that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falkland Islands," he said.

But, Lord Chalfont told a Press conference: "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree.

"Islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the island's sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking to reporters shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic British colony claimed by Argentina.

## Britain's view

During his visit, Lord Chalfont explained to the people of the Falklands Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina.

He said the islanders were preoccupied because of lack of communication with Argentina. "This led to lack of understanding," he said.

"They believe things might change if there were better communications and tighter links."

Lord Chalfont said both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Wolverhampton Express & Star

2 DEC 1968

## Lord Chalfont flies in

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said at London Airport today, on his return from his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands and Buenos Aires, that any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the islands' interests.

Asked if that meant there could ever be a transfer of sovereignty without the islanders' agreement, he said the pledge was that they would not transfer sovereignty against the islanders' wishes.

"I believe it would be improper to add to that or put any gloss on it until I have had a chance to discuss it further."

Extract from  
Swindon Evening Advertiser, Wiltshire

2 DEC 1968

## Standing firm

IF it is right for Britain to stand firm on Gibraltar, it is right to stand firm on the Falkland Islands. The principle is the same in both cases. It is that the people who live in a territory have the right to decide their own future.

If the Falklanders want to stay British, then it is up to the British Government — whose predecessors organised the Falkland settlement in the first place — to back them up.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Nottingham Evening Post

2 DEC 1968

## Back from Falklands mission



Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who was due back in London today after his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands after talks on Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

2 DEC 1968

## WHAT KIND OF LINKS?

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentine were necessary.

He added there was no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree.

But what kind of "links" does Lord Chalfont have in mind?

Does he mean more trade or communications?

Or does he visualise opening the door to Argentinian influence in the Falklands?

This would be quite wrong.

It would encourage the Argentine to step up its demands.

And it would shake the confidence of the loyal Falklanders in the will of the British Government to stand up for them.

There should be no question of any deal over the Falklands.

The Argentine has no justifiable claim to the islands, which have been British for over 130 years.

The people want to stay under British rule.

That should be the end of the matter.

Extract from  
Scottish Daily Mail, Edinburgh

2 DEC 1968

# BOREDOM

## In the land ruled by wind and wool

From DONALD McLACHLAN: PORT STANLEY, Sunday

THE WIND rips along the bleak seafront, blasting a flock of screaming seagulls from the red tin roof of Christ Church Cathedral into protesting flight.

It shrieks through the sprung timbers and the gaunt spars of the rotting hulks that dot the harbour and whips the coldly blue waves to a frantic white-capped dance.

The wind is never absent from this quaint little township of red, blue, yellow, and white houses roofed with corrugated iron because tiles, as well as being expensive to ship in, could never stand the constant blast.

Housewives struggle along Ross Road wrapped against the slicing cold, to the store run by the monopolising Falkland Islands Company, then battle back to snug homes and glowing peat fires.

### Prices

Life here in the capital is hard and old-fashioned—though a paradise compared with the sheep settlements of the 'camp,' the grim hinterland of rock and peat bog on which the sole industry, wool, is based.

Mostly, people bake their own bread, make their own jam, keep their own hens and cut their own peat.

Unlike the camp people, who get all the meat they can eat free, the people of Stanley pay all of 8d. a pound for mutton and 9d. a pound for beef—and shake their heads at the soaring cost of living!

To newcomers—'expatriates' to the native-bred, vaguely West Country 'kelpers'—the transition to Falklands life is difficult.

There is no television, no newspaper, no cobbler, no laundry—and the nearest dry

cleaner is a thousand miles away at Montevideo, in Uruguay. Some simply can't take it and go home. For others, the gentle pace away from it all—even the mail gets through only once in six weeks—more than compensates.

Many of them head the outcry that the Falklands must remain British and not be handed over to the Argentine Government.

But the astonishing consumption of alcohol, the dramatically high rate of divorce, said to be the highest per capita in the world, and the drift of young people away from the island, are evidence of the boredom of a community almost incredibly introverted by its isolation.

### Crime

There is no purchase tax and Customs duty only on alcohol and tobacco, a little income tax and, for some peculiar reason, a tax on matches.

At any of the five pubs that cater to the 250 families (a total of 1,074 men, women, and children) the best whisky is only 1s. 8d. a tot.

A few islanders are refused a drink anywhere and forbidden by law to buy a bottle to take home—but crime, apart from drunkenness, is rare.

In the evenings, families read the weeks-old newspapers, the women knit or sew, the men potter about doing household chores.

The local electrician runs his cinema in the Cathedral Hall on Tuesdays and there are Saturday night dances to records in the grey rough cast town hall, despite the shortage of girls.

There are plenty of girls out in the 'camp'—but the only way in is overland and there are no roads outside Stanley. A 30-mile trip takes at least five hours.

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

2 DEC 1968

# Chalfont hints at offer on Falklands

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, indicated today that Britain may give Argentina the disputed Falkland Islands if the Argentinians manage to smooth over the islanders' opposition to the transfer.

Winding up a 20-hour visit he told a Press conference here that Britain would not agree to a change of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. The Minister arrived here yesterday after a five-day visit to the Falklands, during which he said he talked to most of the 2,024 islanders.

"They all expressed to me, very strongly, that they do not want a change of sovereignty," he said. "But many realise that things could change for the better if there was more direct communication between Argentina and the Falklands."

Lord Chalfont said he was worried by this lack of communication. "I think there must be a strengthening of links between Argentina and the Falklands," he added.

Argentinian officials, meanwhile, reported that the communication issue is one of the top points in the formal negotiations both countries are holding in London over the future of the Falklands.

They said their government aimed to establish regular traffic with the islands to overcome the islanders' reluctance to become Argentine citizens. This traffic, by air and sea, would begin once Britain agreed to lift the visa requirement for Argentinians going to the Falklands.

### Status

Argentina does not keep any formal communications with the islands because accepting the visa requirement would mean recognising that the Falklands are British territory.

Lord Chalfont said the visa issue would come up in the next stage of the negotiations in London, and that "very

soon" Argentina and Britain "will be able to reach an agreement of position on the status of the negotiations until now."

He said this agreement did not mean a settlement on the future of the islands, but only an agreement on the progress made in the London talks.

This "agreement of position" is the basis for a report both countries plan to deliver to the United Nations this month on their talks.

Lord Chalfont said the wishes of the Falklands population and the sovereignty claims (by Argentina) were the main difference in the talks.

He denied charges of ill-treatment by British officials of Argentine newsmen in the Falklands.

The charge was made by Mr Richard Garcia, owner and editor of the Buenos Aires newspaper Cronica (who crashed-landed in his small plane on the islands last week).

Lord Chalfont said Mr Garcia and two other men aboard the plane were treated in the same way as the British journalists in his own party.—AP

EDITORIAL COMMENT  
Page Six



LORD CHALFONT  
Change for the better if . . .

Extract from  
Nottingham Guardian Journal

2 DEC 1968

# Argentine may get the Falklands if . . .

THE possibility that Britain may give the Argentine the disputed Falkland Islands if the Argentinians manage to smooth over the islanders' opposition to the move was indicated yesterday by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office Lord Chalfont.

But Lord Chalfont, winding up a 20-hour visit to the Argentine, told a Press conference that Britain will not agree to "a change of sovereignty against the wishes" of the islanders.

The Minister, who had spent five days in the Falklands, said he talked to most of the 2,024 islanders.

"They all expressed to me, very strongly, that they do not want a change of sovereignty," he said. "But many realise that things could change for the better if there was more direct communication between the Argentine and the Falklands," the Minister said.

Lord Chalfont said he was "worried" by this "lack of

communication. I think there must be a strengthening of links between the Argentine and the Falklands."

Argentine officials, meanwhile, reported that the communication issue is one of the top points in the formal negotiations both countries are holding in London over the future of the islands.

Argentine officials said their Government plans to establish regular traffic with the islands to overcome the islanders' reluctance to become Argentine citizens. This traffic, both by air and sea, would begin once Britain agrees to lift the present visa requirement for Argentinians going to the Falklands, the officials said.



Lord Chalfont.

The Argentinians do not keep any formal communication with the islands because accepting the visa requirement would mean recognising that the Falklands are British territory.

Argentina has said officially that recognition of its sovereignty over the islands cannot depend on the islanders' wishes.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

2 DEC 1968

# CHALFONT: UP TO FALKLANDS

## 'No sovereignty switch unless islanders agree'

### LINKS WITH ARGENTINA

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falkland Islands, he said. But, he told a Press conference: "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless the islanders agree."

He said: "The islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the islands' 'sovereignty.'"

Lord Chalfont was speaking in Buenos Aires shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic British colony claimed by Argentina.

During his visit Lord Chalfont explained to the people of the Falklands Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina. He said the islanders were preoccupied because of lack of communication with Argentina.

"This led to lack of understanding. They believe that things might change if there were better communications and tighter links."

### SECRET TALKS Declaration soon

Both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he said: "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina."

The British Minister said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina disclosing an "agreement of position" about to be reached by the two countries.

This agreement would serve as a basis for further talks and show the points of agreement as well as difficulties.

"The main difference is the islanders' will," he said.

### ARGENTINE VIEW Winning over

Argentina has said officially that recognition of its sovereignty over the islands cannot depend on the islanders' wishes.

But Argentine officials privately admit that winning over the Falklands population is a necessary step before getting British agreement for the transfer of the islands.

Lord Chalfont declined to give details of talks he had on Friday with Argentina's Foreign Minister, Nicanor Costa Mendez. But he said that general political questions were discussed and it was agreed that closer relations between Argentina and Britain were desirable.

Lord Chalfont was asked whether the Falklands problem made Britain ineligible to mediate in a border conflict between Argentina and Chile in the Antarctic. (Chile made the request unilaterally last year).

Lord Chalfont said that the Falklands issue did not really pose a problem as Argentina's opposition to this arbitration discouraged him from acting.

"It is no good to act as arbiter unless you are fairly sure that your decision will be accepted by both parties," he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Western Mail, Cardiff

# Falklands visa controls may go—Chalfont

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday.

Lord Chalfont said here today that Britain was thinking of lifting visa restrictions for Argentinians going to the Falklands as part of a drive to overcome the islanders' reluctance to become Argentine citizens.

But he emphasised. "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless the islanders agree."

Lord Chalfont said Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs was speaking shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands, a South Atlantic British colony claimed by Argentina.

## Worried

He admitted the islanders had told him very strongly that they did not want a change of sovereignty.

"But many realise that things could change for the better if there were more direct links between Argentina and the Falklands," he added.

Lord Chalfont said he was worried by this "lack of communication."

"There must be a strengthening of links between Argentina and the islanders," he said.



LORD CHALFONT . . . a change for the better."

Argentinian officials, meanwhile, reported that the communication issue is one of the top points in the formal negotiations both countries are holding in London over the future of the islands.

Following a United Nations directive, the two countries opened talks two years ago to settle the dispute.

The opening of regular communication between mainland Argentina and the islands reportedly becomes a key issue in the negotiations.

## Key issue

Argentina plans to establish regular air-sea traffic with the islands once Britain agrees to lift the visa requirements.

The Argentinians do not keep any formal link with the islands, because accepting the visa requirement would mean

recognising that the Falklands are British territory.

Lord Chalfont said the visa issue "will come up in the next stage of the negotiations" in London, but gave no dateline.

He said that "the wishes of the Falklands population and the sovereignty claims by Argentina was the main difference" in the talks.

"We hope to settle this eventually," he added.

Argentina has said officially that recognition of its sovereignty over the islands cannot depend on the islanders' wishes.

But Argentinian officials privately admit that winning over the Falklands population is a necessary step prior to getting British agreement for the transfer of the islands.

Editorial comment—Page 6.

Who will rule the Falklands?

— Page 8.

Extract from  
Ipswich Courier & Advertiser

- 2 DEC 1968

ARGENTINE LINK

# Falklanders must be convinced

—CHALFONT

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was reported in Buenos Aires yesterday as saying Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falklands.

But Lord Chalfont told reporters, "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree."

"Islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the islands' sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falklands.

Extract from  
Lincolnshire Daily Echo, Lincoln

2 - DEC 1968

## Chalfont due back from Falklands

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was due back in London by air today after his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands.

He was returning amid mounting speculation as to Britain's ultimate intentions about Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

Extract from  
Cambridge News

2 DEC 1968

## Diversity 'in interests of Falklands'

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said today on his return from his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands and Buenos Aires that any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the islands' interests.

He was asked to comment on reports that Alginat Industries had proposed a seaweed scheme which, they claimed, could improve the islands' economy twelvefold.

He was also asked for his view on reports that the project might

be seriously affected if sovereignty of the islands were transferred to Argentina.

Lord Chalfont said that since he had not seen the reports he could not comment. He had never said that the islands' economy would be better or would be improved with Argentina.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

W03 - 2 DEC 1968

## Argentine's Falkland's Supremo:

### WHO CARES

### WHAT THE

### PEOPLE

### THINK?

From DONALD SEAMAN

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday. THE Argentine Government made it crystal clear here today that they will have no truck with the Chalfont promise that there can be no change of sovereignty of the Falklands against the wishes of the islanders.

After Lord Chalfont left here on his way to report to the Cabinet in London, Senor Ezequiel Pereira, head of the "Malvinas" (Falklands) Department, said:—"The Argentine Government has made it clear we cannot accept the point of view that the problem of sovereignty can be solved by the population of the islands."

### CLAIM

"This piece of land we believe in all ways belongs to us... we are going to go on with our claim until the islands are integrated with Argentina."

He said that with a population of only 2,000, "many of whom" had not been locally born, it was "not a problem of self-determination. We hope this is a problem between the two Governments, taking care of the interests of the islanders."

Senor Pereira said that in the event of a change of sovereignty the Argentin intended to deal with all the problems in a "spirit of understanding."

They were thinking of building an hotel to help tourism, and the Argentine would supply natural gas to replace the present Falkland method of heating peat.

Earlier Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Commonwealth and Foreign Office, said: "I think I ought to be quite frank in saying they all expressed to me very strongly—and I spoke to most of the Falkland Islanders—that they want no change in their status, no change in their sovereignty."

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

Date - 2 DEC 1968  
(SEE INFORMATION OVER LEAF)

## 'Falklands must agree on change'

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday. Lord Chalfont, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said today that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falkland Islands, he said.

But, Lord Chalfont told a Press conference: "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree."

Islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the islands' sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking to reporters shortly before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands. A South Atlantic British Colony claimed by Argentina.

### Britain's view

During his visit, Lord Chalfont explained to the people of the Falklands Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina.

He said the islanders were preoccupied because of lack of communication with Argentina.

"This led to lack of understanding," he said.

"They believe things might change if there were better communications and tighter links."

Lord Chalfont said both Britain and Argentina were convinced that links between the Falklands and Argentina were necessary.

Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he said: "It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina."—Reuter.

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

- 2 DEC 1968

## ARGENTINA TO WOO FALKLAND ISLANDERS

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday.— Lord Chalfont, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, indicated today that Britain might give Argentina the disputed Falkland Islands if the Argentines were able to smooth over the islanders' opposition to the switch.

Lord Chalfont, winding up a 20-hour visit to this country, told a Press conference that Britain would not agree to "a change of sovereignty over the islands against the wishes" of the islanders.

The Minister arrived here yesterday on his way to London after a five-day visit to the Falklands during which he talked to most of the 2024 islanders.

He said: "They all expressed to me, very strongly, that they do not want a change of sovereignty. But many realise that things could change for the better if there was more direct communications between Argentina and the Falklands."

Lord Chalfont said he was worried by the lack of communication. "I think there must be a strengthening of links between Argentina and the Falklands."

### TOP POINT

Argentine officials, meanwhile, reported that the communication issue was one of the top points in formal negotiations both countries were holding in London over the future of the islands.

They said their Government planned to establish regular traffic with the islands to overcome the islanders' reluctance to become Argentine citizens. This traffic, both by air and sea, would begin once Britain agreed to lift the present visa requirement for Argentines going to the Falklands. The Argentines at present do not keep any formal communication with the islands, because accepting the visa requirement would mean recognising that the Falklands were British territory.

Lord Chalfont said that "the wishes of the Falklands population and the sovereignty claims by Argentina is the main difference presently" in the London talks. Argentina, however, has said officially that recognition of its sovereignty over the islands could not depend on the islanders' wishes.

Britain has held the two little, wind-swept islands in the South Atlantic since 1837.



Lord Chalfont

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN, LONDON, S.W.1.

Extract from The  
**LIVERPOOL  
DAILY POST**

Date .....

## Falklands: Stand firm -Barber

The Government's attitude to the 2,000 British people in the Falkland Islands was as sad as it was despicable, Mr Anthony Barber, chairman of the Conservative Party, said at St Annes-on-Sea on Saturday.

The Argentine Government had no doubt chosen 1968 for the maximum pressure because they knew they were dealing with a British Government which had a positive relish for scuttle and breach of faith, he went on.

He said the people of Britain must insist that the Government stood firm.

The people of the Falklands must be allowed to determine their own allegiance. If Britain now succumbed to pressure from the Argentine, which had no legal or historical case behind its claim, she would lose finally what little overseas influence she still retained.

Extract from

# THE JOURNAL

Newcastle upon Tyne

Date .....

(See information overleaf)

## Islands must agree, says Chalfont

LORD Chalfont, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary.

But, he emphasised: "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree."

"Islanders stated firmly they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the islands' sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was speaking before flying home after a five-day visit to the Falkland Islands.

### VIEWPOINT

During his visit, Lord Chalfont explained to the people of the Falklands Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina.

He said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina, disclosing an "agreement on position" about to be reached by the two countries.

Lord Chalfont declined to give details of talks he had with Argentina's Foreign Minister, Nicoanor Costa Mendez.

But he said that general political questions were discussed, and it was agreed that closer relations between Argentina and Britain were desirable.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

● 2 DEC 1968  
**MPs  
want  
straight  
answers  
on  
the  
Islands**

Our Political staff  
**MINISTERS** will be closely questioned in Parliament this week about the precise purpose of Lord Chalfont's mission to the Falklands and Argentina and the Government's intentions on the future of the islands.

Messages from Buenos Aires yesterday renewed speculation that the Government is preparing to concede Argentina's demand to take over the islands, despite the recent denial by the Foreign Office that a "sell-out" is contemplated.

Unlike the case of Gibraltar, where in face of Spanish pressure the Government is standing firmly behind the right of the people to decide their own political future, policy on Britain's Southern Atlantic outpost is clouded.

One statement by Lord Chalfont before leaving for London, where he is expected today, suggested that communications between the Falklands and Argentina were to be improved for the purpose of promoting better understanding and good feeling between them.

In view of his reported warning to the Falkland Islanders that the market for wool—their main export—is shrinking, the inference is that the Government hopes that they will in time be convinced that they will be economically better off with Argentina.

BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

4 DEC 1968  
**Falklands 'date'**  
Two Argentine news magazines said yesterday that Britain would hand over the Falklands to Argentina in two to eight years.

**Long time**

As South America is a traditional field for British investment, there appears to be no reason why a British firm should not go ahead with its project for exploiting the abundance of kelp growing in the sea around the Falklands from which valuable by-products can be extracted.

Lord Chalfont is expected to report first at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and then he will see Mr. Wilson. He will make an early statement in the Lords, possibly to coincide with one in the Commons by Mr. Wilson or Mr. Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Lord Chalfont, said in Buenos Aires, yesterday: "There's got to be a fairly long period of time to let 'links' grow between the Argentine and the Falklands."

He was answering questions at a news conference shortly before returning to London.

Asked when Britain might be willing to give up the islands, he repeated his hopes of "very soon" reaching an "agreed position" with Argentina.

**Bitterness**

The islanders knew little about Argentina, he said. "I ought to be quite frank in saying that all expressed to me very strongly they wished for no change in their status."

"I think that this lack of communications has sometimes created misunderstanding and even some bitterness."

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falklands, he said.

The Government's attitude to the 2,000 Britons in the Falklands is "as sad as it is despicable," said Mr. Anthony Barber, chairman of the Conservative Party in St. Anne's, Lancashire, on Saturday.

The Argentine government had no doubt chosen 1968 for the maximum pressure — because they know they are dealing with a British Government which has a positive relish for scuttling and breach of faith."

The people of the Falklands must be allowed to determine their own allegiance, and for the British Government to abandon them would be an act of supreme national cowardice," said Mr. Barber.

Extract from  
Sheffield Morning Telegraph

2 DEC 1968

**MORNING TELEGRAPH**

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**Making a big problem  
of small islands**

THE sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, Lord Chalfont assures us and them, will not pass to the Argentine without the consent of the islanders. This is a welcome assurance. The pity is, in the present devalued state of politics and foreign policy that its very pronouncement is enough to raise doubts. Many are puzzled whether Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islanders was intended to give them the assurance or to persuade them into providing the consent.

The Falkland Islands are under so much discussion partly because a United Nations resolution of 1965 obliged Britain to join the Argentine in considering the future of this small colony. But many UN members have perversely sensitive views about decolonisation, encompassing extraordinary indifference to those cases — such as the Falklands and Gibraltar — where the local inhabitants express their contentment with great force.

There is no reason to believe that ceding the Falklands to the Argentine would reduce its colonial status. Its inhabitants after all are almost entirely of British stock; they follow a British way of life; and they are prosperous enough to provide themselves with a British standard of administration and education; their trading links are all with Britain.

Transfer of sovereignty to the Argentine would not be a measure of decolonisation. There is no need for any talks about the future of the islands to concern themselves with more than the practical matters of communication with the nearest mainland, practical matters in which the Argentine has pursued a policy of extreme unwillingness to co-operate.

She has pursued this policy, and even countenanced armed invasion, in pursuit of her own claim of possession. When this is the claim that the Falkland Islands stand on her Continental shelf it is one which belittles the 300 miles which still lie between them and the international conventions of island sovereignty. When it is the historical one of

succession to Spanish imperial claims it ignores nearly 140 years of British occupation and a previous negotiated agreement with Spain. Taken to an extreme, this Argentinian claim to the old Spanish empire, might include the "decolonisation" of California.

There is no need, therefore, for Britain to recognise this claim; and every need for her to acknowledge the loyalty of the Falkland Islanders. The islands, of course, can never exist in solitude; but their future need not include this transfer of sovereignty when it could be safeguarded by better communications with the nearest mainland. The Argentinians refuse to recognise their independent existence and threaten the islanders, when they do find themselves in the Argentine, with tax demands and military service. As a result development is restricted by the need to route all communications through Montevideo.

There may be British concessions which can be made in return for these entirely natural demands. But it is unfortunate that the prospect of a future change of sovereignty has been brought into the matter at all.

It is doubly unfortunate when the Falkland Islands are not, as presently administered, any drain on the British purse and when their geographical position in the South Atlantic, close to Antarctica, gives them considerable potential value in an undeveloped part of the world.

The pressing of the Argentinian claim, and the difficulties it has created in our trading and other relationships with South America, may have concentrated attention on the Falklands. But there are other small dependencies, manifestly incapable of independence, in the world, and one wonders if enough thought is being given to their future. Of the Falklands themselves one merely wonders if the thoughts being given to the inhabitants are the sort which ought to be expressed aloud. However much Ministerial statements are qualified it is a mistake to give so much of a hostage to diplomatic fortune.

Extract from:

The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 2 DEC 1980

# Britain may open Falklands door to the Argentinians



BRITAIN and Argentina must work together to convince the 2,000 Falkland islanders that links with Argentina were necessary, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday.

Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the British colony, he said in Buenos Aires.

The visa issue would come up in the next stage of the negotiations over Argentina's claim to the islands, Lord Chalfont added. "But there is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree."

The islanders had stated firmly that "they do not desire a change of status or a transfer of the island's sovereignty."

Lord Chalfont was on his way to London after a five-day visit to the Falklands.

He said that he talked to most of the 2,024 islanders, whose lack of communication with Argentina led to misunderstanding "and even some bitterness."

Argentina does not keep up any formal communication with the islands because accepting the visa requirement would mean recognising the Falklands as British territory.

## Declaration soon

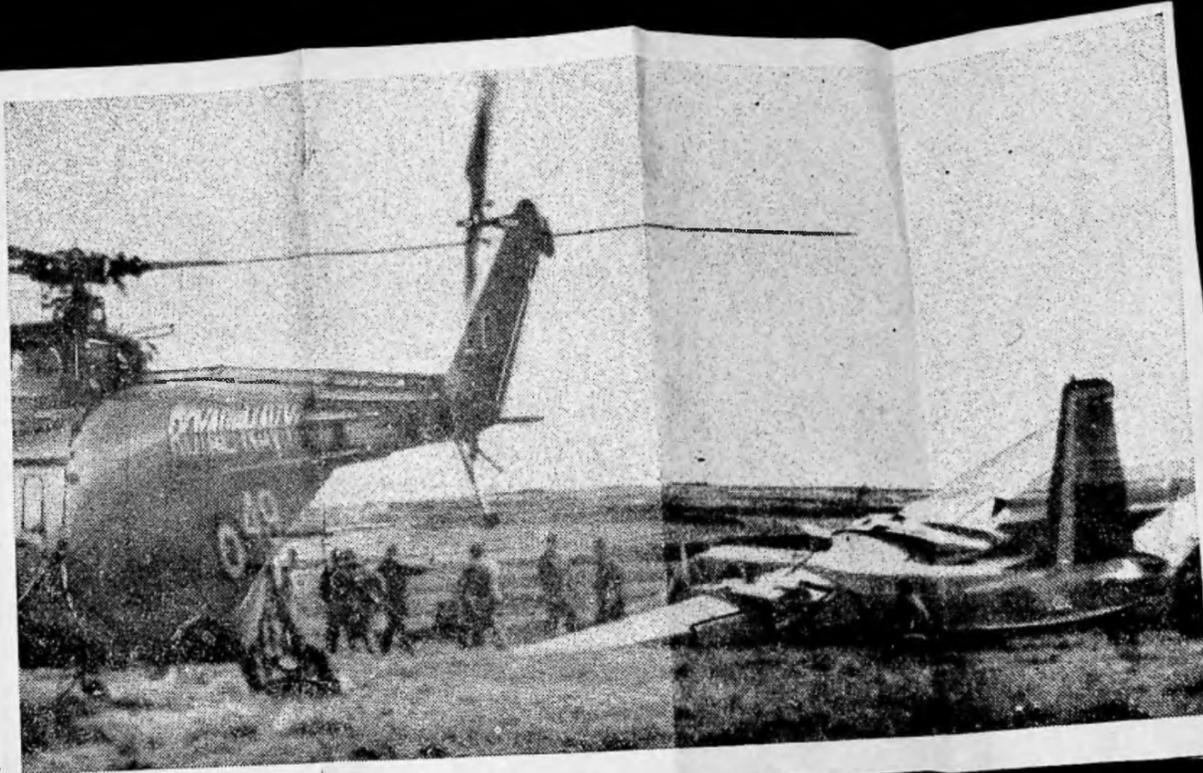
Lord Chalfont said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina disclosing an "agreement on position" about to be reached by the two countries.

This agreement would serve as a basis for further talks. "The main difference is the islander's will," he added.

Argentine officials said their Government plans to establish regular traffic with the islands to overcome the islanders' reluctance to become Argentine citizens.

This traffic, both by air and sea, would begin once Britain agrees to lift the visa requirement.

The Government's attitude to the 2,000 British people in the Falklands Islands is as sad as it is despicable, Mr. Anthony Barber, Conservative party chairman, told North-West Conservatives at St. Annes on Saturday.



