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Argentina &amp; Britain To Discuss Restoration Of Diplomatic &amp; Trade Relations

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On Aug. 16, the Argentine Foreign Ministry announced that talks between British and Argentine officials on the possibility of restoring diplomatic and trade relations were scheduled for Aug. 16-17 at the United Nations in New York. AP cited unidentified UN officials on Aug. 16 who said that the talks would not be held under UN auspices. The Ministry statement said that the preliminary talks "will be held without prejudice to either side's position on sovereignty regarding the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands." Britain's UN mission said Ambassador Sir Crispin Tickell and Lucio Garcia del Solar, Argentine Foreign Ministry director general, will "seek to establish the conditions and agenda for direct talks" between the two countries. The mission said in a statement that the meetings "will be without prejudice to the sovereignty positions of either side" regarding the Falkland or Malvinas Islands. Diplomatic and trade relations between Britain and Argentina were severed over the 1982 Falklands (Malvinas) war. Both nations have lifted prohibitions on trade. [On Aug. 17, the Hong Kong government confirmed that Buenos Aires had lifted restrictions on imports from Hong Kong entering Argentina. In 1988, trade between Argentina and the British colony totaled $83 million.] Since Britain enforces a 150-mile exclusion zone, Buenos Aires is anxious to recover fishing rights in the area around the islands. Many nations fish in the areas just outside the exclusion zone, and Argentina and Britain hope to reach an accord on regulating fishing in the south Atlantic. (Basic data from DPA, AP, Xinhua, 08/15/89; AFP, 08/17/89)

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