

Argentina Closes Ports to British Ships

Contributed by Tom McGregor
Tue, Feb 14, 2012, 11:20 PM

Union workers at Argentine shipping ports will delay British-flagged vessels from entering as tensions between the two nations increase in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War, a union leader announced on Tuesday. According to the Reuters News Agency, "Argentina's CATT transport workers' federation said its members would stall the loading and unloading of British ships to press London to open sovereignty talks with Buenos Aires over the disputed South Atlantic islands."

Omar Suarez head of the SOMU shipping workers' union that belongs to the CATT federation, said, "we're going to economically hurt British-flagged ships or British ships flying the flag of convenience."

As reported by Reuters, "shipping companies routinely register vessels under flags of convenience, placing their legal ownership in jurisdictions such as Panama where tax and other regulators are lenient."

Suarez added, "we'll let them in but with a delay of six to 12 hours. It will go on indefinitely until Britain negotiates with our government over the (islands') sovereignty."

To read the entire article from Reuters, link here: Mcgregor@chinadaily.com.cn