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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On express instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 2000 hours on 28 May 1982, the Argentine Government transmitted to the United Kingdom authorities, through the Embassy of Brazil, the following communication:

"In its communication dated 26 May 1982, the Argentine Government stated that the hospital ship HMS Uganda was hampering the movements of the combatants and therefore, in accordance with article 30 of the second Geneva Convention, was acting at its own risk.

"On 27 May, another communication was sent, stating that the above-mentioned vessel not only was interfering with operations but also was being used for objectives of a military nature. Despite these warnings, the above-mentioned United Kingdom military hospital ship is continuing to engage in activities foreign to its mission, at a point situated at approximately 50°45' south latitude, 60°15' west longitude.

"In view of this situation and in accordance with article 34 of the second Geneva Convention of 1949, the Argentine Government announces that if by 0000 (zero) hours on 29 May 1982, HMS Uganda and other hospital ships have not withdrawn to a distance which leaves no room for doubt about their use, they will cease to be considered hospital ships and will be treated as hostile vessels."

I must point out, Sir, that the improper use of the Uganda, in violation of the provisions of the second Geneva Convention of 1949, has already been the subject of repeated complaints by the Argentine Government, as you were informed by my note No. 120/82/404 of 28 May 1982.

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

(Signed) Arnoldo M. LISTRE  
Ambassador