

Committee: Security Council

Issue: The Case of the Falkland Islands

Student Officer: Dimitra Siatopoulou

Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Dimitra Siatopoulou and I am a 12th grade student in HAEF Psychico College. This year I will have the honor to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents of the Security Council of the 2nd DSTMUN. This conference will mark my second time chairing and my 10th conference overall. As a member of this year's Student Officers team, I will try my best to provide you with my help and support both prior to and during the conference. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you and I am sure that we will have great cooperation within the Council.

MUN is an extracurricular activity that I am very passionate about since it has helped me acquire significant skills and experiences as well as develop an interest in politics and current affairs. Through MUN I have had the opportunity to discuss and debate on a lot of topics that highly affect the international community. Personally, I believe that one of the most valuable lessons that this activity has taught me is the importance of collaboration and teamwork when it comes to finding solutions both in the world of MUN and beyond.

As a main organ of the United Nations, the Security Council's role is of utmost importance. One of the two topics of this year's Conference is the Case of the Falkland Islands, which refers to a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom. This study guide will provide you with crucial information and knowledge which will be of help when approaching the topic at hand. Some of the delegations will find information on their countries as well. Be reminded that this document should be viewed as an introduction to the topic, since additional research is needed in order to successfully resolve this issue.

Lastly, if you have any questions regarding the rules of procedure of the Security Council and if you face any difficulties while conducting your research on the topic or your country's policy, do not hesitate to contact me via email. (siatdimitra@gmail.com). I will be glad to offer you my help and guidance.

Best regards,

Dimitra Siatopoulou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Falkland Islands, also called Malvinas Islands, are a sparsely populated overseas territory of the United Kingdom, which is located about 500 km east of Argentina, in the south-west Atlantic Ocean. It forms an archipelago composed of two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland and approximately 778 smaller ones. The capital is Stanley, located in East Falkland. The Falkland Islands have been the subject of a territorial dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom since the 1800s.



Map of the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands have been the subject of a territorial dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom since the 1800s.

Due to their windy and rainy climate, the Falkland Islands government has taken advantage of renewable energy sources, specifically wind power. In addition, the Islands possess a plethora of natural resources including fish, squid, seaweed and oil. Oil exploration and management specifically, has been one of the main conflicts between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

In 1765, Britain first landed on West Falkland, when Commodore John Byron claimed the Islands as British territory. However, prior to the United Kingdom's claim, France had taken possession over East Falkland, an act that the British were not aware of. Several negotiations took place in the 1700s between France, Britain and Spain, since they all had claims over the land, after which West Falkland was restored to the British. Following, in 1820, the government of Buenos Aires proclaimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Since the 1820s, several Treaties, Conventions and UN Resolutions have been drafted as an attempt to resolve this dispute. Approximately 150 years after the first invasion, Argentina landed on the Falklands once more; an event which resulted in the Falkland War of 1982 between Argentina and Britain. Argentina surrendered its troops on June 14, 1982. In 1990, Argentina and Britain reestablished their diplomatic relations. Recently, in a referendum held in 2013, 99.8% of Falkland Islanders voted in favor of remaining a British Overseas Territory.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Archipelago

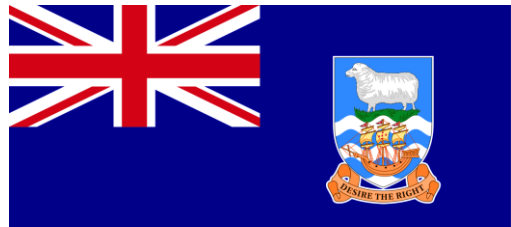
“A group of small islands or an area of sea in which there are many small islands”.¹

British Overseas Territory

This term refers to fourteen territories that are ruled by the British government without being a part of the United Kingdom itself, such as the Falkland Islands.

Malvinas Islands

The Falkland Islands in South America are generally known as Malvinas Islands since the French navigators that settled in 1764, had named them Malovines after the French Port Saint-Malo.



Flag of the Falkland Islands

Self-determination

The United Nations defines self-determination as the right to “freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development”.²

Self-governance

“Government under the control and direction of the inhabitants of a political unit rather than by an outside authority”.³

Sovereignty

“Sovereignty, in political theory, is the ultimate overseer, or authority, in the decision-making process of the state and in the maintenance of order. The concept of sovereignty—one of the most controversial ideas in political science and

¹ "ARCHIPELAGO" Dictionary.Cambridge.Org, 2019, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/archipelago>.

