

**EIR:** Is there any hope of the Argentines reinforcing themselves . . . establishing a beachhead?

**Parpart:** I don't really see that happening. There have been reports that they have some troops on the western islands. I would see that more as a kind of bargaining chip in the negotiations that will ensue as this thing winds down. I don't see how they are going to get those troops across the sound and into a position to threaten the British in time.

I'd like to just close the circle in a way, to point out that the greatest danger I see right now is that the British succeed somehow in dragging the U.S. into the situation of participating in, or being a party to establishing a military base on the islands, and in that way being dragged into this global strategy I described earlier, while simultaneously once and for all ruining any chance of establishing any semblance of decent relationships with—certainly Argentina—but also with other Latin American countries.

And the second lesson I think to be learned by this, as

I said at the outset, is not to impose limitations on your own fighting capability. You have to ruthlessly exploit the opportunities you have. You cannot permit yourself to hope that pulling back will bring you some rewards. I think that at least some of that kind of thinking must have gotten into some of the heads of some of the Argentine leadership; otherwise I cannot understand this whole sequence of events I have described. Clausewitz's book on war says that if you limit yourself and the enemy doesn't, you will lose.

**EIR:** Could it have been the nuclear threat?

**Parpart:** I don't think so. It was a much broader political threat that initially played an important role. The Argentines, many of them political as well as military, said from the outset that if the U.S. gets involved, we have no chance. I don't buy that. I think they could have inflicted the kind of damage on the British which could have turned the whole situation to their advantage. I think certain opportunities were definitely missed.

## An Argentine calls for economic warfare

*Leading Argentine journalist Manfred Schoenfeld, arguing that Argentina cannot vacillate in waging "total war" on Britain, called for Argentina to break with the "ally of our enemy"—the United States—for supporting Great Britain's war in the Malvinas. Excerpts from Schoenfeld's May 30 op-ed in the Buenos Aires daily La Prensa, translated by EIR, follow:*

It is the fact, let me stress, that Washington has such disdain for Latin American opinion that it is systematically arming a power which on its own is incapable of invading the territory of the Western hemisphere.

We must respond directly to the ally of our enemy and our invaders. We must break diplomatic relations with Washington and expel from the country the band of CIA agents and spies which, with or without diplomatic immunity, inhabits that fortress in Palermo known as the American Embassy.

Moreover: the country must prepare itself, as I have been saying for some time now, for a war that is something more than a war for the Malvinas or for the other southern archipelagos. This has become a total war, and it is important that this be understood,

that we declare this before the world. . . . What is important is that the world, and even more so our own country, realizes that . . . this will be just the beginning of the war. . . .

Meanwhile, we have to hit the United States where it hurts. Beginning now, we have to declare economic warfare against them which, unfortunately . . . was not even done in the necessary manner against Great Britain; we must take over—and not as late as was done in the case of British companies, which had rushed beforehand to "convert" themselves into "Dutch" companies—all of the American companies in the country; close [American] banks; seize their assets; and above all, make felt the threatening weight of a freeze of all our foreign debt. This is not the time for pretty talk, but for bludgeoning and applying the old adage "scratch with the nails that you've got."

We are in a position to create a bit of chaos on Wall Street, much as it pains some of the beloved friends of our "financial geniuses." What are we waiting for? For them to destroy our Air Force and our Naval Air Force with their missiles?

The idea that if we don't pay our debts now, in the future, no one will ever again give us credit is false and unrealistic. Credit is not a favor; it is business for the lender who grants it. The capital markets are seeking clients and Argentina has always had a reputation as a reliable payer; if on one occasion, it fails to do so, it will be recognized in the future that it took this action selectively against countries with which it was at war—because it was under attack.