

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/14998
24 April 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE 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 the Security Council that, on 23 April 1982, the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires delivered to the Argentine Government the following communication from the United Kingdom Government:

"In announcing the establishment of a maritime exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands, Her Majesty's Government made it clear that this measure was without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in the exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. In this connection, Her Majesty's Government now wishes to make clear that any approach on the part of Argentine warships, including submarines, naval auxiliaries, or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of the British forces in the South Atlantic, will encounter the appropriate response. All Argentine aircraft including civil aircraft engaging in surveillance of these British forces will be regarded as hostile and are liable to be dealt with accordingly."

The Argentine Government, in note No. 49/82/404 (S/14961) dated 9 April 1982, informed the Security Council that the United Kingdom had established a blockade zone around the Malvinas Islands within which any Argentine warships and naval auxiliaries would be treated as hostile and be liable to be attacked by British forces.

The statement reproduced above demonstrates that the United Kingdom is not confining its threat of aggression to a specific zone, but is extending its warlike activities to the South Atlantic, even against Argentine civil aircraft, in violation of the express provisions of a number of international instruments.

If to these specific declarations are added the statements by Mr. Nott, the United Kingdom Minister of Defence (to the effect that his country would not hesitate to shoot first) and the statements made to the British Parliament on 21 April 1982 by Mr. Pym, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, (in which he stressed that the British Government was not ruling out the possibility of using force even while negotiations were under way), then it is clear that the United

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Kingdom has no intention at all of complying with the provisions of Security Council resolution 502 (1982), although it was directly responsible for the situation arising out of its constant refusal to do away with a vestige of colonialism created by an act of aggression on the part of the British Empire.

The repressive intention of the United Kingdom thus becomes so clear that it cannot be tolerated, accepted or endorsed by the international community. On the other hand, it authorizes the Argentine Republic to exercise immediately the right of self-defence.

I request that this letter be urgently circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative