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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 9 April 1982 (S/14963) and to the letters from Sir Anthony Parsons dated 24 April 1982 (S/14997), 28 April 1982 (S/15006) and 8 May 1982 (S/15058). On instructions from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to inform you that a statement in the following terms was made earlier today in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher.

"We have decided to lift the total exclusion zone of 200 nautical miles around the Falkland Islands, which was established on 30 April. Port Stanley Harbour and Port Stanley Airfield, together with the three-mile territorial sea around the Falklands, nevertheless, remain closed to commercial shipping and aircraft until further notice for reasons of safety.

"Our warning of 7 May that any Argentine warship or military aircraft found more than 12 miles from the Argentine coast would be regarded as hostile similarly no longer applies.

"But British forces continue to have authority to take all necessary measures to protect themselves against attack anywhere in the South Atlantic and to defend the Falkland Islands and the dependencies, in accordance with the inherent right of self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, and to minimize the risk of misunderstandings or inadvertent clashes, we have asked the Argentine Government, via the Swiss Government, to ensure that their warships and military aircraft do not enter a zone of 150 miles around the Islands where they would pose a potential threat to our forces. Argentine civil aircraft and shipping have also been requested not to enter this zone, unless by prior agreement with the British Government, and also to stay clear of other British dependencies in the South Atlantic."

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I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hamilton WHYTE

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