

II. Areas Involved and General Background

2. The current difficulties involve three distinct though related areas:

(a) the Falkland Islands, where Argentina is challenging United Kingdom sovereignty;

(b) the Falkland Islands Dependencies and Graham Land, where Argentina and Chile are both challenging United Kingdom sovereignty; and

(c) the Antarctic mainland itself, where eight countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States) all have direct interests.

3. The dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom with regard to the Falkland Islands, lying off the coast of Patagonia, dates back to 1833 when the United Kingdom took over — somewhat arbitrarily — the *Islas Malvinas* (Falkland Islands) from Argentina. Argentina has never recognized United Kingdom occupation of the Islands and has periodically laid claims to them since that date, the most vigorous being put forward last Autumn.

Following is the text of an amendment to paragraph 3 suggested by Mr. Chipman, Canadian Ambassador to Argentina:

“The dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom with regard to the Falkland Islands lying off the coast of Patagonia is a sequel to the long-standing earlier dispute between the United Kingdom and Spain over the same territory, to which both laid claim on grounds of discovery and occupation. Later, after achieving its liberation from Spain by revolution, Argentina asserted the Spanish claims as a successor State on its own account. This led to a British protest in 1829. Following a second protest in 1832, the United Kingdom reoccupied the Falkland Islands by force in 1833.”

4. The Falkland Islands Dependencies lie south of Argentina, Chile and their namesake, the Falkland Islands. They comprise four groups of islands, the South Shetlands, the South Orkneys, South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands. Graham Land is a jutting peninsula which thrusts itself northward from the Antarctic mainland into the sea towards South America. This whole region was discovered, explored and in many instances has been effectively occupied by the United Kingdom, administration being carried out by the Governor of the Falkland Islands.

5. In 1940 Argentina and Chile laid claims to territorial sectors in this region and since last Autumn (Antarctic Spring) these countries established several weather stations and military bases in Graham Land and in the South Shetlands especially, in spite of United Kingdom protests. Argentina's claim to territory in the Falkland Islands Dependencies is partly based on the alleged ownership of the Falkland Islands.

6. The Antarctic mainland is a *de facto res nullius* and it is only a narrow coastal strip which has been explored to any extent. By carrying out only limited activities on the coastal fringe the various powers claim sovereignty over sectors of territory extending as far as the South Pole. The view has been expressed by some of the interested Commonwealth countries that problems arising in connection with conti-