A news agency caption with this picture received last night says it shows Lord Chalfont with arm raised directing the transfer to a Navy helicopter of three Argentine journalists after their aircraft crash-landed near Port Stanley last week. They were sent back to the Argentine, a course which will not be necessary if visas for Argentinians going to the Falklands are dispensed with.

Extract from

Western Daily Press, Bristol

# 'Falklands must be convinced to link'

BRITAIN must work with Argentina to convince the Falkland Islanders links with Argentina are necessary, it was said yesterday.

But Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lord Chalfont said: "There is no question of changing Sovereignty unless islanders agree."

He said in Buenos Aires Britain was considering suspending visa requirements for Argentinians travelling to the Falklands.

Lord Chalfont was speaking shortly before flying

From A Special Correspondent The Buenos Aires popular newspaper Cronica said yesterday editor Hector Garcia and two other Argentinians were badly treated after their plane crash-landed on the Falkland Islands last week. It also accused Britain of "shameless spying" in Argentine waters.

During his visit, Lord Chalfont explained to the people Britain's viewpoint on the dispute with Argentina. He said a public declaration would be made shortly on the secret talks between Britain and Argentina disclosing an "agreement on position" about to be reached by the two countries.

This agreement would serve as a basis for further talks and show the points of agreement as well as difficulties.

Lord Chalfont, questioned about the charges, said: "I can only tell you they returned to Argentina in the ship which brought me, and slept in beds identical to those of five journalists who accompanied me on my visit."

Extract from

Northern Daily Mail, Liverpool

- 2 DEC 1968

# THEY WANT TO STAY BRITISH

**T**HE Falklands, is it a sell-out? While it is quite understandable that the British Government may be surprised that the Falkland islanders, or any of our kith and kin overseas, may wish to remain under British rule, the fact remains that the Falkland islanders do.

Possibly, as Lord Chalfont is reported to have suggested, they should be quite sure that they know what it means to be British today, and not think of Britain as it was in 1900.

While it is most unlikely that any of the islanders think that Britain dominates the world as it did in 1900, surely they have a right to expect that they can



trust any British government to give a straight and unequivocal answer to any country that "Britain will not cede the sovereignty of the islands to anyone until the inhabitants ask them to do so." Not until the inhabitants are forced to agree, but until the inhabitants ask.

However, as it would appear to be the aim of the present Government to please that racialistic, anti-British body, the United Nations, by giving the islands away, whether the inhabitants wish it or not, I suggest that one of two things should be done:—

- Every adult islander should be paid a lump sum (say £50,000) with adjustments for wife and family to enable them to leave the islands and settle somewhere else.
- The islanders should be allowed to say which country they wish to serve under when Britain withdraws her overlordship. This would enable them to sell to the highest bidder.

Chile and Uruguay are as keen as the Argentine on having the islands, and I feel sure that the great imperialist power the Soviet Union would be happy to buy a strategic foothold in the Western hemisphere.

When I was in South America many years ago one way of making a promise, or stressing that something was true, was to say, in the vernacular, "On the word of an Englishman." Now it would appear that in the future it is possible that when a dirty underhand trick has been played on someone he will say, "That was a real Britisher."

At one time I used to be very proud to sign myself,

—Civis Britannicus Sum

● Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must work together to convince the Falkland Islanders that links with Argentina were necessary. "There is no question of changing sovereignty unless islanders agree."

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

3 DEC 1968

## MINISTER STAYS SILENT ON FALKLAND PLAN

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, Monday

A plan which, it is claimed, would revolutionise the economy of the Falkland Islands and bring more work to Scotland has been put to Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, by Alginate Industries, Ltd., who have factories at Girvan, Ayrshire, and near Oban.

Lord Chalfont said on returning today from his five-day visit to the Falklands and Buenos Aires that any successful project to diversify the economy of the islands was bound to be in their interests.

He declined to comment on the Alginate Industries plan, except to say: "I knew this plan was being suggested. I do not know the details of it. I could not comment on what any political arrangement in the future might be."

He had been asked at London Airport for his view on reports that the project might be seriously affected if sovereignty of the islands were transferred to Argentina. Lord Chalfont said there was a pledge that the Government would not do this against the islanders' wishes.

Alginates, an important group of chemicals extracted from seaweed, have many applications ranging from dye solutions, food additives, medical dressings and car tyres.

### 12-FOLD INCREASE

Mr Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate Industries, Ltd., the world's second-largest alginate manufacturer, said at a news conference here today that his company were basing their plans mechanically to harvest seaweed in the Falklands on a factory to be established at Port Stanley within the next five years. It could provide a 12-fold increase in the islands' gross annual income.

"This plant," Mr Merton said, "would be capable of exporting seaweed to the value of at least £12 million a year—sufficient to supply world alginate production worth some £100 million a year."

It had been reported, he said, that the islands had no economic potential, but far from being without a future they represented to the British alginate industry possibly the world's largest untapped source of raw material.

It is estimated that the present world production of alginates is around 15,000 tons worth £10 million, derived from 500,000 tons of wet seaweed, supplied by

countries mainly in the Northern Hemisphere.

A statement issued at today's conference said that within a few years present resources would be fully developed and manufacturers would have to turn to the Southern Hemisphere for their supplies—"the only British source will be the Falkland Islands."

Mr Merton said his company had carried out an extensive survey of the seaweed resources within easy reach of Port Stanley and had discovered a vast area of seaweed growth capable of providing ten times the raw material requirements for the present total world alginate production.

"Chemical analysis of recent samples supplied by our representative in the Falkland Islands confirms our earlier estimates of the amount of alginates present in the seaweed. It is unlikely that there is so favourable a source anywhere else in the world."

### NOT POLITICAL

"If we could be assured of the Falklands' source of raw material, Britain would stand to capture the major share (90 per cent of which would be re-exported) off the future estimated £100 million world production."

Mr A. H. Stewart, the company's secretary, said the production of alginates was to all intents and purposes a Scottish industry. The seaweed in the Falklands would be dried locally and brought to Scotland as meal for making into the powdered alginates.

Given a Government assurance that the Falklands would not be ceded to the Argentine, the company would hope to erect plant at Port Stanley within five years.

Mr Merton said at present there were some 1500 people collecting seaweed in Scotland and Ireland for the factories. There was no question of anyone in Scotland losing his job if the Falkland Islands seaweed were brought here. There would be more work for Scotland in it.

Asked if there was any political significance in the timing of today's news conference, Mr Merton said: "We certainly don't want to get mixed up in politics. All we are interested in is business."

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

3 DEC 1968

## Report on Falklands to be challenged

From Our Diplomatic  
Correspondent

LONDON, Monday

A report on Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islands, which is expected to be given to Parliament tomorrow, will be challenged by questions from both sides of the House of Commons from M.P.s who do not accept the Government's assurances about the future of the islands.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will probably speak in the Lords, and Mr Fred Mulley, who holds a similar post, will present the same report to the Commons. The report will cover the reactions of the Falkland islanders and of the Argentine Government to Lord Chalfont's trip, from which he returned to London today.

The Conservatives will want to know whether the Government will force the Falklanders into economic dependence on Argentina by refusing to give any additional financial aid to the islands, whose economy is in danger of declining because of the fall in world prices for wool—their sole export.

### SEAWEED SCHEME

A scheme to farm the seaweed around the Falklands, which was put forward today, will be a powerful argument against the Government suggestion that economically the Falklands will be in grave trouble if links are not established with Argentina.

The demand for long-term assurances on the future of the islands will be matched by a desire for a full account of British negotiations with Argentina. Two M.P.s have put down questions asking for a White Paper on the issue.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative M.P. for Edinburgh South, who was one of the first to take up the cause of the islanders, today received a telegram from Mr H. V. Goss, of the Falklands Executive Council, which said: "Chalfont assured us all again and again by broadcast and in public no change of sovereignty at any time against wishes people. We have accepted this unequivocal pledge of Her Majesty's Government in good faith."

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

- 3 DEC 1968

# Falkland <sup>3003</sup> move faces big defeat —Sir Dingle

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

- 2 DEC 1968

## Obscure advantages

<sup>3003</sup> LORD CHALFONT and the Prime Minister will each have an early opportunity of clearing up some of the fog over the Falkland Islands. Whether they will seize the chance is another matter.

From one point of view, fog is what the Government wants, for while it does not wish anybody to believe that we are willing to abandon the Falkland islanders in much the same way as, against a different

### From our own staff

background, we walked out of the Palestine mandate, it is also keen not to destroy the growing conviction that were the islanders suddenly to become a shade less British in their outlook, no tears would be shed in Whitehall.

Psychologically, in other words, Lord Chalfont has had an extraordinarily difficult task in the Falklands and his record shows how hard he finds it to appreciate psychological niceties.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

3 DEC 1968

## Statement today on Falklands

<sup>3003</sup> By our Commonwealth  
Correspondent

A statement setting out the British Government's position on the Falklands affair is likely to be made in the Commons this afternoon, possibly by Mr Wilson himself. Lord Chalfont, who arrived in London yesterday after his visit to the colony, may report to the Lords today.

Mr Stewart, who is expected to return from India a week today, faces a host of questions on the Falklands problem from MPs on both sides of the House. Falkland seaweed scheme, page 3; leader comment, page 8

IF ANY British Government proposed to cede the Falkland Islands to Argentina, or British Honduras to Guatemala; or Gibraltar to Spain, without regard to the inhabitants concerned, it would almost certainly be defeated in both Houses of Parliament.

Sir Dingle Foot, Labour M.P. for Ipswich, said this at an Ipswich Press conference yesterday. "Such a surrender would not merely be politically wrong. It would be a flagrant breach of international law," he said.

"The obligations of a colonial power towards its dependencies are clearly set out in article 73 of the United Nations Charter. They must develop self-government and take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples concerned."

It would no less be wrong and no less a breach of the charter to hand over the sovereignty of Southern Rhodesia to a government representing a tiny minority without regard to the wishes of the great mass of the Rhodesian people.

## Seaweed plan

A plan which it is claimed, would revolutionise the economy of the Falklands by mechanical harvesting of a vast area of seaweed, to the value of at least £12 million a year, with subsequent processing at Port Stanley, was announced in London yesterday.

Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate Industries, the world's second largest alginate manufacturer, said his company was basing its plans on a factory to be established at Port Stanley within the next five years. It could provide a twelve-fold increase in the islands' gross annual income.

Alginates, an important group of chemicals extracted from seaweed, have many applications ranging from textiles and medical dressings, to food (it is a permitted additive) and motor tyres.

## Chalfont view

When this point was put to Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, yesterday on his return to Heathrow Airport, London, from his five-day visit to the Falklands and Buenos Aires, he said any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the interests of the islands.

He was asked for his view on reports that the project might be seriously affected if sovereignty of the islands was transferred to Argentina.

Lord Chalfont said as he had not seen the reports he could not comment. He had never said that the economy would be better or would be improved with Argentina. What he had said was the future economy for the islands would be brighter if the present monoculture economy could be diversified.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
184, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Extract from  
Swindon Evening Advertiser,  
Wiltshire

- 3 DEC 1968

## <sup>3003</sup>REPORT ON VISIT

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, reporting on visit to Falkland Islands, said in House of Lords today he had discussed in detail present position in Government's talks with Argentine. Lord Chalfont said: "I was able to meet large part of population both in capital, Stanley, and elsewhere, and I repeated assurances given in both Houses here, namely that it is not our policy to transfer sovereignty over these islands over wishes of islanders. "I had number of meetings with executive council of islands which was enlarged to enable me to meet unofficial members of Legislative Council."

Extract from

Daily Express, London

- 3 DEC 1968

## A FALKLANDS SELL-OUT WOULD BE 'BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW' SAYS SIR DINGLE

SIR DINGLE FOOT, Labour M.P. for Ipswich, and a former Solicitor-General, said last night that if any British Government proposed to cede the Falkland Islands to the Argentine, or British Honduras to Guatemala, or Gibraltar to Spain, without regard to the inhabitants, it would almost certainly be defeated in Parliament.

Sir Dingle, who was speaking in his constituency, added: "Such a surrender, however, would not merely be politically wrong. It would be a flagrant breach of international law.

"The obligations of a colonial Power towards its dependencies are clearly set out in Article 73 of the United Nations Charter. They must develop self-government and take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples concerned."

### The mass

"It would no less be wrong and no less a breach of the Charter to hand over the sovereignty of Southern Rhodesia to a Government representing a tiny minority without regard to the wishes of the great mass of the Rhodesian people."

But Sir Dingle added that there is, of course, a difference—the people of Gibraltar, of British Honduras, and the Falkland Islands can, and do, express their views with complete freedom. No one doubts where their wishes lie.

"The vast majority of those who live in Southern Rhodesia are denied all means of free expression. It would be quite indefensible to enter into any Constitutional arrangements on

which they had not been fully and freely consulted."

● A scheme for harvesting the vast area of seaweed which surrounds the Falklands and extracting alginates, an important group of chemicals, was outlined yesterday by Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate Industries. He said a plant on the islands would be capable of exporting seaweed "to the value of at least £12 million a year."

● A sun-tanned Lord Chalfont flew back to London yesterday after his Falkland Islands visit.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Jersey Evening Post

- 3 DEC 1968

## Falklands statement today

A STATEMENT about the Falkland Islands was due to be made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, writes a Press Association Lobby correspondent.

Mr. Mulley attended a meeting of Ministers at 10 Downing Street today, which followed the return to London of Lord Chalfont, also a Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who has been visiting the Falklands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from

Yorkshire Evening Press, York

- 2 DEC 1968

## Stand firm

IF it is right for Britain to stand firm on Gibraltar, it is right for Britain to stand firm on the Falkland Islands. The principle is the same in both cases. It is that the people who live in a territory have the right to decide their own future. If the Falklanders want to stay British, then it is up to the British Government—whose predecessors organised the Falkland settlement in the first place—to back them up.

It is no comfort to the Falklanders to be told that something might have been done about the economy of their islands some years ago, but that it is now too late. Nor is it any good Lord Chalfont saying that there is no question of the British Government changing its mind "at the moment."

Governments in Whitehall have been finding it all too easy in the last few years to wriggle out of their commitments: which does no good to Britain's credit. It may be that a prosperous solution for the Falklanders is still possible.

Extract from

Manchester Daily Express

- 3 DEC 1968

## SECRET OF THE FORTUNE UNDER THE SEA

By PHILIP DITTON

COMPANY director Ralph Merton yesterday outlined a scheme for putting the Falkland Islands into business in a big way.

HIS IDEA: Harvesting the vast area of seaweed which surrounds the islands and extracting alginates—an important group of chemicals used in anything from textiles and medical dressings to food and motor tyres.

Mr. Merton, managing director of Alginate Industries, one of the world's biggest companies in the business, said his firm wanted to build a factory at Port Stanley within the next five years.

### Applied

They had already applied to the Governor of the Falkland Islands for a concession. A letter outlining the scheme had also been sent to Lord Chalfont, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who flew back to London from the Falklands yesterday.

"This plant," said Mr. Merton, "would be capable of exporting seaweed to the value of at least £12 million a year." He added: "I think we would want to be reassured that the Falklands would remain a British possession if we were to go ahead in a big way."

● Sir Dingle Foot, Labour M.P. for Ipswich, and a former Solicitor-General, said last night if any British Government ceded the Falklands to the Argentine without regard to the inhabitants it would be "a flagrant breach of international law."

Extract from  
Irish Times, Dublin

3 DEC 1968

## Falklands handover denied

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, on his return yesterday from his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands and Argentina, denied reports that he had had discussions of substance on the island's future while in Buenos Aires.

He added that sovereignty over the islands would never be transferred from Britain to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders themselves. Chalfont said he was simply repeating a pledge already made many times, both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Lord Chalfont arrived home to a political furore stirred up by fears that his mission to Buenos Aires and the Falklands were preparatory to British recognition of Argentina's claim to the islands.

Sir Dingle Foot (Labour) said last night that, if any British Government proposed to cede the Falkland Islands to Argentina, or British Honduras to Guatemala, or Gibraltar to Spain, without regard to the inhabitants concerned, it would almost certainly be defeated in both Houses of Parliament. (UPI —PA)

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

4 DEC 1968

## A sin to be British

I ONLY HOPE Donald Seaman's report of Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falkland Islands will bring home to the public the real facts of the case concerning our Government's dealings with the people of the Falklands.

It seems to be a sin today to want to be British, and to keep our British standards.

No wonder we are termed "Perfidious Albion" by certain Continental countries.  
L. ROKEBY-HOOLE,  
Castleton Crescent, Skegness, Lincs.

Extract from  
Evening Standard, London

3 DEC 1968

# THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FALKLANDS

LORD LAMBTON, M.P.

LORD CHALFONT is a man whose beliefs are difficult to assess.

Shortly before the 1964 election he was known to have been a Liberal, and to have had a considerable hand in the presentation of his Party's defence policy. Shortly after the election he joined the Labour Party, accepted a peerage and office.

During the last few weeks he has visited the Falkland Islands and impressed upon its inhabitants that it is unlikely the Islands will ever come out of their economic doldrums. Is he sincere in this belief? Or is he merely trying to carry out Government policy?

If sincere, he surely then shows that appalling incomprehension of economics which has been the hallmark of this Government. If he is merely trying to persuade the Falkland Islanders to merge with The Argentine, one must ask, Why?

## VAST WEALTH

The fact is that the economic future of the Falkland Islands and its dependencies is now brighter than it has ever been before. The reason for this is the discovery that the vast wealth of the sea-bed can probably be developed in the next few years.

Mr. Arvid Pardo of Malta, who has proposed the internationalisation of the sea-bed to the U.N., has described just one aspect of this wealth: that of manganese nodules, in these words:-

"Maximum known metal content of the nodules has been determined as follows: 57.1 per cent manganese, 39.5 per cent

iron, 2.9 per cent copper, 2.4 per cent nickel, 2.1 per cent cobalt, etc. Tentative tonnage estimates for Pacific Ocean nodules, based on a far from adequate knowledge of the extent of deposits, range from 9 to 170 trillion tons. Such quantities would meet present demand for these minerals for scores—in some cases hundreds—of thousands of years."

Though, of course, the Falkland Islands are not in the Pacific, there is every reason to believe that in an area which is technically, as the law at present stands, Falkland Isles territory, there are reserves of mineral and other wealth which makes Lord Chalfont's gloomy utterances pure nonsense. For the international law as it stands is without doubt on the side of the Falkland Isles—for provisions of the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf, which came into force in 1964, recognise that a coastal state has sovereign rights for purposes of exploitation of natural resources over its continental shelf; "the sea-bed and the sub-soil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coast but outside the area of the territorial sea, to a depth of 200 metres or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources of the said areas."

## SUPER POWERS

The key sentence is the phrase "to a depth of 200 metres or, beyond that limit," because at the moment it is claimed that this gives almost unlimited under-sea dominion to such countries as St. Helena, and the Falkland Isles and its dependencies. Therefore as the law now stands the Islands which this Government is so busy trying to get rid of could offer this country almost limitless areas of every kind of sea richness, which includes oil, calcarious, and every kind of mineral.

But of course such an interpretation of the ownership of the sea is nothing less than repulsive to land-locked countries, who see to their horror countries like England and France with dependencies still scattered over the great areas of the world being legally able to claim vast tracts of ocean as their own. Therefore, recently the United Nations, inspired by Malta, have been trying to achieve the limitation of such claims and what amounts to the internationalisation of vast areas of the sea-bed.

Here, however, they have run up against the interests of the two super powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, who would seem to wish, despite contrary statements to the United Nations, that the sea-bed should not be internationalised. To do so would interfere with the tactical and military use of the ocean floor, and both countries believe that they are the only ones technically advanced enough to take advantage of this gigantic economic opportunity.

## OCEAN FLOOR

If this is so, it is unlikely that any effective internationalisation of the sea-bed will be achieved at the United Nations or elsewhere, and the countries will be able to continue to develop to the full their continental shelves, while the abyss or ocean floor will become in fact a no-man's-land where economic strength will reap its rewards.

Therefore, the Falkland Islands and its dependencies can no longer be regarded as a barren and useless piece of the Hebrides, cast down in the South Atlantic to be given away to The Argentine due to the lack of imagination of our present Government. Rather should they be conceived as valued outposts and bases granting to this country opportunities of discovering and developing the untapped riches of the sea. So let us look at them in this light and prize them for their potential value rather than think of discarding them for their late uselessness.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Nottingham Guardian Journal

4 DEC 1968

NOTHING SIGNED  
Argentine Foreign Minister,  
Nicanor Costa Mendez said today  
that Argentina would not sign any  
agreement with Britain on Falk-  
land Islands which did not include  
recognition of Argentine sover-  
eignty over South Atlantic archi-

Extract from:

# The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

3 DEC 1968

Date .....

## Ill-founded claim

THERE is no basis in law or in history for the Argentine Republic's claim to the Falkland Islands, inhabited by people of British stock. The British had a settlement in the Falklands long before the Argentine became Argentinian. Even France and Spain would have better claims than the Argentine has. There is, therefore, no excuse in law or in history that the British Government could honourably use in order to hand the 2,000 Falklanders over to the Argentine and forcibly deprive them of their rights and privileges as British subjects. However, law and history notwithstanding, it is clearly desirable to establish a new relationship between the Falklands, Britain and Argentina taking account of the fact that the Falklands are only 300 miles from the Argentine but terribly remote from anywhere else.

Legalistic arguments do not alter physical realities, and have little practical bearing on some economic and political ones. The Falklands issue is a running sore in relations between Britain and the Argentine. From time to time it arouses intense (though childish) passions in the Argentine which are difficult to control. If, at some time in the future, a wildly irresponsible Argentinian Government decided to occupy the islands Britain would not be in a good position to help the islanders. That is a fact of geography if nothing else. Certainly the United Nations Organisation would do nothing to reverse a Goa-type *fait accompli*. Its Committee of 24 already seems to be ranged against Britain and the Falklanders, though what is the Argentine's aim if not to colonise the Falklands, and what is Britain's aim if not to maintain the principle of self-determination for her dependants?

What must be aimed for is an agreement recognised in inter-

national law that will be acceptable to the Falklanders, the British Parliament and the Argentine Government. It will not be easy to achieve this, but we believe the British Government is right to make the attempt. Lord Chalfont, just returned from the Falklands and Argentina, and other British Ministers and officials also, are reported as having assured the Falklanders that the islands will never be handed over to Argentina without their permission. Argentina has been told that there can be no shift in the British Government's position over the question of sovereignty until the islanders change their minds, and has apparently been persuaded that the islanders will not change their minds until good will and trust have been established over a number of years in a practical sense.

To this extent the British Government seems to have acted sensibly and honourably, though the terms of the expected interim agreement will have to be closely examined and consequent developments carefully watched. The Argentine has never made clear what it would be prepared to do that would be to the benefit of the islanders. So far, all we have had is a series of swashbuckling, childish and presumptuous claims, with a vague suggestion that the islanders would have the same rights under Argentine sovereignty as those enjoyed by British subjects in Argentina. If it is the British Government's intention to put the Argentine on probation, as it were, the problem might be solved through a process of evolution. This does not mean, however, that the Government could be allowed to encourage difficulties in the Falklands for the purpose of subtle coercion of the islanders.

Extract from

Western Mail, Cardiff  
- 3 DEC 1968

## 'Chalfont snubbed Falklands offer'

By GERALD BYRNE

A proposal to set up a multi-million pound British industry in the Falkland Islands has been ignored by the Government and Lord Chalfont, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate Industries Ltd., said, "We would develop a concession within five years and probably much less, and we have told Lord Chalfont and the British Government this within the last six months."

"Lord Chalfont has not replied to my letter."

"Some of the seaweed beds in the Falkland Isles are miles across and you could comfortably harvest 4,000,000 tons a year, which gives you a £12m. potential."

Lord Chalfont, who is heading talks with the Falklanders over their future, said yesterday, "I knew this plan was being suggested. I do not know the details."

### Scottish plant

Mr. Merton said, "The industry could have a tremendous effect on the islands and we have come out with a statement today because the papers seem to be saying the Government think there is no economic future in the Falkland Isles."

"We never thought there could be any question of ceding the Falkland Isles or we would have got the matter tied up sooner."

The proposal is to dry and mill the seaweed which produces algin and then ship it back to Scotland, where it would be processed.

Alginates are used in textiles, for dye solutions, in the food industry, in printing, photography and for medical dressings.

● Sir Dingle Foot, Labour M.P. for Ipswich, said last night that if any British Government proposed to cede the Falkland Islands to Argentina, or British Honduras to Guatemala, or Gibraltar to Spain, without regard to the inhabitants concerned, it would almost certainly be defeated in both Houses of Parliament.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

3 DEC 1958

# £12m. job for Isles — if they stay British

## Vast area

The only British source will be the Falkland Islands, he said. His company had carried out an extensive survey of the seaweed resources within easy reach of Port Stanley and had discovered a vast area of seaweed growth, capable of providing ten times the raw material requirements for the present total world production, he said.

The company was basing its plans on a Port Stanley factory as soon as present supply sources proved inadequate — at the present rate of expansion this would be within five years.

Unlike present European sources where collection was almost entirely manual, it would be possible to harvest the Falkland seaweed mechanically, using methods already being worked on the Pacific coast of North America. Drying and milling would be fully automated.

"If we could be assured of the Falklands' source of raw material, Britain would stand to capture the major share, 90 per cent. of which would be re-exported, of the future estimated £100m. world production."

Mr. Merton said: "I have read that one of the reasons the Government speaks of pulling out of the Falkland Islands is that they see no economic future for them. The fact that we can show that there is, may have a profound effect."

He said his company, a private one, founded in 1934, had known about the seaweed crop for 20 years and had kept their discovery secret.

"We never thought there was any danger of the Falklands being ceded to the Argentine. I do not say they will be ceded — I merely say there is a danger but I have no inside knowledge."

Extract from  
Financial Times, London

3 DEC 1958

# The dilemma of the Falklands

LAST WEEK'S visit by Lord Chalfont to the Falkland Islands and his subsequent talks in Buenos Aires with the Argentine Foreign Minister have drawn attention once again to one of the most embarrassing territorial disputes in which Britain is involved. There is little doubt that the Government would in many ways be happy to accede to the Argentine claim to these remote and indefensible islands, whose economic and strategic importance is negligible at least as far as this country is concerned.

It is also clear that the continuation of the dispute threatens to cause further embarrassment at the United Nations where the U.K. is obliged to provide regular reports of progress made towards a "solution" of the Falklands problem. But can the Government cut its way out of this predicament by simply handing over the Falklands, and their inhabitants, to Argentine rule?

## Practical answer

The practical answer to this question is that the Falklanders would not suffer to any intolerable degree by being incorporated in Argentina. They might find themselves paying higher taxes under an Argentine government than under their own laissez faire system of colonial rule, and the existing population of the islands would no doubt have to make room for a few enterprising Argentinians who might wish to start a new life in sheep farming.

But in facing these conditions the 2,000 Falklanders would be enduring nothing more than the 20,000 Anglo-Argentinians who inhabit the mainland and who have for many generations past succeeded in reconciling their Argentine residence with a strong and continuing sense of British identity. It would, moreover, in all probability be easy enough for any of the 2,000 who wished to do so to emigrate, particularly to New Zealand where conditions are similar and where immigrants of British stock are—not surprisingly—welcome.

