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Security Council

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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 24 May 1982,
addressed to Your Excellency by the Ministry for External Relations of Brazil.

I should be grateful if the present letter, together with its annex could be
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergio Correa da Costa PALAZZO
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

AnnexLetter dated 24 May 1982 from the Minister for External Relations
of Brazil addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ever since the Malvinas crisis began, Brazil has accompanied developments with profound interest and ever increasing preoccupation.

This crisis deeply affects Brazil and the Brazilian people, not only because it is taking place in the South Atlantic, an area which is of paramount importance for Brazil, but also because it involves two of our traditional friends, both of them countries we care deeply about.

The Brazilian Government has made untiring representations to the two parties and to the Governments of third parties, to seek a peaceful, just and lasting settlement for this question. We maintained formal and informal contacts, up to the highest level, with the countries that, in our opinion, could make the most direct contribution to an understanding. We decidedly supported the mediation efforts of the Secretary of State of the United States of America. Once this initiative had been thwarted, we vigorously supported the negotiations conducted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as his peace proposals.

President João Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo made a personal appeal to the heads of Government of the Republic of Argentina and of the United Kingdom for a negotiated settlement. He also requested the heads of Government of other countries to help in achieving this objective.

Even sacrificing the discussion of important and pressing bilateral questions, President Figueiredo devoted the greater part of the time he spent conversing with the President of the United States, during his recent visit to that country, exploring avenues for the restoration of peace and the solution of the Malvinas question.

In international fora, in the United Nations Security Council itself, as well as in the meeting of the organ of consultation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, Brazil, throughout the whole crisis, has been a voice for moderation, understanding and peace.

Now that all voluntary efforts seem to have failed, now that hundreds of lives of young Argentines and British subjects have been lost, now that we face the prospect of the most serious consequences for Latin America and for the whole international community, Brazil believes that the Security Council of the United Nations can no longer delay taking a firm and decisive action to restore international peace and security.

In the same spirit that has guided Brazil throughout the crisis, and speaking for the Government of a country that has given proof of its unconditional adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, I believe

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there is no alternative but that the Security Council must take a decision to put an immediate end to the military confrontation and to establish the basis for a permanent settlement of the problem.

In the light of the discussions held by the parties, the Brazilian Government wishes to submit to the Security Council the following points which I firmly believe can be the basis for a Council resolution that will ensure a just and honourable peace, without winners or losers:

1. Immediate cessation of hostilities;
2. Simultaneous withdrawal of Argentine forces to continental Argentine territory and of British forces in the north-east direction to a distance equivalent to that between Argentine continental territory and the Malvinas Islands;
 - (a) The withdrawal of the British and Argentine forces should be initiated 48 hours after the adoption of the resolution;
 - (b) All Argentine and British forces should have been withdrawn from the area within 21 days, one third of the forces of each party being withdrawn at seven-day intervals, in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary-General;
3. Appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a provisional administration for the islands, with exclusive competence, which will hold consultations with the representatives of the inhabitants, to be designated by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom;
 - (a) The administration of the United Nations will be established simultaneously with the beginning of the withdrawal of Argentine and British forces;
 - (b) All United Nations Member States will grant the Secretary-General the support required for the establishment of the provisional administration and for the supervision of the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution;
4. Establishment, under Article 29 of the Charter of the United Nations, of a Committee presided over by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and composed of the two parties and of four other Member States, two of which are to be appointed by each of the parties, with the mandate of conducting urgent negotiations leading to a permanent settlement of the question. The Committee will begin its work the day following the completion of the withdrawal of the forces from the area and will submit its report to the Security Council not later than 31 January 1983.

Brazil is convinced that these elements, as a whole, constitute an honest, just and equitable basis for the cessation of the shedding of blood and tragic loss of lives.

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The Brazilian Government fervently appeals to the Government of Argentina and to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, placing the interests of peace and humanity above all else, to determine to cease hostilities forthwith and enter into negotiations.

The Brazilian Government likewise appeals to all States members of the Security Council to support, by their words, by their actions and by their votes, a solution along the lines herewith presented.

Let us renew our dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter and demonstrate in an effective manner that our words were not empty words when we all promised, at the moment this Organization was created that:

"We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ..."

Ramiro Saraiva GUERREIRO
Minister for External Relations
of the Federative Republic of Brazil
