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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 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 instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council of the events which took place in the waters lying within Argentine jurisdiction on 5, 8 and 10 August, when the Argentine fishing vessels Harengus, Api III and Usurbil, which were carrying out their usual tasks, were intercepted by British warships and military aircraft, the latter armed with rockets. They were warned to change their course and followed in order to force them to withdraw from the area in which they were operating, on the alleged ground of enforcement of the so-called "Protection Zone" imposed by the United Kingdom, as this Mission informed the Council on 27 July 1982.

With these acts of provocation, the United Kingdom is reverting to the aggression of which my country was recently the object, in order to maintain by force an inadmissible colonial situation, which now extends to the violation of Argentine territorial integrity in the sea areas under its jurisdiction, also impeding engagement in lawful and peaceful activities.

The British action interferes not only with the right of free navigation but also the exploitation by the Argentine Republic of its marine resources. It constitutes a violation of the right of a State to permanent sovereignty over its natural resources, which has been repeatedly confirmed by the United Nations, and also impedes the exercise of the other powers attributed to the State both by international law and, more specifically, by the law of the sea.

The British claim that one State must seek authorization from another for the peaceful performance by its nationals of lawful acts in zones subject to its own jurisdiction and, even more, recourse to the threat or use of force to impose such an arbitrary claim is unacceptable.

The Argentine Government strongly condemns these acts and reiterates that, in the face of this new escalation of British aggression, it holds the United Kingdom responsible for any incident which may arise in the future.

It draws attention once again to the fact that an effective and just peace can be attained only when the United Kingdom ceases to enforce the above-mentioned so-called "Protection Zone" and the economic sanctions; withdraws the military forces of occupation from the islands and their naval forces, including the nuclear-powered submarines; and undertakes negotiations in good faith with the Argentine Republic in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations within the framework of that Organization, with a view to arriving at a final solution of the dispute over sovereignty, in order to put an end to the existing unjust and wrongful colonial situation.

I request that this note be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ruth GUEVARA ACHAVAL
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
