



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15092
18 May 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on the express instructions from my Government, to bring to your notice Communiqués No. 57 of 16 May 1982 and Nos. 58, 59 and 61 of 17 May 1982, issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces, the texts of which are as follows:

Communiqué No. 57

"The Joint General Staff announces, with regard to the status of the vessel Isla de los Estados, servicing the islanders resident in the area of the Malvinas, that from the information that has become available it is presumed that the said vessel was sunk by British Forces while engaged in support operations for the people of the Malvinas and using a launch to carry foodstuffs to the coast."

Communiqué No. 58

"The Joint General Staff announces that on 16 May 1982, at approximately 2 p.m., Sea Harrier aircraft attacked, in the San Carlos channel separating the Gran Malvina and Soledad islands, the transport vessels Río Carcaraña and Bahía Buen Suceso. As a result of the attack the Río Carcaraña was set on fire and the Bahía Buen Suceso suffered damage, the extent of which has not yet been assessed.

The only return the English task force is getting for these attacks on unarmed transport vessels is to prevent the supply of foodstuffs, medicines and fuel to the islanders.

In view of these events, our own forces will take the necessary measures to protect the legitimate rights of the inhabitants, affected by the indiscriminate attacks of the English task force."

Communiqué No. 59

"The Joint General Staff announces, in connexion with the damage suffered by the merchant vessel Río Carcaraña, that its crew suffered no casualties."

Communiqué No. 61

"The Joint General Staff announces that, as a result of the attacks carried out yesterday, 16 May 1982, by two English Sea Harrier aircraft, a number of installations belonging to the civilian population were destroyed at Fox Bay.

A similar event occurred at Port Darwin, where a high-power bomb failed to explode after falling near a house inhabited by civilians.

The above demonstrates that English aircraft are indiscriminately attacking their targets, seriously endangering the life and property of the very islanders whom they claim to be defending."

I want to point out that these further illegitimate acts of aggression occurred while the negotiations initiated under the good offices of the Secretary-General are in progress.

These acts of aggression are, moreover, particularly serious inasmuch as British aircraft have been attacking their targets indiscriminately, destroying installations belonging to the civilian population. The vessels attacked were likewise unarmed transport vessels engaged in supplying foodstuffs, medicines and fuel to the population of the islands. The acts described clearly demonstrate the hypocrisy of the British Government in its assertions of being bound to ensure the protection of the islanders.

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

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
