

**RESTRICTED**

(Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE  
741r.022/1-452

**FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH**

FROM **BUENOS AIRES**

**1064**

**January 4, 1952**

DESP. NO. DATE

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**

**AIR POUCH**

**708866**

PRIORITY

**18**

REF :

**1 Enclosure**

SUBJECT **FALKLAND ISLANDS IN THE NEWS AGAIN.**

For Dept.  
Use Only  
R JAN 10 1952  
E 10  
C  
D  
A ARA  
C  
T  
I INFO:  
O DCR  
N EUR  
OLI  
I UNA  
N OIR/GE  
F  
O tk 25X1

January 2 being the 119th anniversary of the date on which Great Britain occupied the Falkland Islands, the controversy over their rightful ownership broke out again in several administration newspapers. A sample article is that which appeared in El Lider, a translation of which is attached. The same arguments are advanced, nothing new having been added, the Argentine thesis being simply that the Islands rightfully belong to Argentina and that Great Britain seized them by force.

It may be added that several weeks ago, the Institute of Justicialist Studies, a new organization created by the Argentine Association of Authors, sent a telegram to Peron proposing that he name a governor-in-exile for the Falklands--this presumably for the purpose of keeping the home fires burning...

The political officers of the British Embassy are not greatly disturbed by these flare-ups in the press--not as disturbed as they might be, in the opinion of the writer. They have doubtless noted, however, that Argentina's ability to retake the Islands has been increased by her recent acquisition of two cruisers from the United States.

Fortunately, nothing has yet appeared about the not unimportant role which the United States played in the matter in 1832. It would not be surprising, however, if the day should come when Argentina would wake up to the possibilities which this offers her to berate us.

*John C. Pool*  
John C. Pool  
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:  
Translation of article from El Lider.

Copy to ARA, RPA.

JCPool/jar

REPORTER(S)

**RESTRICTED**

PREPARATION TIME

**DESTROY AFTER USE**

Desp. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 From \_\_\_\_\_

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
 (Classification)

Encl. No. 1  
 Desp. No. 1064  
 From Buenos Aires

El Lider

January 3, 1952

OUR FALKLANDS

One of the most unpleasant episodes of history was remembered by the Argentine people yesterday: The seizure of the Falkland Islands by British armed forces. The date has been recalled in order to reaffirm Argentine sovereignty over the territory of the archipelago wrested from our country by force. On January 2, 1833, British warships which a few days before had been plundering the region, landed at Puerto Luis where stood the Argentine sloop of war Sarandí, which, under José Maria Pinedo's command, had gone to transport the then acting Governor of the Islands. The British informed the Argentine officer of their intention to take possession of those lands in the name of His Britannic Majesty, and notified him that he should strike the Argentine colors and depart within 24 hours. The Argentine officer refused to lower the national flag proudly flying on the mast, but being outnumbered by the British force, he found it necessary to head for Buenos Aires after protesting against this outrageous act, but not before resorting to the right of legitimate defense. Since then the Argentine governments have taken note of the assault, demanding unsuccessfully the return to the Republic of a territory which is truly a part of our country by reason of its geographic situation, of its historic antecedents and of the principles of international law. A simple outline of the facts throws full light on the provocative aspect of the plunder of which Argentina was a victim, such an act being all the more condemnable because it was committed by a powerful country which for more than a century pretended to be the champion of the independence and sovereignty of nations.

Not only Argentina but the whole of America, which did not admit unredeemed regions on the Continent, feel offended by the usurpation of which our country has been the victim, and which is injurious to the dignity of free nations and is therefore a veritable insult in the light of international law, seeing the stubbornness with which the British Government refuses to return what rightfully belongs to us, basing its attitude on the argument, now null and void, of de facto possession, a reason which is all the more contemptible in view of the fact that the origin of such possession lies in force. The same argument might serve in the future to reverse the situation merely by resorting to a similar procedure, this time supported by the force of right. This solution is presumably not expected by the usurpers, particularly if it considered that circumstances are hardly favorable to them.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Esp. No. \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

UNCLASSIFIED  
(Classification)Encl. No. 1Esp. No. 1064From Buenos Aires

In days gone by, when Argentina lived in the sad condition of a semi-colony, British imperialism was able to maintain by itself its forceful possession of the Falkland Islands, relying therefore on the complicity of a mercenary and corrupted oligarchy; but this situation cannot continue much longer in the period of Peronist Justicialism, whose mission is to raise our country to the rank of a just, free and sovereign nation. The strategic motives which caused the British Empire to maintain bases for its South Atlantic Fleet no longer exist. The Argentine people are quite competent to defend the integrity of their territory and, rightly indignant as they feel, they reject a sort of tutelage tantamount to an insult to their nationalist feelings. Nothing nor anyone will ever succeed in clearing away the injustice involved in the case of the Falklands. Explanations are superfluous. That territory, we repeat, is Argentine by tradition because, until the date of its occupation by the British navy, it formed a part of our country, which exercised jurisdiction over it. Geographically, the Falklands are situated on the Atlantic platform pertaining to Argentina. Historically, the Falklands have been Argentine since the Spanish period. The seizure thereof was achieved solely through an act of piracy which cannot be admitted in International Law.

UNCLASSIFIED