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Se refiere a:

**01JUN82 – Documento S/15148. Nota de Gran Bretaña referida a: Respuesta a la nota S/15143 de Argentina referida a la resolución de OEA**

(Consejo de Seguridad UN)

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## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 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

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 31 May 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina, together with its enclosure (S/15143), to state the following by way of reply.

The resolution adopted by the Organization of American States on 29 May 1982 (the OAS resolution) fails to refer to resolutions 502 (1982) and 505 (1982), adopted on 3 April and 26 May 1982 by the Security Council, which has "the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". The OAS resolution thus fails to take account of the Argentine invasion on 2 April 1982 and the resulting breach of the peace which the Security Council determined to exist. Moreover, the OAS resolution fails to endorse the Security Council's demand for the "immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falkland Islands", an omission made the more remarkable by the fact that by Article 25 of the Charter Members of the United Nations "agree to accept and carry out" such demands.

Operative paragraph 1 of the OAS resolution refers to "the unjustified and disproportionate armed attack perpetrated by the United Kingdom". This charge is not well founded in fact or law. Members of the Council will recall that it was Argentina which first used force by launching an armed attack on the Falkland Islands. That attack was a wholly unjustifiable act of aggression and a breach of the principles of the Charter. It took place at a time when negotiations were still in progress and resulted in the overwhelming of a tiny British garrison by a vastly larger Argentine force. In these circumstances, the United Kingdom is fully justified under international law, recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, in taking measures in exercise of its inherent right of self-defence of British people and British sovereign territory. These measures have not been disproportionate in any way. The British forces now on the Falkland Islands are smaller in numbers than the Argentine occupation forces. It is quite unwarrantable to characterize these measures of self-defence as an attack upon Argentina.

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With regard to operative paragraph 2 of the OAS resolution, the United Kingdom can only deny that it is engaged in "acts of war against the Argentine Republic". The United Kingdom is, as stated above, taking measures in self-defence against the Argentine invasion and illegal occupation of the Falkland Islands, contrary to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 502 (1982).

The United Kingdom is surprised by the assertion in operative paragraph 3 of the OAS resolution concerning the negotiations with Argentina conducted through the good offices of the Secretary-General. The latter's report does not bear out the complaint against the United Kingdom. The full terms of the British position were made public at the time.

The United Kingdom agrees that it is urgent to reach a peaceful and honourable settlement of the conflict, which was started by Argentina and is greatly regretted by the United Kingdom. A peaceful settlement would permit the legitimate countermeasures taken against Argentina in the economic field to be lifted.

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

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