



# Falkland Islands Government

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THE FALKLAND ISLANDS : A memorandum to the Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, from the Falkland Islands Government Representative in London.

## 1. Introduction

The Falkland Islands Government Office in London. (Extracts from Terms of Reference approved by Joint Councils in 1982)

- a) The Falkland Islands Government Representative in London, Mr. Adrian Monk OBE, is the Falkland Islands Government's official spokesman in the United Kingdom. He deals with Her Majesty's Government, Parliament, the press and the public as advised by the Falkland Islands Government.
- b) He deals with applications from would-be immigrants and, when accommodation is available, he selects suitable applicants for settlement in the Falklands Islands following priority guidelines laid down by the Falkland Islands Government.
- c) He assists the Overseas Development Administration in the selection of suitable candidates for OSAS and TC posts.
- d) He disseminates information about the Falkland Islands in the United Kingdom.
- e) He acts as a procurement agent for supplies from the United Kingdom as requested by the Falkland Islands Government.
- f) He does all in his power to foster Falkland Islands Government interests in the United Kingdom.
- g) Once the Falkland Islands Development Corporation is established, he will be its official representative in the United Kingdom. His main role as FIDC representative will be to attract private investment to the Falkland Islands.

## 2. Preamble

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) and people are not gloomy about the future. We believe that the outlook is bright. As was so ably expressed by Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner; "out of Galtieri's folly we can build, and are building, a brighter and better future for Falkland Islanders than anything that could have been expected before the Invasion."

## 3. Defence

- a) We now have security as we never had before. The uncertainty over Britain's future commitment to the Falklands has gone. Not only have the Prime Minister and other ministers stated in the most unequivocal terms that there is no possibility of discussing the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with Argentina; they have demonstrated their commitment by deciding to build the airport.
- b) Given the security that the British Forces now provide and the commitment to ensure that security for the foreseeable future, the Falkland Islands Government can plan constitutional and economic developments in the knowledge that Britain will protect and respect the fundamental rights of Islanders to self determination. Naturally, we should welcome a reduction in the scale of the garrison, but for the time being it is the minimum level necessary. Relations between the forces and civilians are excellent.

## 4. Development

- a) With development aid from the British Government, the Falkland Islands Government and people look with confidence to a period of development; 54 housing units should be soon completed and these, together with a continuing programme of more modest housing, should enable immigrants with basic skills to be attracted and housed. Already, however, Falkland Islanders returning to the Islands exceed those who have left (the population has risen by about 80) and expatriates taking up contracts exceed those leaving. This does not include those on MOD or ODA contracts. There is renewed confidence and the population trend is upward for the first time since 1931.

- b) In the commercial field, four new businesses have opened in Stanley and a commercial bank has established a branch. In addition to two farms purchased prior to the Argentine Invasion, one other large farm has been purchased and subdivided and another is in view for sale. A woollen mill is being established at Fox Bay on the West Falkland and an inshore fisheries project is planned. Share farming on some Falkland Islands Company islands has been started.
- c) A major source of current revenue is from coin and philatelic sales, the Crown Agents having opened special offices in London and New York to cope with the demand.
- d) The United Kingdom Government has made available £31m over five years for development. A Chief Executive officer, Mr. David Taylor, has been appointed to administer this in conjunction with O.D.A. and under the control of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation which will be established in the Islands when the United Kingdom Government approves its constitution.
- e) A great deal of the money will have to be devoted to infrastructural improvements and additions. Examples are; a new deepwater jetty so that fishing vessels and others can be fuelled, watered and serviced; improvements and extensions to the electricity supply and fresh water supply; road extensions and improvement; agricultural grants and support and other necessary funding.
- f) All these extensions and improvements will, of course, tend to require increased maintenance expenditure in the future which cannot be met from development grants but must be met from Falkland Islands Government current revenue, hence the desire to license fishing operators for instance.

## 5. Fisheries

Offshore fisheries and the licensing of operators offer great potential. This is probably the only way Falkland Islands

Government revenue can be significantly increased in the short to medium term. These developments are, however, wholly dependent on the United Kingdom Government declaring an exclusive offshore zone around the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. It is the unanimous view of Legislative Council that this zone should be declared.

6. Internal Constitution

The Joint Councils set up a Constitutional Committee which has made its recommendations to HMG for consideration. The recommendations would provide for an elected majority in Executive Council, as is the case in Legislative Council, and to give the opportunity to more people to stand for election. The Falkland Islands Government wishes to proceed step by step on constitutional reform.

7. International factors

- a) In the international field the Falkland Islands Government counsel patience. A period of peaceful reconstruction and consolidation is needed. It is probably time to say that Islanders would prefer the British Government to try to establish its ordinary commercial, communication and diplomatic links with Argentina again without the Falkland Islands Government being actively involved and always provided there was no change or implied future change to the sovereignty position.
- b) If these links can be re-established with Argentina and South America generally and the Falklands had a period of peaceful consolidation and development, then the Falkland Islands Government and people could assess their position in the framework of improved international relations and decide how they wanted to develop in the future. In other words to exercise their right to self determination.