These basic facts can be

embellished, as Lord Chalfont attempted by embellish them last week, with a somewhat discouraging picture of the island's future under Britain. There could be no great expectation of British assistance for the wealthy islanders. Lord Chalfont implied during his visit to Port Stanley and there could be a danger of economic decline if the islands were left to depend on wool, their sole major source of income during the past 150 years. But these practical arguments should not be allowed to obscure the moral aspect of the problem however awkward this may be for those concerned with settling the fate of the islands. The Falklanders do not at present wish to become part of Argentina, or in any way to change their present status, and no-one has any right to force such a change upon them.

## Spanish attitude

If Britain were to decide on a "sellout" of the Falklanders to Argentina it would, among other things, be accumulating problems for itself in other parts of the world where British possessions are claimed by neighbouring Governments and where the case for transfer is far less appealing. The Spanish attitude on Gibraltar would undoubtedly be influenced by a concession to Argentina, and so in all probability would the positions of Venezuela and Guatemala in their respective claims to parts of Guyana and to British Honduras.

The conclusion must be that Britain should emphasise far more strongly than it has recently been doing that there will be no concession to the Argentine demands on the Falklands in the foreseeable future unless the Falklanders themselves decide to change their allegiance.

It is, of course, open to the British Government to put the facts as it sees them before the islanders and even to deny the islands, the sort of financial assistance which might be available to other less wealthy dependencies. But it would be a grave mistake for any British Government to give the impression that it was bullying a dependent territory into acceptance of the demands of a foreign power.

Extract from  
Western Morning News, Plymouth

- 3 DEC 1968

## OUR LONDON LETTER

### Falklands prospect

**DURING** his controversial visit to the Falkland Islands Lord Chalfont appears to have gone out of his way to paint as gloomy a picture as possible to the islanders of their future economic prospects.

Yet it was alleged in London yesterday that he has twice been told of a project being put forward by the second largest alginate company in the world, which over a period of years could provide a 12-fold increase in the island's gross annual income.

According to Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of the British company, Alginate Industries Ltd., speaking at a Press conference in London, that from being islands without a future, they represent to the alginate industry of Great Britain possibly the world's largest untapped source of raw material.

### Seaweed industry

Alginates are derived from a special kind of seaweed which, as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, is obtained mainly from the Shetlands, Scotland, and Ireland.

According to Mr. Merton his company has discovered a vast area of this particular seaweed growth within easy reach of Port Stanley, in the Falklands, capable of providing ten times the raw material requirements for the present total world alginate production. It has, in fact, known about it for years, but has kept it a closely-guarded secret, but now there is a danger of the present Government ceding the islands to Argentina, and thus the source of this raw material would not be under British control.

Continued Mr. Merton: "If we could be assured of the Falklands' source of raw material, Britain would stand to capture the major

share—90 per cent. of which would be re-exported—of the future estimated £100,000,000 world production."

### Export value

Mr. Merton added that it was unlikely that there was so favourable a source anywhere else in the world. It was for that reason that his company was basing its plans upon a factory at Port Stanley as soon as present supply sources proved inadequate, which at the present rate of expansion was likely to be within the next five years.

This plant would be capable of producing and exporting seaweed to the value of at least £12,000,000 a year. As it gave the prospect of a vast increase in export value without importing additional labour this industry was ideally suited to the Falklands.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Evening Standard, London

- 4 DEC 1968

### CHALFONT OBJECTS FALKLANDS TAUNT

Lord Chalfont answered simply "No" when asked in the Lords this afternoon by the Earl of Buckinghamshire whether, in view of negotiations with Argentina about the Falklands, it would only be logical to hand over the Channel Islands to France.

Lord Buckinghamshire asked how the Government could make an agreement with the Argentine which was "two faced" to the people of the Falklands and the people of Britain. Lord Chalfont answered: "There has never been any statement about handing over sovereignty of Falklands."

When the Earl of Swinton asked if the Falklands were not under British sovereignty "years before Argentina obtained independence from Spain," Lord Chalfont said: "We have no doubt about our legal title to the sovereignty."

Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, will make statement in Commons next week on present state of discussions with Argentine Government. Mr. P. Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, told Commons this afternoon.

Mr. Mulley referring to a suggestion by Mr. Bernard Brain (Tory, S.E. Essex) in Commons yesterday that Lord Chalfont had said "that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the Falkland Islanders that a change of status would be convenient," said Lord Chalfont made no such statement (Labour cheers).

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

## The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

- 4 DEC 1968

Date .....

**FALKLANDS**  
(See P. 1)  
Argentine Foreign Minister said Argentina would not sign any agreement with Britain on Falkland Islands which did not include recognition of Argentine sovereignty or which conditioned recognition of Argentine sovereignty to the wishes of Islands' people.—Reuter.

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

- 3 DEC 1968

## Chalfont silent on Falklands' future

By MARTIN LINTON

**LORD CHALFONT'S** return from the Falkland Islands yesterday did nothing to allay growing suspicions of a sell-out, signed and sealed with Argentina.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs maintained a polite but tight-lipped silence on arrival at London Airport before seeing the Prime Minister.

Mr Wilson and Lord Chalfont are expected to make statements today in the Commons and Lords.

### Exports

A British company announced yesterday that it was planning to set up a chemical plant to process seaweed on the Falklands, providing the islands stay British.

Mr Ralph Merton, 54, managing director of Alginate Industries, London, said the Falklands were possibly the world's largest untapped source of the seaweed and exports could rise to £12 million a year.

Alginates is a group of chemicals used in ice cream, cakes, meat pies, cheese, soft drinks, beer, powdered soups, films, paper, toothpaste, paint, motor tyres and ceramics.

Mr Merton said: "It is unlikely that there is so favourable a source anywhere else in the world."

EXTRACT FROM THE

## Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date 3 DEC 1968



A view of Port Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands.

# Lonely isles that want

## Behind the News

707  
30—No 1

By DEREK NAYLOR

The future of the windswept Falkland Islands—whether they remain British or are handed over to Argentina—hangs in the balance.

Standing isolated in the South Atlantic, the Falkland Islands number about 200 but only two are of any size—East and West Falkland, 2,588 and 2,038 square miles respectively.

Exports from the colony consist almost entirely of wool and no field crops are grown except for a small quantity of oats grown for hay. Most householders grow their own vegetables.

The colony's largest imports are of foodstuffs and manufactured goods and machinery.

### SEAWEED PLAN

This week a Scottish company announced a plan to use seaweed round the islands to make alginates—chemicals extracted from dried seaweed—worth up to £90,000,000 a year in exports from Britain, which would increase the island's income 12 times over.

But the plan is dependent on the Falklands Islands remaining British and not being ceded to Argentina, who have been pressing their claims for many years.

There is no unemployment in the islands, where sheep farming employs about 500 men. In Stanley the largest sources of employment are government and public services, trading and shipping.

Stanley, the capital, is the only town. It has a population of 1,074—about half the total population of the islands.

It rains four or five days of the week there with snow as an occasional change, and a fierce south-west wind drones unchangingly for days.

### SHEEP FARMING

The grasslands of the Falkland Islands have proved the only natural source of the islands' economy.

Sheep farming developed rapidly between 1870 and 1900 but even though there has been a decline since then—caused by a deterioration of the richer grazing areas through overstocking—there were 637,000 sheep there at the last count in 1953.

### MAIL SERVICE

Communication between the colony and the mainland of South America—300 miles away—is maintained by the Falkland Islands Company's vessel, RMS Darwin, which runs a mail and passenger service at least 12 times a year to Montevideo. Fiercely pro-British, the Islanders have always resisted any attempts to sever their ties with their homeland.

After a stormy history, a British settlement was re-established in 1833 and the islands have remained British since then.

## Behind the news

—No 2

# The men who throw light on the stars

From our London Office

Members of the Royal Greenwich Observatory—the oldest scientific institution in the country—were upset today by reports that their director might lose his historic title of Astronomer Royal.

The observatory has been for 10 years at Herstmonceux (Sussex). It was driven from London by the smoke and bright lights which made astronomical work difficult.

The present £5,000 a year director—and Astronomer Royal by Royal warrant of 1675—is Sir Richard Woolley.

### PETITION

His secretary, Miss Anita Hewardine, said today her staff had heard it was possible the title might be abolished and "felt very strongly" about it.

"There seems no good reason for taking the title away," she said. About 150 employees at the observatory have sent a petition to the Queen.

But no one at the Science Research Council, which controls the observatory, could pin-point grounds for the report.

Greenwich Observatory, and the line of 11 Astronomer Royals connected with it since the first appointment of John Flamsteed by Charles II, has always been in the forefront of astronomical research.

### HALLEY'S COMET

The second Astronomer Royal, Edmund Halley, who made some of the first detailed observations of the moon, became world known through the discovery of his comet.

And Nevil Maskelyne, the fifth to hold the appointment, began the nautical almanac in 1767. The observatory is responsible for the time service of the United Kingdom and the time zones of the world are based on Greenwich Mean Time.

Extract from

## The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date (See information overleaf)

# ISLANDERS ACCEPT CHALFONT'S ASSURANCE

By Our Political Correspondent

Falkland islanders say they have accepted "in good faith" Lord Chalfont's assurances that the islands will not be handed over to the Argentine against their wishes.

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, returned to London yesterday after visiting both the Falklands and the Argentine. Statements are expected in both Houses of Parliament to-day.

Mr Michael Clark Hutchison, Conservative M.P. for South Edinburgh, last night issued an exchange of telegrams between him and Mr H. V. Goss, a member of the Falklands Executive Council.

Mr Clark Hutchison, who has been a persistent defender of the Falkland Islands in the House of Commons, sent the following message to Mr Goss:—

"Chalfont discredited. Uphold your right to live in Falklands and succeeding generations also. British people prepared to help. Consider with executive council petition to Queen signed by all islanders."

### Upheld right

The reply, received at Westminster yesterday by Mr Clark Hutchison, was:—"Have continuously upheld right. Chalfont assured all again and again by broadcast and in public no change of sovereignty at any time against wishes of the people. We have accepted this unequivocal pledge by H.M. Government in good faith. All council grateful your continued support."

Mr Clark Hutchison and other Conservative M.P.s will want assurances in the House of Commons this afternoon that will remove the uncertainty over the future of the Falklands created by Lord Chalfont's visit.

The announcement yesterday by Alginate Industries of plans for a seaweed processing plant in the Falklands has prompted further interest in Parliament.

Mr Clark Hutchison yesterday tabled questions asking Mr Reginald Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, what help he is prepared to offer.

Extract from  
Sunday Morning Telegraph

3 - DEC 1968

# KEEPING QUIET

3007

IT IS typical of the man behind the push for British development of the Falkland Islands seaweed to de-personalise the issue.

Mr Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate (with a soft g) Industries Ltd, issued a statement yesterday saying that the firm had carried out an extensive survey of the seaweed resources within easy reach of Port Stanley.

In fact Mr Merton, now in his fifties, went to the Falklands 20 years ago and himself directed a survey lasting many weeks.

There are five Merton brothers, one of whom, merchant banker William, is Alginate Industries' chairman. Ralph, whose interest is business promotion rather than science, joined the Alginate enterprise in the thirties from Oxford.

During the war he served in the Royal Artillery and became a gunnery instructor. He returned to pick up the threads in an industry that helps today's world in scores of ways, from stabilising ice lollies and dog food to grinding lenses.

## Confidentially

Why not sit on a secret for 20 years? In this case the need for Falklands seaweed was not immediate. Resources are not diminished by the industry but are cropped. It is the growth of the industry itself that will make Falklands seaweed important.

When he met the Press yesterday Mr Merton fired off answers with speed and aim that would have done credit to any ex-gunner.

How the secret was kept turned out to be as interesting as the why. Mr Merton observed that he took the precaution some years ago of telling his biggest competitor in the US about it.

"As he is a very gentlemanly person I thought this would stop him jumping the gun." And it did.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Lancashire Evening Post, Preston

4 DEC 1968

## NO TRANSFER PLEDGE

3008  
Foreign Office Minister,

Fred Mulley, told Commons

"There can be no transfer of sovereignty against wishes of Falkland islanders." In Lords, Lord Chalfont refused suggestion to hand over Channel Islands to France in view of talks with Argentina on Falklands.

# ABOUT SEA WEED

lunches in one day, so tight was the schedule. And these lunches were incidental to the business of being lectured or watching some cultural activity as one chewed.

What surprised the journalists, and particularly dress-conscious women, was a quick change Ladybird made in the woodlands, over 300 miles from the nearest big city, from San Francisco.

She arrived there in a gorgeous red dress and coat, and reappeared from the trees in a camel trouser-suit. It transpired that Ladybird had the protection not only of three rather obvious Secret Service men, but of a tent.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Wolverhampton Express & Star

4 DEC 1968

## MP's Falkland fears grow

A new bid to dispel the growing alarm on both sides of the Commons over the Government's intentions towards the Falkland Islands was being made in the Commons this afternoon, writes Ernest Prince our political correspondent.

In spite of Government assurances, repeated again in both the Lords and the Commons yesterday there are deep suspicions among MPs that Mr. Wilson and his Ministers may be prepared to do a deal and hand over sovereignty of the island to the Argentine.

The return of Lord Chalfont, Foreign Office Minister, from talks with the islanders has only served to heighten suspicions; after he said that he had not been able to tell Parliament everything about his talks.

THE INDEPENDENT  
NEWSPAPER

## OPINION

### MR. MULLEY GIVES THE GAME AWAY

M R. F R E D  
M U L L E Y is a politician of integrity, an honourable man.

Whatever he states as a Government Minister is accepted as a declaration of Government policy.

His words in the Commons on the Falkland Isles can only increase the suspicion which is felt about the Government's intentions.

Mr. Mulley states: "Britain is prepared to talk about the sovereignty of the islands with the Argentine."  
Why?

In reply after reply Mr. Mulley makes it abundantly clear that the Falkland Islanders desire to remain British.

Yet Mr. Mulley reveals the Government's true thinking when he states that talk of a referendum of Falkland Islanders on a change of sovereignty is "pre-mature."

No wonder suspicions deepen of the Government's intentions.

No wonder such experienced former Labour Ministers as Miss Margaret Herison, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, and Mr. Douglas Jay join in the demands for the Government to honour its pledge to accept the will of the Falklanders.

The Government should end its nonsensical chatter with the Argentinos.

And encourage a programme of exploration of the economic potential of this distant but loyal part of the British community.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
84 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

Extract from

The Glasgow Herald

GLASGOW

Date **4 DEC 1968**  
(See information overleaf)

# M.P.S UNCONVINCED ABOUT

## FALKLANDS

### *Peart promises further statement to-day*

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Despite fervent assurances that the real purpose of the talks with the Argentine Government about the Falkland Islands was to secure improved communications for the islanders with the mainland, Mr Fred Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, failed yesterday to convince the House of Commons that the Government are not considering a transfer of sovereignty.

He managed to do this despite his own categorical statement that "we have made it clear throughout these discussions that no transfer of sovereignty can be made against the wishes of the Falkland islanders"—coupled with the admission that the Government were aware that the islanders wish to remain British.

the House reports that Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who visited the islands, had said in Buenos Aires that the two countries must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

This led to a demand that Lord Chalfont, who was making a parallel statement about the talks in the Lords, should be summoned to the Bar of the House to explain the matter since Mr Mulley could not, and to one Conservative backbencher lamenting it was a pity he could no longer be impeached. Eventually Mr Fred Peart, Leader of the House, promised a further statement clearing the matter up to-day.

Mr Bernard Braine (South-East Essex—Con.), an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said the real object of Lord Chalfont's visit was to tell the islanders their future was bleak if they retained their present status. He asked why no notice had been taken of recent proposals which might well transform the economy of the islands, and demanded an explanation about Lord Chalfont's alleged remarks in Buenos Aires.

"In view of the unchanging wishes of the people to remain British and the support of this House, shown on both sides of the House, and in the country, will you now take the issue of sovereignty off the agenda of any further talks with Argentina?" he added.

Mr Mulley said he had no information about the remarks attributed to Lord Chalfont. The purpose of the talks in the Argentine was to restore communications between the islanders and Argentina. The absence of such arrangements being a very great hardship since imports had at present to come through Montevideo, more than 1000 miles away.

"We are prepared to talk about sovereignty only if the islanders themselves wish it," he went on, only to be drowned in noisy protests. He surmounted this to declare firmly:—"The Government stands on the position—it is for the islanders to say and not us."

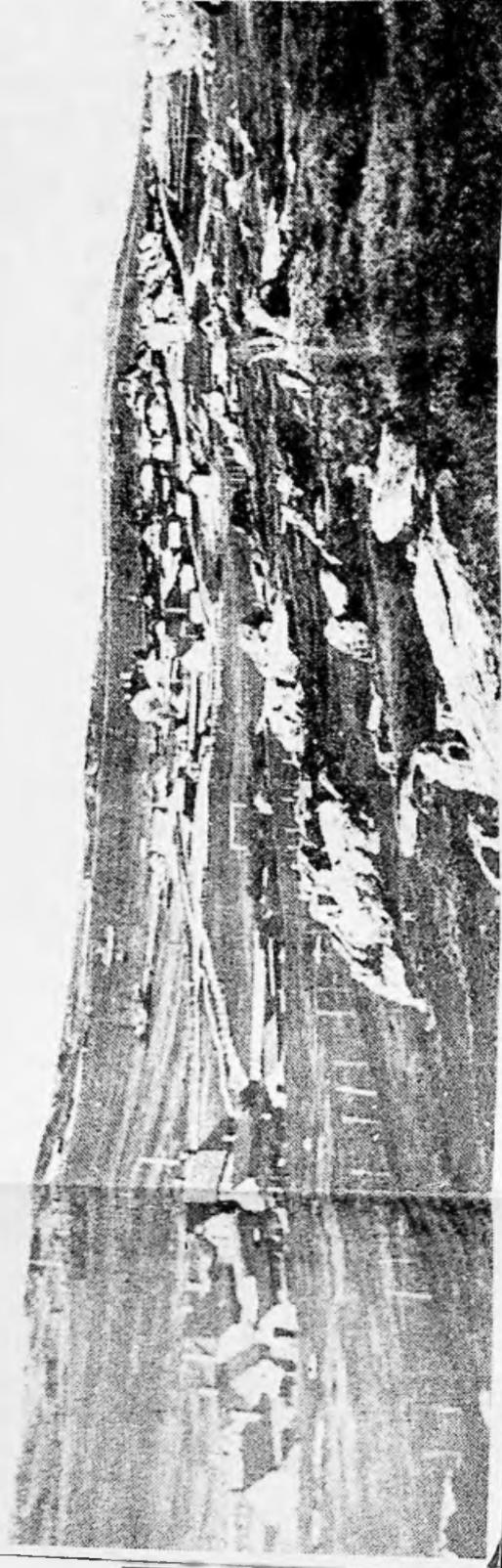
Mr Michael Clark Hutchison (South Edinburgh—Con.) said the talks Lord Chalfont had with the islanders had caused "confusion and depression," and asked if a statement would be made about the new seaweed project.

Mr Mulley said the project had been known of for some months, but the dramatic developments of the last few days were only known to the Government through the courtesy of the newspapers and the B.B.C. and were not known when Lord Chalfont was in the islands.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, asked for an assurance that the sovereignty of the Falklands was not going to be used as a bargaining factor in talks



3003



## Giant seaweed plan boosts Falkland hopes

A plan which would revolutionise the economy of the Falkland Islands, by harvesting a vast area of seaweed, was announced in London yesterday.

The world's second largest alginate manufacturer—Alginate Industries Ltd.—claim they could recover seaweed worth £12,000,000 every year from the sea bed.

The seaweed would be processed at Port Stanley, where the company have decided to build a factory within the next five years.

Mr Ralph Merton, managing director of Alginate, said there would be a twelve-fold increase in the Islands' gross annual income as a result of the scheme.

He said alginates, an important group of chemicals extracted from seaweed, have many applications, ranging from textiles and medical dressings to food and motor tyres.

"This plant," said Mr Merton, "would be capable of exporting sufficient seaweed to supply future world alginate production worth some £100,000,000 a year."

### Potential

It was estimated that the present annual world production was about 15,000 tons—worth £10,000,000—derived from some half-a-million tons of wet seaweed supplied principally in the northern hemisphere.

"Within a very few years, these sources will have been developed to their maximum capacity, and alginate manufacturers will have to turn to the southern hemisphere for their supplies. The only British source will be the Falkland Islands."

Mr Merton added: "It is unlikely that there is as favourable a source anywhere else in the world."

It would be possible to harvest the Falkland seaweed mechanically, using methods already being worked on the Pacific coast of North America. Drying and milling would be fully automated.

"If we could be assured of the Falklands' source of raw material, Britain would stand to capture the major share (90 per cent. of which would be re-exported) of the future estimated £100,000,000 world production."

Asked whether the announcement could have

political results, Mr Merton replied:

"Inasmuch as I have read in the papers that one of the reasons the Government speak of pulling out of the Falkland Islands is that they see no economic future for them. The fact that we can show that there is, may have a profound effect."

### Secret

His company had known about the seaweed crop for twenty years and had kept the discovery secret.

Asked what assurances he would want from the British Government before developing the project, Mr Merton said: "I think one would want to be reassured

it would remain a British possession if one were to go ahead in a big way."

Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said at Heathrow Airport on his return from his five-day visit to the Falkland Islands and Buenos Aires, yesterday, that any successful project to diversify the economy of the Falklands was bound to be in the Islands' interests.

Lord Chalfont commenting on the alginate project said: "I knew this plan was being suggested. I do not know the details of it. I could not comment on what any political arrangement in the future might be."

Port Stanley, the capital which would be the base for the seaweed project.

3007  
- 4 DEC 1958

# No compromise on Falklands takeover, says Argentina

Buenos Aires, December 3

Dr Nicanor Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, reiterated today that Argentina would not sign any agreement with Britain on the Falkland Islands which did not include recognition of Argentine sovereignty.

The Minister, who was being questioned by reporters about his talks with Lord Chalfont, also said Argentina would neither sign an agreement which conditioned recognition of Argentine sovereignty to the wishes of the inhabitants of the Falklands.

His country would only sign an agreement in keeping with national interests, which implied recognition of Argentine sovereignty and which did not subject this recognition to the will of the islands' inhabitants.

Two of Argentina's leading magazines have published articles hinting that there is a confidential agreement with Britain for a handover of the islands within eight years. British Ministers, notably Lord Chalfont, have repeatedly rejected the allegation that there is any "secret deal" with Argentina.

# Fears of a deal in the Commons

By NORMAN SHRAPNEL, our Parliamentary Correspondent

All the hearts yesterday were in the South Atlantic. Government assurances on the future of the Falkland Islands were greeted in the Commons with anger and extreme suspicion.

Indeed, "suspicion" is really an understatement, for MPs sounded convinced that some kind of deal was afoot with the Argentine involving the sovereignty of the islands, and nothing Mr Fred Mulley, Minister of State, Commonwealth and Foreign Office, could say managed to appease them. Who would have guessed that this distant Crown Colony was so deep in so many all-party breasts?

It was the sort of day when a Minister says a thing 10 times and causes more alarm than if he had said it once. Mr Mulley kept insisting that there would be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders. What could be more watertight than that? Yet they kept jabbing and probing this assurance for leaks. And soon they thought they had found one.

If sovereignty is not in question, why bring it up at all in the talks with the Argentine? Asked this, Mr Mulley aroused furious barks from the Conservatives when he answered that we were prepared to talk about sovereignty in the context of dis-

cussions on improving communications with the mainland. The lack of these was certainly causing great hardship.

As for sovereignty, the Minister repeated that "it is for the islanders to say, and not us." He gave the Dispatch Box several sharp raps as he said it. Even the mild Mr Mulley was beginning to snap back as he found himself hemmed in by so many Hands Off The Falkland Islanders—not just Tories, but Labour backbenchers too. Only one MP, Mr Paget, was friendly enough to mention that the economic prospects of the islanders would on the whole be better with communications than without.

## Tory solution

For the rest, the House appeared convinced that the Falklanders were having their arms twisted, and anger rose to its peak when Mr Mulley refused to rule out the possibility that, however ardently British now, they might one day change their minds. The Tories have one solution to all contemporary problems, and they certainly thought it applied to this one. "Resign!" they roared.

They refused to believe that Lord Chalfont, paying the first courtesy visit to the colony a Minister has ever made, was up to any good. What had he been saying? Were the newspaper stories true? One Conservative thought he should be summoned to the bar of the House to explain himself. Another wanted him impeached. Neither of these suggestions seemed to go along with the modernisation programme the Opposition is committed to, so the forward-looking Mr Duncan Sandys tried unsuccessfully to adjourn the House for an emergency debate.

## No arm twisting

They would dearly have liked to get their hands on the noble lord, but as far as the Commons was concerned he was much farther away than the Falklands. He was in the House of Lords. While all this fuss was going on, Lord Chalfont, as calmly as you like, was telling the peers exactly what he had been telling the Falklanders and the Argentinians—such as that there would be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

He was sorry if anybody thought the Government had not acted in good faith. The islanders certainly thought they had. His courtesy visit involved no arm-twisting, though he was not going to bind the islanders if ever they wanted to change their minds in the future.

Yesterday in Parliament

## SUSPICIONS ON

## CHALFONT'S

## 'SLIPPERY MISSION'

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

**ALARM** was expressed on both sides of the House of Commons today about a statement concerning the Falkland Islands reported to have been made by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

This was to the effect that Britain and Argentina "must make a joint effort" to convince the islanders that a change in their status would be "convenient."

Members were unconvinced despite an assurance from his fellow-Minister of State, Mr. Mulley, that anyone who thought the islanders had been pressurised misjudged their character and that of Lord Chalfont.

Mr. Mulley finally agreed to consult his colleague and report back to the House.

A Conservative critic referred to deep suspicion that Lord Chalfont had been sent on "a slippery mission."

There were cheers when Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition, insisted that the question of sovereignty should be immediately taken off the agenda of talks with Argentina.

To Conservative shouts of "Resign," Mr. Mulley said: "We don't rule out the possibility that in future the islanders may change their minds."

### Repeated assurances

Mr. MULLEY said Lord Chalfont visited the Falkland Islands to establish direct Ministerial contact with the people there and to explain British Government policy in its talks with the Argentine Government.

He had repeated assurances that the British Government would not transfer the islanders' sovereignty against the islanders' wishes.

Britain's talks with Argentina had aimed at securing a lasting and satisfactory modus vivendi between the islands and Argentina. "In particular we are concerned to restore and improve communications between the islands and the nearest mainland, since this would be of great benefit to the islanders."

Throughout the discussions, Britain had made it clear that no transfer of sovereignty could take place against the islanders' wishes.

### "Extraordinary" statement

Mr. BRAINE (C., Essex, S.E.), from the Opposition Front Bench, asked whether the real object of Lord Chalfont's mission had not been to tell the islanders that if they retained their present status their future would be bleak.

Why had no account been taken of recent proposals that might transform the islanders' economy? Could Mr. Mulley explain the "extraordinary" statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires, that Britain and Argentina must now make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change in their status would be convenient.

In view of the wish of the islanders to remain British, and the support that this wish had

as a bargaining factor in talks with Argentina.

Mr. MULLEY gave this assurance. When Mr. SHINWELL (Lab., Easington) suggested that Lord Chalfont should be asked if he made the statement attributed to him, Mr. MULLEY said he had not thought it fit to ask him about "every line in every single newspaper." But he would do so about this matter.

Mr. WOODROW WYATT (Lab., Bosworth): What is worrying everybody is that the Government appears to be trying to persuade the Falkland islanders to hand their sovereignty over to the Argentine. Nobody can understand why the Government is trying to do that.

