

and fishing vessels, operating within the 200-mile zone of the Argentine sea, of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, would be considered hostile, and that any British aircraft, military or civil, which flew through Argentine airspace would be considered hostile and treated accordingly.

Referring to the United Kingdom's letter of 26 April, Argentina, in a letter dated 30 April,⁽¹⁸⁾ said its forces continued their resistance on the South Georgia Islands, contrary to the United Kingdom's claim to the restoration of its authority in those territories; and asserted that, despite its declared intention to comply with the Security Council resolution of 3 April, the continuation of the United Kingdom's punitive actions compelled Argentina to exercise its right of self-defence which, under the Charter, allowed it to repel any armed attack endangering its territorial integrity and its existence as a State. In a letter of 1 May,⁽¹⁹⁾ Argentina charged that United Kingdom aircraft had attacked Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) in the Malvinas Islands at 0440 hours that day, in violation of the Council resolution of 3 April. The United Kingdom, in a letter dated 4 May,⁽¹⁴⁵⁾ refuted the allegations contained in Argentina's letters of 30 April and 1 May, stating that South Georgia had long been British territory and nothing in international law prohibited a State from exercising sovereignty over more than one island, irrespective of distance or their constitutional or other status; and that it was exercising its right of self-defence, not arrogating to itself "a police power" as Argentina claimed, in the face of Argentina's first use of force and confining illegal military occupation.

In another letter of 1 May,⁽²⁰⁾ Argentina reported having acted in self-defence and having repulsed successive attacks by the British Air Force against Puerto Argentino, during which two British aircraft had been shot down and a third hit; it added that the United Kingdom action was threatening to unleash an armed conflict of unknown dimensions and unforeseeable implications for international peace and security.

On 1 May,⁽¹⁴¹⁾ the United Kingdom conveyed the text of a statement issued by its Ministry of Defence that day, stating that a total exclusion zone had been enforced since noon, London time, on 30 April, and that action had been taken on the morning of 1 May to deny the Argentines the use of the airstrip at Port Stanley. The Ministry, in a statement of 2 May transmitted the same day,⁽¹⁴²⁾ reported that before dawn on 1 May, British aircraft had damaged the runway at Port Stanley airfield and the surrounding military installations, as well as the airstrip at Goose Green and Argentine military aircraft parked in the vicinity; later that day Argentine aircraft had mounted ineffective bombing

raids on British ships and positions, sustaining loss or damage to four of their aircraft without causing the British side serious damage or casualties.

Brazil, on 1 May,⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ conveyed to the Security Council a 30 April communication from its Minister of External Relations to the Secretary-General, calling on the United Nations to take prompt and effective measures, including those of a preventive nature, to ensure implementation of the Council resolution of 3 April, in the light of the worsening crisis in the South Atlantic. Venezuela's Minister for External Relations issued a statement on 30 April, which was transmitted on 3 May,⁽¹⁷²⁾ regretting the 30 April decision of the United States, an OAS member, to support the British position in the conflict and saying that this development placed an even greater responsibility on the Security Council to ward off the possibility of war by having its resolution implemented in its entirety—which, he said, Argentina was ready to do, while the United Kingdom was not.

On 2 May⁽²¹⁾ Argentina transmitted the text of a letter informing the Chairman of the Twentieth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OAS that the United States was suspending military exports to Argentina and imposing a series of economic sanctions against it, while offering support in the form of matériel to the forces of the aggressor.

On 2 May, the British Defence Ministry announced that, at approximately 2000 hours London time that day, torpedoes fired from a British submarine had caused what was believed to be severe damage to the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*, which had posed a significant threat to the British task force maintaining the total exclusion zone; it announced on 3 May that at about 0400 hours London time that day British helicopters sunk one and damaged a second armed Argentine patrol boat which had fired on a British aircraft. Both statements were transmitted on 3 May,⁽¹⁴³⁾ stating that the actions had been taken in exercise of Britain's right to self-defence.

In a letter of 3 May,⁽²²⁾ Argentina stated that the *General Belgrano*, while positioned outside the 200-mile exclusion zone, had been torpedoed on 2 May by a nuclear-powered British submarine and sunk; the number of survivors among the 1,042 men aboard was not known. On 6 May,⁽²⁴⁾ Argentina conveyed a communique issued by its Joint General Staff, stating that its dispatch boat *Alferez Sobral*, while on a rescue mission, had been attacked by British helicopters on 3 May and had suffered considerable damage and some casualties. Argentina reported, in a communique conveyed by a letter of 7 May,⁽²⁷⁾ that eight of the ship's crew had been killed and six wounded in the attack.

The United Kingdom, on 4 May,⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ conveyed a statement issued by its Ministry of Defence that