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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the fact that the Permanent Representative of Argentina copied to you his letter dated 3 January 1983 to the Secretary-General (S/15547), in connection with the Falkland Islands, with a request that his letter be distributed as a document of the Security Council, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of my letter of today's date to the Secretary-General in reply. I have the honour to request you to give the same distribution to my letter.

(Signed) Hamilton WHYTF  
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 3, 12 and 24 January from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations (circulated as documents A/38/71, 72 and 81). I will not deal with all the many misrepresentations in these letters. It is sufficient to state the following.

The position of my Government on the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands Dependencies is well known and remains unchanged. The same applies to their position regarding negotiations with Argentina.

The critical reference to "militarization" of the territories in question ignores the unprovoked Argentine invasion of the Islands and our need to defend them from further attacks. The risk of such attacks, despite the assertion in the letter of 24 January from the Argentine Chargé d'Affaires to you, which represents neither a definitive statement of the cessation of hostilities nor a renunciation of the use of force, is underlined by a series of bellicose statements from Argentina in recent weeks.

There are no grounds for criticism of the recent visit to the Falkland Islands by my Prime Minister. It is natural that the Prime Minister would wish to visit a British territory which has so recently been liberated from foreign occupation, and she has every right to do so.

I have the honour to ask you to give this letter the same distribution as the Argentine letters referred to above.

(Signed) Hamilton WHYTE  
Chargé d'Affaires

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