Mr. MULLEY: Those who think the islanders have been pressurised completely misjudge their character or that of Lord Chalfont.

The Minister told Sir Arthur Harvey (C., Macclesfield) that he would consider publishing a White Paper when the present stage of the discussions had been concluded.

### Serious anxiety

Mr. SANDYS (C., Streatham) said if Lord Chalfont's alleged statement about the joint duty of the Argentine and British Governments to convince the Falkland islanders that it was to their advantage to make a change was left in the air, it would cause serious anxiety and difficulty.

Would Mr. Mulley ask Lord Chalfont if such a statement was made and make another statement himself in the House tomorrow?

Mr. MULLEY said he would put the point to Lord Chalfont and report to the House accordingly.

### "Slippery mission"

Mr. PEYTON (C., Yeovil) said there was deep suspicion, possibly born from the Government's record, that Lord Chalfont had been sent on a very slippery mission and that if he was not that he had made some remarks, maybe unintentionally, which gave grave grounds for suspicion.

Mr. MULLEY said he had given an undertaking to look at the statement. He was pretty certain Lord Chalfont did not express such a view.

The Earl of DALKEITH (C., Edinburgh, N.) suggested it would meet the convenience of the Commons if Lord Chalfont could be invited to the Bar of the House to answer questions directly from there. (Opposition "hear hears.")

The SPEAKER (Dr. King) said they would have to go back a long way in history to get a precedent for that.

When Mr. BOYD-CARPENTER (C., Kingston-upon-Thames) said Lord Chalfont had not felt it necessary to refer to the possibilities of the seaweed project for the islands, Mr. MULLEY retorted that there were no negotiations concerning seaweed when Lord Chalfont was in the islands. The prospect of these had been made public, possibly for political reasons, through the B B C and the Press on Friday, when Lord Chalfont had already left.

### Motives doubted

Mr. HEATH, Leader of the Opposition, said the great majority of MPs were absolutely determined to support the islanders in the view that British sovereignty could not pass.

There could be no point in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine. It should immediately be taken off the agenda. Until this happened there could be only very grave doubts about the Government's motives in discussing this question at all.

Mr. MULLEY said this was not a question of the agenda but of discussions in the light of the United Nations resolution.

"We have made it clear that unless the Falkland Islanders so

desire, we rule out a transfer of sovereignty."

There were Conservative cries of "Resign" when he added: "We do not rule out the possibility that in future the islanders may change their mind." If in some different set of circumstances in future they did so, he would hope that the then Government would not stand in their way.

Mr. Mulley told Sir Cyril Osborne (C., Louth) that no aid was at present being given to the islands because no need had arisen. The average income per head was about £500, almost the same as in this country.

"Taxes are extremely low, about 2s in the pound. The highest rate of tax is 5s 9d, starting at £6,000." (Opposition cheers.)

The SPEAKER declined to accept a motion by Mr. Sandys for an emergency debate.

## 'Your methods are suspect'

By Our Parliamentary Staff  
WESTMINSTER, Tuesday.

**LORD CHALFONT**, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, responded to criticisms of his activities in the Falklands by telling the House of Lords today that the local Executive Council had accepted that he was acting in good faith.

He said that because his meeting with the Council had been in secrecy he had been able to tell them "a good deal more" than he could say in Parliament.

Although Lord Chalfont repeated his pledge that sovereignty would not be transferred against the islanders' wishes, Lord CARRINGTON, Leader of the Opposition, told him: "Your activities and the methods of the Government are very suspect."

Lord Carrington asked for an assurance that no pressure, economic or any other kind, would be brought on the islanders concerning their status as British subjects.

"Any transfer of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands without the express and free wish of the people of the islands is totally unacceptable and we shall oppose any such proposal to the bitter end." (Cheers.)

### Changing minds

Lord CHALFONT replied that no economic pressure had been brought to bear to cause the islanders to change their minds on anything. "If at any time in the future the Falkland Islanders wish to change their mind for any reason at all, we shall not stand in their way."

He denied a newspaper report that he had said that Britain could no longer defend the Isles. "I said that as long as the sovereignty of the Isles resides in Britain their defence was our responsibility, and that responsibility we should discharge."

Lord OGMORE (Lib.) said the managing director of Alginare Industries had said he had never received a reply from Lord Chalfont to his letter about a development plan. "If that is true, that does not indicate any desire to put the islands into a position where they will be able to maintain their economy."

### Seaweed supplies

Lord CHALFONT replied: "I received a letter in Chile on the day before I left for the Falklands. Perhaps it is not surprising he has not yet received a reply.

"The same firm had been in touch with the Governor of the Falklands before they were in touch with me. To suggest that the Falkland Islanders have been kept in ignorance is very wide of the mark."

"The firm said their supplies of seaweed would be sufficient to make it unnecessary for them to go outside Europe for at least another five or 10 years. The Governor replied to this letter saying he was sorry there did not seem to be the remote possibility of anything beyond a pilot scheme."

Extract from  
Evening News, London

- 4 DEC 1968

## New storm over the Falklands muddle

By JOHN DICKINSON  
Evening News Political  
Correspondent

More uproar was expected in the Commons this afternoon when the Government were faced with the prospect of a second try at explaining their position with the Argentine in the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

This is the latest chapter in the muddle which began yesterday when Mr. Fred Mulley struggled for nearly an hour to give an account of the activities of his accident-prone Foreign Office colleague, Lord Chalfont, on his recent visit to the area.

Typically, this storm over the Falklands was offering a distraction to MPs from much wider issues of diplomacy, which they might well have done better to be studying.

### Russia's attack

The move by Russia in attacking publicly and violently British policy towards her is an extraordinary development which undoubtedly merits the most earnest consideration.

But at the moment more MPs are probably concerned with a witch-hunt after Lord Chalfont.

Nevertheless, it looks as though the British Cabinet, if not the British Parliament, must give urgent attention to the question of an equally public reply to the Kremlin.

Many MPs, particularly on the Labour side, are now worry-

ing about whether the Cabinet went too far for practical diplomatic purposes in reacting against Russia over the Czech crisis.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Wilson was accurately reflecting the widespread and genuine contempt of the British people for the Russian invasion.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

- 4 DEC 1968

### TYPICAL

I WAS angered by the opinions of J. Marre [Letters, Thursday] whose attitude over the Falkland Islands dispute is typical of the British public.

Why should Britain kowtow to the unfounded claims of Argentina, and the demands of a group of anti-British countries in the UN special committee on colonialism, who are only jealous of Britain's past achievements?

As for the patriotism of the Falkland islanders to the British flag, a little of that might not come amiss in this country.

C. P. KELLER.

Chobham Close,  
Oxtershaw, Surrey.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
The Times, London

## Falklands- new version

WHAT are the origins of the Government's present embarrassments over the future of the Falkland Islands? According to one circumstantial account to be heard in Westminster, the Foreign Office noted back in 1965 that the west Germans were scooping the trade pool in the Argentine. The idea blossomed that Mr. Michael Stewart, as Foreign Secretary, should pay an official visit in January, 1966. Latin America's pride has often been made to smart by the apparent indifference over the years of British Ministers, as well as of British newspapers; and it happened that no British Foreign Secretary had ever been officially to Buenos Aires.

Then the fateful mistake in tactics occurred, goes the story. If the Foreign Secretary was to have four days of talks in Buenos Aires to strengthen the connexion between the two countries, he had to be equipped with something better than small talk. Foreign Office experts began to draw up a short list of subjects on which official talks could be founded and the Falkland Islands, an old grievance with Argentinians, was included.

Thus Mr. Stewart's innocent fee were planted at the bottom of the escalator, and he and his team of Ministers are still going up.

International Press-Cutting Bureau  
1 Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from BUILDING  
(see overleaf)

Issue of

- 6 DEC 1968

ANDOVER (Hants.): Central & NW Hants. area planning committee has approved BC's plan for residential development at Enham-rd., Charlton. 3006  
AUDENSHAW (Lancs.): Demolition of service station at Manchester-rd. and erection of replacement is planned by Blue Star Garages Ltd.

Extract from  
The Times, London

# Suspensions of MPs over Falklands are unallayed

By DAVID WOOD

Labour backbenchers seethed with no less suspicion than the Tories when Mr. Mulley, deputizing for the Foreign Secretary, tried to give the Commons a soothing account of Lord Chalfont's mission last week to the Falkland Islands. The impatience of the House with Mr. Mulley's attempt to administer sedation grew until the Leader of the House had to intervene to promise that a further statement will be made today.

Mr. Mulley, like Lord Chalfont himself in the Lords, stood doggedly on the statement that there would be no transfer of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina against the wishes of the islanders themselves. During a long and searching cross-examination he repeated that assurance many times without squarely meeting the mood of the House.

If the judgment of Sir Alec Douglas-Home and the Tory foreign affairs committee is on the mark, the outcome of the exchanges yesterday will prove to be that the Government have learnt a lesson. When they met last night it was felt that, unless Lord Chalfont or one of his colleagues at the Foreign Office has been drawn into an inextricable commitment with the Argentine Government, then the Foreign Office will now pull back and make the unequivocal declaration that nearly everybody in the Commons wants to hear: that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is not in question and is not to be involved in any bargain.

Although absent, Lord Chalfont was at the centre of the Commons storm. From the Opposition front bench, Mr. Bernard Braine began by asking Mr. Mulley to explain "the extraordinary statement attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina must now make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

In the end, Mr. Mulley was forced into agreeing that he should ask Lord Chalfont directly what he had said in Buenos Aires.

But before he had been dragged to that point he told various questioners that "We have no information about the so-called attributed quotation": "We are not responsible for what appears in newspapers"; "I have no knowledge about this; I can't believe it was said, because it would be totally at variance with the many and excellent statements Lord Chalfont made both in press conferences in Argentina and in the Falkland Islands".

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont made a statement on his mission much like Mr. Mulley's.

Challenged on the question of sovereignty, Lord Chalfont said that in pursuance of the United Nations resolution: "We are discussing that matter of sovereignty with the Argentine Government, and I can repeat only that there will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

He roundly denied another report attributing to him statements that Britain could no longer defend the islands. "I did in fact say that as long as their sovereignty resided with Britain, their defence was our responsibility and that responsibility would be discharged."

It is often the destiny of Foreign Office ministers to look wooden and seem insensitive to Parliamentary moods. Lord Chalfont told the Lords why. "If I were to make a statement of the details in this House it would be a public statement. . . . I regret it should sometimes be necessary to carry out diplomacy in secret or in confidence, but this is necessary. It would certainly not be in the interests of intelligent foreign policy to conduct diplomacy in public", he said.

Parliamentary report, page 8.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

4 DEC 1968

# Falklands challenge for Mulley

By H. B. BOYNE  
Political Correspondent

MR. MULLEY, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, had a rough passage on the Falklands Islands issue in the Commons yesterday

Despite his repeated assertions that the Government would not transfer sovereignty to Argentina against the islanders' wishes, MPs on both sides remained uneasy and suspicious.

They were particularly troubled about a statement attributed to Lord Chalfont, Joint Minister of State, in Buenos Aires last Sunday. This read:

"Stressing that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient, he (Lord Chalfont) said: 'It must be a joint effort of Britain and Argentina'."

Mr. Mulley undertook to give the House an explanation after consulting Lord Chalfont. Mr. Duncan Sandys (C., Streatham), one of several MPs who pressed him on the point, wrote to him last night:

"In view of the concern which this has caused, I trust that you will tell the House whether or not Lord Chalfont was correctly reported.

## Pledge sought

"Having regard to the fact that the Falkland Islanders have made it clear that they are determined to remain British, I hope you will at the same time give an unequivocal assurance that the British Government have not sought and will not seek to persuade them to change their mind."

Another factor which worried MPs was Mr. Mulley's reference to the purpose of the talks being to restore "communications" between the Islanders and Argentina. They want to know exactly what is covered by this word.

Sir Frederic Bennett (C., Torquay) last night tabled a question asking what new "links" the Government had in mind.

In the meantime, Mr. Heath made the Conservative party's attitude clear: As the Islanders have no wish to give up British sovereignty, there can be no point in discussing it with Argentina and the subject should be "taken off the agenda."

Commons Attack on "Slippery Mission"—P26;  
Editorial Comment—P16



# Mr Stewart to report on discussions with Argentina over Falkland Islands

## Lords: no bartering of sovereignty

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at 2.30 p.m.

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, read to the House the statement which Mr. Mulley made in the Commons on the Falkland Islands.

LORD CARRINGTON (C.).—The statement does not greatly reassure me. One of the questions put to Lord Chalfont was that the problem would be to convince the islanders. Surely the problem must have referred to sovereignty and nothing else. The whole trend of the report fills me with the greatest misgivings.

Has Lord Chalfont observed that the Argentine Foreign Minister has said he would not sign any agreement which does not recognize Argentina's sovereignty over the Falklands? In view of this, and the fact that the inhabitants have repeatedly said they wish to remain British, what on earth is the point of continuing the discussions? To remove the question of sovereignty from the agenda is just about the only way to allay the deep suspicions we have of the motives of her Majesty's Government.

LORD CHALFONT.—When the question was put that the problem would be to convince the islanders, my understanding of it was that it was the problem of communications and economic and cultural links. On the question: "Has a date been fixed for the change of sovereignty?" I said that we are not thinking in such terms and that it was a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders.

What I am at pains to do today is not to try any harder than I did yesterday to convince Lord Carrington about good faith but simply to put the record straight. I cannot comment upon statements reported to have been made by the Argentine Foreign Minister. On removing the item from the agenda, Lord Carrington will want to wait until Mr. Stewart returns from India.

### Improper to comment

LORD CARRINGTON.—But we have an ambassador in the Argentine. Has the Foreign Office no knowledge of what the Argentine Foreign Minister said? This was reported in The Times this morning. Is Lord Chalfont suggesting that the whole thing is a fabrication?

LORD CHALFONT.—I certainly do not suggest that. But I suggest it would be improper for me to comment on remarks alleged to have been made to newspaper reporters by the Argentine Foreign Minister. I can confirm that the Argentine Foreign Minister has been in touch with us through the normal diplomatic channels but what has been said is confidential.

LORD OGMORE (L.).—We are just as unclear about the matter as we were yesterday and, in fact, to some extent even more so, because we are now told that the Foreign Secretary also had a discussion in October with the Argentine Foreign Minister and discussed these problems.

We do not know what the problems are because Lord Chalfont will not tell us, nor what the negotiations are between the Argentine and the United Kingdom.

What is worrying this House, the Commons and the public is that people fear that the British Government are trying to make a business deal with the Argentine at the expense of the Falkland Islands. (Opposition cheers.)

Can Lord Chalfont reassure us, whatever press statements there were, that there will not be a business deal at the expense of the Falkland Islands and that they, irrespective of the commercial aspects, will be entirely free to decide whether they will remain British subjects or not?

LORD CHALFONT replied that he had not repeated the statement today with the object of carrying things any further. It had been asked for in the Commons, the Government had agreed to make it, and he had thought it courteous to repeat it in the Lords.

As to discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Argentine Foreign Minister in New York (he said), they were discussions carried on while they were both there at a United Nations conference. Mr. Stewart is in India at the moment and will be returning to make a full statement next week. I ask you to wait until then.

There is no question whatever of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands being bartered away with Argentina or anyone else.

### Clarification

LORD CARRINGTON, after further questioning, said: We do not think we are getting a straight answer. (Opposition cheers.) Will Lord Chalfont find out from the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires whether or not the Foreign Minister did or did not say that unless there was a transfer of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to the Argentine he would not sign an agreement?

And if it is true and bearing in mind that the people of the Falkland Islands want to remain British, will Lord Chalfont remove the question of sovereignty from the agenda?

LORD CHALFONT.—I will undertake to clarify any issue that remains unclear in the minds of the Government with her Majesty's Ambassador in Buenos Aires. Having obtained that clarification, if it is necessary we shall act upon it. I cannot undertake to publish it.

LORD CARRINGTON.—Would Lord Chalfont be prepared to come to the House tomorrow and tell us whether the Argentine Foreign Minister did make this statement?

LORD CHALFONT.—I cannot undertake to do any such thing. (Opposition protests.) If a question is put down, I will answer it. Our discussions with the Argentine Government about this have been and are confidential and I cannot undertake to report to the House any statement made by the Argentine Foreign Minister to our Ambassador and I cannot comment upon the remarks he is alleged to have made to the press.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

MR. MULLEY, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Sheffield, Park, Lab.), in a further statement on the Falkland Islands, said:—

In accordance with the undertaking given to the House yesterday I have now inquired into the statements made in the House yesterday about press reports of remarks attributed to Lord Chalfont when he was in Argentina. I have discussed this fully with Lord Chalfont and I have now received from her Majesty's Ambassador the relevant Argentine press reports of the press conference in question.

The statement to which reference was made yesterday was made in the context of creating a framework in which the obstacles affecting ordinary relationships between islands and mainland will be overcome, particularly with regard to communications and economic and cultural links.

### Good relations

In this context, and here I quote the relevant extracts from the two Argentine newspapers Clarin and Nacion:—

Question: Does this mean then that the problem would be to convince the islanders?

Answer: I think it is something which depends not only on Great Britain but that Argentina also has to solve the problem. Britain's relations with the islands are very good so it is a question of Argentina promoting good relations between herself and the inhabitants of the islands.

On the issue of sovereignty, again I quote relevant extracts from the Argentine newspapers concerned:

Question: Has a date been fixed for the change of sovereignty?

Answer: We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders. (Ministerial cheers.)

Lord Chalfont confirms the accuracy of these reports.

Mr. Braine (South-East Essex, C.) suggested that Lord Chalfont said "that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient". Lord Chalfont made no such statement. (Renewed ministerial cheers.)

### Another statement

On all points in the Falklands and in the Argentine, as I repeatedly told the House yesterday, he made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

The issue was further raised yesterday of the present state of the discussions with the Argentine Government. Since the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary discussed these problems himself with the Argentine Foreign Minister when he was in New York in October, the House would, I know, wish to have

## Commons: noisy scene as Minister refutes words attributed to Lord Chalfont

a statement from Mr. Stewart as soon as he returns from India. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be making a statement next week.

### Water from stone

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.).—There is some sympathy with Mr. Mulley in his trying to explain the various statements made by Lord Chalfont. (Ministerial protests.)

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.).—Mr. Mulley has just confounded the allegations made yesterday against Lord Chalfont. In the circumstances, ought we not ask Mr. Braine to withdraw his allegations? (Ministerial cries of "Withdraw".)

The SPEAKER.—That is a point of argument, not of order.

SIR A. DOUGLAS-HOME.—We have been trying to extract information and we had to do exactly the same over Gibraltar. It is like squeezing water out of a stone, trying to get the Government to make a specific statement that sovereignty would not be transferred.

He says that Lord Chalfont said: "We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders." He also says: "On all points in the Falklands and in the Argentine, as I repeatedly told the House yesterday, he (Lord Chalfont) made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

Why did he not say this before? If only he had done so, it would have saved a great deal of trouble. (Ministerial interruptions.)

The Minister of State has offered that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will make a statement when he returns from his visit to India. We shall look forward to that with keen anticipation. If it confirms what Mr. Mulley has said, well and good, but we shall reserve the right to debate this matter. (Opposition cheers.)

### Quoting from memory

MR. MULLEY.—I am obliged for his last remarks and we accept that the Opposition have a right on this and every other question to debate matters if they so desire. I am grateful to him for accepting the offer to make a statement in the way that he has.

To some extent, I do not make an accusation against Mr. Braine, but I could not find any newspaper quotation which measured up to the words he used in the House. I am sure that he was quoting from memory and that is why I was unable yesterday to give the House the assurance I could otherwise have

given that Lord Chalfont had not used those words.

MR. BRAINE (South-East Essex, C.) rose to ministerial cries of "Withdraw". He said that there was no question of withdrawal at all.

Are we to take it (he continued amid further ministerial cries of "Withdraw") that Mr. Mulley categorically denies... (Labour protests.)

The SPEAKER.—Order. I want to hear the hon. member.

Labour members.—We don't.

MR. BRAINE.—Does he now categorically deny the report in Monday's Daily Telegraph?

A Labour member.—The worker's friend. (Laughter.)

MR. BRAINE... that Lord Chalfont told a press conference in Buenos Aires on Sunday that Britain could not work alone in convincing the islanders that a change might be convenient and that it must be a joint effort between Britain and Argentina?

Does he recall that yesterday he told the House that Lord Chalfont was accompanied by five journalists? If they have been sending incorrect reports, are not the Government to blame for not making their position crystal clear? (Opposition cheers.)

### Different situation

MR. MULLEY.—I am sorry that Mr. Braine has not been more candid with the House. He read just now a quotation from Monday's Daily Telegraph.

When he made his point yesterday he not only did not give any reference to any newspaper or any date but he has now read a correct version. Yesterday, inadvertently I hope, after the word "change" he talked of "change of status", which is a quite different situation from a change of relationships, about which Lord Chalfont was talking, and which has been confirmed by Argentine newspapers.

If any member is in any doubt, five other British newspaper correspondents were present, several representing papers wholly critical of our policy on the Falkland Islands. None of them thought fit to report the statement as significant.

Had it been as important as Mr. Braine said, The Daily Telegraph might have put it in a more prominent position.

### Disappointment

MR. MURRAY (Gravesend, Lab.).—In view of the failure to get a withdrawal from the Opposition, the Minister of State would have a great deal of support from this side if he refused to answer any

more questions—(Opposition protests)—from the Opposition until there is a withdrawal by Mr. Braine.

MR. MULLEY.—I am grateful for my hon. friend's support and that of all Labour members. I share their disappointment that Mr. Braine did not see fit to withdraw.

MR. FAULDS (Smethwick, Lab.) Most of us are as convinced of the need for white self-determination in the Falkland Islands as for black self-determination in Southern Africa. We mean to maintain our stand in both cases.

SIR ROBERT CARY (Manchester, Withington, C.).—Why cannot a full scale parliamentary delegation visit the Falkland Islands?

MR. MULLEY.—There has been a parliamentary delegation recently. Their reports have been of great value. Until Lord Chalfont's recent visit, no Minister had visited the islands in their 130 years as a dependency. The question of a parliamentary delegation can be considered, but the difficulties of getting to and fro demand much time

### Paramount interests

SIR DINGLE FOOT (Ipswich, Lab.).—Will the Government remind the Government of Argentina, if they have not already done so, that both Britain and Argentina are signatories of the United Nations Charter, and that under Article 73 we are bound as a matter of duty, from which we cannot escape, to have regard first and foremost to the wishes of the inhabitants.

MR. MULLEY.—It was because of the United Nations resolution that discussions with Argentina were first set on foot. From the beginning, in the debate in the United Nations, Lord Caradon made clear that in our judgment, the interests and wishes of the islanders must be paramount throughout.

MRS. KNIGHT (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C.).—Can we take it that Mr. Mulley will not emulate the example of Lord Chalfont, who, having made a statement in the House of Lords, went on television to admit that he had not given, in that statement, all the information which he had?

MR. MULLEY.—I had the pleasure of watching the television programme, and that was not the impression I gained. So far, I have had no invitation to appear tonight, and I have no expectation of receiving one.

MR. MENDELSON (Penistone, Lab.).—It is clear from the last allegation that all Lord Chalfont said was that, in the middle of diplomatic negotiations, you cannot

publish all the points involved. It is time this personal vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's integrity and ability ceased once and for all.

MR. MULLEY.—I strongly agree.

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.).—Mr. Braine was on television last night and repeated the allegations he made yesterday in the House which are now found to be without foundation. In these circumstances, will the Minister of State submit to the B.B.C. that Mr. Braine should not receive his usual fee? (Laughter.)

MR. HAMLING (Woolwich, West, Lab.).—Reliance and insistence upon inaccurate press reports does a great deal to harm the confidence of the Falkland islanders in her Majesty's Government.

MR. MULLEY.—The difficulty in this case arose from Mr. Braine giving a wrong interpretation of a press report. It is for this reason I regret he will not withdraw it.

MR. STEEL (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L.).—Liberal members have no cause to question the integrity of Lord Chalfont—(Opposition cries of dissent)—and we accept he did not use the words attributed to him.

The Government could get out of this difficulty by stopping the use of the words they used today—that there could be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders—and instead say that the islanders do not wish a change of sovereignty and therefore there will be no change.

MR. MULLEY.—This is a most helpful suggestion. I will put it to the Foreign Secretary. (Laughter.)

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.).—Since it is clear that the only thing Argentina wants from Britain is possession of the Falkland Islands, and since the islanders are determined to remain British, can the Minister of State at least tell us what the negotiations are about? Has it been made clear to the Argentine Government that the question of the transfer of sovereignty is not discussable in the negotiations?

### Insistence

MR. MULLEY.—The discussions with Argentina arose for two reasons. First, the two Governments were requested to discuss their dispute by the United Nations General Assembly and, as the Foreign Secretary said in March, while we do not agree with Argentina on this matter, it is difficult in the light of the United Nations resolution to refuse to discuss it with them.

Since the dispute concerns sovereignty, naturally the question

of sovereignty had to be discussed. One of the reasons why the talks have taken so long and have not come to a conclusion, and may well not come to an agreed conclusion is because we have insisted on the paramount importance of the wishes of the islanders, and we cannot agree to any transfer of sovereignty against those wishes. I thought I had made it clear yesterday because today I am taken to task in almost every newspaper for having repeated it too often.

MR. HASTINGS (Mid-Bedfordshire, C.).—Has the Minister read the report which appeared in La Prensa, a prominent newspaper, last Saturday to the effect that agreement was feasible, that the interests, as opposed to the wishes, of the population would be taken into account, that sovereignty had transferred once relations had improved, and finally that a period of four to 10 days had been set for this improvement in relations, particularly in communications? Is the Minister in a position to utterly repudiate that?

MR. MULLEY.—Questions arose about the accuracy of remarks in the press conference attributed to Lord Chalfont. I am quite certain no such comment of the kind Mr. Hastings has suggested arose in that press conference. While I do not have responsibility for what appears in British newspapers, I certainly have no responsibility for what can appear in papers abroad.

### Confidential talk

SIR CYRIL OSBORNE (Louth, C.).—Why cannot the House be told what Lord Chalfont told the Executive Council? Yesterday Mr. Mulley said the islanders might change their mind. Will he give an assurance no money will be used to induce them to change their minds?

MR. MULLEY.—I am frankly astonished at the second question suggesting we could make them change their minds by an offer of money. That was certainly not the kind of language I would have expected from him.

The reason it was possible to have a more confidential talk with the Executive Council was because the Executive Council is the Government of the Falkland Islands, and members of that body are bound by an oath of secrecy.

In the normal course of diplomatic practice, it is never possible to divulge the details of the negotiations without the consent of the other party. And normally, of course, one reaches a point where there is an agreed statement or, if announcement that the talks have come to an end.

MR. KENYON (Chorley, Lab.).—If members of this House could spend six months on these islands the majority of them would change their minds. (Laughter.)

The SPEAKER.—That is the question to end all questions.

Extract from  
The Times, London

## KEEPING THE PLEDGE

The Government's pledge to the Falkland Islanders is categoric enough. Lord Chalfont and Mr. Mulley have time and again repeated that "there will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders". If this was a Government that knew its own mind, had any firmness of purpose, was in the habit of keeping its promises or was used to standing up to the world, then there would be nothing to worry about. As it is, however hard Ministers may protest, their motives and policies will still be regarded with the greatest suspicion. It is not merely the Government, of course. All the pressures of the Foreign Office are directed towards sacrificing the Falklanders on the altar of Anglo-Argentine relations.

