



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 4 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 transmit to you the following statement issued by the
British Ministry of Defense on 4 May 1982:

"In the course of its duties within the Total Exclusion Zone around the
Falkland Islands, HMS Sheffield, a type 42 Destroyer, was attacked and hit
late this afternoon by an Argentine missile. The ship caught fire, which
spread out of control. When there was no longer any hope of saving the ship,
the ship's company abandoned ship. All who abandoned her were picked up. It
is feared that there have been a number of casualties but we have no details
of them yet. Next of kin will be informed first, as soon as details are
received.

"Further air operations were also conducted over the Falkland Islands today.
The Vulcan attack on Port Stanley airfield carried out this morning was
successful and the aircraft involved returned safely. In the course of Sea
Harrier attacks, one of our aircraft was shot down. The pilot has been
killed. His name will be announced after we have confirmation that his next
of kin have been informed. All the other Sea Harriers returned safely. The
task force is continuing with its operations as planned. A statement will be
made in the House of Commons tomorrow when further details are known."

The operations by British forces referred to in the above statement were being
carried out in exercise of the United Kingdom's inherent right of self-defence
recognised by article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

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