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**UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA**

GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

**VIENNA INTERNATIONAL  
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(HISTOMUN)**

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**Preparation Paper**

**The Security Council 2 April 1982**

**Decision on Falklands**

## A General Overview

The Falkland Islands are an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean, located approximately 460km from the coast of mainland South America. The archipelago, consisting of East Falkland, West Falkland and 776 lesser island

The Falkland Islands had been the subject of a sovereignty dispute almost since they were first settled in 1764, between the United Kingdom on one side, and successively France, Spain and United Provinces of the River Plate (later Argentina) on the other. A settlement was successfully established on the islands in 1828 by Luis Vernet (though there had been British, French and Spanish settlements before then). Vernet had acquired permission for his venture from both the Government of the United Provinces and the British Consulate. Vernet provided regular reports to the British and had requested British protection for his settlement should the British return. Britain made diplomatic protests when Vernet was appointed as Governor by the United Provinces and both Britain and the United States made diplomatic protests over the attempt to curtail rights to sealing on the islands. After Vernet seized US ships sealing in the islands and confiscated their catch, the United States sent a warship to the islands, resulting in the destruction of Puerto Soledad and the voluntary repatriation of many of the settlers. Subsequently, the United Provinces tried to re-establish the settlement at Puerto Soledad as a penal colony but a mutiny resulted in the murder of one Governor. Shortly after that mutiny had been quelled, in January 1833, a British naval task force arrived charged with the re-establishment of British rule on the islands. The British requested that the Argentine administration leave the islands, who complied with that request without a shot being fired. Contrary to popular belief the settlers on the island were not expelled at the same time but were encouraged to continue by the British. The islands remained continuously in British possession from then until 1982.

## Timeline

- 1765: John Byron lands on Saunders Island, which lies off West Falkland, and claims sovereignty over the group for Britain.
- 1766: A British settlement is established at Port Egmont on Saunders Island.
- 1767: Bougainville agrees to abandon the colony, in return for compensation from Spain. Port Louis becomes Puerto Soledad.
- 1770: A Spanish force expels the British from Port Egmont.
- 1771: Spain returns Port Egmont to the British.
- 1774: The British depart from Port Egmont for reasons of economy, but leave a lead plaque claiming sovereignty.
- 1811: The Spanish evacuate the Falklands.
- 1816: Argentina claims independence as the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata.
- 1820: David Jewitt (aka Daniel Jewitt) takes possession of the islands for the United Provinces.  
1823/6- Louis Vernet establishes a settlement.
- 1829: Vernet appointed governor of the Malvinas.
- 1831: Vernet seizes three American ships that were hunting seals in the areas over which he claimed authority. In December the USS Lexington attacks Puerto Soledad and proclaims the islands free of all Government.
- 1832: New governor Mestivier appointed, and then murdered. Captain Pinedo sent to re-establish authority.
- 1833: Captain James Onslow annexes the islands for Britain. Buenos Aires protests.
- 1843: Letter patent claiming the islands British.
- 1852: Falkland Islands Company given royal charter.
- 1908: Letter patent establishes sovereignty over South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands and British Antarctic territory.
- 1960: UN Resolution calling for decolonisation.

- 1965: UN Resolution 2065 asserts that the Falklands/Malvinas constitute a colony and calls on Britain and Argentina to negotiate taking account of the islanders' interests.
- 1966: Private Argentine "occupation" attempt at Stanley airfield.
- 1968: Memorandum of Understanding is agreed official level. Lord Chalfont visits the islands. Parliament undertakes to make no change against the islanders' wishes.
- 1971: Communications Agreement.
- 1974: Fuel provided by Argentina.
- 1975: Shackleton survey commissioned.
- 1976: Argentine base secretly set up on Southern Thule.
- 1977: British secretly send a submarine and two frigates to South Atlantic.
- 1981: Ridley visit to establish support for leaseback. Later Parliament re-affirms 'paramountcy' of islanders' wishes. In December, Argentine Junta under General Galtieri, Anaya and Lami Dozo seizes power. First visit of Argentine businessman Constantino Davidoff to South Georgia.
- 02/1982: New York talks establish permanent negotiation commission
- 03/1982: Davidoff workers land on South Georgia illegally. HMS Endurance sent to South Georgia. Argentine naval vessels sent to 'protect' the workers.
- 04/1982: Argentine Forces occupy the Falkland islands.
- 04/1982: Debate in House of Commons. Meeting of the UN Security Council. Argentine forces take South Georgia

### **Timeline 1st and 2nd of April 1982**

#### **04/01/1982 21:30**

The Type 42 destroyer ARA Santisima Trinidad begins loading naval commandos of the Amphibious Commandos Group into 21 small inflatable motor boats. These set out for Mullet Creek but sail too far north and are caught up in beds of kelp, which cause problems for the boats. They decide to head for the nearest beach, which is near Lake Point.

#### **04/01/1982 23:00**

The first group of 84 men lands on an unnamed beach at Lake Point. The group splits into a smaller force led by Lieutenant-Commander Giachino which heads towards Government House, and a larger force commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Sabarots which heads towards Moody Brook barracks.

#### **04/02/1982 04:30**

A small advanced team of the Tactical Divers Group is landed undetected from the Submarine ARA Santa Fe near Yorke Bay.

#### **04/02/1982 05:30**

Lieutenant-Commander Sabarots' force reaches and surrounds the barracks. They throw tear gas grenades into the buildings and storm the buildings with heavy machine gun fire. They find the buildings deserted.

#### **04/02/1985 06:00**

20 FMC Amtracs and several LARC-V stores-carrying vehicles land on Yorke Bay from the assault ship ARA Cabo San Antonio. The force splits into 3 groups: A four Amtrac vanguard. Including one carrying the Army Platoon. The main force of 14 Amtracs. The second in command, a recovery Amtrac and LARC vehicles.

#### **04/02/1982 06:30:**

The first Amtracs meet no resistance. The Army platoon secures the deserted airport, previously swept by Navy tactical divers.

**04/02/2010 06:30**

An Argentine force of 16 naval commandos reaches Government House, where they are stopped by 31 Royal Marines, 11 armed Royal Navy personnel and 1 local. Three Argentines are wounded, including the leader of the platoon, Lieutenant-Commander Giachino, who later dies. Another three are later captured inside the House, although by then (around 8:00) talks with Argentine officials about the surrender had already begun.

**04/02/1982 07:15**

Having met no resistance, the Argentine Amtracs advance on Stanley, when they are ambushed from a house about 500 metres from the road. Royal Marines use rockets and machine guns. The Royal Marines fall back to government house. One of the Amtracs is scarred by machine gun fire, and there is one minor injury.

**04/02/1982 08:30**

The Argentine Amtrac force secures Stanley. Lieutenant Colonel Seineldín's Regiment 25th platoon begin to clear the runway, while Navy tactical divers provide security on the airport and seize the lighthouse.

### Recommended Reading

- **General Assembly/15th session/Resolution 1514 (Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and people)**

A milestone of major importance was the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514, on 14 December 1960. Eighty-nine countries voted in favor, none voted against, and nine abstained: Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, and United State of America.

- **General Assembly/20th session/Resolution 2065 (Question of the Falkland Islands)**

In 1965 the United Nations adopted Resolution 2065. This Resolution requested Argentina and Britain to negotiate on the conflict peacefully and within the meaning of the population to solve the island group.