The House of Commons and the House of Lords both failed to get across to the two junior Ministers the simple point that there is no use negotiating over an irredentist claim. It must either be accepted or rejected. The Argentine Foreign Minister put it with admirable succinctness when he remarked that the only agreement he would consider signing with Britain would be one recognizing Argentine sovereignty. No number

of exchanges of view in London or Buenos Aires, no elaborate British attempts to sidetrack the issue into questions of the frequency of contacts between the islands and Argentina, will ever change the simple fact that the Argentine Government will accept nothing less than a British surrender.

Further negotiations serve merely to encourage them to think that if they press on they will eventually get their way. The official attitude towards the islanders themselves, that they will be left to swim alone, so long as they can, and then to sink, when they can swim no more, is possibly a more serious matter than the lack of vigour in the Government's political support. It is the Government's duty to look to the long-term economic prospects of a colony determined to remain British. Instead, it would appear to be its policy to wait for the islanders to go bankrupt, and either leave or accept incorporation into Argentina. The best pledge for the future the Government could give would be to set the Ministry of Overseas Development to work preparing a reasonable scheme for the Falklands' economic future.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Morning Star, London

- 5 DEC 1968

# Fears quietened on Falklands

From ROGER BAGLEY

SUSPICION among Labour MPs over the Government's Falkland Islands policy evaporated yesterday after a further Commons statement by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

The Tories, however, refused to relent, following their charges that the tiny colony may be handed over to Argentina. But they were distinctly sheepish.

Mr. Mulley demolished the Tory accusation—based on a Daily Telegraph report—that Lord Chalfont had admitted a joint British-Argentinian plot to convince the islanders to change their minds about their present status.

On Tuesday, many Labour MPs had been upset at the apparent

lack of certainty on Mr. Mulley's part over the tiny colony's future.

Front-bench Tory spokesman Mr. Bernard Braine (Con. South-East Essex) had alleged on Tuesday that Lord Chalfont, also a Minister of State, said in Argentina recently "that Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

Mr. Mulley said yesterday, to Labour cheers: "Lord Chalfont made no such statement." And he gave a full account of what Lord Chalfont actually did say at the Press conference in question, based on corroborated reports in Argentinian newspapers.

Mr. Mulley went on to stress that there be no transfer of sovereignty to Argentina against the wishes of the Falkland islanders

"That's all you need," shouted Labour MPs at the Tories.

Lord Chalfont's statements, he said, were made purely in the context of finding a framework for overcoming obstacles to normal relationships between the islands and the mainland—particularly in connection with communications and economic and cultural links.

Mr. Mulley also announced that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, would be making a full statement next week on the recent talks with Argentina.

★ *Alginat Industries, the company which plans to set up a "pilot" seaweed processing plant in the Falklands yesterday cabled the Islands' Governor, Sir Cosmo Haskari, confirming its intention to go ahead with the project.*

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 6 DEC 1968

### Not Cajoled

MAJ-GEN. SIR EDWARD SPEARS tells me that he has now had a reply to a telegram he sent to the Falkland Islands at the end of Lord Chalfont's visit last week. He asked the Governor, Sir Cosmo Haskard, to pass on to the people this message: 3003

"There are scores of thousands of people in our common homeland who trust you will not allow yourselves to be bullied or cajoled out of your loyalty which we so greatly admire. Do not fear Argentina's threats or bluster. It must not be allowed to take advantage of the weakness of our discredited Socialist Government." To this Sir Cosmo replied:

"Thank you for your telegram of encouragement. You may rest assured of the staunch loyalty of the Falkland Islanders."

The discerning will note with pleasure this reassuring neutral bit of official tight-rope walking.

Extract from  
Sun, London

- 5 DEC 1968

# Change of key clears some Falkland Islands fog

THE BIG muddle over just what Britain wants to do with the Falkland Islands was partly cleared up yesterday by Foreign Office Minister Fred Mulley.

Mr. Mulley, the man who helped to create the confusion by his Commons performance on Tuesday, told MPs yesterday that the wishes of the islanders, who want to stay British, are "paramount."

It was merely a change in

By ROBIN PAGE  
Parliamentary Reporter

emphasis—but it was enough to convince Labour MPs, if not all Conservatives, that the Government have no intention of bartering the islands' sovereignty with Argentina.

He effectively demolished allegations that his fellow Foreign Office Minister of State, Lord Chalfont, had told a Buenos Aires press conference that Britain and Argentina

should make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley quoted extracts from Argentine newspapers to show that Lord Chalfont had made it clear that Britain is not thinking in terms of a change in sovereignty. The allegations had been made on Tuesday by the Opposition front-bench spokesman Mr. Bernard Braine (South-East Essex).

After Mr. Mulley's flat denial yesterday, Labour MPs yelled repeatedly to Mr. Braine: "Withdraw! Withdraw!"

Mr. Braine refused to do so, so giving Mr. Mulley another moral victory.

But what about Lord Chalfont's Tuesday night statement on television that the Government have not revealed in Parliament the full facts as disclosed to the Falkland Islands' executive council?

Mr. John Mendelson (Lab. Penistone) offered an answer—that in the middle of diplomatic negotiations one does not give to the public all the points involved.

Mr. Mendelson asked: "Isn't it time that this personal vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's ability and integrity should cease forthwith?"

## Stewart speaks

Mr. David Steel (Lib., Roxburgh and Selkirk) suggested that Mr. Mulley should stop using the words that there would be "no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

Instead, said Mr. Steel, Mr. Mulley should say: "The islanders do not wish any transfer of sovereignty and therefore there will be no change."

Mr. Mulley smiled. "It is a most helpful suggestion. I will put it to the Foreign Secretary."

He had told MPs earlier that Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, would be making a statement to MPs next week about the Falkland Islands.

When he does speak he would do well to take note of what happened to Mr. Mulley during these two rough days in the Commons, and realise it ain't what you say, it's the way that you say it.

IN THE LORDS, a Labour peer, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, asked whether in view of the Falkland negotiations "it would be only logical to hand over the Channel Islands to France."  
Lord Chalfont answered: "No."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

5 DEC 1968

# Sovereignty of Falklands will not be bartered

By PHILIP RAWSTORNE

The Government yesterday quietened the suspicions of Parliament with more assurances that the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands was not to be bartered to the Argentine.

"It's like squeezing water out of a stone," Sir Alec Douglas-Home said as the last drops of information were wrung from Mr Fred Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in the Commons.

And in the Lords, the Conservative peers gave an equally grudging welcome to the return of Lord Chalfont.

Next week, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Stewart, returns from India to settle the issue beyond all doubt, it is hoped, with a statement on just what is being discussed by the British and Argentine Governments.

From the Commons exchanges yesterday, it appears as if much of the suspicion has been generated not by what has been said, but by the way in which it has been said.

## Newspaper interview

Mr Mulley quoted an extract yesterday from an Argentine newspaper interview with Lord Chalfont:

Question: Has a date been fixed for the change of sovereignty?

Answer: We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders.

He seemed quite bewildered by the fact that these words should prove far more satisfactory to the Commons than his own repeated assurances on the previous day that there would

be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

Mr David Steel suggested that all fears would be laid at rest if, next week, the Foreign Secretary rephrased his assurances to say "the islanders do not wish any transfer of sovereignty and, therefore, there will be no change."

That was very helpful, Mr Mulley said. But he thought that most of the blame for the situation was due to Mr Bernard Braine (C. Essex SE) who had suggested that Lord Chalfont had said that Britain and the Argentine might make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

## UN resolution

This was a misquotation of a reference by Lord Chalfont to the need to improve communications, and economic and cultural links between the Falklands and Argentine, Mr Mulley said.

"Withdraw, withdraw," Labour MPs bellowed at Mr Braine, whose refusal to apologise brought further demands from Mr Emanuel Shinwell that he should at least lose his fee for broadcasting such an allegation on BBC-Television.

Mr Mulley said that it was because of a United Nations resolution that Britain and the Argentine were discussing the future of the Falklands. "One of the reasons they have taken so long, and have not come to a conclusion, and may well not come to an agreed conclusion, is because we have insisted throughout on the paramount importance of the wishes of the Falkland islanders."

Parliament, page 622

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh

4 DEC 1968

Extract from  
Time & Tide, London

5 DEC 1968

# Sell-out of Falklands still feared

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lord Chalfont has once again failed to convince all the people concerned with the Falkland Islands that the future of the colony is safe in the hands of the British Government. His visit there seems to have reassured the islanders themselves, who had been disturbed by reports in the British Press.

This gain on the swings has been lost on the Parliamentary roundabout in London. There the few M.P.s who expressed doubts on British policy have been joined by many others who showed in yesterday's debate that they have read rather sinister implications into the reports of what he said on the islands.

The issue is a very difficult one for British politicians, because the Falklands are unique in being the only colony entirely inhabited by people of British origin. This means that on the one hand any suggestion that they may be given away is met with howls of protest much louder than those which would greet the handing over of a tiny group of islands inhabited by non-Britons, and on the other the anti-colonialism lobby are unable to make their usual demand that power should be given to the original inhabitants.

## HAGGLING

Possibly because of these complications very little notice was taken initially of the talks which the British Government began two years ago with the Argentine Government about the future of the Falklands. In the last few months, however, the uproar about the Falklands has forced the Government to give a firm pledge that the sovereignty of the islands will not be transferred without the consent of the islanders themselves.

This raises the fundamental question which troubles those who have rushed to the defence of the Falklands: if the British Government says that the Falklanders will have complete control of their future, why is that future being discussed with the Argentinians without the Falklanders being present?

## GRAVE DEFEAT

To put it at its most cynical—if the British Government are not planning a sell-out, why have they been haggling so long with the only potential customer?

The answers to these questions must start with the look at what the Foreign Office regard as the most likely alternative to talks. They fear that if they did not go along with the Argentinians to the extent of agreeing to have talks, they would have a second Gibraltar situation on their hands.

Britain suffered a very grave diplomatic defeat last year when Spain persuaded the United Nations General Assembly to pass a resolution telling Britain to hand over Gibraltar. We have felt forced to flout this resolution—an action which is very unpleasant to a Foreign Office which is always pressing other countries to observe U.N. resolutions and genuinely tries to do so itself.

## NO COMMITMENT

The Foreign Office seized the opportunity given by the Argentinians when they made it clear that they were not intent on pressing the matter to a decolonise-now resolution and were content to get the U.N. to pass resolutions asking the two sides to talk.

The talks were entered into with no commitment to agree to Argentine demands, and it is fair to assume that the Foreign Office had no intention of agreeing to them.

## REAWAKENED

British diplomats were faced with the problem of finding a solution which the Argentinians would regard as a victorious concession while Parliament and the islanders regarded it as a firm rejection of all the Argentine demands. The difficulties of this diplomatic balancing act were highlighted in April by the draft treaty prepared by a U.S. lawyer to solve a similar problem in British Honduras, which was claimed by Guatemala. This treaty gave Honduras the shadow of independence, but gave Guatemala concessions that could have resulted in a virtual take-over.

The British Government were prepared to accept this draft treaty (it became invalid because both British Honduras and Guatemala rejected it), and it became clear that what was regarded by the British Government as good enough for

British Honduras might be regarded by them as good enough for the Falklands.

The Government pledges about the future of the island allayed some of the suspicions among British politicians, but these have been reawakened and increased by Lord Chalfont's visit in which he indicated a new line in British policy.

This new element is that the economy of the islands is declining and as the British Government cannot, or will not, reverse this trend, the only hope for the future is to establish trade and communication links with the Argentine mainland. There is also a dark hint that Britain would not be able to defend the Falklands indefinitely against the threat of an Argentine invasion.

## JUSTIFICATION

There is some justification for these attitudes. World prices for the staple export-wool have been falling since 1964 and rising freight charges and the growth of the synthetic fibre industry make future prosperity unlikely. The net emigration, to Great Britain and New Zealand, is more than double the birth-rate. Britain is not in the economic position to give a major injection of aid for a community of only 2000 people. Communications are certainly primitive with one ship a month calling from Montevideo, in Uruguay, 1000 miles away. The Argentine mainland is only 350 miles away. The defence force consists of 30 marines.

But there is no guarantee that Lord Chalfont's implied alternative would help. The Argentine Government have no cash to spare to help the Falklands, and 350 miles is still a long way away.

## IMPOSSIBLE

As for defence, it would be politically impossible for any British Government to refuse to help the Falklanders if they were attacked. Lord Chalfont denied in the Lords that any threat had been made about defence.

Two other points must be taken into consideration. The Argentinians originally broke off all links with the islands, and the British pessimism about the economic future of the islands has only been expressed

since the Argentinians began pressing their claim.

If the Falklanders were to set up trade and transport links with the Argentine, they would inevitably become more dependent on Argentine goodwill. Argentinians would have to be allowed to settle there (it does not need many immigrants for them to be an important political group in a population of 2000), and if the Argentine put on the pressure in a few years' time, then the Falklanders would be less able to resist.

Lord Chalfont's remarks must raise the possibility that the British Government have decided that they do not want to adopt a policy which would result in a disaster either in the United Nations General Assembly or in the House of Commons, and are now trying to persuade the Falklanders to



bind themselves into a relationship with Argentina which they may find it impossible to break.

Mr Mulley, the Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, told the Commons that a White Paper might be prepared on the discussions. This would be published after the most important revelation of all—"the agreed position" which will be the result of the two years of talks.

If this phrase means that the two Governments have agreed to differ, the British Government will then have to face the prospect of a rough time in the United Nations.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 4 DEC 1968

# 'Suspicion' over the Falklands

## —angry M.P.s quiz Minister

By GEORGE LOCHHEAD

MR. FRED MULLEY, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, infuriated the Commons yesterday by his handling of the Government's case on the Falkland Islands.

He had said it was not the Government's policy to transfer sovereignty over the Falklands against the islanders' wishes. Then, under intense pressure from M.P.s, he was asked why the issue of sovereignty had not

been removed from the agenda of future talks between Britain and the Argentine.

To the unconcealed dismay of Labour M.P.s—plus a roar of fury from Tories suspicious of the Government's intentions—he said: "We do not rule out the possibility that in the future the islanders may change their minds."

That was not all.

In a further reply to Mr. Douglas Jay, former President of the Board of Trade, who wanted a clear statement that the great majority of the 2,000 Falkland Islanders want to stay

British, Mr. Mulley said: "In present circumstances there is no question but that they wish to remain British."

That was not all.

He was also asked to comment on a reported statement by Lord Chalfont, his fellow Minister of State, just back from a visit to the islands, that Britain and the Argentine must make a "joint effort" to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Mr. Mulley declined to give a positive reply on the ground

that he had not consulted Lord Chalfont about it.

After a storm of protest Mr. Fred Peart, Leader of the House, intervened to promise that there would be a statement today.

Such was Mr. Mulley's failure to satisfy the House that he even found himself under rebuke from Miss Margaret Herbinson, former Social Security Minister.

In a rare mood of criticism—habitually she is one of the most outspokenly loyal of

Labour M.P.s—Miss Herbinson told Mr. Mulley: "In spite of all the assurances given by Ministers there are still very great fears among the people of the Falkland Islands that they are going to be handed over to the Argentine."

Amid cheers, she demanded: "What further evidence does the Government want about the will of the people of the Falkland Islands?"

"If they need no further evidence why can't they state forthwith that the will of the people to remain as they are is going to be met by this Government, no matter what other discussions there are with the Argentine?"

Mr. Mulley retorted: "I should have thought that the words: *No transfer against the wishes of the islanders* was clear enough for anyone to comprehend."

But Mr. John Peyton (Tory, Yeovil) said amid cheers: "There is a deep suspicion, possibly borne out by the record of the Government, that Lord Chalfont was sent on a very slippery mission."

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, wanted an assurance that the islanders' sovereignty was "in no sense being used as a bargaining factor in the talks with the Argentine."

Mr. Mulley: "I am willing to give that assurance in the form asked."

It was this playing with words that angered M.P.s.

Mr. Edward Heath, the Tory leader, said: "Will you recognise there can be no point in discussing sovereignty with the Argentine and that it should be taken off the agenda immediately?"

Mr. Mulley replied amid cheers: "It is not as simple as that. I should have thought

you would know it is not a question of an agenda but of discussions in the light of the United Nations resolution.

"It was only through the resolution that we were able to get these talks going."

Mr. Christopher Mayhew (Lab, Woolwich East), another ex-Minister, was loudly cheered when he said: "Have the islanders given any evidence to the Government that in some future circumstances they might wish not to be British?"

"If they have given no suggestion along these lines are they not entitled to resent the statement?"

Mr. Mulley: "I do not think there is any resentment."

Answering another question, he said that "any talk of a referendum [of the islanders] is certainly very premature."

A demand to bring Lord Chalfont to the Bar of the House to explain what he really did say about Britain and the Argentine was refused—as was a request by Mr. Duncan Sandys (Tory, Streatham) for an emergency debate.

IN THE LORDS Lord Chalfont told Lord Carrington: "I am sorry if you believe that the motives of the Government are suspect in this matter. They are not. We have acted in good faith." Later he said: "I really don't agree that my visit to the Argentine can in any way be taken as pressure on the Falkland Islands. My visit was a courtesy visit."

BUENOS AIRES, Tuesday: All Argentine Government-controlled radio stations today had to broadcast at least six times a day the music of any of three pseudo-folklore songs dedicated to the Falkland Islands.

One song says: "Get ready charming girl — put on your Sunday clothes — your courage and my sword are enough to oust the Gringo [Briton]."

International Press-cutting Bureau

1, KINGS BRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

## The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date ..... 5 DEC 1968

### Scenery at 2d. a week

ALREADY arriving in homes and offices at points as far afield as the Falkland Isles and Hawaii are copies of the 1969 Yorkshire Year Calendar—a colourful link with home for Yorkshire people living and working abroad.

Orders have poured in from more than 30 countries for copies of the calendar which is firmly established as the biggest-selling calendar in Yorkshire.

Some regular customers abroad have even placed their orders for the 1970 issue.

There is still time for you to get your own copy of this fine production with its 13 beautiful colour pictures. Enjoy a whole year of Yorkshire scenery for less than 2d. a week.

Copies can be obtained from your newsagent or bookseller; or from the head and branch offices of Yorkshire Post Newspapers.

EXTRACT FROM THE

## Yorkshire Evening Post

LEEDS

Date .....

### Falklands

Since the Government's intentions towards the Falkland Islands were first queried by a newspaper some months ago, the ensuing political scene has been shot with disastrous gaffes.

It was obvious when the islands were omitted from the Queen's South American itinerary, that Britain is treating Argentinian feelings with the velvet touch.

Now Lord Chalfont is in another row over the islands. He is reported to have told reporters in Buenos Ayres that Britain and the Argentine were convinced that links between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine were necessary.

### Right and just

It would be unfortunate if the impression gained currency that there could ever be any question of Britain helping the Argentine to put any pressure on the islanders. Self-determination is the only right and just path here.

The Tories have described Lord Chalfont as a "diplomatic disaster." Certainly he has shown a degree of ineptness in the past which hardly qualifies him for sensitive diplomatic missions.

A year ago he plunged Mr. Wilson into a row over his remarks at Lausanne over Britain's attitude to the Common Market.

If it transpires that he has learned little of politics and diplomacy since then, it is time Mr. Wilson replaced him.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Evening News, London

- 6 DEC 1968

### Off guard

For the Falkland Islands it looks like a sell-out to the Argentine. The islanders, of English and Scots descent and believing in a Britain of past integrity, will be taken off guard. They are unaccustomed to Socialist double-talk.

Our Government, which lavishes millions of British taxpayers' money on emergent African states where no semblance of democracy remains seems unwilling to give aid to the Falklands. Since there are only 2,000 islanders any aid would be small indeed.

Why are the Falklands singled out for such scurvy treatment? — ROBERT COPPING, Ronald Hill Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Extract from

# The Birmingham Post

Date 5 DEC 1968

## Falklands: Stewart to speak next week

Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, will make a statement when he returns from India next week on the "present state of discussion" with Argentina over the Falkland Islands.

This was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign Office.

Mr. Stewart discussed the Falklands with the Argentine Foreign Minister in New York in October.

Yesterday Mr. Mulley gave a verbal report of what Lord Chalfont had said at Press conferences about changes in relations between Argentina and the Falklands.

Lord Chalfont, Mr. Mulley said, had made no such statement as "Britain and Argentina may make a joint effort to convince the islanders

By DOUGLAS HAIG  
Birmingham Post  
Political Correspondent

that a change of status would be convenient.

Labour M.P.s promptly swung round noisily to attack Mr. Bernard Braine, Conservative Front Bench spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs. They shouted to him to withdraw the suggestion he had made on Tuesday that this was what Lord Chalfont had said.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "I have some sympathy with Mr. Mulley in trying to explain the various statements made by Lord Chalfont."

He continued: "We are trying to extract information and we had to do exactly the same thing over Gibraltar — it is like squeezing water out of a stone to get the Minister to make a specific statement

that sovereignty will not be transferred."

Sir Alec said the Opposition look forward with "keen anticipation" to Mr. Stewart's statement next week.

He added: "If it confirms what Mr. Mulley said, well and good. But we shall reserve the right, if we want to, to debate this matter after that statement."

Mr. Andrew Faulds (Lab., Smeethwick) said: "Most of us are so convinced of the need for white self-determination in the Falkland Islands as we are for black self-determination in Southern Africa. We mean to maintain our stand in both these cases."

Argentina has reaffirmed that she will accept nothing less than her claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

In an announcement last night after conferring with President Juan Carlos Onganía, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Sen. Nicanor Costa Mendez, declared that no settlement with Britain would be signed unless it was agreed that Argentina has sovereignty over the islands. Sen. Costa Mendez restated that Argentina rejects any question of sovereignty being conditioned to the wishes of the 2,000 islanders—all of whom are of British stock and opposed to any transfer from Britain.

Sen. Costa Mendez made his statement after briefings President Onganía on his talks last Saturday with Lord Chalfont.

Referring to his talk with Lord Chalfont, Sen. Costa Mendez said: "We found a lot of points in common, but also some disagreements. A settlement will result only after these disagreements are overcome." Parliament—Page 7

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.1

Extract from:

## The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS

Date 6 DEC 1968

## 'Foolish' talks on Falklands

Yorkshire Post London Staff  
MR. HEATH denounced Government discussions with Argentina about the Falkland Islands as "wrong and foolish" at a meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London yesterday.

Such discussions could only arouse expectations which Britain could not fulfil.

"The Government gives the impression to the world that it is sorry that the islanders wish to remain British," said the Conservative leader. "But this is a matter for pride, not for shame."

"We should applaud the loyalty of the islanders. We should promise them our firm support. And we should encourage the development of the islands' facilities through private enterprise projects."

Mr. Heath included in his speech, on The Conservative view of the Commonwealth, an assurance that any immigrants who wished to stay in this country "as good citizens" had the right to do so, and would continue "to enjoy that right free from threats, pressures and discrimination."

"Everyone in Britain must be treated as equal before the law," said Mr. Heath. "That is the least that we expect any Commonwealth nation to do in its own country."

"In some, alas, it is not always so."

Extract from  
Morning Advertiser, London

5 DEC 1968

## FALKLANDS: MPS TO HEAR OF TALKS

THE present state of discussions with the Argentine will be disclosed by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart, in a statement to the Commons next week, both Houses of Parliament were told yesterday.

This was announced in a statement on the islands, the second this week. MPs and Peers were told that Mr. Stewart will make the statement on his return from India.

In the Commons, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, shadow Foreign Secretary, said trying to extract information was like squeezing water out of a stone.

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, repeated an explanation already given in the joint statement from a Press conference which had been the subject of a row in the Commons on Tuesday.

The Government had been challenged in the Commons about reports attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires in which it was claimed he said Britain and Argentina must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

### SOVEREIGNTY

Lord Chalfont told the Peers yesterday that when the questions on the problems of "convincing the islanders" had been put to him, he had understood they were in the context of problems of communication and economic and cultural links because these were the subjects he had been discussing immediately before the question was put.

"When the question was put to me about the date being fixed for the change of sovereignty, I said we were not thinking in such terms, that this would depend entirely on the islanders."

"I am not going to try to convince you any harder about our good faith, I am just putting the record straight," he added.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

5 DEC 1968

## FALKLANDS CONFUSION CONFOUNDED

By ANDREW ALEXANDER  
WESTMINSTER, Wednesday.

THE trouble with Ministers' clarifying statements and the exchanges that follow them in the Commons is that they can provoke such confusion.

So it was today when Mr. Mulley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, for the second day running clarified the Government position on the Falkland Islands and in particular what Lord Chalfont, the other Minister of State, had said on that topic in the Argentine. [Report—P31.]

So much recrimination and confusion followed, with Mr. Braine, Opposition spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, the target of furious Labour complaints, that it was often hard to discern what the original fight had been about. Tory suspicions about Government intentions appeared to abate somewhat but not to disappear.

### Loud and clear

Much of the row centred on what Mr. Mulley said Mr. Braine had said *The Daily Telegraph* had said Lord Chalfont had said. It was that sort of day.

The Minister reiterated loud and clear in his opening statement that there would be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders.

He added that Lord Chalfont had not told the Argentines, as Mr. Braine claimed yesterday, that the British and Argentine Governments might make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

### "Withdraw" shouts

Deafening Labour shouts of "Withdraw" were directed at Mr. Braine, who eventually rose to say, to the fury of Labour MPs, that there was no question of withdrawing.

Had not *The Daily Telegraph*—ironic Labour cry of "the workers' friend"—quoted Lord Chalfont as saying that the two Governments would have to work together to convince the islanders that a change might be convenient.

As *The Telegraph* was the paper, replied Mr. Mulley. Mr. Braine had not made that clear yesterday, when he had quoted an unidentified report that a "change of status" would be convenient.

*The Daily Telegraph* refers in question on Monday, referred to "a change" in the context of links between the islands and the Argentine which are now very few indeed.

### Matter of prominence

Had the "change" been of the type Mr. Braine first suggested, went on Mr. Mulley. *The Daily Telegraph* would have given the item more prominence.

"Withdraw, withdraw," howled furious Labour MPs at Mr. Braine. But he sat mum.

Mr. Hamling (Lab., Woolwich, W.) offered the view that reliance on incorrect Press reports harmed the confidence of Falkland islanders in the British Government.

"I think," replied Mr. Mulley, the difficulty in this case arose from Mr. Braine giving a wrong interpretation of a Press report to the House yesterday. For this reason, I regret he will not withdraw it."

The temper of Government supporters was not helped by Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, who rose to "sympathise" with Mr. Mulley at having to explain away Lord Chalfont's various remarks. "Smear! Disgraceful! Withdraw!" exploded Government supporters.

The veteran Mr. Shinwell (Lab., Easton) intervened. In view of the Minister's statement why was not Mr. Braine withdrawing?

He swung round on Tory hecklers. "You young fellows over there," he snapped at the predominantly middle-aged MPs facing him. "You go back to school!"

### Squeezing a stone

Sir Alec pressed on in unrepentant mood. To him there was much in this which was reminiscent of the Gibraltar situation.

It was like trying to squeeze water out of a stone to get a Government declaration on sovereignty. The Opposition looked forward keenly to the promised statement by the Foreign Secretary next week.

