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LETTER DATED 12 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, I have the honour to inform you of the following communiqués issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

Communiqué No. 149 of 11 June 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that on 11 June 1982, at 0810 hours, British aircraft attacked the area of Puerto Argentino with air-to-ground missiles, which were fired at the hospital ship Bahía Paraíso, which was moored.

"This ship was carrying on board, in addition to its crew and wounded personnel, a commission from the International Red Cross.

"Two missiles were fired. One made impact near the ship, while the other swerved to the side and caused serious damage to a nearby house belonging to inhabitants of the Islands. Quite apart from protests made through the diplomatic channel in view of the above-mentioned actions, the Joint General Staff expresses its profound concern because these actions undoubtedly constitute a clear violation of the most fundamental human rights and show a repeated tendency to disregard the traditional humanitarian norms which govern any armed conflict. The Government of the Malvinas Islands has taken all measures to ensure, as far as possible, that the inhabitants of the Islands will not suffer the consequences of another British attack like the one described."

Communiqué No. 150 of 12 June 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that yesterday, 11 June 1982, at 2300 hours, British forces began to bombard in an indiscriminate manner the city of Puerto Argentino, killing two women aged 46 and 30, and wounding 2 other women aged 30 and 35 and 2 men aged 35 and 32. All the persons involved are residents of the Islands (Kelpers) who were caught unawares in their homes by the naval bombardment. With regard to this act, the Joint General Staff

wishes to stress particularly that during all the naval bombardments carried out by the British forces to date, the civilian population, which in this case was made a prime target, had never been attacked.

"It should be pointed out that the modern weapons systems used by the enemy, and also its skill and experience, rule out the possibility that this incident could have been caused by an error. This attack, which was carried out against the innocent civilian population, together with the attack carried out by British aircraft against the hospital ship Bahía Paraíso, causes grave concern at the lack of respect for human rights demonstrated by Great Britain, an attitude which clearly constitutes an affront to the Western world.

"All of this is in clear contrast with the conduct of the Argentine Forces, which have acted at all times with the utmost moderation and humanity, as is proved by the fact that they took the Islands without inflicting any casualties on the British forces or the inhabitants and without causing any damage to their goods and/or property."

The above-mentioned military actions of the Argentine Armed Forces were carried out by the Argentine people and Government in exercise of the right of self-defence provided for in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

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

(Signed) Arnoldo M. LISTRE  
Ambassador