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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
(MALVINAS)SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 15 December 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 24 November 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina (A/41/884-S/18478) about the alleged harassment of an Argentine fishing vessel by a United Kingdom military aircraft, and on instructions from my Government to state the following:

On 24 November, a C-130 Hercules aircraft of the Royal Air Force engaged in routine patrolling of the Falkland Islands Protection Zone (FIPZ) located the Argentine fishing vessel Antártida at position 52°28' south latitude, 63°20' west longitude, approximately half a mile within the FIPZ. The aircraft approached the vessel in order to identify it. The Antártida subsequently left the FIPZ. The aircraft did not overfly or in any way harass the vessel. The aircraft's closest approach was 200 yards' distance at an altitude of 200 feet.

In my letters of 4 September (A/41/585-S/18321) and 10 October (A/41/708-S/18399), I recalled that Argentine civil aircraft and shipping have been requested not to enter the FIPZ unless by prior agreement with the British Government. As in earlier cases of this nature, no such agreement was sought by the Antártida and its presence within the Protection Zone was therefore investigated. The action cannot in any way be described as harassment or provocative.

I request that this letter be given the same distribution as that of the Permanent Representative of Argentina.

(Signed) J. A. BIRCH
Chargé d'affaires