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Argentina & Britain Hold Talks On Fishing Rights In South Atlantic

by John Neagle

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On Dec. 20 in Paris, Argentine and British diplomats concluded two days of talks on fishing rights in the South Atlantic around the disputed Malvinas/Falkland Islands. According to a final communique, the two sides agreed on "reciprocal information measures," and to continue negotiations at a later unspecified date, given the "complexity" of the question. Prior to the meeting, unidentified informed sources cited by AFP said that key issues would be the establishment of a single maritime region in the area, and creating a mechanism for information exchange on fish stock movements. The talks were the most recent in a series of ongoing contacts between the two countries aimed at reestablishing full diplomatic and trade relations. Relations were severed after the Falklands War in 1982, at which time Britain established a 150 nautical-mile exclusive zone around the islands followed by an economic protection zone in 1986, prohibiting Argentine fishing boats from the region. (Basic data from AFP, 12/20/89)

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