² "OHCHR | International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights". Ohchr.Org, 2019, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>.

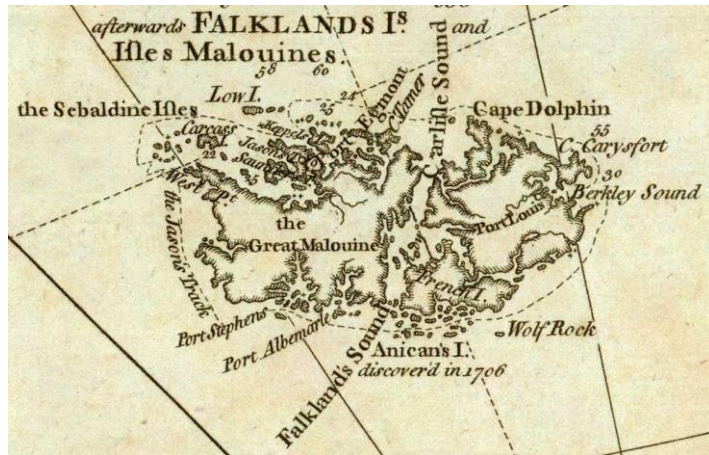
³ "Definition Of SELF-GOVERNMENT". Merriam-Webster.Com, 2019, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/self-government>.

international law—is closely related to the difficult concepts of state and government and of independence and democracy”.⁴

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Early History of the Falkland Islands

The first recorded sighting of the Falkland Islands was made in 1592 by the British navigator John Davis. Almost 100 years later, in 1690 the British captain John Strong made the first official landing on the Islands. He named the two main Islands after the Treasurer of the



Treasure Map of the Falkland Islands

Royal Navy, Viscount Falkland. This name was later given to the rest of the archipelago as well. In 1740, British Lord Anson passed by the Falkland Islands on an exploration voyage and encouraged the British to consider a settlement, since it could help them establish a base near Cape Horn.

The Falkland Islands remained uninhabited until 1764, when the French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville first settled at Port Louis, in East Falkland. He named the islands “Malovines” (les Îles Malouines) since the expedition arrived from the French Port Saint-Malo. The following year, British Commodore John Byron, who was the grandfather of famous poet Lord Byron, first settled at Port Egmont, north of West Falkland. Byron, along with Captain John MacBride, claimed the Falkland Islands for the British government, unaware of the French settlement.

In 1766, the Spanish government protested about the French settlement and Louis Antoine de Bougainville ceded his settlement on East Falkland. A Spanish governor was appointed to the islands and Port Louis was renamed Puerto de la Soledad. It was governed by the government of Buenos Aires, which at the time was a Spanish colony. Four years later, the Spanish forced the British to abandon West Falkland as well. Diplomatic negotiations between Britain, Spain and France occurred in 1771 over the Falkland Islands’ sovereignty. Port Egmont was restored to the British. Britain officially withdrew from the islands for economic reasons in 1774, due

⁴ "Sovereignty". Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/sovereignty>.

to the approaching American War of Independence, without renouncing their claim. Spain gained sovereignty over the islands and translated the French name “les Îles Malouines” to “las Islas Malvinas”.

Argentina’s Invasion in 1820

The Falkland Islands remained under Spanish possession until 1780. The Spanish withdrew their forces from Puerto de la Soledad in 1811. Five years later, Argentina declared its independence from Spain. In 1820, a Buenos Aires privateer claimed the Falkland Islands which was not an authorized act by the Buenos Aires government. In 1825, the



Map of Argentina and the Falkland Islands

government of Buenos Aires signed the Treaty of Amity, Trade and Navigation with Britain, which did not mention the territorial dispute and the claims on the Falkland Islands. The following year, Louis Vernet, a citizen of Buenos Aires established a settlement at Puerto de la Soledad. The Buenos Aires government officially claimed the Falkland Islands in 1829, based on inheritance from the Spanish. Louis Vernet was appointed Commander of Puerto de la Soledad and Tierra del Fuego. Britain protested formally while announcing its claim over the Falkland Islands.

