
Argentina

Patriots commemorate the Malvinas War

by Alejandro Peña Esclusa

Between 5,000 and 7,000 people met April 2 in the neighborhood of Lugano, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the battle for the Malvinas Islands. On April 2, 1982, Argentinian troops landed on the Malvinas to reclaim them from Great Britain, which had illegally occupied the islands since 1833. During that war, which unleashed nationalist sentiment throughout Ibero-America, the United States betrayed its hemispheric allies, in violation of the Monroe Doctrine, and sided with Great Britain.

During the ceremony, songs, chants, and tears of emotion overflowed among the nationalist Argentinians who attended the ceremony, which was compared by observers to the revolutionary ferment sweeping across Eastern Europe. The difference was that this rally was not against communist dictatorship, but against the dictatorship of hunger and misery imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and President Carlos Menem.

The meeting was a clear example of the nationalist revolution that Lyndon LaRouche predicted for Ibero-America.

The Lugano rally was organized by the Argentinian Veterans Federation, and was attended by representatives of political groups—including Peronist deputies—businessmen, professionals, trade unionists, housewives, students, and, of course, veterans of the Malvinas War, who marched to the beat of martial music. It was the first time since 1982 that the veterans have been allowed to march in public.

From the windows of the tall adjacent buildings, the residents of Villa Lugano shouted slogans of support, while the local neighborhood association sent a message of greeting, expressing delight at the honor of having the Malvinas veterans among them.

The event began with the reading of messages sent by various national and local organizations. It continued with the highly emotional words pronounced by the mother of Capt. Pedro Gianchino, the first Argentinian officer to die at the Malvinas landing. Her statement was followed by a parade of Army regiments: the Third from Tablada, the Sixth from Mercedes, the Seventh from La Plata, the Tenth Logistical Regiment from Villa Martelli, and so on.

The crowds shouted slogans taken from the many banners

at the event, and from the wall paintings that have appeared throughout Buenos Aires: "God and the Fatherland, or Death" and "Seineldín Is the Fatherland and the People." The latter is a reference to the hero of the Malvinas, Mohamed Alí Seineldín. Colonel Seineldín is known for promoting the unity of the Army around a nationalist program supported neither by the IMF nor the oligarchy, which hopes to recolonize Ibero-America through foreign debt collection, and through a counterculture offensive of rock, drugs, and pornography.

Rallying cry from Seineldín

The Lugano rally concluded with the reading of a letter sent by Seineldín from La Pampa—where he is serving a 20-day jail term for his public statements on the need to unify the Argentinian Army—and with a rendition of the national anthem. Thousands, holding up the "V" for victory, sang with tears streaming down their cheeks.

Seineldín's letter, which calls for defending the nation through defense of the Armed Forces, was the high point of the day: "I say to you, veterans of the Malvinas," it reads, "the Armed Forces and the Argentinian people were defeated, not only by the material superiority of the enemy, but also by the moral inferiority of the defeatists. . . . To 'de-Malvinize' was an imperative, and that imperative became enraged at the great pillars of the real Argentina: the people and the Armed Forces.

"The people, this people of the Argentinian nation, which, despite the prolonged, insidious, and harmful campaign to degrade and humiliate their human condition, to reduce them to penury and to spiritually prostrate them, remain stubbornly and unshakeably devoted to their religious faith and love of country.

"And the Armed Forces, which this same people organized and fed with their blood from before Independence; the Army of San Martín, which made the people protagonists in the wars for Hispano-American emancipation and unity; the Army which affirmed national sovereignty in the vast Patagonian territories; the Army, which promoted the industrialization of the Republic. . . . The Armed Forces, finally, which helped to shape an autonomous national project for the development with justice of the Argentinian nation and its people.

"The people and the Armed Forces are not two different entities, much less contradictory ones; [they are] flesh of the same flesh, blood of the same blood, indissolubly linked in the common goal of building a great and sovereign Argentina. Today, in anguish, they witness these grave hours of a sick nation, because today it appears that there is no place for us in the demobilized and de-Malvinized Argentina. . . .

"We must be firmly convinced, and have the humble serenity . . . of one who is willing to give his life for a noble and just cause; because when a man knows where he is going, the whole world stands aside to let him pass."