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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

For the information of the members of the Security Council regarding the question of the Malvinas, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the note which I have today addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if this note and its annex could be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Carlos Manuel MUÑIZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 August 1983 from the Permanent Representative of  
Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On express instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention an incident provoked in Argentine jurisdictional waters by British military forces on 1 August 1983.

On that date, the fishing vessels Rivera Vasca and Arcos, both flying the Argentine flag, were engaged in fishing activities in Argentine jurisdictional waters where the United Kingdom has illegally and arbitrarily established a so-called "exclusion zone". They were approximately at latitude 52° 30' south and longitude 60° 30' west. They were intimidated into leaving the area by units of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom.

The Argentine vessels had approached the aforementioned zone, where fishing vessels flying other flags were pursuing a shoal of fish. At 5 p.m., the Argentine vessels were buzzed several times by two British "Sea King" helicopters. Later that day, at about 6 p.m., both vessels were threatened and intimidated into leaving the so-called "exclusion zone" by a British missile frigate.

This incident reflects the persistent provocative attitude of the United Kingdom. Taken together with similar incidents reported by Argentina in notes to the President of the Security Council in 1982 (S/15361, S/15373, S/15377, S/15409, S/15427, S/15464, S/15474, S/15475 and S/15496), it is an obstacle to the elimination of the state of tension in the South Atlantic and represents a growing threat to stability in this region.

My Government again rejects the United Kingdom's illegal and arbitrary imposition of the so-called "exclusion zone" in Argentine jurisdictional waters around the Malvinas and reiterates that the United Kingdom is solely responsible for all the incidents arising out of the establishment of that zone.

Through that illegal measure, the United Kingdom is encroaching on the basic right of Argentine vessels to sail in that area and on the basic right of Argentine aircraft to fly in the area. It is preventing Argentine vessels from carrying out lawful and peaceful activities, preventing the economic development of the region's natural resources and preventing the exercise of the other rights embodied in the international law of the sea.

The British Government's attitude is also directly affecting a major private sector of Argentine production, which represents a considerable source of revenue for the Argentine external sector. Developments since the United Kingdom established the "exclusion zone" have shown that its real purpose is to guarantee itself, unilaterally and illegally, permanent, discriminatory and exclusive exploitation of the area's resources, to its own advantage.

I should also recall that the so-called "exclusion zone" has been maintained with the support of an unjustified military presence in the area. The United Kingdom proposes to consolidate that presence by building a permanent and strategic military base on the Malvinas. This grave development, which affects not only my country but the entire Latin American region, was reported in my note to you dated 16 July 1983 (A/38/301-S/15873).

The United Kingdom Government thus continues to disregard not only Argentine rights over the area, but also the Charter provisions relating to the peaceful settlement of international disputes and all the United Nations resolutions on the question of the Malvinas. Their implementation would lead to a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute over the sovereignty of those territories.

The Government and people of Argentina are deeply concerned at the growing tension and insecurity created by these illegal and arbitrary actions on the part of the United Kingdom. The British attitude, which is in contrast to Argentina's repeatedly demonstrated willingness to co-operate in the search for a negotiated settlement, continues to pose a serious obstacle to a permanent resolution of the question of the Malvinas.

I should be grateful if this note could be circulated as a General Assembly document under item 25 of the provisional agenda and brought to the attention of the Special Committee on decolonization.

(Signed) Carlos Manuel MUÑIZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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