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LETTER DATED 17 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, on express instructions from my Government, to bring to your attention a communication from the Government of the United Kingdom, transmitted on 15 June to my Government through the Embassy of Brazil in the Argentine Republic and the reply from the Argentine Government to this communication.

The United Kingdom note states:

"Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to request the Ministry to pass the following message to the Government of Argentina urgently and to obtain their response as soon as possible.

Following the cease-fire in the Falklands Islands, there are a large number of Argentine personnel who will wish to return as soon as possible to their homes and families in Argentina. The British Government is prepared to start the process of repatriation as soon as possible provided that they receive confirmation from the Argentine Government that there is now a total cessation of hostilities between the two countries and that Argentina is ready to accept the return of Argentine prisoners of war and others from the Falklands Islands and dependencies direct to Argentine ports on British or other ships or aircraft. The British Government would else require confirmation of safe passage for any ships and aircraft used for this purpose. Furthermore, once confirmation of the total cessation of hostilities is received, the British Government proposes that the economic measures and exclusion zones instituted by both parties should be lifted and at the same time the British Government would be ready to ask those countries who have imposed economic measures against Argentina to bring them to an end."

The Argentine note states:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and has the honour to request it to transmit the following message to the British authorities:

"The Argentine Government is ready to receive as soon as possible the Argentine personnel now on the Malvinas Islands. For this purpose, it understands that the procedure followed up to now from the beginning of the conflict should continue to be applied.

The Argentine Government hopes that the British Government will apply this procedure which has already been successfully carried out in co-operation with the Government of Uruguay and with the International Committee of the Red Cross and which has allowed transfers in very few hours to Argentine territory.

Any attempt to impose unilaterally other conditions of a political nature that have nothing to do with humanitarian considerations, is unacceptable to the Argentine Government. Otherwise, the British Government must assume the responsibility for using the situation of these thousands of persons for political purposes."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil the assurances of its highest consideration".

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

(Signed) Arnold M. LISTRE
Ambassador
