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LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter of 23 May (S/15104), I have the honour to address you on the subject of the Falkland Islands.

The following is a factual account prepared by the United Kingdom authorities of military operations in the area of the Falkland Islands since 22 May. Although some details are as yet incomplete, the information provided accurately reflects reports from British forces in the area.

23 May 1982

Sea Harriers detected and engaged three Argentine helicopters over the Falkland Sound. Two Pumas were destroyed, and a Bell helicopter was set on fire on the ground. In the early afternoon, Argentine aircraft once again attacked British ships in San Carlos Water. The frigate HMS Antelope was seriously damaged and had to be abandoned. Five Mirage and two Skyhawks were shot down, with a further aircraft probably destroyed by British aircraft and land- or ship-based missiles.

24 May 1982

The Argentine Air Force launched a series of attacks on British ships in San Carlos Water. Several waves of Mirage and Skyhawk aircraft were engaged by Sea Harriers on combat air patrol, by ships' missiles and guns, and by Rapier shore-based air defence missiles. As a result, a total of eight Argentine aircraft were shot down. During these air attacks, two British support vessels sustained some damage. In the afternoon, British Harrier aircraft carried out a further attack on Port Stanley airfield, hitting the runway and associated installations close by. On land, British forces continued to consolidate their position. Patrols were put out, but no contact with Argentine forces was made. HMS Antelope sank.

25 May 1982

During the day, British Harrier aircraft carried out three further attacks on Port Stanley airfield. They were fired at but not hit. All the aircraft returned

safely. Throughout the day, Argentine aircraft made a number of attacks on ships from the British task force, both in the Falkland Sound and San Carlos Water and to the north-east of the Falkland Islands. A total of five Argentine aircraft were shot down. At approximately 7.30 p.m. London time, a number of Skyhawk aircraft attacked HMS Coventry, which was hit by several bombs and suffered severe damage. She later capsized. Details of casualties are still being received. A further attack by two Super Etendard aircraft took place at about 8.30 p.m. London time, during which Atlantic Conveyor, a merchant ship with the British task force, was hit by Exocet missiles and set on fire. She was loaded with supplies for the British forces based on the Falkland Islands. Again, casualty details are still coming in. Rescue operations were mounted through the latter part of the day and have been continuing. On land, British forces have continued to consolidate their positions.

The operations by British forces were taken in exercise of the United Kingdom's inherent right to self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the face of Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands and the illegal use of force to occupy them and to subjugate their people.

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

(Signed) A. D. PARSONS
