



Topic Synopsis

4th SPD, Sovereignty in the Falkland Islands

I. Background

Throughout the history of the Falkland Islands there have been many powers laying claim to these islands. Britain, Spain, France, US, and Argentina have all claimed that they had authority over the habitants of the islands. Looking at a timeline one can see that there are two major powers struggling for control and several other powers seeking to lay claim, but not remaining successful for a sizeable duration. The UK steps in the year 1833 and becomes, generally, the power until present day; with the exception of 1982 it was taken by Argentina and again lost. The Argentines believe that the UK expelled the indigenous people when it took control in 1833. Prior to the war of 1982, the UK and Argentina had minor quarrels that nearly resulted in armed conflict. In 1982 an amphibious invasion led by an Argentinean force attempted to capture the islands. They successfully held the islands for a short period of time but when the UK retaliated it was easily lost. Diplomatic relations between Argentina and the UK remained hostile after 1982; the diplomatic relations were not restored until about 1989. Though the United Nations General Assembly called for the UK and Argentina to return to negotiations over the Islands' future, the UK rejected any further discussions about the Islands' sovereignty. The UK also maintained an arms embargo against Argentina that began during the war. This forced Argentina's armed forces, which was originally a buyer of UK weapons, to find other sources. Relations have finally eased and are continuing to grow more secure. Those who are involved are those living in the Falkland Islands, though most are aboriginal. Another group involved would be the UK. The final group involved most directly would be Argentina. Because the debate resides between the two nations, with others merely choosing sides, Argentina and the UK have been on opposite



sides of the issue and Argentina seeks to have another appeal to the UN. This is a problem to the world because it violates the autonomy of the Falkland Islands. It also still symbolizes the past era of colonies and suppressive empires, which contradict what we stand for as a world today.

II. UN Involvement

In 1946 the UN concluded that the Falkland Islands were a part of the UK's empire in its list of non-self-governing territories. The UN did not appropriately address the issue of its sovereignty until 1965 where it voted in favor of the UK's control. Resolution 2065, passed on December 16, 1965, was the first to directly address sovereignty within the Falkland Islands. It encouraged the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to proceed with negotiations as outlined by the Special Committee on the Situation (UN Decolonization Committee) and required both countries to report the results of the negotiations. Since then the UK has not visited the islands and the OAS has repeatedly attempted to bring this dispute back into negotiations. The UN is pushing for negotiations between the two countries to resume. The OAS (Organization of American States) is an advocate of the Argentinean sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The Security Council, the agencies or NGOs of the United Nations that are involved

III. Possible Solutions

In the solutions your country drafts, make sure to address which country, either United Kingdom or Argentina, deserves the land. Also consider whether the Falkland Islands should be made autonomous. Include a structure for a possible government in the future and address territorial issues (two-state or a one-state solution). Also include ways to bring both parties to



the negotiations. Address incentives that could be offered to both sides to promote cooperation

IV. Bloc Positions

Latin American Countries: These countries tend to support Argentinian sovereignty of the Falkland Islands

European Union: These countries lean towards the UK's right to rule the Falkland Islands.

Formerly Colonized Countries: These countries tend to support autonomy in the Falkland Islands.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What actions should be taken to verify the true nation's sovereignty of the Falkland Islands?
2. Who is the proper sovereign nation of the Falkland Islands?
3. In what ways were the indigenous people exploited and why is the majority aboriginal?
4. What is the appropriate course of action the UN should take on this issue?