



Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/15059  
8 May 1982  
ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

---

LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to communicate with you, on express instructions from my Government and further to my note of 7 May, in order to inform you that the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation at Buenos Aires has transmitted to the Argentine Government the following communication from the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom:

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary made clear in his statement in the House of Commons this morning that Her Majesty's Government's highest priority is to achieve an early negotiated settlement of the current crisis: but that if the Government of Argentina did not show the same readiness and desire to reach a peaceful settlement, it should be in no doubt that Her Majesty's Government would do whatever may be necessary to end the unlawful Argentine occupation of the Falkland Islands.

"In this context, Her Majesty's Government wishes to recall that on 23 April it informed the Government of Argentina that any approach on the part of Argentine warships, submarines, naval auxiliaries or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British forces in the South Atlantic would encounter the appropriate response. In addition, all Argentine aircraft, including civil aircraft, engaging in surveillance of these British forces, would be regarded as hostile and were liable to be dealt with accordingly.

"In addition, Her Majesty's Government has made 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 would also be regarded as hostile and were liable to be dealt with accordingly.

"From 1100 GMT on 30 April Her Majesty's Government established a Total Exclusion Zone around the Falkland Islands. Her Majesty's Government will continue to enforce this exclusion zone which applies not only to Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries but also to any other ships, including merchant and fishing vessels which are operating in support of the illegal occupation of the Falkland Islands by Argentine forces: and this also

applies to any aircraft, whether military or civil, which is operating in support of that illegal occupation.

"Her Majesty's Government has consistently made clear that the United Kingdom has the right to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Her Majesty's Government will take all necessary measures in the South Atlantic in the self-defence of British ships and aircraft engaged in operations and in resupplying and reinforcing British forces in the South Atlantic. Because of the proximity of Argentine bases and the distances that hostile forces can cover undetected, particularly at night and in bad weather, Her Majesty's Government warns that any Argentine warship or military aircraft which are found more than 12 nautical miles from the Argentine coast will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly."

The extremely grave precedent created by this qualitative escalation in the United Kingdom's aggression against my country, which it has tried to justify as a reformulation of the United Kingdom's threat contained in its communication to the Security Council dated 23 April, cannot go unnoticed by the international community.

In this connexion, it must be pointed out that international peace and security, which are the object of the Security Council's responsibility, are seriously threatened as a result of this new act of United Kingdom aggression, inasmuch as:

1. The Government of the United Kingdom is using force and arrogating to itself the right to use force again, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of Security Council resolution 502 (1982).
2. The Government of the United Kingdom is setting itself up as a judge to determine arbitrarily what affects the security of its warships and military aircraft which are 8,000 nautical miles from its territory, reserving the right to attack Argentine merchant vessels, fishing vessels and civil aircraft, even those navigating near the Argentine coast.

The Argentine Government therefore holds the United Kingdom and those nations which co-operate with it in the military field responsible for any consequence of the actions that may be carried out by the United Kingdom in this connexion.

3. The Security Council is hereby informed that much of the coastwise transport between ports on the Argentine coast is carried out by vessels of the Naval Transport Service of the Argentine Navy, promoting activities for the economic and social development of the continental and insular southern region of Argentina.

From the moment at which this illegal blockade set up by the United Kingdom took effect, the security of a wide range of my country's development activities has been affected.

4. The Argentine Government holds that the announcement of this illegal blockade, established with immediate effect and in circumstances in which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is engaged in a peace move known to the Security

/...

Council, constitutes incontrovertible proof of the bad faith with which the United Kingdom is acting in the diplomatic field. The increase in the United Kingdom's military activities, which United Kingdom authorities have publicly acknowledged, is likewise an indication that the United Kingdom is preparing not only to continue the hostilities but also to renew its armed attacks in violation of resolution 502, thereby preventing a peaceful and negotiated solution as required by the same resolution of the Council.

5. The Argentine people and Government will exercise their inalienable right to self-defence of Argentina's territorial integrity and sovereignty, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I request you to circulate this letter, as a matter of urgency, as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

-----

/...