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LETTER DATED 20 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 address you on the subject of the Falkland Islands.

It is now 48 days since Argentina used armed force to invade the Falkland Islands, contrary to fundamental principles of the Charter, notably the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means. It is also 47 days since the Security Council demanded the "immediate withdrawal of all Argentine armed forces from the Falkland Islands" (resolution 502 (1982), adopted on 3 April 1982). Argentina has refused to comply and remains today in military occupation of the islands, persisting in its attempt to subjugate the people of the islands by force. In these circumstances, the United Kingdom continues to take measures in exercise of its inherent right of self-defence against this illegal use of force by Argentina.

In this connexion, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement made by the spokesman of the British Ministry of Defence on 20 May:

"Last night two Harrier aircraft from the task force bombed Argentine military positions about 8 miles west of Stanley. Both the aircraft returned safely. There were no task force casualties. This raid was part of our continuing operations to pin the Argentine forces down and to deplete their equipment and stores. As another facet of this same aim, ships of the task force continued to bombard military targets on the islands at irregular intervals.

"I have no reports of operational contacts with the Argentine forces today."

As the above statement makes clear, and contrary to the assertion contained in the letter dated 18 May 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina (S/15092), actions by British forces are directed against military targets. Argentina could best demonstrate its concern for the population of the islands by withdrawing its forces, as was demanded by the Security Council on 3 April 1982.

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
