

"Information from the Argentine Republic and United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Implementation
of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on their Destruction.

Meeting of the Standing Committees of the Convention
Geneva, April 23rd - 28th 2007

On 11 October 2001, the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic signed an Exchange of Notes Agreement under the sovereignty formula, whereby they undertook to carry out a Feasibility Study on the clearance of landmines in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas). An Argentine-British Joint Working Party (JWP) was set up to undertake the work, which has met 15 times.

The aim of the Feasibility Study is to assess a range of options for clearance, including the estimated costs and risks of each technically feasible option, including the environmental risks.

The two Governments agreed a further Exchange of Notes in August 2006, which established the mechanism to carry out a field survey as part of the Feasibility Study and included unexploded ordnance (UXO) remaining within the mined areas. Within this framework, the JWP selected Cranfield University, which surveyed all 117 mined areas (without physically entering them) in December 2006, with two British and two Argentine experts monitoring the work.

Following the successful completion of the Field Survey, Cranfield University has submitted to the JWP its assessment, clearance options, estimated costs, environmental proposals and an illustrative schedule of work. The JWP is now using this information to produce its Final Report on the Feasibility Study.

As recommended by the Nairobi Plan of Action, both countries agreed to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) as the base to achieve International Standards for Mine Action (IMAS) requirements, in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of 2001.

The United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic look forward

to the 8th Meeting of State Parties in November 2007 where
they will report further.

This progress demonstrates a tangible success for bilateral
cooperation in support of the Ottawa Convention, which has
already been welcomed by other States Parties"