The Expedition of the US warship “Lexington”

In 1831, Vernet seized three United States seal hunting ships, as an attempt to dominate fishing in the Falklands. Hence, the U.S. warship “Lexington” destroyed Argentina’s settlement in East Falkland and proclaimed the Islands as “free of all government”. The following year, diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United States ceased until 1844.



The U.S. Warship “Lexington”

The United States, while defending the British government questioned the fact that all Spanish colonies had been transferred to Buenos Aires and confirmed that it had been using the Falkland Islands as a fishing base for the past fifty years. The US declared that regions such as Patagonia were never under Spanish rule thus they could not be transferred to Buenos Aires.

The Interim Period between Two Argentinian Invasions

In 1845, Stanley was officially named the capital of the Falkland Islands since Governor Moody moved the administration from Puerto de la Soledad. Stanley got its name from the Colonial Secretary Edward Geoffrey Smith Stanley. During the First World War, the German troops led by Vice-Admiral Maximilian von Spee sought to destroy the British Port of Stanley. A naval battle took place between Germany and Britain on December 8, 1914, which resulted in the sinking of two German ships. The British victory secured Port Stanley as British territory.

In 1947, the Falkland Islands were listed as a Non-Self-Governing Territory (NSGT) at the United Nations and became subject to the United Nations decolonization process. Several years later, in 1960, the United Nations passed the Resolution 1514 which guaranteed the right of self-determination to all peoples of NSGTs. The United Nations also passed the Resolution 2065, in 1965, which referred to ending all forms of colonialism. Argentina and Britain were also called upon to peacefully negotiate the territorial dispute, and this marked the first time that the issue was brought to international attention. In 1966, Argentina and Britain began discussing the issue because of the United Nations' pressure. The Falkland Islands Emergency Committee was established in Britain as a means of discussing the issue, in 1967. Four years later, Argentina and Britain signed the Communications Agreement which ensured that all communications of the Falklands would be provided by Argentina.



The Falkland War of 1982

In March of 1982, Argentina took over South Georgia Island, which was linked to the Falkland Islands, as a means of asserting their sovereignty over the Islands. On April 2, General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, who was the head of Argentina's military junta, landed 5000 troops on the Falkland Islands and proclaimed their sovereignty rights over them as "*las Islas Malvinas*". Argentinian and British relations were

officially cut off. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher assembled 30 warships in order to reclaim the Falklands. However, since Britain is approximately 8000 miles away, it took the naval troops several weeks to reach the Islands. An exclusion zone of 200 miles was declared around the Falkland Islands, indicating that any ship or aircraft that trespasses the zone could be sunk. On April 25, South Georgia Island was reclaimed by the British forces.

As soon as the British Admiral Sandy Woodward, who was leading the British navy and air force, arrived, he managed to distract the Argentinian troops by pretending to land on the region. At the same time, the Argentine cruiser "*General Belgrano*", was found near the Falklands. Since the cruiser was located on the outside of the exclusion zone, the British were not permitted to



The Sinking of "General Belgrano"

attack. However, the British submarine "*HMS Conqueror*" attacked and torpedoed the Belgrano on May 2, which resulted in 368 casualties. Thus, this became the most controversial event of the war. On May 4, Argentina stroke back when "*Super-Etendard*" aircraft attacked the "*HMS Sheffield*", with the loss of 20 men.

The British first landed at Port San Carlos of East Falkland on May 21. Soon after their first landing, Argentinian aircraft arrived at the islands. Meanwhile, four Argentinian vessels were sunk and many others damaged. A few days later, the battle switched to land with the first battle being located at Port Darwin and the area of Goose Green. This battle led to the death of British Commanding Officer Colonel H. Jones on May 28. On June 12, the British had arrived at Stanley, the Falkland Islands' capital, which resulted in 47 casualties. Argentina officially surrendered its troops on June 14, which is known as Liberation Day.

The Falkland War led to the death of 650 Argentinians and 253 British as well as 3 Falkland Islanders. Due to the British victory, Margaret Thatcher gained fame and respect from the people of Britain. On the other hand, the Argentinian military became relatively unpopular since their tremendous defeat was totally self-inflicted, seeing as they were the ones who initiated the attack. Even though the Falkland War came to an end, the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands is still debated upon today.