On the matter of Lord Chalfont saying that the Government could not take Parliament, like the Executive Council of the islands, into its full confidence, there were complaints from the Tories and replies that full diplomatic discussions were not revealed to the public while still in progress.

### Voluble "shurrup!"

The row continued. Mr. Braine had certainly misquoted *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday; Mr. Mulley had corrected him today but not really in sufficiently clear terms for an admittedly noisy House to understand. So everyone was at sixes and sevens.

The shouts of "Withdraw" became nearly chronic and not even Sir Walter Bremley-Davenport (C., Knutsford) with his voluble cries of "Shurrup!" could still them.

Mr. David Steel (Lib., Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirk) quietly suggested that the Government change its formula about no transfer against the wishes of the people. Why not just say: "The islanders do not wish any transfer of sovereignty and therefore there will be no change?"

Mr. Mulley replied that he would put this most helpful suggestion to the Foreign Secretary when he returned.

Commons Statement—P31  
London Day by Day—P18

Extract from  
Daily Mirror, London  
5 DEC 1968

# TORIES ACCUSED OF VENDETTA IN FALKLANDS ROW

By DAVID THOMPSON

TORIES were accused yesterday of carrying on a "public vendetta" against Lord Chalfont, who has been a target figure in the storm over the future of the Falkland Islands.

The charge followed renewed assurances in the Commons that Britain is not considering handing over the sovereignty of the islands to Argentina.

The pledge was given by Foreign and Commonwealth Minister of State Fred Mulley, who was "grilled" by MPs on the issue for the second day running.

Mr. Mulley said there was no truth in a suggestion that Lord Chalfont, also a Minister of State, had stated that Britain and Argentina "may make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient."

The suggestion was made during a bitter Commons row on Tuesday, when Tory spokesman Bernard Baines asked for an explanation of this "extraordinary statement" attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires.

To the anger of Labour MPs who rallied round the Government yesterday, Mr. Braine refused to withdraw his words after the denial.

## Servant

Left-winger John Mendelson (Lab., Fenstone) said it was "time this public vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's integrity should cease for all time."

Tory MPs put down a motion congratulating Mr. Braine for "drawing attention to confusion caused by the conflicting reported statements of Lord Chalfont."

Mr. David Steel (Lib., Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles), suggested that the Government should stop saying "there will be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

They should say instead: "The islanders do not wish any transfer and therefore there will be no change."

Extract from  
Scotsman, Edinburgh  
5 DEC 1968

## Falklands smokescreen

For the second day in succession Mr Fred Mulley in the Commons and Lord Chalfont in the Lords had an unhappy time, trying to remove members' suspicions about the Falkland Islands. They failed, and we have to wait for Mr Stewart's return from India for what, it may be hoped, will be an unequivocal statement on this mysterious affair. Ministers repeated what has been said dozens of times—that Britain will not transfer the Falklands to Argentina unless the inhabitants want a change of sovereignty. There is no evidence of any such desire. On the contrary, the islanders want to remain British. Yet on the face of things it may seem reasonable to declare that Britain stands for the principle of self-determination. That declaration, however, imports some ambiguity and doubt into a situation in which there is no need for any uncertainty. This could be removed if the Government were willing to state explicitly that there will be no change of sovereignty for the Falkland Islands.

Ministers so far have refused to say that sovereignty is not negotiable. The Government have had talks with Argentina, with the object of improving relations and communications between that country and the islands. It may be diplomatic to avoid unpalatable truths, but, in view of Argentina's ambitions, it is dangerous to hold out hopes of a change in status for the Falklands.

In effect, the British Government are saying that they would not force the islanders into union with Argentina, but that they are not interested in keeping the islands if the Argentinians could persuade the people to accept a change of sovereignty.

Diplomacy, however, can be too subtle. All the British Government have succeeded in doing is to make the people of the Falklands uneasy, in spite of Lord Chalfont's mission, and to arouse deep distrust of their intentions at home. They are misleading the Argentinians, too, by pretending that there is any point in talking about sovereignty. Lord Chalfont explains that he was referring to communications between Argentina and the Falklands when he spoke about change at his Press conference at Buenos Aires. Perhaps so, but it would be easy for the Argentinians to misunderstand him. Mr Stewart may try to lay the storm by a belated statement ruling out constitutional change. Whatever he says, the Government are to blame for creating unnecessary anxiety. They chose to say that the issue would be decided by the islanders, as if their wishes were not well known. Though only the Argentinians want a transfer, the Government spoke as if the question was open and the allegiance of the islanders uncertain. This evasive diplomacy is bad for a country's reputation, especially when a loyal colony is made to look like a pawn.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London  
5 DEC 1968

## HAVE ANOTHER TRY

CONFUSION deepens over the Government's intentions towards the Falkland Islands.

In two statements each in the Lords and the Commons neither Lord Chalfont nor Mr. Fred Mulley has succeeded in allaying the suspicions that a sellout to the Argentine is being planned.

All they promise is —another statement next week from Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary.

This is shameful behaviour.

It increases the anxiety of the Falkland Islanders.

And strengthens the feeling at home that the Government has embarked on a policy which the vast majority of the British people would condemn.

# Off to a new life in the lonely islands

## FACES TURN 8,000 MILES TO

## THE SOUTH TO BE FREE AND FOR LOVE OF SIMPLICITY



Mr. Frank Brooks

By KEITH BLOGG

Hector Clark is taking 18 shirts and six pairs of trousers. His blonde wife, Joyce, has packed a film star's ransom in dresses. Big Frank Brooks will tell you how he makes his own stirrups from raw leather. And Margaret Pemberton is planning how she will give little Michele, aged two, her primary education at home.

They wait beside the Thames to bid farewell to England. If you called them Empire builders, they



Mr. and Mrs. James Pemberton with their daughter.



Mr. and Mrs. Hector Clark with daughter Michele.



A view of the Falkland Islands.

would, perhaps, be slightly embarrassed. But, with their faces turned 8,000 miles towards the south, that is just what they are.

The Falkland Islands, bitter bone of contention between Britain and Argentina for years and now, it seems, back in the political melting pot is to be their new home.

Like generations before them who have left this river for the ends of the earth they have studied—as best they can—the risks they run. And decided it is worth taking the chance.

### A HARD LIFE— BUT A BRITISH LIFE, SAYS THE DANISH CAPTAIN

Not for today's more affluent pioneers the tied bundles and storage beds of those who went before. To Empire-build in 1988 you take an Everest of suitcases, a smart cabin on a Danish cargo ship—and let the removal men take care of the armchairs, radios and chests of drawers.

But the reason why is still the same, that special need which some men have to be free of the crowd, the love of the simple things which is smothered by urban life, the joy of being the only person contemplating an endless horizon.

Some go for adventure, some feel driven by grinding taxation. But all are seeking something. That was why 34-year-old Hector Clark threw up his job as a builder's slapper and his council house at Havant Hampshire, and bought three five pairs of shoes and three pairs of Wellington boots.

### BROTHER IS THERE

"If you are going on a six-year contract to a place where clothes are expensive it is only sensible to stock up," he says.

For a week before they joined the white and green ship A.E.S. at Tilbury he and Joyce, aged 40, had slept on a mattress on the floor of their home, their furniture gone.

"If you can't rough it for a few days, you shouldn't bother to start," grinned Hector.

"Empire building?" It would be nice to think I was," he said. "If I had the capital I suppose I would like that. That's what I would like. Actually, my own farm."

Meanwhile, he will have the unlikely position of command-gardener at Port St. Carlos on a farm next to that where his brother Derek is a foreman.

"He went out when he was 16 and has told us what a good life it is," said Hector.

Added Joyce: "Here, you are living from hand to mouth; money is a terrible worry all the time. Out there, we will have a free centrally heated bungalow—and have to find money just for groceries. On the islands you don't earn much, but you don't spend much either."

There have been long discussions between them about the possibility of an Argentine take-over.

"A bit dodgy" is how Hector sums up the tangled politics of the South Atlantic. "I would prefer to stay under the British flag. But if the islands were handed over I would give it a trial and see how it worked out."

### NO MORE WORRIES

Fair-haired Michele, 31, sat surrounded by a rainbow army of Teddy bears and munching chocolate drops from a tea-cup. "Just think," said her father. "No more worries about her dashing into the road, although I am told some families in the town can afford to run three cars. We can't leave quickly enough."

He laughed at the thought that he might miss civilisation. "We haven't been to the pictures for seven years," he said. "And I'm not worried about missing TV. Out there you make your own entertainment as members of one big community."

One member of that community will be Frank Brooks, whose tough, weather-beaten face makes him seem older than his 55 years.

A quiet and gentle man, he went to the Falklands when he was 25 and was looking forward to getting back to the big-cookhouse where the single



This is Captain Axel Svend, who has seen it all before many times in his six years on the Falklands run.

He said: "They are going to a hard life, make no mistake. But it is a British life, too. Many of them are more British than you are."

"It is rather a lonely life. A man has to be like a seaman, sufficient to himself, if he is to lead it well. But those who go to the Falklands are good people. They are a special breed."

men on Goose Green Farm have their rooms. "Empires," he declares, "are gone now. They are things out of the past."

But suggest that this might include the Falklands and his eyes flash. "They are British," he says. "They never belonged to the Argentine as far as I can read in history."

### WIFE GOES BACK

When he left Britain, it was for the slightly non-Imperial reason that taxes in the Falklands were lighter. "Last year I paid £45," he smiled. "But today it was a special way of life he was on his way to reapture. "It is the quiet and the peace. There is hunting and fishing. And if you want to go riding, you sit down and make stirrups and a bridle out of strips of leather—and go."

When she first came to Britain with her husband James Pemberton (21), was surprised to discover that there were such things as restaurants.

Today, she admits to just a tinge of regret at leaving them and the other amenities of the Isle of Man. As a third generation Falkland Islander married to a Manxman, she was about the only passenger who enjoys a lot of noise.

She met James at a party when he was stationed in the Islands as a Royal Marine and there was a wedding at the Christ Church Cathedral in Port Stanley.

"It's the way of life I want," said James, 27, who expects to earn £50 a month with free house, meat, milk, eggs and fuel at the Fitzroy sheep station.

"I want a nice, quiet life with no worries or problems."

Extract from  
New Statesman, London

6 DEC 1968

four times with a nightstick.

Several policemen were coming toward a group when one of the officers yelled: 'Hey, there's a nigger over there we can get.' They then are said to have veered off and grabbed a middle-aged Negro man, whom they beat.

Whether 'Rights in Conflict' will have any dramatic political effect is doubtful. The National Violence Commission, headed by General Eisenhower's brother, Milton, allowed it to be released at once 'without approval or disapproval' by the members, presumably because of its urgency and timeliness - and probably because no clear majority could yet be assembled for it. The most respectable moderate newspapers seem to accept the findings, and there is general sympathy for the victims of police brutality.

In the larger political context, the report represents a victory for the forces of 'cool' over the forces of 'hot' - the 'Yankees' over the 'cowboys' (in Carl Oglesby's useful analysis) - the tolerators over the repressors. The Chicago Report is in the vanguard of the 'Yankee' movement of sympathetic tactical counter-insurgency. It presents a good liberal analysis of the violence - disobedience and aberrant sadism by the lower ranks of the police, abetted by irresponsible prodding by Chicago's chief cowboy, Mayor Daley. The demonstrators had a 'right' to express themselves, and the only conflict was between that constitutional liberty and the 'right' of the police to preserve order.

But nowhere does the study suggest that political connections can be made between the Cook County (Chicago) Democratic machine and the National Democratic Party; that institutional connections can be drawn between the police force and the ruling élites; that ideological connections can be inferred between militarism, profit corporatism, and police brutality; or that semantic contradictions can be found between the objective obscenity of war, racism and banality in America in August, 1968, and the words of those few brave kids in the streets of Chicago.

### 2003 Falklanders and Argentines

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

The ideal thing to do with the Falkland Islands would be to give them to a friendly and democratic country like Chile. Or possibly Uruguay. It is a pity that the Chileans and Uruguayans could not outface the Argentines and accept. The strategic importance of the island as a sentry box on the route from the Atlantic to the Pacific round the Horn, which took the British there in the first place, disappeared long ago with the opening of the Panama Canal. And for years the Falklands themselves have been committing suicide as a colony. The younger islanders have been voting with their feet and emigrating to other parts of the Commonwealth, mainly New Zealand, in search of the economic prospects which palpably do not exist at home. In the past 25 years the population has fallen by 10 per cent and got a lot older. The seaweed-processing plan announced this week as the saving of the islands is still a long way from realisation. Lord Lambton's plan to mine as yet undiscovered deposits of manganese nodules from



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the sea around the islands only shows how desperate the Conservatives are for rational ideas about the Falklands. In the islands, labour for the outlying sheep farms is virtually impossible to get, and in July the Falkland Islands Company was casting round anxiously for prospective land-girls from Britain in an effort to give their bachelor workers some form of female companionship.

It is obvious that the colony would do a lot better if the Argentines were persuaded to rescind their ban on travel between the islands and the mainland of Patagonia, which would save the bumpy five-day journey by ship between Port Stanley and Montevideo in Uruguay. The Argentines, realising that you catch more flies with syrup than with vinegar, seem to think it would indeed be a good idea to show their faces more regularly on the islands.

But, however desirable economically some link with Argentina would be, this should not obscure the fact that to oblige any Falkland Islander unwillingly to throw in his lot with Argentina under its present government would be unthinkable – not from any dying imperialist attachment to the speck of red on the map of the South Atlantic but rather from a concern for the political freedoms of the islanders. Argentina is a large and potentially great country. It is more than a quarter the size of Europe. It is one of the world's biggest food producers and is an industrial nation of increasing importance. Buenos Aires is the largest city in the southern hemisphere, bigger and more beautiful than any city in South Africa or Australia. The Argentine is as civilised as any country in Europe.

It is just that they have yet to work out a decent political system. Consider the record of the government of General Onganía. Two and a half years ago he carried out a military coup against a civilian

government which, if not brilliant, could at least claim to have been voted to power in reasonably clean elections. After the coup Argentina returned to the sort of military government that had been imposed in the country on and off since 1930. When they took over, the military abolished the political parties, closed congress and shut down those trade unions which did not give them complete obedience. In the universities the police carried out a pogrom against liberals and thousands of university teachers chose to leave the country rather than work in the new atmosphere. Though not overtly anti-semitic itself, the government has been a great deal more lenient with Jew-baiting groups like the Tacuara than it has been with the left wing. Onganía himself embraces a narrow old-fashioned Catholicism and, like his model Francisco Franco, has seen to it that bishops and clergy with progressive ideas are swiftly removed from office. The more senior government jobs in Buenos Aires are allegedly reserved for those with big families who go to mass regularly. The press and radio is subject to increasing government pressure to conform.

While tens of thousands of immigrant Paraguayans and Bolivians are left to rot in the slums surrounding Buenos Aires, the army is building tank factories and the government buys the navy another second-hand aircraft carrier to keep the communists at bay. (Unfortunately for the admirals their rivals the Brazilians are buying four Oberon-class submarines from Britain, guaranteed to penetrate the two ageing Argentine Titanias.) In these circumstances the present Argentine government is hardly likely to inspire confidence in even the most open-minded Falklander. For Lord Chalfont there is no alternative to riding out the storm of Argentine demands until the government in Buenos Aires changes or the last Falklander has packed his bags and left.

more than 57,000 GLC tenants had incomes, combined with those of wives, of less than £15 a week – not counting those on supplementary benefit. 'We've got to pay £5 a week now,' one despairing father, a labourer, said to me. 'I'll just have to cash in on my gastric ulcer and go on assistance.' But that won't make him a penny better off or help at all with his arrears, and the chances are his family will soon be homeless. Is that what the ratepayers want? He's a ratepayer too, of course.

A very devoted and ingeniously thrifty old couple, the Jacksons, have had a series of nasty shocks. Mrs Jackson laboured on her knees for two decades to get her own pension; and her 'old chap' sweated on until he was 70, ruining his heart, to gain the independence which the increase has shot from under them. In the six years that they have been council tenants, their rent has doubled and now it represents a third of their income. Failing, however, to see why their microscopic savings should be anyone else's business, they by-passed the relevant question on the rebate form and so had to be warned that, if detected – such are the rules – this could lose them their home. The GLC insists that it isn't going to police its service to the poor: if it has any cause for suspicion, such as an altered entry, it will send round a welfare officer or telephone an employer, which apparently isn't the same thing. What, however, turned Mrs Jackson pink with indignation was being turned away from the rebate office: 'Why should we have to go to the public assistance first when we've not asked for that?'

Why indeed? The GLC has called its scheme 'a charter for the needy tenant', adding: 'If you are one of these, please take advantage of it.' Yet it is nonetheless a rule that anyone who might get assistance – non-earning old, disabled, sick people and unsupported mothers as well as the unemployed – must 'avail themselves of it'. 'You know why,' said a sympathetic GLC officer: 'If we get too many of these folk on rebates we'll have a deficit on our precious housing-revenue account. Still, your old couple might get much more that way than what we could give them.' But in fact they stood to get less – and by more than 50 per cent. It was only because this could be proved, by complex comparative calculations, that they were finally allowed a rebate. Twenty per cent of all GLC tenants are already on assistance. How many have been, or will be, cheated?

Under the first GLC scheme, which began in 1965, only 5,000 tenants out of 210,000 successfully applied. A widow earning £4 a week – the next person for whom I had to cudgel my unarithmetical brains – was one of these. How come then that, although her rent had gone up, her rebate under the new scheme, boasted to be so much more generous, had gone down? This time there was a positive explosion at the GLC end: 'I told them months ago that this would happen. I could tell it from the tables. Some of these single people won't get any rebate at all. Me – I've sent in my resignation.' The scheme will have to be swapped for the more generous Ministry one.

But what of the Sedleys, one bedroom unusable through damp, four bronchial children wedged in the other, themselves camping in the sitting room? Don't tell them that a rent means test is no more painful than the one for income tax. 'I suppose,' said a neighbour, 'you lazy lot'll be down to £1 a week now – and we'll be

## The Mockery of Rent Rebates

AUDREY HARVEY

You'd never think, from the telly or the headlines, that in London, and particularly East London, the workers have been demonstrating non-stop against 'the system'. The trouble is that there is absolutely no drama about the Greater London Council rent increases unless these are recognised as an expression of immense bureaucratic power.

It isn't so much the actual amounts, now averaging 7s 6d a week and limited to 10s on the rent itself, which have got the tenants marching and striking; nor the additional stepping up of charges for lodgers (almost always the tenant's married children) and for pram sheds, barrow sheds, garages, parking spaces, hot water and non-optional central heating; nor is it even the drastic cutting down of landlord responsibility for indoor redecoration – which has its comic side, since the GLC is still willing to repaint staircases in its bungalows. Rather it is fear of further casual demands, not perhaps limited if the Tories get in at Westminster as they have at County Hall, while wages remain pegged and while more redundancies threaten. Resistance is therefore natural. But, ironically, the tenants of public landlords are more helpless than any others,

possessing no right of appeal against unfair rents and no security of tenure. When the unpaid increases of some 10,000 tenants total four weeks' rent the GLC now says it will use debt-recovery procedure – under which failure to fulfil a court order, based on a declaration of means, can result in imprisonment or a warrant for seizure of goods. But normal GLC practice is to serve notice to quit, allow a family a discretionary period for payment and, if that doesn't answer, bring a claim for possession and keep the victims guessing whether the guillotine of eviction will fall or not. In this operation the courts are mere puppets. Either way, that's real power.

The idea is, of course, that council tenants should eventually pay economic rents and that those who can't shall be subsidised via rebates in the form of a weekly rent reduction. But how has this been working? Some tenants, utterly confused, have joined the resistance movement after applying for a rebate, not understanding that to be in debt to the council bars them from help. This means that the poorest of low-earning families, already struggling to pay a few shillings off their arrears, have to bear the full extra weight of the increases unaided. Last year

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Eastern Daily Press, Norwich

10 6 DEC 1968

## More trouble for Mr. Wilson

<sup>3003</sup> ALDWYCH HOUSE, W.C.2, Thursday Night.  
**M**R. WILSON will probably have more disciplinary troubles on his hands when Parliament indulges in a foreign affairs debate next week. One subject on which many of his back benchers are seething with revolt is Biafra, and the Tories include Biafra among the principal issues they intend to raise.

There is some disagreement on the Tory side about Biafra but it is not serious enough to prevent the Opposition from exploiting the split on the other side of the House. That can only be their intention, for officially the Tories do not find much fault with the Government's basic attitude to the Nigerian affair. Another fractious topic to which they will give full play is that of the Falkland Islands.

Contemplating the unpleasant likelihood of a battering by their own troops, the Government disciplinarians intend to issue strict instructions, possibly even by a three line Whip, for every loyal man to come to the aid of the party.

5 DEC 1968

# LONDON DAY BY DAY

Falklands Council Is To  
When Postcards First  
More than Parliament:  
First Began in Austria

Extract from  
Sun, London  
- 5 DEC 1968

## THE SUN SAYS

# No shotgun marriage

**IF WORDS mean anything, it must now be established beyond a doubt that the British Government are not planning a sell-out of the Falkland Islanders to the Argentine.**

Lord Chalfont, recently back from a visit to the Falklands, told the Lords yesterday: "There is no question whatsoever of the sovereignty of the islands being bartered away with the Argentine or with anyone else."

And Mr. Fred Mulley, his fellow Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, repeated in the Commons that "there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

It would be monstrous if the Government had had any other intention—or if they were now to go back on what they have said.

### EMBARRASSMENT

The Argentine wants to take possession of this British colony, once highly useful to us as a naval base in the South Atlantic.

The people of the Falklands do not want to part from Britain—any more than the people of Gibraltar want a shotgun marriage with Spain.

Of course the dispute over the islands, like that over Gibraltar, is an embarrassment to Britain. That is no reason or excuse for abandoning them against their wishes.

The doubts about the British Government's intentions stem largely from the fact that there have been discussions with the Argentine about the islands.

Britain is not to blame for holding these talks. They were requested by the United Nations. But, inevitably perhaps, suspicions of a deal were roused.

### ASTONISHING

Some newspapers have taken a rather hysterical line. Mr. Bernard Braine, the Tory spokesman in the Commons, made matters worse on Monday by attributing to Lord Chalfont a remark implying a deal, which Lord Chalfont did not make.

Lord Chalfont himself did not help by an astonishing TV statement on Monday night. He said he had taken the islands' legislative council into the Government's confidence—"a thing we have not been able to do with either House of Parliament"

In a highly-charged atmosphere it was a singularly inept remark. Lord Chalfont did not have to go on TV. He did not have to say anything.

If he had to open his mouth, he should at least have tried to avoid putting his foot in it.

- 5 DEC 1968

# Why I'm glad they grilled likeable Fred

SOME PEOPLE might have felt sorry for poor Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, as he hopped about on the hotplate in the Commons the other day answering questions about the Falkland Islands.

Not me. I loved every minute of it. It is not that I am sadistic, nor that I have anything against Mr. Mulley, who is a likeable chap. It is just that I enjoy it when the House of Commons is doing its proper job and doing it effectively.

And I reckon that its proper job is to grill the truth out of a reluctant Government.

It was Mr. Mulley's bad luck that, for the time being, he was the Government.

### EDGE

These are the occasions when the Commons comes to life. When its proceedings have the cutting edge of reality.

For I have always believed that by far the most important function of the House is to probe and expose what the Government is up to.

In the process, more often than not, it also exposes what a Minister is made of.

One of the weaknesses of the present House of Commons has been to my mind, that it is over full of earnest men who unload their wisdom in speeches which make no impact whatever.

Too few have made it their business simply to try to find out what the Government is doing.

Moreover, golden minutes of the precious question time have often been wasted by members who try to impress with contrived witticisms, usually irrelevant.

### REFORM

It is worth looking at what happened over the Falklands.

With all the current talk of reform of Parliament it illuminated what the place should really be about.

For a start, the Speaker, Dr. Horace King, let the questioning run on.

In the past, in a well-meant endeavour to get more questions answered, Dr. King has sometimes tended to cut off the supplementary questioning of Ministers too sharply.

This has been a mistake. It lets Ministers get away with it too easily.

Happily Dr. King has seen the dangers of his earlier policy and permits the ~~inquisition~~ <sup>inquisition</sup> to continue.

~~will not~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~endear~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~himself~~ <sup>endear</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Ministers~~ <sup>Ministers</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~so~~ <sup>so</sup> ~~doing,~~ <sup>doing,</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~should~~ <sup>should</sup> ~~get~~ <sup>get</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~gratitude~~ <sup>gratitude</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> ~~want~~ <sup>want</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~House~~ <sup>House</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~Commons~~ <sup>Commons</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~work.~~ <sup>work.</sup>

Mr. Mulley arrived on Tuesday with a wordy brief which concealed more than it revealed about what

by  
**WILFRID SENDALL**

the Government has been saying to the Argentine about the Falklands.

M.P.s were suspicious. And they hung on, harrying the unhappy Mr. Mulley.

As a result Mr. Fred Peart, the Leader of the House, was obliged to give an undertaking that a further statement would be made. Yesterday, therefore, Mr. Mulley had to put himself on the spot again. He was forced to treat Parliament, and through Parliament the public, to a measure of candour and to undertake that his boss, the Secretary of State — Mr. Michael Stewart — will shortly do the same.

I call that a victory for democracy.

I trust, having achieved this, M.P.s will stick to this fruitful course. It will do more than anything to restore their wiling prestige.

The right to cross-examine Ministers on their conduct

is nowadays the greatest power the House of Commons possesses.

I regret that the present Tory Opposition has not been as skilful in this task as its predecessors in the days when lively back-benchers like Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter and Mr. Quintin Hogg would worry Ministers until they gave an opening.

### WELCOME

Then that adroit parliamentary swordsman Mr. Oliver Stanley would deliver a deadly thrust.

Now I welcome signs that the Opposition is again getting a better grip on this essential role.

It is altogether good that Ministers should fear question time in the House.

It is good for the House of Commons itself.

Better still, it will make the place interesting and exciting once again.

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 5 DEC 1968

# FALKLANDS ROW: NOW STEWART WILL EXPLAIN

By GEORGE LOCHHEAD

IT is now up to Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, to resolve the confusion and doubt on the Falkland Islands issue.

In both Houses of Parliament yesterday, the junior Ministers involved more or less washed their hands of responsibility.

Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the Commons that Mr. Stewart will make a statement next week.

He refused to be drawn on any further aspect of the matter.

## 'Withdraw!'

His main concern was to deny an allegation by Mr. Bernard Braine (Tory, South-East Essex) that Lord Chalfont, his fellow Minister, had said that Britain and the Argentine might make a joint effort to convince the Falkland Islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Labour M.P.s supported Mr. Mulley with cries of "Withdraw," aimed at Mr. Braine, when he complained that the allegation was based on the misinterpretation of a newspaper report.

During the exchanges Mr. Duncan Sandys (Tory, Streatham) asked Mr. Mulley: "Since it is quite clear that the only thing the Argentinians want from Britain is possession of the Falkland Islands, and since the Islanders are determined to remain British, can you at least tell us what the negotiations are about?"

"Has it been made clear to the Argentine Government that

the transfer of sovereignty is not discussible in the negotiations?"

Mr. Mulley said that the two Governments were requested by the United Nations General Assembly to discuss their dispute.

He said: "Since the dispute arose over sovereignty, the question of sovereignty had to be discussed in this context."

"One of the reasons the talks have taken so long and have not come to a conclusion—and may well not come to an agreed conclusion—is because we have insisted throughout on the paramount importance of the wishes of the Falkland Islanders."

