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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the Falkland Islands with reference to the declaration by the distinguished Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela circulated as Council document S/15111.

There appears to have been some misunderstanding of the position of the Government of the United Kingdom and I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to set out the true position. The Government of the United Kingdom are aware that the Treaty of the Rio de la Plata of 1973 between Argentina and Uruguay establishes a line at the mouth of the River Plate from Punta del Este to Punta Rasa de Cabon San Antonio. In a communication to the Government of Uruguay the Government of the United Kingdom made clear that they did not intend to engage in any military activities inshore of that line. The references to Paraguay and Bolivia are therefore irrelevant. The Government of the United Kingdom wish to do nothing which would infringe the rights and interests of Uruguay.

Measures taken in recent days, which have formed the subject of previous letters to Your Excellency, were in exercise of the United Kingdom's inherent right to self-defence in the face of Argentina's armed invasion of the Falkland Islands. This right is recognised explicitly by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. D. PARSONS