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Se refiere a:

24MAY82 – Documento S/15105. Nota de Unión Soviética del 24MAY referida a: Nota de TASS del 23MAY.

(Consejo de Seguridad UN)

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**UNITED
NATIONS**

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15105
24 May 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the TASS statement of
23 May 1982.

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document
of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

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Annex

TASS STATEMENT

The United Kingdom has launched a massive attack on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), using aircraft, vessels, the Navy and a landing force. There is heavy fighting in the area of the Islands between the armed forces of the United Kingdom and Argentina, in which both sides are suffering significant losses. The conflict over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) has thus taken a new and dangerous turn.

There is no doubt that responsibility for the situation which has arisen around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) lies with the United Kingdom, which has for many years stubbornly opposed the implementation of the United Nations decisions concerning the decolonization of the Islands and the settlement by peaceful means of the dispute with Argentina about sovereignty over them.

At the very beginning of the present conflict, relying on armed force, the United Kingdom sent a naval armada to the South Atlantic area and launched military operations against Argentina. In addition, the United Kingdom obstructed the recent efforts to avert a military clash.

Now the United Kingdom has completely abandoned the negotiations, which the Government of Argentina wants to continue. This abandonment of negotiations is unjustifiable, however one evaluates the reasons for the conflict. London is attempting by force of arms to restore the colonial status of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) defying the world community, which has unconditionally condemned and rejected colonialism.

The armed invasion of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) by the British troops represents a threat to international peace and security and is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to the basic principles of international law. Responsibility for this is also borne by those States, primarily the United States, which associated themselves with the United Kingdom position, openly sided with London and thus in fact encouraged it to seek a military solution to the conflict.

We in the Soviet Union are convinced that, however different the positions held by the parties on the substance of the conflict, the questions in dispute between them must be resolved by peaceful means, at the negotiating table. The longest negotiations are better than even a short war.

In expressing concern about the dangerous turn of events around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Soviet leading circles condemn the use of military force by the United Kingdom. The bloodshed must be stopped immediately. Urgent efforts are required, including efforts within the United Nations, to settle the dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina by means of negotiations.
