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Translated extract of a note passed by  
the Buenos Ayres Government to the U.  
S. chargé d'Affaires in answer to his claim  
of damages for the detention of American  
sealing vessels at the Falkland Islands  
by M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Vernet.



Buenos Ayres 14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1832.

The barbarous act committed by  
the Commander of U. S. Corvette Leav-  
ison M<sup>r</sup> Silas Duncan, in con-  
tempt of the established customs of  
civilised nations and the courtesy which  
they invariably observe towards  
each other, is the point which should  
take precedence. This truth is uncontestable,  
as it is easy to be felt. In order, however  
to render it more palpable, the undersig-  
ned will for an instant admit all his  
honour has alledged in support of his  
assertion, "that the Argentine Republic  
has no right whatever to the said Islands,  
"he will also admit that the Govern<sup>t</sup> of  
this Province, having acted under a mis-  
taken belief in conceding to (1) Governor  
Vernet the exclusive right to the seal fi-  
shery on those coasts which he claims and  
defends in behalf of himself and of his  
colonists that that right was well and  
void, and consequently that the capture

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Note (1) The concessions were made to me not as Govern<sup>t</sup>  
but as private individual, they are dated 5<sup>th</sup> June  
1828 and my appointment as Govern<sup>t</sup> dates from 10<sup>th</sup> June 1829.

of the Harriet, Superior, and Breakwater, was an unjust act. Even so: after these momentary gratuitous concessions as Governor Vernet acted under the belief that he was merely exercising the same right by which he who considers himself robbed, apprehends the thief with the stolen property in his hands, and carries him before the nearest magistrate to get justice done — It is evident that the said capture is not an offence of one nation to another, nor an injustice done between man and man. The worst conclusion that could be drawn from it would be that it was a fault committed in good faith under an error for which the captor was not culpable." —

In the presume of such evident and scandalous aggressions, it is duty of this Govern<sup>t</sup> to demand before all thing from the Govern<sup>t</sup> of the U. S. of America prompt and ample satisfaction for such outrages and full redress and reparation to the Argentine Republic, to Governor Vernet, and to the colonists who were under his dependence in the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands for all the damages and losses of whatever nature they may be, which they have suffered and are suffering in conse-

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-quence of the agrissions committed  
by the commander Duncan."

Manuel Vicente de Maiz  
Minister of foreign Relations  
of the Argentine Republic.

Note. The Negotiations with the  
U. S. are still pending in Feb<sup>y</sup>  
1852.



Transcribed Extract  
of a Note passed  
by the Congress

14 August 1832.

al Ministro de  
Negocios en el  
exto en lo concerniente  
a la prescripción de  
informes de los