South Atlantic Security Co-operation: Falklands: A Stone in the Shoe?
South Atlantic Security Co-operation: Falklands: A Stone in the Shoe?

**SWOT for South Atlantic Community**

- **Strengths**
- **Weaknesses**
- **Opportunities**
- **Threats**
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HMS Clyde
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HMS Protector – MOD photo
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UK view on the Falklands

- historical right to sovereignty
- will of the Islanders: referendum of 2013
- not a significant financial burden for UK
- interest in co-operation with Argentina
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Argentine view on the Falklands

- claim as successor to Spain and early independent republic
- cause celebre among Argentine population, especially since 1982 war
- interest in co-operation with UK
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Other South/North American views on the Falklands

- Latin American solidarity with Argentina
- US Monroe Doctrine
- Balanced with relations with UK
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Falklands Today
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Whither the Falklands?

- Strong economic position: fishing, tourism, agriculture
- A Centre for Science? South Atlantic Research Institute
- Population growing, but increasingly based in “Town”
- Oil a bonus; preparations made, learning from others
- UK readiness to continue providing defence
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Argentina-UK Joint Statement 13 September 2016

- All under the so-called “sovereignty umbrella”
- Removing obstacles to economic growth
- More air connections
- DNA identification of unknown Argentine soldiers
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Brazil-UK Co-operation

- Historical relationship since Canning and Cochrane
- Joint exercises, training, equipment
- Defence Co-operation Treaty 2010, signed aboard HMS Ocean in Rio de Janeiro
- Development Co-operation in Africa
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Security/Environmental Protection

- Fishing/Conservation. 2013 Declaration of Marine Protected Area around SGeorgia/SSandwich Islands

- Antarctic region/science


- Bilateral co-operation, eg UK-Argentina
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Marine Protection Areas Around UK Overseas Territories

- St Helena: 444,916 sq kms
- Ascension Island: 445,930 sq kms by 2019
- Tristan da Cunha, Gough Island: 750,510 sq kms by 2020
- South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands: more than 1 million sq kms, 2013
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Alternative Scenarios

A. Current détente fizzles out. Suspicion, poisonous domestic politics and economic ambition lead to isolation of Islands from the region, with renewed war as a worst case.

B. Joint Statement of September 2016 leads to concrete steps reconnecting Falklands with South America and eventually to full co-operation.
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BACKCASTING – The Positive Scenario

2082 International Agreement on sovereignty. Independence guaranteed by two or more parties

2050 Falklands integrated into regional orgs

2030 Comprehensive Bilateral Co-operation
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Can a Stone in the Shoe
become a Jewel in the Crown?
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