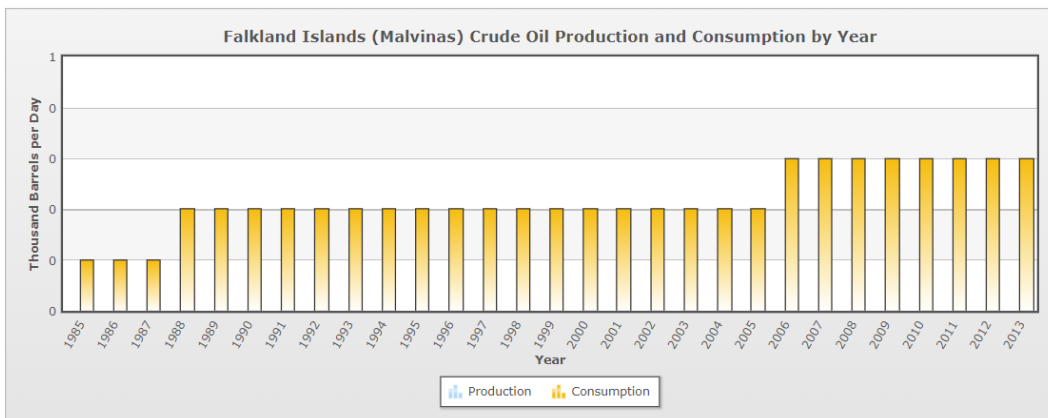
Natural Resources

The Falkland Islands climate is cold maritime, meaning that the winters are cold and snowy and the summers are cool and rainy. Due to their climate, the islands are very windy and are thus able to take advantage wind power as a renewable energy source. The annual average of wind is 30 kilometers per hour and approximately ten percent of the time, it exceeds 63 kilometers per hour. The Islands currently produce one megawatt of energy which is being used by individual farms as well as the local military base.

The Falkland Islands’ government began investing in wind power energy in 1996, when they started working with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC). The FIDC, is an agency responsible for the Islands’ development, specifically the roads, marine ports and airport. In order to implement technologies on renewable energy sources, they have also worked with the National Renewable Energy Laboratories, which are located in the United States. Today, approximately 26% of Stanley’s energy is generated from wind turbines through which the government saved up to 1 million dollars on power generation in 2009.

Since the Falklands consist of a population of 3100 citizens, they do not need all the renewable energy they produce. The energy is mainly used for heating and cooking. Glen Ross, manager of the wind farm and the wind project, has stated that “We haven’t reached our limit on efficiency for the turbines yet; I hope to continue to dedicate time to this to see how far we can go”. As reported by Ross, almost four liters of energy is not used every time the Islands produce 17 kilowatts of energy.

Even though the Falkland Islands’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is currently growing due to fishing, oil exploitation could potentially play a significant role in the future as well. In order to generate oil, there needs to be a source that could be denatured into oil after being exposed to intense heat. Hence, oil exploitation is

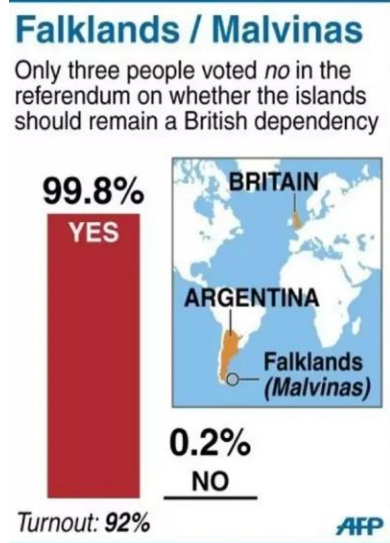


Graph which depicts the annual crude oil production and consumption of the Falkland Islands

mainly focused on the North Falklands Basin and the South and East Falklands Basin. The oil produced from the North Falklands Basin reaches approximately 325 million barrels and is extracted from below sea-level. The South and East Falklands Basin is larger than the North one, since it produces approximately 5 billion barrels of oil. It becomes clear that oil exploitation and management is a crucial aspect when debating the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Recent Events on the Islands

In 1990, Argentina and the United Kingdom's diplomatic relations were reestablished. Nine years later, a Joint Statement was signed between the two countries, stating that tension between Argentina and the Falkland Islands needed to be reduced. On January 1, 2009, a New Constitution was established in the Falkland Islands. This Constitution ensured that the Islands would be self-governing and exercised the people's right of self-determination. In March of 2013, a referendum took place in the Falklands, during which the locals voted on their sovereignty. As a result, 99.8% of the voters supported remaining a British Overseas Territory.



