

day, announcing that its destroyer Sheffield had been hit within the total exclusion zone by an Argentine missile, had caught fire and had been abandoned by its crew; in a separate action that day over the Port Stanley airfield, one British aircraft had been shot down and the pilot killed.

Argentina confirmed, in a letter dated 6 May,⁽²⁵⁾ that its Air Force had attacked the Sheffield in self-defence. On 5 May,⁽²³⁾ Argentina conveyed two communiques issued on 4 and 5 May by its Joint General Staff, reporting that, following the British air raid on Puerto Argentino, it had carried out an air mission against the British task force situated 60 miles south-east of the Malvinas, and had shot down two intruding aircraft during a subsequent British air raid at Port Darwin.

Ireland issued a statement on 2 May, transmitted the next day,⁽¹¹⁵⁾ expressing concern at the escalating military situation in the South Atlantic and emphasizing that the possibilities offered by the United Nations should be fully exploited and further military escalation avoided. In a further statement on 4 May, conveyed by a letter of the same date,⁽¹¹⁷⁾ Ireland said that it was appalled by the outbreak of what amounted to open war in the South Atlantic; that the United Nations should become involved immediately to resolve the conflict; and that it would seek withdrawal of economic sanctions by EC, considering those measures to be no longer appropriate.

On 4 May, a call for a meeting of the Security Council was made by Ireland in a letter to the Council President,⁽¹¹⁶⁾ and by Colombia in a telegram to the Secretary-General,⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ both calling for a cessation of hostilities. In the telegram, the President of Colombia expressed his support for the Secretary-General's peace-making efforts in what the former called the absurd dispute, condemned the military take-over of the Malvinas by Argentina and equally denounced the British attack on the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano outside the exclusion zone.

On 5 May, following consultations of the Council, the Council President issued the following statement:⁽²⁰⁰⁾

"The members of the Security Council express deep concern at the deterioration of the situation in the region of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the loss of lives.

The members of the Security Council also express strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to his contacts with the two parties.

The members of the Security Council have agreed to meet for further consultations tomorrow, Thursday, 6 May 1982."

On 5 May,⁽¹¹⁴⁾ Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a communiqué issued that day

by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which had met at Argentina's request, expressing regret at the loss of life in the conflict, reaffirming its support for Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, and appealing to the parties to find a peaceful solution in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 3 April.

On 6 May,⁽¹⁸⁶⁾ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as Chairman of the Latin American Group at the United Nations for that month, transmitted a statement issued by the Group on 5 May, expressing its regret at the increasing loss of life in the conflict, calling for a cessation of all hostile acts in the region and urging the parties concerned to initiate negotiations with a view to achieving a solution.

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, by a letter of 6 May to the Secretary-General,⁽¹⁸¹⁾ conveyed a joint statement they had issued on that date, in which they expressed regret that the hostilities had led to loss of life, appealed to both parties to comply with the Council resolution of 3 April and expressed support for the Secretary-General's efforts to resolve the conflict.

In a letter dated 7 May,⁽²⁶⁾ Argentina reported having received information from London, on the United Kingdom's decision to impose a blockade as of that date on every Argentine warship or military aircraft which departed beyond 12 nautical miles from the continental and island territory of Argentina; it asserted that this action demonstrated the British insistence on a military solution and desire to obstruct the diplomatic option then under consideration with the Secretary-General.

On 8 May,⁽¹⁴⁶⁾ the United Kingdom transmitted the announcement of 7 May by its Ministry of Defence referred to in Argentina's letter of the same date, stating that the announcement was aimed at reducing the possibility of misunderstanding about the United Kingdom's intentions with regard to how it would exercise its right of self-defence in the Falklands and to give further precision to the circumstances in which Argentine forces would be regarded as a threat.

In transmitting the text of that Ministry announcement, Argentina, by a letter dated 8 May,⁽²⁸⁾ asserted that this latest action by the United Kingdom constituted a qualitative escalation of its aggression against Argentina and proof of its bad faith in the diplomatic field at a time when the Secretary-General was engaged in a peace move known to the Council. On 11 May,⁽³¹⁾ Argentina conveyed a communiqué issued that day by its Joint General Staff, stating that, in view of the United Kingdom's persistent aggressive attitude and in the exercise of its right of self-defence, it would consider as hostile and take appropriate