



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On express instructions from my Government, and in connexion with my note
N. U. No. 138/82/404, relating to the location and deactivation of explosives in
the area of Goose Green and Port Darwin by Argentine prisoners, I have the honour
to transmit to you the text of communiqué No. 138 of 7 June 1982 issued by the
Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

"The Joint General Staff announces that today, 7 June 1982, the United
Kingdom Government has, through the Embassy of the Federative Republic of
Brazil, transmitted its note in reply to the démarche made by the Argentine
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship in protest against the use of
Argentine prisoners of war to clear mine fields at Port Darwin and Goose
Green, which had resulted in casualties among the prisoners.

In its reply, the United Kingdom Government states: 'A box of munitions
exploded while it was being transported, killing three prisoners instantly and
injuring nine others, two of whom died later.'

The reply received does not provide any technical background and does not
explain the events with sufficient clarity; consequently the Joint General
Staff wishes to express its concern at the possibility that such events may
recur and at the United Kingdom forces' clear-cut violation of the Geneva
Convention implied thereby. Efforts are being continued, through the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and Worship, to obtain a definitive clarification of these
events and to prevent their recurrence, as well as to determine any violations
which may have been committed."

I request you, Sir, to have this letter circulated as a document of the
Security Council.

(Signed) Arnolfo M. LISTRE
Ambassador