Referendum of March 2013

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Argentina

Argentina has made its claim to the Falkland Islands part of its foreign policy. On a G20 summit that was held in Argentina in November 2018, the country used Brexit to strengthen its claim over the islands. The Falklands export approximately 198 million euros to the European Union (EU) as of 2016. Hence, if the United Kingdom was to leave the EU, that would have a tremendous effect on the Islands' Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Argentina is also very interested in the oil exploitation and management of the Falkland Islands. President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner has stated that the islands were taken away from Argentina in "a blatant exercise of 19th Century colonialism". She also accused Britain of not obeying a United Nations Resolution which declared that further negotiations need to take place in order to discuss the Islands' sovereignty. Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hector Timerman has also stated that "According to the United Nations, there are only two parties to the conflict – the United Kingdom and the Republic of

Argentina. It is an issue that has to be resolved by Argentina and the United Kingdom. By introducing a third party [the Falkland Islanders], the United Kingdom is changing more than 40 resolutions by the United Nations, which call on the two countries to negotiate."

United Kingdom

As previously mentioned, the Falkland Islands are currently a British Overseas Territory. Almost half of the people of the Falkland Islands, according to the Central Intelligence Agency, identify as Falkland Islander, while 23.1% consider themselves to be British. The United Kingdom has provided assistance to the Falklands in order to exploit oil since 1996. In May 23, 2018, the British Parliament passed the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act, which provides the United Kingdom with an independent regime on sanctions and anti-money laundering post-Brexit. It also referred to the British Overseas Territories stating that the Foreign Secretary needs to help create publicly-accessible ownership registers. Thus, the United Kingdom affirms that it will continue to protect and support the British Overseas Territories such as the Falkland Islands even if Brexit occurs. In addition, when former British Prime Minister Theresa May visited Buenos Aires, she stated that "while the relationship between our governments is changing, I can assure that one thing will never change: our absolute commitment to the people and sovereignty of the Falkland Islands".

United States of America

Throughout the Falkland War, the United States provided Britain with intelligence assistance. The United States had also expressed their concern regarding the Soviet Union's involvement in the conflict since they believed that it could provide aid in the form of nuclear weapons to Argentina. However, they have decided to remain neutral on the topic in order to maintain their relationship with Argentina.

France

France was Britain's most valuable ally throughout the Falkland War, but it provided assistance to Argentina as well. However, France supports the United Kingdom's claim over the Falkland Islands and recognizes them as a British Overseas Territory.

Spain

Spain provided its military assistance in the form of aircraft and naval vessels to Argentina throughout the Falkland War. Spain continues to support Argentina's claim over the Falkland Islands.

Chile

British Commander Sidney Edwards, has stated that "My personal opinion – and I think one which was shared by my bosses at the Ministry of Defence and by Margaret Thatcher – is that the help we received from Chile [during the Falkland War] was absolutely crucial." Chile supported and continues to support the United Kingdom's claim over the Falkland Islands.

China

In the 70th Session of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly in the United Nations, the representative of China stated that "while the decolonization process had achieved "historical successes", some colonial thinking and behavior were still "rampant", constituting a source of conflict. China hoped that, through dialogue and negotiations, the disputes would soon be resolved, he said, stressing that his country had always supported the struggles of colonized peoples for self-determination." China thus supports Argentina's claim over the Falkland Islands.

