

## PEACE AT ANY PRICE

Bulletin 21 May 1982 issued by the director, Francis Bennion

*Supporters of our organization Peace At Any Price (PAAP) may be interested to see how we have been answering letters from anxious enquirers about our Falklands Subgroup (PAAPF). Apart from the current imbroglio, we believe the experience gained will be useful for our Gibraltar Subgroup when it shortly comes to be formed.*

Dear PAAPF,

I was going to send some of my cast-offs to PAAPF. Then I heard Dame Judith Hart was chairperson. Her recent photograph in *The Times* was so excessively ugly that I am now wavering. What do you think?

Aesthete.

*None of us here expected a Dame Commander of the British Empire to look like Debbie Harry. Why should you be different? I suggest you take your cast-offs to Oxfam, who have an organization.*

Dear PAAPF,

I do so thoroughly agree with your two planks (simultaneous cease fire and withdrawal of forces by both sides). But my friend says this is what the Thatcher government has been trying for all along. I know that is a lie but I can't find any evidence.

Jurist.

*There isn't any evidence. The point is not what the right policy is but who puts it forward. PAAPF has clean hands.*

Dear PAAPF,

My boyfriend, who is a private in the Royal Marines, refuses to wear your 'I love Argies' badge. He says it might get him into trouble with the RSM. Don't you think this is cowardly?

Rosa.

*So many of these macho types are yellow when it comes down to it. Would you like me to send you our list of 'He-men in PAAP'?*

Dear PAAPF,

My wife Myra and I live in the Isle of Wight. I have been with PAAP from the start, but can't get

Myra to join. When it came to PAAPF she got even more recalcitrant. She says how would I like it if a gang of fascist thugs descended on Ventnor and took over the Post Office? I tell her it's different when things go on 8,000 miles away, but she just laughs. How can I overcome this irrational obstructionism?

Harold.

*Don't even try. Clearly, you are one of us and she is not.*

Dear PAAPF,

Your broadsheet says the Task Force should withdraw to South Georgia when our unilateral cease-fire comes into operation. My father, who has just joined the Militarist Tendency, insists that this will undo all the good work the Task Force has done in blockading the Falkland Islands. The Argentinians will simply re-equip, and we'll be back where we started. What answer can I give?

Felicity.

*If we were back where we started it would be a very good thing. We could then make a proper response to the Argentine occupation, that is hand the whole thing over to the United Nations and forget about it.*

Dear PAAPF,

Please accept my resignation. After much agonizing I have to face the fact that peace has to be fought for again in every generation.

William.

*Accepted. I'm sorry you think slogans are a substitute for gestures.*