



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the express instructions of my Government, I have the honour to address Your Excellency with the purpose of informing the Security Council that on 8 April the Embassy of Switzerland in Buenos Aires transmitted to the Argentine Government the following communication originating from the British Government:

"From 0400 greenwich mean time on Monday 12 April 1982, a maritime exclusion zone will be established around the Falkland Islands, the outer limit of this zone is a circle of 200 nautical mile radius from latitude 51 degrees 40 minutes south, 59 degrees 30 minutes west, which is approximately the centre of the Falkland Islands. From the time indicated, any argentine warships and argentine naval auxiliaries found within this zone will be treated as hostile and are liable to be attacked by british forces. This measure is without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures maybe needed in exercise of its right of self-defence, under article 51 of the United Nations Charter".

The Argentine Government replied to the preceding communication in the following terms:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Worship wishes to refer to the Swiss Embassy's note I.E. (G.B.) 12/82, in which the Embassy informed the Government of the Argentine Republic that from 0400 hours on 12 April 1982 a maritime exclusion zone would be established around the Malvinas Islands, within which any Argentine warships and naval auxiliaries would be treated as hostile and be liable to be attacked by British forces.

This communication constitutes a notification of blockade - an act expressly defined as aggression in United Nations General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, article 3 (c) of which specifies that, regardless of a declaration of war, the blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State is an act of aggression.

The Argentine Republic will exercise the right of self-defence granted to it under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in the face of this and any other act of aggression."

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I request that this letter be circulated as a matter of urgency as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
