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LETTER DATED 22 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 address you, on express instructions from my Government, to bring to your attention the following communiqués issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Forces:

Communiqué No. 69 of 21 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that, in the actions which are taking place today, 21 May 1982, in the San Carlos Channel, Malvinas Islands, an enemy Harrier aircraft has been shot down. The Argentine Forces maintain control of the situation".

Communiqué No. 70 of 21 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that aircraft of the Argentine Air Force and Navy attacked the British vessel operating in the San Carlos Strait. The results of the attack are being evaluated".

Communiqué No. 71 of 21 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that, during the attack carried out today, 21 May 1982, between 10:30 and 11.00 hours, by the Argentine Air Force and Navy, the following results were noted:

- a frigate was hit by 14 rockets; the damage has not yet been assessed;
- a frigate caught fire and sank;
- three frigates were damaged.

The Argentine forces in the zone are operating according to plan".

Communiqué No. 73 of 21 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that, in the military actions which lasted until 16.00 hours today, 21 May 1982, the following new material developments took place:

Enemy forces:

- five frigates directly hit: two seriously damaged and three suffering various degrees of damage;
- one Sea Harrier aircraft shot down;
- one helicopter shot down;

Argentine forces:

- three aircraft shot down;
- three helicopters damaged.

Operations continue in the area".

Communiqué No. 75 of 22 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that the actions carried out by the enemy forces have demonstrated the aggressive and intransigent attitude which Great Britain maintains towards the dispute with the Argentine Republic.

Britain has responded to the genuine possibility of continuing the negotiations by launching an attack on the Islands, the repercussions of which are unpredictable, although they will, doubtless, be extremely bloody. Argentina has been obliged to respond with firmness and will continue to do so as long as it is under attack.

Although struggling resolutely, we Argentines are fully aware that the path is that of coexistence and that, in the international order, the only valid attitude is that which makes it possible to live with honour. Let us seek peace, but a peace that is just and honourable".

Communiqué No. 76 of 22 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff reports that, as a result of the attacks carried out by Argentine aircraft throughout the day on 21 May 1982 against the aggressor forces of Great Britain, our forces lost a total of six aircraft and three helicopters in combat action".

The military actions of the Argentine Armed Forces were carried out in exercise of the right to self defence, in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and for the purpose of countering the illegal military aggression of the United Kingdom, in violation of the most elementary principles and norms of the applicable international law.

I request that this letter be circulated, as a matter of urgency, as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
