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UNITED NATIONS
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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On express instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following communiqués issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

Communiqué No. 77 of 22 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that, at dawn today 22 May 1982, troops of the Argentine army continued to fight the troops which the enemy landed in the area of Puerto San Carlos.

The battlefront remains stable and the situation under the control of the Argentine forces."

Communiqué No. 78 of 22 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that today, 22 May 1982, during an attack on Argentine positions in Puerto Darwin, a British Sea Harrier aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire."

Communiqué No. 79 of 23 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that the military operations conducted by the Argentine Forces on 22 May 1982, in the Malvinas area, took place according to plan and were designed mainly to prevent the enemy force from consolidating its position."

Communiqué No. 80 of 23 May 1982:

"In view of the versions attempting to describe the Canberra as a hospital ship, the Joint General Staff confirms that this vessel is used for the transport of troops and, as stated at the time by the British Government, the four vessels officially declared by the United Kingdom to be hospital ships are:

- Uganda, 19,907 tons,
- Herald, Hecla and Hydra, 2,898 tons."

Communiqué No. 83 of 23 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that, in order to maintain continuous action against the enemy so as to prevent it from strengthening or consolidating its position in Puerto San Carlos, on 23 May 1982 air raids were conducted and their results are being evaluated."

Communiqué No. 84 of 24 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that, as a result of the air attacks on 23 May 1982 against the enemy forces operating in Puerto San Carlos, the following developments occurred:

Argentine forces: one aircraft shot down.

British forces: one frigate with considerable damage and one troop- and helicopter-carrier seriously damaged. One unidentified vessel suffered miscellaneous damage, still to be evaluated."

Communiqué No. 85 of 24 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that on 24 May 1982 air attacks were carried out by our forces in order to prevent the extension of the beachhead established by British forces in Puerto San Carlos.

During these air operations, carried out by aircraft of the Argentine Air Force, land targets and naval transport and support units were attacked.

The total damage inflicted on the enemy is being evaluated.

British Harrier aircraft bombed the area of Puerto Argentino without causing damage to personnel or matériel, and were repelled by our anti-aircraft fire. As a result of this operation, an invading aircraft was apparently shot down."

Communiqué No. 86 of 25 May 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that, with regard to the operations taking place in the area of Puerto San Carlos, it can be definitely established that the enemy forces have succeeded in establishing a beachhead, which they are reinforcing by landing matériel, equipment and personnel, amounting to approximately 2,000 men. The beachhead extends over an area of 10 km in a west-east direction and an area of 15 km in a north-south direction.

With army units deployed in the area and with the support of our aircraft, our forces are engaged in neutralizing the advance of the British troops. For the above-mentioned purposes and in liaison with our army forces, the Argentine air force conducted attacks with the following results:

/...

Enemy forces:

- One troop carrier seriously damaged.
- One frigate damaged.
- One Sea Harrier shot down.

Our forces:

- Two aircraft shot down.

It should be noted that there has so far been no report of casualties and/or prisoners on either side, although presumably there have been some, in view of the type of operation conducted."

I request that this letter be circulated, as a matter of urgency, as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo A. ROCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
