



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15027
2 May 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 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, with reference to my letter of 1 May 1982 (S/15025) to transmit the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on 2 May 1982:

"Yesterday before dawn Vulcan aircraft attacked Port Stanley airfield. Subsequently there was a follow up attack by a substantial number of Sea Harriers. The result was a severely damaged runway at Port Stanley airfield and considerable damage to surrounding military installations and stores. Goose Green was also attacked by a number of Sea Harriers. This local airstrip was damaged together with a number of Argentinian military aircraft parked in its vicinity. All our aircraft and crews returned safely. There was only minor damage to one aircraft which did not affect its capability and which has now in any case been repaired. There were no Task Force casualties.

In the late afternoon of the same day elements of the Task Force situated within the Total Exclusion Zone bombarded Port Stanley airfield to reinforce the effects of the bombing and to deter repair work. While this bombardment was taking place, Argentinian fighter and bomber aircraft attacked the ships. They were engaged by Sea Harriers which shot down one Mirage aircraft. Another of the Argentinian Mirage aircraft is believed to have been shot down by Argentinian gunfire from around the airport. During the evening the Argentinians mounted a bombing raid on our Task Force. One of their Canberras was shot down by a Sea Harrier. Another was severely damaged. The raid was ineffective. Only one ship was damaged and that was only superficial splinter damage. The frigate is continuing to perform its operational task. The only casualty was Able Seaman Ian Britnell from Teignmouth Devon who sustained a splinter wound. He is only slightly wounded and able to walk. We have no reports of further engagements to date."

S/15027
English
Page 2

These actions have been taken in exercise of the United Kingdom's inherent right of self-defence recognized 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
