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(Consejo de Seguridad UN)

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LETTER DATED 1 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter, I have the honour to inform you, as a follow-up to my note of today, that the successive attacks by the British Air Force against Puerto Argentino in the Malvinas Islands were repulsed by my country in exercise of its right of self-defence. In the anti-aircraft action, two Harrier aircraft were shot down; a third was hit, but its fate is unknown because radar contact was lost.

In perpetrating this bloody aggression against my country, the United Kingdom is persisting in violating Security Council resolution 502 (1982). In the light of these facts, not even the most distorted interpretation of that resolution (which was adopted in the interest of peace) can be used by the United Kingdom in an attempt to legitimize its irresponsible conduct.

The increasing aggression by the United Kingdom against my country is today threatening to unleash an armed conflict of unknown dimensions and unforeseeable implications for international peace and security; the United Kingdom Government will be solely responsible for the breach of such peace and security.

Through these actions, the United Kingdom is seeking to arrogate to itself powers which, under Article 24 of the Charter, were granted by the States Members of the United Nations to the Security Council for the discharge of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Kingdom is thus thwarting effective implementation of a Council resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom itself. It is now declaring the resolution to be ineffective and is cynically invoking the right of self-defence in seeking to justify an open and brazen act of aggression.

I request that this note be urgently circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative