

While it can be said that there remains a deep suspicion of Buenos Aires in the Falklands, even there it is difficult to speak of hatred, despite the continuing memory of the invasion and occupation. After all, they also were, by this century's standards, quite clean affairs. The Argentine special forces taking the Falklands in early April 1982 had strict orders to do so with a minimum of bloodshed and, despite the fighting that occurred, this was the case. British prisoners of that first attack were well treated, as has been repeatedly acknowledged by London. And while during the occupation, there were incidents of brutality or wanton destruction, these were few when compared with current international norms. When British veterans of the war criticize the Argentine forces against which they fought, it is almost always for army and naval ineffectiveness and virtually never for improper conduct to their enemies.

On the Argentine side, there was fury over defeat, the overturning of the military government, vast frustration on a national scale, but little of this had elements of hatred of the British. Indeed, senior officers of the Argentine navy have waded into the domestic British debate on the decision to sink the *Belgrano* on the side of the Royal Navy officers, and eventually the Prime Minister, who took that step. And while parts of the British press have tried to find evidence of mistreatment of prisoners and other ill doing on the part of the UK forces taking part in the war, the dominant view in Argentina is of an honourable and fair enemy who treated enemy prisoners and wounded with exemplary correctness.

With this sort of background both with the military and the public, it is probably easier to move towards effective confidence building. This is surely worth keeping in mind when thinking about not only confidence building but also verification and indeed peacebuilding as a whole.

Finally, the Falklands dispute is not likely to be 'resolved' in the near future. There are few reasons to hold out much hope on this score. Neither the islanders nor any imaginable British government will be prepared to see the islands handed over to Argentina for a very long time, indeed. The Argentines, on the other hand, will not be giving up their claim to the Malvinas in any foreseeable future. The issue is too much one of national pride, sense of offended sovereignty, and now blood for that to occur.

If the conflict is thus not likely to disappear, it can with more likelihood be kept at a non-violent level. And with this the experience with confidence building in this part of the world has shown CBMs can contribute in a significant way.