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LETTERS

NOT TO BE TRUSTED

It is ironic that Francis Bennion's letter praising the British Government's support for the Falklanders was published at the same time as Robert Fisk's book, "*In Time of War*". Mr Bennion claims that "Britain. . . deserves credit for not leaving some of her people in the lurch just because they were very few-and very far away".

Britain, like all imperial powers, uses colonies and settlers' fears and prejudice for her own ends. Robert Fisk gives an example of this in his book. In 1940, when Britain was paying fulsome tributes to the people of Northern Ireland for their war effort and encouraging them to volunteer for the armed forces (which thousands did), Churchill was trying to do a deal with de Valera. The war leader proposed that if southern Irish ports were made available to British ships a plan for the unification of the country (ie. a sell-out of the North) would be arranged.

It was de Valera's obduracy and distrust, not Britain's reluctance to leave some of her own people in the lurch, that prevented the deal being struck.

Robert K Stewart