

TORTURE:

The working group of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is continuing its work on the proposed convention which would make torture a crime under international law. The Economist, 10 March 1984 at 26, sees the election of a ~~d~~emocratic Government in Argentina as signalling a dramatic change in the work of the Commission. An interesting question will be whether universal jurisdiction will be given to States regarding torture, as is the case with piracy.

FALKLANDS/MALVINAS WAR.

In [1984] Australian I.L. News 98 presented a brief bibliography to this war. In the Economist of 3 March 1984 at 41-43, is a detailed and apparently previously suppressed account of the substantial aid given by the U.S. to the U.K. during the war. In explaining American support it cites the "historic friendship" between the two nations, that "... caught napping by General Galtieri, Mrs. Thatcher had taken prompt unilateral action in defence of international law and order ..." and that "... widespread American scepticism of the Falklands war was matched by admiration for its sheer bravura." The article argues that aid was forthcoming even during the period when President Reagan was publicly adopting a position of even-handedness. It ends on the following ominous note, which instantly reminds one of the events following the assassination at Sarajevo in 1914: "Not for the first time, America was trapped by the obligations of super-power status. Britain's military victory that June was not a particular triumph for any special relationship. It merely showed how easily America's allies can involve it in conflicts not of its own choosing. This has some relevance to Australia. The involvement of the U.S. in any war, however limited, is of immediate concern to us because of the possibilities of escalation. Further, in the absence of a binding legal commitment to Australia in the event of our becoming involved in a war, there has been in the past concern expressed in some circles in Australia as to U.S. reaction in the now unlikely event of Australia being involved in hostilities with a non-communist power.

D.F.