"We cannot agree to any transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the Islanders."

But that was all he was prepared to tell the House.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, complained: "We are trying to extract information and we had to do exactly the same thing over Gibraltar—like squeezing water out of a stone, to get the Minister to make a specific statement that sovereignty would not be transferred."

## Challenge

The Opposition, he said, looked forward with "keen anticipation" to Mr. Stewart's statement.

In the Lords, peers challenged Lord Chalfont over a statement by the Argentine Foreign Minister that he would not sign any agreement which did not recognise the Argentine's sovereignty over the islands.

Lord Carrington, the Opposition leader in the House, said: "In view of that, what on earth is the point of continuing discussions?"

Lord Chalfont: "When the question was put to me about the date being fixed for the change of sovereignty, I said that we were not thinking in such terms and that this would depend entirely on the Islanders."

Extract from  
Dundee Courier & Advertiser

# KEEP THEM BRITISH

ARE the Falkland Islands to remain British as the people there wish?

Unfortunately the joint statement by Lord Chalfont and Mr Fred Mulley in both Houses yesterday fails to give a completely reassuring answer.

It is true that the Argentine has evidently been told that there could be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the Islanders.

But, as Mr David Steel pointed out, the Government should have said that the Islanders do not wish any transfer of sovereignty and therefore there will be no change.

This would have carried much more conviction.

The Government have only themselves to blame for the trouble over the Falklands.

Why did they enter into talks with the Argentine at all?

Mr Duncan Sandys raised this point.

He said: "Since it is quite clear that the only thing the Argentine wants from Britain is possession of the Falkland Islands, and since the Islanders are determined to remain British, can you tell us what the negotiations are about?"

What indeed?

The Government say they are carrying on the talks in compliance with a United Nations resolution of three years ago.

But why on earth bother to comply with such an obviously "anti-colonial" move from the U.N.?

If any country cares to lay claim to a British territory anywhere in the world it can be sure of the full support of the Afro-Asian majority in the General Assembly.

The Argentine is the trouble-maker with its totally unjustified claim to a territory that has been British for over 130 years.

The Government should simply have said that the Falklands would remain British.

By talking they have opened the door a bit and have thus encouraged the Argentine to push harder on it.

It is to be hoped the Foreign Secretary's statement next week makes clear the Government's intention of sticking up for the loyal Falkland Islanders.

Extract from  
Daily Mail, London

25 DEC 1968

## Comment

# Sell-out by easy stages

LIKE cornered fugitives, the Falkland Islanders are now being urged to go quietly, because the big guns have got them in their sights.

Lord Chalfont's visit to the islands has raised, rather than allayed, suspicions of a sell-out. Despite the shower of statements to Parliament over the last two days, we have still not had a firm promise that Britain will stand by the Falklanders.

We are merely told that sovereignty will not be transferred 'against the wishes of the Islanders.'

In that case, why on earth is Britain talking about sovereignty to the Argentinians at all? Argentina will settle for nothing less than a complete take-over of the islands.

It looks unmistakably as if Britain is selling out by easy stages.

## Booster

FOR the whole purpose of Lord Chalfont's trip seemed to be to weaken the Islanders' wish to stay British and to destroy their faith in the future. Mr Fred Mulley let the cat out of the Government bag when he suggested that one day 'the Islanders might change their minds.'

Lord Chalfont is like the heavy father who tells his children that they may go on living at home if they like, but that they will go hungry if they do.

These people were encouraged to emigrate and populate the Falklands when it suited Britain's defence strategy. They have won a living from a bleak land. They do not get a penny of British aid.

Now they are told that the colony is doomed because of falling wool prices. If they had as much experience of Government forecasts as we have, they would take this one with a pinch of salt.

No doubt the seaweed and the minerals around the Falklands coasts will be developed just in time to boost the Argentine economy.

## Bankrupt

IT would be handy for the Islanders if the Argentinians were not blockading them. But the present situation is better than being bled white under unwanted alien rule.

Of course Britain's real motive is to boost our own exports to Argentina, which at present sends £30 million more goods to us each year than we send to them.

What naive appeasement! As the Argentinians already consider the islands theirs, they would regard the actual hand-over as no more than their due.

If British and not German cars are to throng the streets of Buenos Aires, they will have to sell on merit, not as a pay-off for the Falklands.

The Government's policy on the Falkland Islands is politically puerile and morally bankrupt. When the record is written it will rank as one of the most shameful chapters in our colonial history.

International Press-cutting Bureau  
1 KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN  
LONDON, S.W.

Extract from:

## The Yorkshire Post

LEEDS  
- 5 DEC 1968

Date .....

# Falkland news like getting water from stone—Sir Alec

THE PRESENT state of discussions with the Argentine Government will be disclosed by Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, in a statement to the House of Commons next week, both Houses of Parliament were told yesterday.

This was announced in a statement on the islands, the second this week. MPs and Peers were told that Mr. Stewart will make the statement on his return from India.

In the Commons, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said they were trying to extract information, as in the case of Gibraltar. It was like squeezing water out of a stone.

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, repeated during questions an explanation already given in the joint statement of reports from a Press conference which had been the subject of a row in the Commons on Tuesday.

### JOINT EFFORT

The Government had been challenged in the Commons on Tuesday about reports attributed to Lord Chalfont in Buenos Aires in which it was said to have been claimed that Lord Chalfont had said Britain and the Argentine must make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Lord Chalfont told the Peers yesterday that when the questions on the problems of "convincing the islanders" had been put to him, he had understood that they were in the context of problems of communication and economic and cultural links because these were the subjects he had been discussing immediately before the question was put.

"When the question was

put to me about the date being fixed for the change of sovereignty I said that we were not thinking in such terms, that this would depend entirely on the islanders.

### RECORD STRAIGHT

"I am not going to try to convince you any harder about our good faith. I am just putting the record straight."

These points had also been covered in the statement made in the Lords by Lord Chalfont and in the Commons by his colleague Mr. Fred Mulley.

Lord Carrington, leader of the Opposition, had said the statement had not done much to reassure anyone.

Lord Carrington also asked Lord Chalfont to find out from the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires whether or not the Argentine Foreign Minister did or did not say that unless there was a transfer of sovereignty he would not sign an agreement.

### NOTHING TO ADD

Lord Carrington: "If it is true that the Foreign Minister did say that, and bearing in mind that the population want to remain British, will you remove the whole

question of sovereignty from the agenda?"

Lord Chalfont said that he would undertake to clarify any issues from our Ambassador in Buenos Aires. "But I can add nothing to the statement that I have just made."

Sir Alec said in the Commons: "We are trying to extract information and we had to do exactly the same thing over Gibraltar—like squeezing water out of a stone, to get the Minister to make a specific statement that sovereignty would not be transferred."

The Opposition looked forward with "keen anticipation" to the Foreign Secretary's statement next week.

He added: "If it confirms what Mr. Mulley said, well and good, but we will reserve the right, if we want to, to debate this matter after that statement."

### SHINWELL MOTION

In the Commons Labour MPs led by Mr. Shinwell, tabled a motion urging Mr. Bernard Braine (Conservative) to make "a proper apology" for what he had said on Tuesday about Lord Chalfont's reported remarks.

There were shouts for him to withdraw when Mr. Fred Mulley, Joint Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth office, said he could not find any newspaper quotation which measured up to what Mr. Braine had said.

Mr. Braine then read an extract from a report which spoke of Lord Chalfont saying "a change" might be convenient.

Mr. Mulley claimed that Mr. Braine's previous version was of a "change of status" which was quite different. This brought fresh demands for a withdrawal, but no response from Mr. Braine.

Extract from  
Northern Echo, Darlington

- 5 DEC 1968



Mr. Fred Mulley  
Under pressure

## BRITAIN HAS POOR PEOPLE

THERE are possibly 100,000 people "really down and out," Lord Beaumont (Lib.) told the Lords yesterday, opening a debate on poverty in Britain.

He complained that people refused to believe that poverty existed. Politicians refused to highlight the tragedy.

He urged the Government to consider lifting the wage stop for a fortnight over Christmas. "It would make a lot of difference to a large number of families and their children." There were probably 500,000 people living in poverty because their wage, and benefits, did not add up to enough to keep their families properly fed, housed and clothed.

The Government should consider urgently the need for a minimum wage.

Lord Kennet, Ministry of Housing, said the greatest concern was about poverty among old people—in a time of rising prices. He added: "But we can look back with some pride on the advances made in the level of retirement pensions."

In Parliament

## Sir Alec condemns 'secrecy'

OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

BEYOND denials, M.P.s gathered very little new information yesterday about the Falkland Islands talks. Sir Alex Douglas-Home, Shadow Foreign Secretary, complained that trying to extract information, as in the case of Gibraltar, was like "squeezing water out of a stone."

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont produced textual evidence showing he had not said in Buenos Aires that Britain and the Argentine ought to make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

This allegation was refuted in the Commons and Mr. Fred Mulley, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State, rebuked Mr. Bernard Braine (C. S.E. Essex), who made it, for misquoting a newspaper report. Mr. Braine, despite protests, refused to withdraw his statement.

Lord Chalfont, Mr. Mulley said, had been urging the need for a change of relationships between the Argentine and the Falkland Islands, but had not used the words "change of status" quoted by Mr. Braine. This had been confirmed by reports in Argentine newspapers.

### Islanders' wishes

The Minister removed doubts on Labour benches about the Government's attitude to sovereignty by quoting Lord Chalfont's statement at a Press conference in Buenos Aires.

Asked whether a date had been fixed for a change of sovereignty, he had replied: "We are not thinking in such terms of a change of sovereignty. This is a question which depends entirely on the wishes of the islanders."

Mr. Mulley added that sovereignty was discussed by Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, and the Argentine Foreign Minister in New York in October, and Mr. Stewart would be making a statement in the Commons when he returned from India next week.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home said the Opposition were looking forward with "keen anticipation" to the Foreign Secretary's statement. If it confirmed what Mr. Mulley had said, well and good, but the Opposition reserved the right to debate the matter.

### 'A vendetta'

He angered Government supporters by expressing sympathy with Mr. Mulley in trying to explain the various statements by Lord Chalfont. As with Gibraltar, he said, it was like squeezing a stone trying to "get a specific Ministerial assurance that sovereignty would not be transferred."

Labour M.P.s counter-attacked with support for Lord Chalfont and cheered Mr. John Mendelson

## Tories win promise of facts

(Penistone) who said: "Isn't it time that this personal vendetta against a public servant of Lord Chalfont's integrity should cease forthwith?"

In the House of Lords, Lord Chalfont was pressed to say whether the Argentine Foreign Minister had declared that he would not sign any agreement that did not recognise Argentina's sovereignty over the islands.

If he did say that, Lord Carrington, Opposition leader, argued. "What on earth is the point of continuing discussions? Do you not realise that to remove the question of sovereignty from the agenda is the only way in which you can allay the deep suspicions we have of the Government?"

They did not believe they were getting a straight answer from the Government.

He asked Lord Chalfont to find out from the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires whether or not the Argentine Foreign Minister did or did not make the sovereignty statement.

Lord Chalfont promised to clarify the question with information from the Ambassador.

## Meet the councillors

Mr. Edward Milne (L. Blyth) is to ask Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Minister of Housing and Local Government, to recommend local authorities to arrange meetings at which members of the public can question councillors and officials.

In a letter to Mr. Greenwood he writes: "One or two councils already operate this scheme with considerable success. I am certain it would lead to a more democratic setup if the custom became widespread."

Our Political Correspondent writes: Mr. Milne holds regular "surgeries" in his constituency and has a local councillor with him to help deal with constituents who come with purely local authority problems. Tomorrow he will put his idea to Seaton Valley Urban Council.

## Rail loss 'too great'

BRITISH Railways examined the possibility of running the Darlington to Richmond railway line, between Eryholme Junction and Richmond on a single track, and with conductor-guards and unstaffed stations, Mr. Ted Fletcher (L. Darlington) was told. But the loss "would still have been too great to justify retention."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

# The World As it Goes

Extract from  
Time & Tide, London

3 DEC 1968

IBER 20, 1958

## VAMP FOR TIME AND TIDE INSPIRATION FROM CZECH IN SMALL MYSTERY

development in the  
erued history of  
d Tide, the weekly  
gazine, is timed for  
16 of next year  
doubling the super-  
structure and the staff; and  
we're going all out to double  
the sales," says the editor, Mr.  
William Brittain.

Mr Brittain and his daughter  
Juliet took over the magazine  
six and a half years ago, and in  
their first year trebled its sales.  
They gradually changed it from  
what Mr. Brittain considers the  
"old-fashioned review" to a  
news magazine.

More important, they feel that  
their audience is composed  
primarily of "the businessman  
and his family." (Mr. Brittain's  
words.) Over the past three years  
the magazine has gradually  
gained its attitude to such an  
audience. "We are not a business-  
magazine; but these days every-  
one has to specialise more," says  
Mr. Brittain.

The new Time and Tide will  
have larger pages (25 per cent  
more news and pictures on each)  
and more of them.

"Everything we have now—  
national and world news-  
reviews, London features, fashion  
—will still be there, plus  
increased business news and  
more news from Canada,  
Australia and South Africa,  
which the businessmen want,"  
promises Mr. Brittain. "We  
mean to make it one of the  
world's great magazines."

FROM HIS HOME in Trinidad,  
Mr S. B. Dolsingh is making a  
nostalgic return to Lincoln's Inn  
19 years ago he was

## Re-launch for Time and Tide magazine

THE WEEKLY magazine Time  
and Tide is to be re-launched on  
January 16.

Mr. William J. Brittain, chair-  
man, describing it as "a new con-  
cept in publishing" said: "We are  
hearing the name of the  
magazine from December

DONALD GAFFNEY, a Nation-  
al Trade Press group publisher,  
is to become publisher of Time  
and Tide. He will be in charge  
of the magazine from December

His appointment follows that  
of Michael Bailey (Campaigns last  
week) who will be in charge,  
under Gaffney, of administration.  
Geoffrey B. Cuthbert, who has  
been with the Brittain Group for  
more than 10 years and is a  
director of Achievement and  
Australia and New Zealand  
Weekly, moves over this week  
to the newly-created position of  
proprietor William J. Brittain  
and Tide managing editor.  
Cuthbert will produce the magazine  
on Tuesday that Time  
which had "a history  
of 15 years now on the right  
with his daughter Juliet.

In 1962 it was sell-  
ing in the first year under  
his editorship it rose to 30,000  
copies from 15,000 when the cover  
price was 1s. to 2s.

Financial Times  
November 29, 1968

'...we mustn't forget  
Time and Tide.'  
—Horne A'Plenty  
television programme.

Campaign  
November 21, 1968.

What they said about our re-launch on January 16.

### When pride goes . . .

When the decline of patriotism begins  
there is no stopping the rot.

Fifty years ago the Chinese dare not  
have imprisoned a man as they have  
Mr. Anthony Grey, keeping him in  
solitary confinement simply as retalia-  
tion for the proper arrest of Chinese  
in Hong Kong.

He has been imprisoned 16 months.  
I wonder what are the thoughts of  
Chairman Mao about Harold Wilson.

Lord Chalfont is our Ambassador of  
Disaster. He first went round selling  
disarmament. Then he went round  
Europe trying to persuade them to let  
Britain crawl in. Last week he was in  
the Falkland Islands and the report is  
that he expressed astonishment at the  
benighted attitude of the people there  
in demanding to stay British.

Mr. Wilson wants to hand over these  
patriotic British to the Argentine, from  
where we get foot-and-mouth disease

along with the beef and where we have  
lost untold money in investments.

The people of Gibraltar are a little  
more numerous, and by protesting  
loudly they have postponed their being  
handed over to Franco.

The news came out last week that we  
are to have no force to protect Britain.  
What little defences we have will be  
made part of NATO.

England was no bigger in the days  
of Drake and in the days of Nelson—  
or even in the days of Montgomery.  
It's politicians who have grown little.

Mr. Wilson thought he was very  
clever during his election campaigns  
sneering at the idea of Britain having  
an independent deterrent. He dismem-  
bered our brilliant aircraft industry to  
hand over orders to the United States  
for planes which were never proved.  
Then we had to pay £25 million in  
compensation for not taking the planes.

We ran out of Aden and left it open  
to the Russians. Colonel 'Mitch' of

the Argylls came home to official  
trouble for being the hero of Aden.  
Nelsons were never very popular in  
Whitehall.

All this news is of one piece. And  
linked with it is our balance of pay-  
ments troubles. The Germans rightly  
pointed out that now Britain has not  
an empire with which to trade. The  
politicians of all parties felt themselves  
so enlightened, breaking up the Empire.

When pride goes out of a man his  
soul is in despair. When pride goes  
out of a country it faces ruin.

Everybody can see that Mr. Wilson's  
economic ideas have brought disaster.  
It should be made equally clear to the  
people that his anti-patriotic dogma  
has brought us down in the world.

Mr. Wilson was compared to Lord  
North by Mr. Jocelyn Hambro. He  
was compared to Ethelred the Unready  
by Mr. Desmond Donnelly. His critics  
will have to go lower.

**WILLIAM J. BRITTAIN**

TIME AND TIDE OFFICES, 40-43 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2 HOLborn 3291

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Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

26 DEC 1968

## Immigrants free to stay, says Heath

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MR. HEATH again made it clear that he has no intention of letting the Conservative party dance to Mr. Powell's tune on immigration policy. "Britain has a duty to remain in the vanguard of freedom, rather than fall behind with a small minority into oppressive discrimination," he told the Royal Commonwealth Society in London yesterday.

"It is Conservative policy to assist the return of those Commonwealth citizens who choose of their own free will to go back to their own lands.

"Nevertheless this will still leave a sizeable number of Commonwealth immigrants who will want to go on living here permanently.

"Many of them are already citizens of the United Kingdom: many will shortly seek to acquire that citizenship.

"I say clearly and emphatically that it is the accepted and approved policy of the Conservative party that those immigrants who wish to stay here as good citizens have the right to do so, and shall continue to enjoy that right free from threats, pressures or discrimination."

### Lesson learned

In a reference to the Falkland Islands, Mr Heath said that one lesson he had learned as a Cabinet Minister, and also as Leader of the Opposition, was that in dealing with the Commonwealth straightforwardness was everything.

"The Commonwealth countries expect British Ministers to be straightforward."

"I say clearly and emphatically that it is the accepted and approved policy of the Conservative party that those immigrants who wish to stay here as good citizens have the right to do so, and shall continue to enjoy that right free from threats, pressures or discrimination."

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PHOTOGRAPHER

Arch and Standards, Ireland

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 9 DEC 1968

### Submerged 3003

IT looks as if those critics are right who said Mr. Stewart's appointment to the double role of Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would lay an excessive burden on him. Returning from India yesterday with two days lopped off his first Commonwealth tour, he finds over half a dozen tricky and lengthily documented problems awaiting him.

On the foreign side he has the Russian "cold war" charges against Britain, American naval developments in the Black Sea, Chinese insolence over Mr. Grey and Arab-Israeli clashes.

On the Commonwealth side there are the Falklands policy he himself initiated, tension over Nigeria and new Gibraltar complications.

Mr. Stewart also has to prepare for Thursday's Commons debate on foreign affairs and if he had any spare time could easily fill it with briefings on the Commonwealth Conference due in three weeks.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 5 DEC 1968

AFTER reading in the Daily Express of the passionate loyalty of the Falkland Islanders to our Queen and country and of their strong desire to remain British, I wrote to a friend there and received this reply :-

"On behalf of myself and all Falkland Islanders, I thank you for your thoughts of us at this critical time when we are on the verge of losing our homes and all that we have fought and worked for.

"My wife and I are both 60 and our forefathers came to these islands in the 1800's. They were both Marine pensioners from Chelsea and were sent here to colonise these islands by the British Government.

"They went through hard times to do so. During the last war when Britain was in grave danger, the 2,500 Falkland Islanders gave Britain the money to buy a squadron of Spitfires, and £70,000 as well.

"Now there seems to be a possibility of Britain selling us (for beef?) to the Argentine, who cannot govern its own country efficiently.

"The younger generation could adapt themselves to another life, perhaps in New Zealand or governed by the Argentinos (God forbid!), but we older ones find it unthinkable for the British Government to expect us to live anywhere else but here."

(Mrs.) IRENE M. FLETCHER,  
Ovesdon Avenue Harrow, Middlesex.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Sidcup & Kentish Times

### M.P. and Falkland Islands 3003

MR. ALISTAIR MACDONALD, M.P. for Chislehurst, has joined an all-party group of M.P.s which is to take a special interest in the Falkland Islands.

The discussions now going on between Britain and Argentina are desirable in the sense that we want to avoid friction between the Falkland Islands and Argentina, which is the nearest land, he says.

The communications and trade of the Falkland Islands are largely routed through Argentina, so the Argentinians can make things difficult if good relations do not exist.

But, of course, the Argentinians claim sovereignty. It would be going too far to yield this against the wishes of the islanders.

The aim of this all-party group is to show that we care for the interests of these remote but loyal people.

Peregrine

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 5 DEC 1968

## Argentina may turn to Dependencies

By LLEWELLYN CHANTER  
Commonwealth Correspondent

THE Argentine Government's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands raises the question as to whether the claim will be extended to the Falkland Island Dependencies.

It appears that the British Government may not have taken this into account in its negotiations with Argentina.

The dependencies, south of latitude 60 degrees, include the South Shetlands, the South Orkneys and Graham Land. They were created a separate colony in 1962 and named British Antarctic Territory. South Georgia, also claimed as a dependency is north of the latitude.

The Argentine government has always cast greedy eyes on the whole sector and has disputed British sovereignty. There seems little doubt that, if Argentina should take control of the Falklands, its appetite would grow for larger gains.

The Antarctic Treaty of 1959 provided for the peaceful use of the Antarctic without prejudice to national rights and claims.

### Firm's "indecision"

Meanwhile, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was stating there appeared to be indecision by Alginate Industries on plans to open a £12 million seaweed processing plant on the Falklands.

But Mr. Ralph Merton, managing director of the firm, sent a cable to the Governor, Sir Coamo Haskeard, saying the firm planned "to make a start within the next five years."

The cable added: "If all goes well we may even have a pilot plant in operation in considerably less than five years provided we can be assured of the island's future."

Lord Chalfont is known to have discussed with the islanders the plan to develop a seaweed industry, but those to whom he talked are understood to have been sceptical.

London Day by Day—P18  
Commons Statement—P31

Extract from  
Daily Express, London

- 6 DEC 1968

## Argentine Minister

'did  
insist on  
Falklands  
handover'

By GEORGE LOCHHEAD

LORD CHALFONT told the Lords yesterday that the Argentine Foreign Minister *did* insist any agreement with Britain over the Falkland Islands must mean a handover of British sovereignty.

He was replying to a widespread demand for the full facts of a meeting the Argentine Foreign Minister had with journalists.

Lord Chalfont, who is Joint Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, told the House: "The British Ambassador has confirmed that the Minister said in reply to questions that an agreement with Britain on the Falkland Islands would be signed only if it conformed to Argentine national interests, and if it included recognition of Argentina's sovereignty."

### 'Remove it'

Earlier Lord Oakshott (Tory) had demanded that if this statement was true the Government should now remove from the agenda of the talks all discussions of sovereignty of the islands.

Lord Chalfont said: "There exists no formal agenda of the type you seem to have in mind. The talks are taking place because there is a dispute about sovereignty. Therefore the subject of sovereignty can hardly be excluded."

He suggested it would be better to await the promised statement next week by Foreign Secretary Mr. Michael Stewart.

But Lord Oakshott said: "Is not the Argentine Foreign Minister's attitude completely contrary to the policy of the British Government?"

Amid cheers he said: "Therefore any question of sovereignty as part of the discussions should be discontinued now."

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 6 DEC 1968

## If Britons Leave 3003 Argentina Cannot Bring Assets

From Air Vice-Marshal  
M. HENDERSON

Sir—In the course of conversations which he has had with the Falkland Islanders Lord Chalfont has made great play of the fact that there are a number of British people in Argentina holding British passports.

He has (conveniently) omitted to point out that any of these people who wish to return to this country are not allowed by Argentine law to bring any of their assets with them.

I know of a British family who have for many years farmed in that country and who have now arrived at an age when they wish to retire in this country.

They are unable to do so because they cannot transfer or bring with them any of their capital or assets.

No doubt the Labour Government are aware of this (or should be!) but it appears to be inconvenient for them to admit it!

Yours faithfully,

MALCOLM HENDERSON  
Pevensey Bay, Sussex.

### Security

Sir—The Falkland Islands are strategically placed in relation to the sea route round Cape Horn. In Communist hands they would be a menace.

The Government's decision to run down Malta's dockyards preceded the arrival of Russian warships in the Mediterranean Sea.

A Government that does not safeguard the security of the realm should not be supported by Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

JEAN STEWART  
London, S.W.3.

### Services rendered

Sir—Dec. 8 is the anniversary of the Battle of the Falkland Islands.

Remembering the important services rendered by the islanders' lookouts on that occasion, let us on that day take the opportunity to pray that the loyal inhabitants of this old colony may be spared humiliation and betrayal.

Yours truly,

HUGHES C. LOCKYER  
Capt., R.N.  
Helston, Cornwall.

### Willingly British

Sir—Does the Government's greatest embarrassment arise from the fact that someone wants to be British?

Yours truly,

R. F. BUCKLEY  
Newport, I.W.

## Defence?

Earl Jellicoe, the deputy Opposition leader in the House asked: "If a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands did eventuate, would there also be a transfer of the Falkland Island dependencies?"

"Would a surrender on the Falkland Islands also imply a surrender over South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands?"

"And have the defence arrangements of a possible transfer been examined in the light of a worldwide extension of Soviet maritime power?"

Lord Chalfont replied: "The dependency of South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands has not been included in the scope of the discussions. The dependencies were not mentioned in the United Nations and were not included in the talks agenda."

As for defence, he said:

"These considerations have been borne in mind by the Government throughout."

## 'Praise islanders' says Heath

Express Staff Reporter

TORY leader Mr. Edward Heath told the Royal Commonwealth Society in London yesterday: "The Government has entered into negotiations with the Argentine behind the backs of the islanders."

"Parliament in this country has still not been told what is afoot. Now the islanders [there are 2,000] have been partly taken into the Government's confidence in the last few days and as a result of what they heard, they are alarmed and upset."

"It was wrong and foolish to try and scare them out of their loyalty to the Crown by partial and pessimistic accounts of their long-term future."

### Alarm

"It is wrong and foolish to go on discussing the sovereignty of the islands with the Argentine. This alarms the islanders and at the same time arouses expectations with the Argentine and at the United Nations which we cannot fulfil."

He added: "The Government gives the impression to the world that it is sorry that the islanders wish to remain British. But this is a matter for pride, not shame. We should applaud the loyalty of the islanders."

And he said: "We should promise them our firm support."

ON IMMIGRATION Mr. Heath said "clearly and emphatically it is the accepted and approved policy of the Conservative Party that those immigrants who wish to stay here as good citizens have the right to do so."

"And they shall continue to enjoy that right, free from threats, pressures, or discrimination of any kind. Everyone in Britain must be treated equal before the law."

Extract from  
The Times, London

## Letters to the Editor

### FUTURE OF FALKLAND ISLANDS: CASE FOR PLAIN SPEAKING

From Lord Caccia

Sir,—As I could not be in my place in the House of Lords yesterday may I use your columns to support your leading article of today subject to two comments?

