Invitation from the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
   - Inform Members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) that an invitation has been received from the Falkland Islands Government to attend an event commemorating the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of the Falklands War.
   - To seek the views of Members of the BEC as to whether to send representatives to the event.

Background

2. The Falklands Islands Legislative Assembly has invited the CPA Scotland Branch, as a partner in the British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR), to send one Member (and their partner) to attend a commemoration and celebrations relating to the 30th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Falklands War. The visit would be from Sunday 10 June to Saturday 16 June. The Falklands Island Government will meet the cost of all transport, food and accommodation costs. The UK Government will be represented by the Minister for State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Jeremy Browne MP. Invitations have also been sent to the legislatures in Guernsey, Jersey and Wales seeking representatives. At the time of writing, our understanding is that Guernsey and Jersey have agreed to send representatives whilst the Welsh Assembly are minded to send a representative.

3. There are a range of issues which Members may wish to consider when deciding whether to accept this invitation, namely:
   - The recent rise in diplomatic tensions between the Argentinian and UK Governments
   - That the event is a purely commemorative event
   - That a delegation of MSP’s is likely to visit the Falkland Islands in 2013 in order to attend the 2013 British Isles and Mediterranean Region Conference
   - That the UK Government is supporting the event and the Falklands Islands is a BIMR partner
Action

4. Members are invited to agree:

- Whether to send representatives to the Falkland Islands commemorative event, and if so, whether a general e-mail for applications should be sent round Members seeking reasons for wishing to attend

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