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TELEGRAM DATED 29 MAY 1982 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with Article 54 of the United Nations Charter, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith resolution II, adopted on 29 May 1982 by the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:

"SERIOUS SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

"Draft resolution adopted by the General Committee at its sixth session, on 29 May 1982, and revised by the Co-ordinating and Drafting Committee

"Whereas:

"Resolution 1 of the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of American Ministers of Foreign Affairs, adopted on April 28, 1982, decided to 'keep the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation open, especially to oversee faithful compliance with this resolution, and to take such additional measures as are deemed necessary to restore and preserve peace and settle the conflict by peaceful means';

"That resolution urged the Government of the United Kingdom 'immediately to cease the hostilities it is carrying on within the security region defined by Article 4 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, and also to refrain from any act that may affect Inter-American peace and security', and urged the Government of the Republic of Argentina to 'refrain from taking any action that may exacerbate the situation';

"The same resolution urged the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic 'immediately to call a truce that will make it possible to resume and proceed normally with the negotiation aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict, taking into account the rights of sovereignty of the Republic of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands and the interests of the islanders';

"While the Government of the Argentine Republic informed the Organ of Consultation of its full adherence to resolution I and acted consistently therewith, the British forces proceeded to carry out serious and repeated armed attacks against the Argentine Republic in the zone of the Malvinas Islands, within the security region defined by Article 4 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, which means that the United Kingdom has ignored the appeal made to it by the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation;

"Following the adoption of resolution I, the Government of the United States of America decided to apply coercive measures against the Argentine Republic and is giving its support, including material support, to the United Kingdom, which contravenes the spirit and the letter of resolution I;

"As a culmination of its repeated armed attacks, beginning on May 21, 1982, the British forces launched a broad-scale military attack against the Argentine Republic in the area of the Malvinas Islands which affects the peace and security of the hemisphere;

"The deplorable situation raised by the application of political and economic coercive measures that are not based on present international law and are harmful to the Argentine people, carried out by the European Economic Community - with the exception of Ireland and Italy - and by other industrialized States, is continuing, and the purpose of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance is 'to assure peace, through adequate means, to provide for effective reciprocal assistance to meet armed attacks against any American State, and in order to deal with threats of aggression against any of them';

"The Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

"Resolves:

"1. To condemn most vigorously the unjustified and disproportionate armed attack perpetrated by the United Kingdom, and its decision, which affects the security of the entire American hemisphere, of arbitrarily declaring an extensive area of up to 12 miles from the American coasts as a zone of hostilities, which is aggravated by the circumstance that when these actions were taken all possibilities of negotiation seeking a peaceful settlement of the conflict had not been exhausted.

"2. To reiterate its firm demand upon the United Kingdom that it cease immediately its acts of war against the Argentine Republic and order the immediate withdrawal of all its armed forces detailed there and the return of its task force to its usual stations.

"3. To deplore the fact that the attitude of the United Kingdom has helped to frustrate the negotiations for a peaceful settlement that were conducted by Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"4. To express its conviction that it is essential to reach with the greatest urgency a peaceful and honourable settlement of the conflict, under the auspices of the United Nations, and in that connection, to recognize the praiseworthy efforts and good offices of Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to lend its full support to the task entrusted to him by the Security Council.

"5. To urge the Government of the United States of America to order the immediate lifting of the coercive measures applied against the Argentine Republic and to refrain from providing material assistance to the United Kingdom, in observance of the principle of hemispheric solidarity recognized in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.

"6. To urge the members of the European Economic Community, and the other States that have taken them, to lift immediately the coercive economic or political measures taken against the Argentine Republic.

"7. To request the States parties of the Rio Treaty to give the Argentine Republic the support that each judges appropriate to assist it in this serious situation, and to refrain from any act that might jeopardize that objective. If necessary, such support may be adopted with adequate co-ordination.

"8. To reaffirm the basic constitutional principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States and of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, in particular, those that refer to peaceful settlement of disputes.

"9. To keep the Organ of Consultation available to assist the parties in conflict with their peace-making efforts in any way it may support the mission entrusted to the United Nations Secretary-General by the Security Council, and to instruct the President of the Meeting of Consultation to keep in continuous contact with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"10. To keep the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation open to see to it that the provisions of this resolution are faithfully and immediately carried out and to take, if necessary, any additional measures that may be agreed upon to preserve inter-American solidarity and co-operation."

Alejandro ORFILA
Secretary-General
Organization of American States