Russian Federation

There are speculations stating that throughout the Falkland War, the at the time Soviet Union, provided military forces to Argentina. Today, the Russian Federation supports Argentina's claim over the Falkland Islands.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Events
1592	First recorded sighting of the islands was made by British navigator John Davis
1690	First recorded landing on the Falkland Islands established by the English captain John Strong
1764	First settlement on East Falkland made by the French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville
1765	First settlement on West Falkland made by the English Commodore John Byron, who claimed the islands as British territory
1771	Negotiations between France, Britain and Spain, for their claim over the land, after which West Falkland was appointed to Britain

1820	Argentina's proclamation of sovereignty over the islands
1825	Treaty of Amity, Trade and Navigation, between Argentina and Britain
1849	The signing of the Convention of Settlement
1960	Ratification of United Nations Resolution 1514, which refers to the exercise of the right of people of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination
1964/1965	Intervention of the United Nations, though the General Assembly's encouragement of negotiations between Argentina and Britain
1965	Approval of United Nations Resolution 2065 in the General Assembly
1971	Signing of the Communications Agreement between Argentina and Britain
April 2, 1982 - June 14, 1982	Argentina's invasion of the islands which resulted in the Falkland War
May 2, 1982	The sinking of cruiser " <i>General Belgrano</i> "
May 21, 1982	The British landing at Port San Carlos of East Falkland
June 12, 1982	The British arrival in Stanley, the Falkland Islands' capital
June 14, 1982	Argentina's surrender of its troops
1990	Reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Argentina and Britain
2009	New Constitution for the Falkland Islands, which introduced internal self-government and exercised the right of self-determination
2013	Referendum, in which the people of the Falkland Islands voted in favor of remaining a British Overseas Territory

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The Treaty of Amity, Trade and Navigation

This Treaty was signed between Argentina and the United Kingdom in 1825, which did not include the territorial dispute.

The Convention of Settlement

This Convention was signed between Argentina and the United Kingdom in 1849 and referred to an international agreement between the two countries. By signing this Convention, Argentina accepted that the Falkland Islands were British territory.

United Nations Resolution 1514

This Resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1960 and referred to the exercise of the right of people of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination.

United Nations Resolution 2065

This Resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965 and referred to ending all forms of colonialism. Argentina and the United Kingdom were encouraged to peacefully resolve this issue through negotiations. This Resolution marked the first time the issue was brought to international attention.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

There have been several attempts to resolve this issue in the past. Firstly, the Treaty of Amity, Trade and Navigation as aforementioned, was signed in 1825 between Argentina and the United Kingdom. This Treaty aimed to ensure peace between the two countries, since through this treaty, the United Kingdom recognized Argentina's Independence of 1816 from Spain. However, it failed to provide a long term solution to the dispute, since it did not refer to the dispute of the Falkland Islands. In addition, in 1945, Argentina and the United Kingdom signed the Convention of Settlement. This Convention was not a peace Treaty, however, by signing it, Argentina recognized the Falkland Islands as a British Overseas Territory. This Convention is not relevant today.

Moreover, the United Kingdom has raised the issue of the Falkland Islands dispute on the International Court of Justice in 1947, 1949 and 1951. Each year, Argentina refused to accept to discuss the dispute. Furthermore, in 1965, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 2065, which discussed the issue of colonialism. This Resolution encouraged Argentina and the United Kingdom to peacefully find solutions to the dispute as it was the first time this issue was brought

to international attention. Once again, this did not provide a long term solution to the case of the Falkland Islands. Additionally, in 1966 Britain and Argentina began discussing the dispute through diplomatic channels because of the United Nations' pressure.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are many factors that need to be considered when it comes to approaching the topic at hand. Firstly, it is very important to figure out ways with which the international community can encourage peaceful negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom in order to discuss the sovereignty dispute. It is of utmost importance that Argentina is prevented from the use of military forces against the United Kingdom in order to claim the Falklands.

In addition, it is crucial that the voice of the people is taken into consideration. It is imperative to discuss and decide whether another referendum should take place amongst the people of the Falkland Islands in order to vote on their sovereignty. When it comes to discussing the possibility of having another referendum, it is important to figure out who will host it as well as who will supervise or fund it as a means of ensuring its transparency. Since the United Nations have the ability to host and supervise a referendum, it could provide an immediate solution to the problem. The delegates need to examine the possibilities of the United Kingdom or Argentina's disagreements to such a measure as well.

Moreover, as mentioned before, the management of the Falkland Islands' natural resources is one of the main conflicts between the two countries. A solution to this problem could be the signing of a comprehensive agreement between the United Kingdom and Argentina. It is vital to discuss and debate who will be supervising these agreements, but also how they will be put into effect.

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