



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to communicate with you on the express instructions of my Government and, in connexion with my previous communications concerning the situation in the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands, find myself obliged to inform you of the following:

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, having begun its aggressive escalation with the dispatch of a fleet of warships that includes nuclear submarines, and having continued it with the naval and air blockade of part of Argentina's territory, today, 25 April, perpetrated an act of armed aggression against the South Georgia Islands, which form part of Argentine territory, using naval units and helicopters.

This aggression began during the morning hours with an attack on an Argentine submarine, which was anchored at the surface and was unloading provisions, medicines and mail in the port of Grytviken, and continued with a steady bombardment of that port carried out by British naval units.

For more than four hours the defence force was subjected to constant cannon fire from the destroyer Exeter, in addition to raids carried out by heavily-armed helicopters, which machine-gunned the defensive positions. After a short, tactical withdrawal, the Exeter took up a position off Port Leigh, with the support of the remainder of the units of the task force (one tanker ship, one troop carrier and one logistical-support vessel), presumably waiting for suitable conditions for a new assault on the Argentine position. According to the latest information on the events in Port Leigh, which lies north-west of Grytviken, the small naval force stationed there managed to hold out until its defence capability was exhausted.

The Argentine Government wishes to point out that this attack was carried out at a time when the negotiations undertaken with the participation of United States Secretary of State, Mr. Alexander Haig, were still open.

These negotiations involved the simultaneous consideration of all aspects of Security Council resolution 502, dated 3 April 1982.

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My Government considers that this new act of British aggression constitutes a grave breach of international peace and security.

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

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
