

the South Georgia Islands for four hours until the defence capability of the small Argentine naval force stationed there was exhausted. In a letter dated 26 April,⁽¹³⁵⁾ the United Kingdom announced that its forces had re-established British authority on South Georgia on 25 April; that it had acted in self-defence; and that the only casualty was an injured Argentine seaman.

By a letter of 26 April,⁽¹⁸⁴⁾ Japan transmitted a statement of the same date by its Minister for Foreign Affairs calling for the immediate cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of Argentine forces, and expressing Japan's intention to make further efforts to prevent enlargement of the dispute.

Acting on a 19 April request by Argentina, the Permanent Council of OAS adopted a resolution on 21 April, transmitted the same day,⁽⁶⁾ agreeing to convene on 26 April the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of its member States to consider what it termed the grave situation in the South Atlantic.

On 26 April,⁽¹¹³⁾ Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a communique issued that day by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which had met at Argentina's request. The Bureau reaffirmed its support for Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, requested the parties to seek a peaceful solution of their dispute and said the use of force in international relations was contrary to the Movement's principles. The United Kingdom commented in a letter dated 28 April⁽¹³⁷⁾ that it shared the Co-ordinating Bureau's concern over developments in the region, and asserted that Argentina's use of force was contrary to the principles of the Movement as well as those of the United Nations Charter; it emphasized the right of self-determination of the Islands' inhabitants who, it noted, had expressed their wishes regarding their political status in free elections, as recently as October 1981. The letter carried an annex tracing the history of the settlement of the Falkland Islands from 1592 to 1981.

On 28 April,⁽¹⁷⁵⁾ the President of the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS transmitted a resolution adopted that day urging the United Kingdom to cease the hostilities and Argentina to refrain from taking any action that might exacerbate the situation. By that resolution, OAS also urged the two parties to call a truce and to resume negotiations, taking into account the Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas and the interests of the Islanders, and urged the EC and other States to lift coercive political and economic measures they had taken against Argentina. In a letter dated 29 April,⁽¹³⁸⁾ the United Kingdom expressed surprise that the OAS resolution had failed to mention Argentina's armed invasion of the Falkland Islands or urge Argentina

to withdraw its forces, rejected the criticism against legitimate political and economic countermeasures, and reaffirmed the British sovereignty over the Territory and the right to self-determination of its inhabitants.

On 28 April,⁽¹³⁶⁾ the United Kingdom conveyed the text of its announcement on that date, declaring the establishment of a total exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands as from 1100 hours GMT on 30 April, the outer limit of which would be the same as for the maritime exclusion zone established on 12 April, and which would apply to any ship or aircraft, military or civil, operating in support of the illegal Argentine occupation; as of that time, the Port Stanley Airport would be closed and any aircraft on the ground in the Falkland Islands would be liable to attack. The United Kingdom asserted that its action was necessitated by Argentina's failure to comply with the 3 April Council resolution and the need to exercise its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter.

Argentina, in a letter dated 28 April,⁽¹⁵⁾ described as a new act of aggression the United Kingdom's declaration of a total exclusion zone; called the British use of armed force an unjustified act of reprisal aimed at restoring colonial occupation of the Argentine islands; and asserted that it was impossible for the United Kingdom to claim the right of self-defence, under Article 51, in islands situated 8,000 miles from British territory.

On 29 April,⁽¹⁶⁾ Argentina conveyed the text of a message it had received from the United Kingdom announcing that all Argentine vessels, including merchant or fishing vessels, apparently engaged in surveillance of, or intelligence-gathering activities against, British forces in the South Atlantic would be regarded as hostile and dealt with accordingly; Argentina charged that by these acts the United Kingdom was unleashing a new colonialist war.

The United Kingdom, in transmitting that declaration on 30 April,⁽¹³⁹⁾ reasserted that the unprovoked attacks on, and the continuing illegal military occupation of, the British territory gave the United Kingdom the right to use force in self-defence. By another letter of the same date,⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ the United Kingdom responded to Argentina's letter of 29 April, describing as preposterous the allegation that the United Kingdom was unleashing a colonialist war and saying that it was Argentina that was attempting to subject the Islanders to alien domination and sweep away, by acts of aggression, their democratically chosen institutions and way of life.

On 30 April, Argentina issued a statement, which was transmitted that day,⁽¹⁷⁾ declaring that as of that day all British ships, including merchant