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LETTER DATED 29 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 refer to my communication of yesterday's date concerning the situation in the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands, in which you were informed of a new unlawful act by the Government of the United Kingdom and which extended the scope of the note submitted on 8 April, the text of which was communicated at the time to the Security Council, with the additional factor that vessels flying any flag and aircraft of any nationality are now included.

However, British pretensions have reached new heights in the form of the following message received from the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires, which extends the zone of unrestricted aggression to the entire South Atlantic and includes all Argentine vessels, even merchant and fishing vessels:

"In announcing the establishment of a total exclusion zone around the Falklands HMG made it clear that this measure was without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its rights to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

In this connection HMG now wishes to make clear that all argentine vessels, including merchant vessels or fishing vessels, apparently engaging in surveillance of or intelligence gathering activities against british forces in the South Atlantic will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly."

These illicit actions by the United Kingdom are claimed to be justified by a so-called right of self-defence. Among other reasons, that right cannot be invoked when the Security Council has adopted measures for the maintenance of international peace and security, the first provision of which demands precisely the immediate cessation of hostilities. It is obvious that the British aggression has not only

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not ceased but, through these acts, is aimed at unleashing a new colonialist war which, given the times in which the international community is now living, represents an anachronism. Article 51 of the United Nations Charter invoked by the British aggressors, moreover, does not authorize them to try to assume the task of executing a non-existent mandate from the Security Council.

I request that this letter be distributed urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
