

CRS/2017/CRP.11

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in
the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?**

**Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
16 to 18 May 2017**

STATEMENT BY

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Falkland Islands – Summary Notes

The Falkland Islands are a small country, the size of Connecticut, Queens or Jersey, but with -

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population of 3,400

- Our economy is strong, based on fishing, tourism and agriculture
- A new hydrocarbons exploration programme is bringing additional activity
- We have no borrowings, and reserves of 3.0 times annual recurrent expenditure of £50m
- GDP is around £130m per annum, 60% fishing, 10% tourism and 5% agriculture
- The Falklands have been economically self-sufficient since 1990, except for the cost of defence
- We pay no taxes to UK and receive no income
- We are responsible for the provision of all services – education, health, police, etc
- Still a lot of infrastructure works are to be completed

- The new Constitution which was put in place in 2009 confirms our post-colonial status
- We have a small legislature of 8 independent members from two constituencies, elected for a 4 year

- Since then it has become a tenet of Peronist doctrine which persists
- Argentina has a clause in its Constitution (post the '82 war) pledging to "reclaim" the Islands
- It makes reference only to the "interests" of the Islanders, but not the "wishes"

Argentina effectively ~~looks to~~ colonise the Islands after decades taken to do so

- Argentina's request to support negotiations with UK is not what it seems; there is a pre-determined outcome to colonise (by not respecting our right to self-determination)
- All countries are encouraged, when asked to support such negotiations, to stress the primacy of the

right to self-determination of the Islanders