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LETTER DATED 13 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

I have the honour to address you, on express instructions from my Government, in order to bring to your attention the following communiqué issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

Communiqué No. 155 of 13 June 1982

"The Joint General Staff announces that yesterday, 12 June 1982, the Argentine Foreign Office transmitted to the British authorities, through the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil, a note of protest at the bombardment by British ships of the population of Puerto Argentino, which resulted in two dead and four wounded, and also at the attack by British aircraft on the Argentine hospital ship Bahía Paraíso which was transporting wounded and personnel of the International Red Cross.

The note stated, inter alia:

'It is inappropriate for the British Government to request the Argentine Government to assume responsibilities relating to the protection of the civilian population when British forces themselves are attacking the very persons for whom it seeks protection.

It is hard to understand also that, while requesting the Argentine Government to facilitate access to Puerto Argentino by members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the British Government should be attacking the ship in which they are travelling to that town.

For all these reasons, the Argentine Government wishes to denounce these actions, which constitute serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and endanger the lives and security of the civilian population of Puerto Argentino and also the lives and security of members of the International Red Cross who are in that town in pursuance of a mission of strictly humanitarian nature and with the knowledge and agreement of the British Government.'"

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

(Signed) Arnaldo M. LISTRE
Ambassador
