



Security Council

Distr.
GENERALS/14940
1 April 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISHLETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ARGENTINA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on express instructions from my Government and in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to bring to the attention of the Security Council the situation of grave tension existing between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

On 18 March 1982, workers of Argentine nationality from a private company were transported to the South Georgia Islands by the naval transport vessel Bahía Buen Suceso, where they landed with the prior knowledge of the United Kingdom Embassy in Buenos Aires and therefore of the British Government. All this was done in accordance with a valid commercial contract between an Argentine private company and a British private company. The workers were in possession of the document known as a "provisional certificate", the only valid document for travel to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, in accordance with the Argentine-British joint declaration which governs the opening of communications between the mainland territory of Argentina and those islands.

The situation of tension, which is a cause of serious concern to my Government, was created by the following acts: the uncommon presumption of the British Government in disregarding the 1971 declaration so far as the South Georgia Islands are concerned and the documents introduced under it, and the British threat to use force through the dispatch of vessels belonging to its navy. The latter was expressly admitted by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom in the House of Lords. In his statement of 30 March, Lord Carrington also stated that his Government was considering security measures which could not be publicly disclosed.

The concern which these statements caused my Government was increased by news reports which appeared in the British press and were not denied, to the effect that a number of warships, some of them carrying missiles, and two nuclear submarines had been sent to the South Atlantic because of this dispute.

The conduct of the British Government, which led to the above incidents, combined with a military presence that is unjustified and inimical to the basic principles on which international peace and security rest, is the culmination

of a systematic United Kingdom policy aimed at maintaining a position of total disregard for the sovereignty of my country over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, which the Argentine Republic has claimed, always by peaceful means, since their illegal occupation by British military forces in 1833. My Government also wishes to point out that, from the outset, the Argentine Republic has constantly reiterated its incontestable rights over the islands and has maintained its trust in the use of negotiation for a just settlement of the dispute and in the role of the United Nations in putting an end to an unjust and anachronistic colonial situation. To that end, it initiated in 1965, in compliance with resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations, a process of negotiation which has made no progress whatever because of the persistently negative attitude of the British Government and the clearly defined subject matter of which was the dispute concerning sovereignty over these archipelagos.

One of the many efforts by the Argentine Government mentioned above is the proposal made by the representatives of my country to the representatives of the United Kingdom at the meeting held in New York on 26 and 27 February 1982 for the establishment of a system of monthly meetings aimed at settling the dispute concerning those territories, Argentine sovereignty over which has been recognized by the great majority of the States comprising the international community.

That proposal by the Argentine Republic received no response from the United Kingdom Government, thus demonstrating once again its indifference to considering by peaceful means and through negotiation a question which affects the territorial integrity and dignity of the Argentine nation.

I consider it appropriate to place very special emphasis on the fact that the unilateral measures and acts of the British Government have created a situation of grave tension, the continuation of which could eventually endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

In view of the primary responsibility vested in the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Argentine Government considers that the Council should be informed of the development of this situation.

I request that this letter should be circulated urgently as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