First the Foreign Office would surely be right to draw the attention of Ministers to the effect of this issue on Anglo-Argentine relations. But as an ex-Permanent Secretary I should be surprised if they had not also pointed out the consequences to our standing in the world at large if the Government appeared to be ready to contemplate the transfer of British islands almost entirely inhabited by British subjects of British descent for a mess of pottage.

It would be for Ministers to make a final decision and having made it, as they want us to believe they have, the questions of the words used and actions taken become important. On this I for one doubt whether as things are the Government's pledge is in fact categorical enough. Lord Chalfont two days ago raised objection to the use of the word never in diplomacy.

But there are occasions when it is right in diplomacy as elsewhere to say plain things plainly. In May, 1940, Sir Winston Churchill said, "Surrender, No. Never to surrender . . .". Would it have had the same impact on our friends or foes if he had said, "Surrender. Not against the wishes of the Islanders"?

In this case would not a plain statement repeat the answer on sovereignty given by the Foreign Secretary himself on January 31, 1966, H.M.G. do not consider that this is negotiable; record that the Islanders have shown that they do not want transfer; and conclude that the question of what would happen if British subjects on this British soil did not want to remain so is a hypothetical question of a kind which H.M.G. have no intention of considering.

Yours faithfully,

CAACCIA.

House of Lords, Dec. 5.

### Government pledge

From Mr. J. H. Yorath

Sir,—I have enjoyed reading Richard Wigg's accurate and constructive reports on the Falkland Islands but in your issue of December 2, however, he has fallen from his previous high standard because his facts are either incorrect or out of date.  
The Falkland Islands Company Limited

has five mainland farms in the Islands, four of which are managed by Falkland Islanders. The present Colonial Treasurer is the first islander to hold this important post. The Falkland Islands Company is the only public company trading in the Colony and many of its shares are held by Islanders. James Lovegrove Waldron Ltd., to which you refer, has no interests in South America and only a small investment in Kenya.

The obligation to provide shipping services for the Colony was imposed on the Falkland Islands Company at the time of the granting of a Royal Charter in 1851 and the Company has exercised this duty with care and responsibility. There has been no increase in the freight on wool, for example, since 1952. The Company has no monopoly, in the islands other than for services which by reason of limited demand are commercially unattractive to third parties. The shipping service which is specifically mentioned in this context is operated under an agreement with the Falkland Islands Government which provides for subsidies but, nonetheless, discharge of this obligation has imposed a financial burden on the Company.

It is stated that in recent years the dividends of the Company have been very good and one wonders what is the basis of this evaluation. Is it return on capital or proportion of profit distributed? Whatever the basis it is a fact that the dividend of the Company has fallen from 20 per cent in 1964 to 11½ per cent in 1967. Capital investment by the Company in the Falkland Islands since the war is in excess of £1,250,000.

Both Executive and Legislative Councils have unofficial majorities freely elected by the people. Company taxation is 38.75 per cent compared with 42.5 per cent in this country but as annual allowances are substantially lower and no investment allowances are paid overall corporate taxation is higher than in the United Kingdom. Is this low taxation?

This Company firmly believes in the future of sheep farming in the Colony and is actively pursuing a progressive grassland development programme involving substantial capital expenditure. With the public announcement by Alginate Industries of their plan for the establishment of a seaweed industry in the Colony the future is brighter than for many years past provided, of course, the Government's pledge on sovereignty is honoured.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. YORATH, Deputy Chairman,  
The Falkland Islands Company,  
Limited.  
120 Pall Mall, S.W.1, Dec. 4.

Extract from  
The Times, London

6 DEC 1968

## Heath seeks end to Falklands 'folly'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

In dealing with the Commonwealth straightforwardness is everything, Mr. Heath, the Leader of the Opposition, said yesterday. The Commonwealth countries expected British Ministers, businessmen and private citizens to say what they meant and then to stick to it.

That was why he had opposed so strongly the way in which Britain's defence pledges to Australia and New Zealand had been broken a year ago, he told a meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. That was why the Conservative Party had criticized the way in which the Falkland Islands had been treated.

"It was wrong and foolish to try to scare the islanders out of their loyalty to the Crown by partial and pessimistic accounts of their long-term future", he said. "It is wrong and foolish to go on discussing the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina."

"This alarms the islanders and at the same time arouses expectations with Argentina and at the United Nations which we cannot fulfil."

"The Government gives the impression to the world that it is sorry that the islanders wish to remain British. But this is a matter for pride, not for shame." Britain should applaud their loyalty, promise them her firm support and encourage development through private enterprise projects.

Turning to the Government's policy of defence withdrawal from east of Suez, Mr. Heath said that without stability British interests would wither. The Conservative Party's determination to reverse the policy was not prompted by dreams of imperial grandeur.

It would do it on a scale which Britain could and would afford. Certainly the cost would be only a fraction of what was still being spent in maintaining forces and bases east of Suez.

On immigration Mr. Heath reiterated that it was Conservative policy to assist the return of Commonwealth citizens who chose of their own free will to go back to their own lands. He added: "I say clearly and emphatically that it is the accepted and approved policy of the Conservative Party that those immigrants who wish to stay here as good citizens have the right to do so, and shall continue to enjoy that right, free from threats, pressures or discrimination."

Equal treatment before the law ought to be expected of any Commonwealth nation in its own country, but in some it was not always so, he said. Britain had a duty to remain with the majority in the vanguard of freedom rather than fall behind, with a small minority, into oppressive discrimination.

Mr. Heath made no specific reference to Rhodesia but in answer to a question he emphasized that it was solely a British responsibility.

At one point in his speech he asked the Commonwealth Prime Ministers to ensure at next month's meeting that the independence of members should be respected, that their internal affairs and individual responsibilities should be matters for their individual decision alone, and that jointly they should consider only those matters freely agreed upon as of mutual interest.

There could be no other basis for fruitful consultation, he said.

Extract from  
Evening News, London

- 6 DEC 1968

and MYERS comments



"Hello! Downing Street—this'll slay you"

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Guardian, Manchester & London

- 6 DEC 1968

## Falkland policy wrong, says Mr Heath

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Heath, has criticised the Government for its conduct towards the Falkland Islanders, for entering into negotiations with Argentina behind their backs, and for apparently regarding their attachment to this country as a nuisance.

Speaking to members of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London yesterday, Mr Heath said it was wrong and foolish to try to scare the islanders out of their loyalty to the Crown by partial and pessimistic accounts of their long-term future. "It is wrong

By PATRICK KEATLEY, our Commonwealth Correspondent

and foolish to go on discussing the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina," he said. "This alarms the islanders, and at the same time arouses expectations in the Argentine

### Matter for pride

"The Government gives the impression it is sorry the islanders wish to remain British. But this is a matter for pride, not for shame. We should applaud the loyalty of the islanders. We should promise them our firm support."

In a speech which also dealt with immigration, defence plans east of Suez, protectionism in world trade and the question of increasing personal contact between Commonwealth citizens, Mr Heath put great emphasis on a rejection of Powellism.

It was Conservative policy to assist the return home of those immigrants who now chose to do so, but this would leave a sizeable number who wanted to live here permanently. "I say clearly and emphatically," he said, that those immigrants who wish to stay here as good citizens have the right to do so, and shall continue to enjoy that right, free from threats, pressures, or discrimination.

Extract from  
Evening News, London  
- 5 DEC 1968



# Chalfont — man in a muddle



Lord Chalfont: "I took them fully into the confidence of the British Government. This is a thing we have not been able to do with Parliament."

**Y**ou pay a man £112 a week. You go on paying him for four years. You cough up a total of £22,500.

This gives you the right to ask the vulgar question about him: "What do I get for my money?"

We suffering taxpayers are entitled to take a look at Lord Chalfont. He works for us. He is a Minister of State in our Foreign Office. His name used to be Mr. Alun Arthur Gwynne Jones.

Then the lightning struck. The date was Thursday, October 15, 1964.

On that day, the British people voted Labour into power. They did so on the faith of a gaudy election manifesto. It was stuffed with promises — no more stop-go, no more prescription charges, no more inflation, cheap loans for house-buyers, and so on, and so on, and so on.

Among these allurements was a pledge to create a Minister for Disarmament. A notable pledge, that—for Mr. Wilson kept it.

He swooped on Mr. Jones like the giant bird in the Arabian Nights. He took

Mr. Jones in his beak, just as the roc seized Sinbad the Sailor in the valley of diamonds.

Instantly, Mr. Jones was transmogrified into Lord Chalfont.

## Elusive

The pledge to create a Minister for Disarmament was, of course, an election gimmick.

However, Lord Chalfont went in search of disarmament. He journeyed to and fro, having talks, exploring avenues, looking for lights at the end of tunnels.

But his negotiations got nowhere, finally, Mr. Wilson gave him something else to do.

He was put to work to

by **CHARLES CURRAN**

handle the mechanics of our entry to the Common Market.

But those negotiations got nowhere, either. The Common Market proved to be as elusive as disarmament.

Lord Chalfont needed a new grail. Conveniently, one turned up. It was in the Falkland Islands.

These islands, off the coast of South America, are as British as roast beef. We discovered them. We colonised them with settlers from this country.

The settlers want to stay

British, too. But Argentina, 300 miles away, would like to take over the islands.

Hence, a job for Lord Chalfont. He has been to the Falklands. He has been to Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital. He has made statements out there, in Parliament and on TV.

The upshot of all this talking and travelling is a dense cloud of fog. Lord Chalfont sits in the middle of it like the man who let the genie out of the bottle.

For the islanders suspect — and so do a lot of people in this country — that Britain is thinking of handing over the Falklands to Argentina. Is this suspicion well-founded? Well, you must decide for yourself. To do that, you must peer into the fog that

Curran: "The upshot of all Lord Chalfont's talking and travelling is a dense cloud of fog."

surrounds Lord Chalfont's utterances.

There are plenty to choose from. Last Monday, for instance, he went on TV. He said he had talked to the Falklanders' legislative council.

He went on: "I took them fully into the confidence of the British Government. This is a thing we have not been able to do with either House of Parliament."

On Wednesday, he told the House of Lords: "There is no question whatever of the sovereignty of the Falklands being bartered away with Argentina or anybody else."

That seems plain enough.

BUT... If we are not going to give up sovereignty over the Falklands, why are we negotiating with Argentina? If there is nothing to discuss, why discuss it?

If we are not contemplating a climb-down, then we ought to say so in a loud voice. We should proclaim in plain English that the Falklands are not negotiable.

But are we likely to get that sort of language from this Government? Are we likely to get it from Lord Chalfont?

He is a well-meaning man, I am sure. All the same, it is fortunate for him that he is not paid by results.

Extract from  
Sunday Express, London

- 8 DEC 1968

**S**YMPATHISE today with luckless Alun Gwynne Jones, Baron Chalfont of Llantarnam.

Nothing ever goes right for him.

His achievement as Minister for Disarmament was dismal enough.

There was no disarmament.

His performance as Minister in charge of Common Market negotiations was equally wan.

There were no negotiations.

But his plight at this moment is sadder than ever before.

\* \* \*

It could even be that his charmed, utterly unproductive existence as a Minister is about to end at last.

And through no fault of his own.

## In the hot seat

☆ For see how Lord Chalfont has been jostled into the hot seat.

He is sent to the Falklands with Cabinet instructions to soften up the islanders for eventual takeover by the Argentine.

In that cause he duly warns them that their economy is doomed to run down and that they cannot look to Britain to prop it up again.

Then from all parties in Parliament comes a howl of protest.

And now be sure the Government will change course. We shall be told that it intends to stand firmly by the islanders. And that it never intended otherwise.

By implication, all the

blame for misleading them will be allowed to fall on poor little Lord Chalfont.

What will happen to Lord Chalfont then?

No wonder that this weekend he is mulling over Leviticus, chapter XVI, verse 10, and wondering:—

Will I go for a scapegoat into the wilderness?

Extract from  
Daily Sketch, London

- 5 DEC 1968

## Trade bid started isles row

**A** POSSIBLE chance to boost exports to the Argentine was a main reason why Britain agreed to discuss the Falkland Islands.

This became clear last night after another day of Government efforts to destroy suspicion of a sell-out, writes RODNEY FOSTER.

In Whitehall, the chance of any agreed position was seen as slim.

In Buenos Aires, the Argentine Foreign Minister was reported as saying there could be no agreed position which did not include the transfer of the islands.

Six Labour MPs last night tabled a Commons motion urging Opposition spokesman Mr. Bernard Braine to apologise for allegations against Lord Chalfont.

On Tuesday, Mr. Braine had accused Lord Chalfont of saying that Britain and the Argentine were trying to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Extract from  
Daily Mirror, London

- 6 DEC 1968

## Heath hits out over Falklands

By VICTOR KNIGHT

**T**ORY leader Edward Heath accused the Government yesterday of trying to scare the people of the Falkland Islands out of their loyalty to the Crown.

He said that the islanders were being given "partial and pessimistic accounts of their long-term future."

Mr. Heath, speaking at a Royal Commonwealth Society lunch in London, said: "It is foolish and wrong to go on discussing the sovereignty of the islands with Argentina."

"This alarms the

islanders and at the same time arouses expectations in Argentina and at the United Nations which we cannot and must not fulfil."

The Government, he said, had entered into negotiations "behind the backs of the islanders."

He added: "We should applaud the loyalty of the islanders—and we should promise them our firm support."

"We should also encourage the development of the islands' facilities through private enterprise projects."

Extract from  
Financial Times, London

55 DEC 1968

# Minister allays MPs' fears over Falklands

BY JOHN BOURNE, LOBBY EDITOR

THE FEARS and suspicions of MPs about the Government's policy on the Falkland Islands were largely allayed yesterday by Mr. Fred Mulley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. He again gave assurances that sovereignty would not be transferred to the Argentine against the wishes of the islanders.

He told the Commons that Mr. Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary, would make a further statement on the negotiations with the Argentine when he returned from India next week.

Mr. Mulley explained that he had fully discussed with Lord Chalfont the remarks he was alleged to have made in the Argentine. They had examined the suggestion by Mr. Bernard Braine, Tory member for SE Essex, that Lord Chalfont had said at a Press conference in Buenos Aires that Britain and Argentina might make a joint effort to convince the islanders that a change of status would be convenient.

Lord Chalfont had made no such statement. On all points during his visit he had made it clear there could be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders, the Minister asserted.

Labour MPs demanded that Mr. Braine withdraw his allegation, but this he refused to do.

## New York talks

Mr. Mulley promised that Mr. Stewart, who had had discussions with the Argentine Foreign Minister when in New York in October, would himself tell the House about them.

He said that the discussions with the Argentine arose because the two Governments were asked to discuss their dispute over the Falkland Islands by the UN General Assembly. "Since the dispute arose over sovereignty, the question of sovereignty had to be discussed in this context. One of the reasons the negotiations have taken so long and have not

come to a conclusion—and may well not come to an agreed conclusion—is because we have insisted throughout on the paramount importance of the wishes of the Falkland Islanders."

This explained to MPs what has worried so many of them—why the Government was obliged to continue discussions about sovereignty with the Argentine.

Labour M.P.s, led by Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, subsequently tabled a motion urging Mr. Braine to make "a proper apology" for what he said about Lord Chalfont.

A group of Conservative MPs soon came to Mr. Braine's defence. They put down an amendment to Mr. Shinwell's motion, pointing out that Mr. Braine did not make allegations against Lord Chalfont, but "simply asked the Minister of State to explain a Press statement attributed to Lord Chalfont." The amendment congratulates Mr. Braine on drawing attention to the confusion caused by the conflicting reported statements of Lord Chalfont.

rebuke from Fred Mulley, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who was frankly astonished by the suggestion that money might be offered.

But Osborne is convinced that this is precisely what most of the Islanders want.

"When I was there eighteen months ago," he said, "many of the young men and women declared that if they could get enough money to pay their passage to New Zealand they would be off like a shot.

from the British taxpayer," says Osborne. "They maintain that if they had been treated one-quarter as well as any newly-emergent African nation, they would be in a very much better economic position now."

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU

Extract from  
Daily Mirror, London

10 DEC 1968

## Home, sour home

THERE is one man who does not go for all the business about the Falkland Islanders wanting to remain British.

Unlike 100 of his Tory colleagues, who have signed a hold-on-to-the-Islands Commons motion, Sir Cyril Osborne, MP for Louth, believes an amicable solution must, in the end, come down to *hard cash*.

He is in a better position than most people to judge. He is one of only two MPs (the other was Labour's Clifford Kenyon) who have actually been there.

Osborne has asked for an undertaking in the Commons that no British money would be used to induce the Islanders to change their minds.

This earned him a sharp

## FIBRES

"And the older people who own property said that if only they could get a good price for their homes, they would be glad to settle in England."

Osborne thought the Islands a dreadful place. The ground is so sour that no trees will grow, and it is even difficult to cultivate grass for the sheep. He believes wool, the sole industry, is always liable to be knocked out six by future development of synthetic fibres.

"If the Argentine Government were to put up, say, £20,000,000 (around £10,000 each for the 2,000 inhabitants) the Islands would quickly become depopulated," he says.

The Islanders are fond of saying that if their faces were black instead of white, they could have got a lot of money from the British Government.

"In fact, they have never asked for, or received, a farthing

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
1, Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1.

Extract from  
Illustrated London News, London

- 7 DEC 1968



Back from the Falklands: Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, returned to London on December 2 after his visit to the Falklands. He told the 2,000 islanders, "There will be no sovereignty change against your wishes"; and of the talks with Argentina, "whatever the development affecting the islands, we shall consult with you."

Extract from

# The Press and Journal

ABERDEEN

- 5 DEC 1968

Date.....  
(See information overleaf.)

## FALKLANDS 'BARTER' DENIED

By ROGER CARROLL

**A**n allegation that Minister planned to put pressure on the Falkland islanders to agree to be handed over to Argentina was rebutted in the Commons last night.

The accusation had been levelled against Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign Office, by Mr Bernard Braine, Opposition Commonwealth Spokesman.

Mr Fred Mulley, another Foreign Office Minister, told M.P.s, "Lord Chalfont made no such statement."

Referring to Lord Chalfont's visit to the Falklands and to the Argentine Mr Mulley said: "On all points in the Falklands and in the Argentine, as repeatedly told the House yesterday, He made it clear that there can be no transfer of sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders."

A statement on the Falklands will be made in the Commons next week by Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary Mr Mulley added.

### REFUSED

In the Lords, Lord Chalfont refused to comment on an alleged statement by the Argentine Foreign Minister that unless there was a transfer of sovereignty, the Argentinians would not sign an agreement on communicating with the Falklands.

Lord Chalfont said: "The constant imputation of bad faith of this Government can do nothing but exacerbate the feelings of the Falkland islanders."

Leader of the Tory peers, Lord Carrington told him.

"The reason is that we don't think we are getting a straight answer."

He asked whether Lord Chalfont would be prepared to tell the House the next day whether or not the Argentine Foreign Minister did make that statement.

Lord Chalfont replied: "I can undertake to do no such thing."

### DISCUSSIONS

"If a question is put down I will answer it. Discussions with the Argentine have been, and are, confidential."

He added that he could not comment on alleged Press remarks.

"There is no question whatsoever of the sovereignty of the islands being bartered away with the Argentine or anyone else."

*Robert*  
*Del*  
*W 23/1/68*  
*III*

Extract from  
The Times, London

- 9 DEC 1968

## Grey inquiry promised by Stewart

Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, said on arriving home from Delhi last night that he is to reexamine the "whole matter" surrounding the case of Mr. Anthony Grey, the Reuters correspondent who has been under detention in Peking for 16 months.

Speaking at Heathrow Airport on his return from a 12-day visit to India and Pakistan, Mr. Stewart said he had cut short the visit by two days because of "a number of pressing problems".

He believed that the Government had done everything there were any grounds to believe would be helpful for Mr. Grey. Britain had been working for a better relationship with China, and in the past few months three British subjects held in detention had been released.

"In a matter like this you have to judge very carefully what kind of action will produce the right results. When the Chinese agreed to a consular visit for Mr. Grey, I had hoped they would go further and release him. At present it is right to reconsider our policy."

On the Falkland Islands, Mr. Stewart said he was making a statement in Parliament this week. "What we have said, and what I repeat, is that there is no intention whatsoever of transferring sovereignty against the wishes of the islanders." Mr. Stewart's Indian visit, Mr.

Extract from  
Daily Telegraph, London

- 9 DEC 1968

## FIRMER LINE LIKELY ON FALKLANDS

By Our Commonwealth  
Affairs Staff

**P**ROSPECTS are growing that the Government will now take a firmer line to reassure the Falkland Islanders and refute criticism of British policy on Argentina's claim to the territories.

Ministers have been concerned that some Labour M.P.s will rebel and join Conservative critics who fear that "Britain is planning to 'sell out' the islands".

Mr. Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, who returned from India last night two days earlier than planned, is considering Britain's reply to the recent attacks in Moscow. But the Falkland Islands has also been given urgent priority.

He was expected to announce an "agreed position" with Argentina this week, but now any statement by him may pursue a harder line than intended.

### Report denied

A report that British policy has been significantly changed and that the Government would now abandon any proposed deal with Argentina was dismissed as speculation in Whitehall last night.

But Labour leaders have been disturbed by hostile public reaction to reports of the Falklands visit by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He was said to have gone to reassure the islanders but pointed out difficulties which might lie ahead.

Labour M.P.s are believed to have privately expressed anxiety over the Government's policy, that despite repeated statements that Britain will not agree to any transfer of the island's sovereignty to Argentina against the islanders' wishes.



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... accused.

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# BRITAIN READY TO SURRENDER FALKLANDS

## Agreement is near with Argentina

By LLEWELLYN CHAMBER  
*Commonwealth Correspondent*

WHILE Lord Chalfont is touring the Falkland Islands to convey assurances on their future the Government has almost arrived at an agreement under which the islanders will pass under Argentine sovereignty, possibly within 10 years.

The fundamental view governing British policy, now that the islands have been written off as being no longer of strategic value, is that the colony, after nearly 150 years under the British Crown, is a wasting asset.

The population of just over 2,000, made up of English and Scottish sheep farmers, today has no reason to doubt that Britain has given Argentina

to understand that her interest in maintaining control is exhausted.

This is unlikely to be explicitly stated in the report brought back by Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

But his mission has sown in the minds of the population fears that their future in the islands, 300 miles off the tip of South America, is doubtful.

Lord Chalfont has reiterated the British Government's assurance, given in Parliament many times, that sovereignty will not be transferred against the people's wishes. The official view is that this must be a public condition of any transfer of sovereignty.

### Subtle tactics

One fact, however, has escaped general notice. The Minister's brief for his Falklands mission has been so angled as to cast doubt upon a worthwhile future for succeeding generations in the islands.

He has done this subtly by suggesting that wool, the staple product of the islanders, cannot possibly provide them with a living for much longer.

It is pointed out in London that Lord Chalfont informed the Falklanders that wool prices had fallen by 10d a pound on the 1966 price. This was incorrect. The decrease was half that amount.

The latest figures show that wool exports run at just under £1 million a year.

A telephone conversation yesterday between Lord Chalfont and Port Stanley, the Falklands capital, showed clearly that Lord Chalfont's visit, while being welcome as a gesture by the Government, has left the 2,000 islanders in a depressed and nervous state.

The Executive Council, together with four members of the Legislative Council, have been given an insight into the memorandum prepared by the British and Argentine Governments, but have been sworn to secrecy as to its contents.

## ARGENTINE PLANE DOWN IN ISLANDS

By MICHAEL FIELD

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands, Wednesday.

WARNING sirens sounded, church bells were rung in alarm and Falkland Defence Volunteers hurried to their posts tonight as a monoplane with Argentine markings made several low passes over Port Stanley.

Soon afterwards the plane crash-landed on a rough road near Port Stanley. Thirty Royal Marines went to the scene and the pilot and two passengers, Argentine journalists, were escorted into Port Stanley for questioning.

The plane was piloted by Miguel Fitzgerald, who four years ago made a solo flight to plant the Argentine flag in the Falklands in a demonstration supporting his country's claim of sovereignty. The passengers were Señor Garcia, director of the Buenos Aires newspaper *Cronica*, owner of the plane, and a photographer, Señor Nava. Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, went to the scene of the crash landings. After the plane's occupants had been hustled into a police car, he said: "Of course we shall treat them in a perfectly civilised way."

### Bitter pill swallowed

Meanwhile Lord Chalfont, now on the fifth day of his visit to the Islands seems to be getting the best of both worlds.

He has won the cautious sympathy of the colony's leaders and has succeeded in reassuring the farm workers.

At the same time they seem to have swallowed the bitter pill that Britain is doing little to help them, but can do little to help Argentina, and that talks with Argentina on sovereignty must go on.

A draft of the document which Lord Chalfont says the British Government hopes to sign with Argentina in "the not too distant future" has been shown to the tant council.

### Left in ignorance

This means that the islanders remain as ignorant of their future and the true facts of British policy as they were before Lord Chalfont arrived.

It was idle to pretend, I was told yesterday, that the "Kelpers"—as the islanders are called—because of the massive presence of kelp seaweed—have not been under pressure from Britain.

Since Lord Chalfont's visit the pressure has heightened to the extent that families of considerable generations are now considering whether to emigrate. The removal of only 50 families would bring the economy of the islands to a standstill.

The economy is largely in the hands of the Falklands Islands Company, a trading concern with offices in London and Port Stanley. For the past century it has exported wool and shipped in the islanders' requirements.

### Policy indecision

The question of ultimate sovereignty over the Falklands, as it is over Gibraltar, has been heavily devilled by the wavering policy of the Government.

Mr. Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, told the House of Commons earlier this year that it would not have been prudent to conclude discussions with Argentina recently was the question of sovereignty was not out. It reminded me of the islanders in order to keep good relations.

Although the Queen had to cancel her visit to Argentina for political reasons, Lord Chalfont will call in at Buenos Aires on his way home as Whitehall considers it would be "impossible" for him to bypass it. He will stay with Mr. Neuman, British Foreign Minister.

# The Daily Telegraph

No. 35332. LONDON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1968.

and Morning Post

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5d.



"We could offer them repatriation—voluntarily, of course!"

## COLONY'S END 'IN SIGHT'

By MICHAEL FIELD

PORT STANLEY,  
Falkland Islands, Thursday.

**L**ORD CHALFONT wound up his visit to the Falkland Islands today with a final meeting with the Executive Council, the colony's governing body.

He was loudly applauded at a public meeting in the town hall last night as islanders read out their questions, some of which were quite barbed. Generally, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has carried the day. One local official, however, asked:

"Can he really be satisfied that he has been applauded too much?"

He answered his own question: "Doesn't it mean they simply haven't understood that whatever we want, it means the end of the colony is in sight?"

Lord Chalfont had told his audience of 500 that they should think carefully about their future and when they say they want to be British they should be quite sure they know what this means today and not think of Britain as she was in 1900.

### Aid question

A Mrs. Luxton put the question which exercises most of the sheep-owning families: Why does Britain give so much aid to African countries and so little to the Falklands?

The answer was that budgetary support was hardly needed.

The spectacular arrival last night of two Argentine journalists in a private plane which crashed landed just outside Port Stanley was the unplanned end to a publicity stunt by the Buenos Aires evening paper *Cronica*.

Lord Chalfont sailed tonight for Argentina aboard the Royal Navy ship *Endurance*. Also aboard were the Argentine journalists.

Challenge to Wilson—Back Page  
Editorial Comment—P18