

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/15176
7 June 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH



LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 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 of the following communiqué issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

Communiqué No. 132 of 5 June 1982:

"In view of newspaper reports from London to the effect that captive Argentine soldiers had been compelled to locate and deactivate explosives in the area of Goose Green and Port Darwin, the Joint General Staff declares that the Argentine Government views with enormous concern this apparent violation of the express provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Article 52 of that Convention explicitly states that unless he be a volunteer, no prisoner of war may be employed on labour of an unhealthy or dangerous nature.

The foregoing, by reason of its characteristics and if it accords strictly with the facts, constitutes a circumstance whose implications for the preservation of the human rights of combatant prisoners are fundamental."

I must emphasize to you, Sir, the extreme gravity the United Kingdom's actions would take on if the British news reports should be confirmed. It should be added at this point that the last part of article 52 of the Geneva Convention cited in the above communiqué reads: "The removal of mines or similar devices shall be considered as dangerous labour."

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

(Signed) Arnoldo M. LISTRE
Ambassador
