

To: Alejandro Nato, Pablo Lumerman [Buenos Aires]- Diana Klein, Edmundo Garcia, International Alert, London

Dear friends, I have been talking/writing to you separately on the challenge of having a citizens ' diplomacy track on the old Malvinas/Falkland conflict. The four of you share an excellent expertise in the area of conflict transformation and community mediation. First of all, my apologies for not coming back to Alejandro and Diana earlier, as promised (I realized I did not talk to Pablo and Ed on the subject for a long time). I just finished summer semester team teaching with Prof. Manuel Hassassian (the Londoners know him as Palestinian ambassador in the UK) and the Argentineans may get to know him in October, if all goes well). My assessment is that you (we) can make a difference and that such a project is fundable

As some of you know, I am in great shape but more and more I am searching for sharing and even taking over some ideas that over the years have been around, and nearly got started. So, I wanted to suggest perhaps more systematically than in previous communications:

- 1) The timing for the best unofficial diplomacy is good. The UK has officially rejected mediation as offered by Cristina Kirchner; the Brits are facing also a problem in Gibraltar when the Spanish gov. is threatening to connect their claim with Argentina's on the Malvinas. From CIDCM [my Center's perspective], the founder Edward Azar did try in 1983 and 1984 [before my time] several rounds of "problem solving forums" diplomacy and did not succeed to get consensus at this early time (Christopher Mitchell wrote a short book about this experiment); We did try for a while to revisit the issue 25 years after the 1982 war, establishing many contacts with both sides ,but the initial obstacles distracted us into other easier challenges.
- 2) Now, 30 years later, and being f in the mood of legacy, I would like to encourage International Alert and Cambio Democratico [or if not interested, then Alejandro could bring it up with other NGOs, such as CRIES], to try again. We , the University of Maryland, can also co-sponsor and if needed, myself also actively participate as a "third party".
- 3) There have been over the years several proposals and most of the background documentation is ready. I have sent some to Diana, and will select a few to show the different ways we approached the issue thinking about conflict resolution NGOs of both sides; or a facilitation tam with individual experts from both sides and my CIDCM as sponsor . Attached herewith are some.
- 4) We thought about different types of "partners in conflicts". A) Experts on the issue, from different disciplines [political scientists , law, economist, environmentalists, etc. B) MA students in conflict resolution (Westminster University and Universidad de San Andres/FLACSO), the first because one of the professors [Freedman, wrote a showing the Brits were ready to major concessions months before the Junta started the 1982 invasion] and the second person an Argentinean/British teaching in the program. The idea was to involve a young generation without any traumatic sequels or political calculations, interested in conflict resolution. At times we thought involving ex-diplomats since CARI (the NGO of retired diplomats in Argentina) participated in the UMD early experiment and was eager to do it again.
- 5) Of course, one of the main issues is the involvement of the people living in the Falklands and here again there were some plans, Nora Femina teaching conflict resolution, I believe at NOVA

in Florida has a personal relationship, has been in the islands and can make a substantial contribution. Her doctoral and post-doct was about the Falkalnd/Malvinas conflict.

- 6) The issue of funding is not last or least. There were initial talks with some foundations ,but what could awake them to do so is to have some seed money both coming from British and Argentinean sources.
- 7) I do not want to abuse your time on this issue before getting some feedback (I believe it could be all in Spanish since Ed and Diana speak/read the language). Speaking about language, If we get to do the project, my suggestion is that all participants could speak their language of preference but should be able to understand the language of the other (we did that successfully in a recent Cuba/USA “academic diplomacy” project).

As said, I am sharing suggestions that have been on my desk for a long time and still believe are doable and fundable. I do not have to be personally involved in the facilitation team or my Center. You are all very very good friends of mine, which gives me the confidence to predict that you can be also good friends of each other across the Atlantic

So, pls let me know if you four or at least one of each side is willing to take a leading role in advancing this project, Best, Edy