



Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 March 1988, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. PEJIC

(Yugoslavia)

Members: Algeria
Argentina
Brazil
China
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Italy
Japan
Nepal
Senegal
Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Zambia

Mr. DJOUDI
Mr. CAPUTO
Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA
Mr. DING Yuanhong
Mr. BLANC
Count YORK von WARTENBURG
Mr. BUCCI
Mr. KAGAMI
Mr. RANA
Mr. BA

Mr. BELONOVOV

Sir Crispin TICKELL
Mr. OKUN
Mr. ZUZE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/19604)

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the decisions taken at the 2800th meeting, I invite the representatives of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Navajas Mogro (Bolivia), Mr. Peñalosa (Colombia), Mr. Gutierrez (Costa Rica), Mr. Tobar Zaldumbide (Ecuador), Mr. Insanally (Guyana), Mr. Moya Palencia (Mexico), Mr. Icaza Gallard (Nicaragua), Mr. Ritter (Panama), Mr. Alzamora (Peru), Mr. Villar (Spain), Mr. Fischer (Uruguay) and Mr. Aguilar (Venezuela) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Guatemala and India in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Castellanos Carrillo (Guatemala) and Mr. Gharekhan (India) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Mr. BUCCI (Italy): I should like at the beginning of my statement to extend my best regards to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, whose presence in this Chamber underlines the importance that his country attaches to the question under consideration.

The Security Council is meeting today to examine the situation which has arisen in the southern Atlantic following the decision taken by the British Government to hold military manoeuvres in the Falklands Islands (Malvinas) from 7 March to 31 March. The British Government states that the aim of the manoeuvres is to test the capacity of a rapid reinforcement of the defence system of the islands in the event of an emergency. Such initiative, it says, has been taken in fulfilment of the obligation incumbent upon the administering Power to ensure the security of the islands. The initiative does not constitute, in the view of the British Government, a response to an increase in tension in the area, nor does it aim to create tension. The objective is rather to allow the garrison stationed in the Falklands Islands (Malvinas) to be maintained at the minimum level by determining the possibilities of its rapid reinforcement.

In the view of the Government of Argentina, the manoeuvres, which, we have to note, are the first of this nature to take place in the islands since 1982, boil down to a demonstration of strength which in and of itself generates tension. Therefore, the Government of Argentina casts doubt on the British willingness to opt for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the problem of the Falklands/Malvinas, and this is a circumstance which, it says, contravenes the recommendations expressed many times by the international community and the United Nations, particularly in resolutions approved by the General Assembly.

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

Italy maintains close relations of friendship with both parties which pre-date the most recent historic period. The blood ties which exist between Italy and Argentina are long-standing. On the other hand, Italy and the United Kingdom are jointly committed to creating a European Community which increasingly serves as an element of peace and stability in the world. My country is therefore concerned about this unexpected increase in tension, all the more so as it comes at a moment when, owing to the action of friendly countries, the premises for the establishment of a climate of greater trust between the United Kingdom and Argentina seemed to be in sight.

Unquestionably, the events brought to the attention of the Council constitute a disturbance in the relations between the two countries and, in our opinion, make it opportune and urgent that each of them adopt, as a preliminary step and in a spirit of restored understanding, all measures necessary to avoid a worsening of the state of tension, thus facilitating the return to an atmosphere in which the respective positions can be examined with greater calm.

My country, as we pointed out in our statement to the fortieth session of the General Assembly, can envision the beginning of a negotiating process on the basis of a balanced approach and on the principles of the United Nations Charter.

In fact, only through such negotiations can the two parties present and defend their respective positions in an open and constructive spirit through a dialogue which, in our opinion, must be entered into without pre-conditions, in good faith, with creativity and with a true willingness to find negotiated solutions.

To begin such a dialogue, it is necessary to establish relations based on trust between the two countries.

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

Awaiting this development, it is essential that each of the parties exercise the maximum restraint and abstain from undertaking initiatives which, by their nature or scope, could be interpreted by the other side as hostile on the basis of either objective considerations or emotional arguments related to the characteristics of the disagreement.

Mr. KAGAMI (Japan): My delegation listened with great interest to the statements by Mr. Dante Mario Caputo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, and Sir Crispin Tickell, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, as well as by other speakers concerning the recent developments surrounding the Falkland Islands, or Malvinas.

Both Argentina and the United Kingdom have repeatedly expressed their interest in normalizing their relations and are making efforts towards that end. We all hope that these efforts of constructive dialogue will continue and bear fruit.

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

I take note of the concerns expressed by the Argentine representative about the military exercise in the Falkland Islands, or Malvinas, and I also take note of the statement by the representative of the United Kingdom that his Government is taking necessary precautions to avoid untoward consequences.

I strongly hope that the latest development will not bring about detrimental effects on the efforts being made to improve the relations between the two countries and that the intentions expressed by the representatives of both Argentina and the United Kingdom today to work towards the improvement of relations between the two countries through a peaceful process will materialize in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) (interpretation from French): First and foremost I wish to say, on behalf of the Algerian delegation, that it is a great honour and pleasure for us to see Mr. Dante Caputo, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, present here today.

The dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina over the Malvinas Islands has been on the agenda of the United Nations for more than two decades. Notwithstanding the constant efforts it has exerted, the Organization has not yet been able to bring about a peaceful settlement of that question. A tragic armed conflict in 1982 made clear, indeed, the immense risks to international peace and security that the persistence of this dispute could entail.

In the light of the source of tension that the problem of the Malvinas Islands had thus become, the international community felt duty bound to promote, insistently and regularly, recourse to the virtues of dialogue and negotiation. Accordingly, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has repeatedly called for negotiations between the two parties concerned, with a view to achieving a peaceful solution to the dispute. The General Assembly, for its part, has by overwhelming

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

majorities repeatedly adopted a resolution, of which my country has been a sponsor, calling on the United Kingdom and Argentina to negotiate a peaceful and definitive settlement of all the problems pending between the two countries including all aspects on the future of the Malvinas Islands, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The General Assembly has also requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices; and a well-deserved tribute must be paid here to the Secretary-General for his untiring efforts to bring the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to the negotiating table. Indeed, this unanimity on the means to achieve a settlement of this question had received a promising response in a dialogue between the two parties which, although it was indirect, was already showing signs of rebirth.

Hence, the current developments in the Malvinas Islands are a source of concern to us because they could set up new obstacles to the necessary demonstration of good will by the two parties and thereby increase tension, which fortunately had seemed to be decreasing.

The statement issued on 25 February last by the Latin American Foreign Ministers of the Group of Eight and the resolution adopted on 1 March by an extraordinary meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States prove that the military manoeuvres by the United Kingdom in the Malvinas Islands are of concern not only to Argentina but also to Latin America as a whole. These positions also confirm the urgent need for peace and stability in a continent that wishes to devote its full energies and potential to the building of its economy and to the well being of its peoples. Africa, confronted with the same challenges for the future, associated itself with Latin America two years ago in an initiative designed to establish a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, which serves as a bridge between them.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

By General Assembly resolutions 41/11 and 42/16, the international community, by an overwhelming majority, bore witness to the value of that initiative for peace and, particularly, called on all the States of other regions, especially the militarily significant States, scrupulously to respect the region of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, among other things through the reduction and eventual elimination of their military activities.

This discussion in the Security Council will, we hope, contribute to eliminating all the factors that could again create tension concerning the problem of the Malvinas Islands, and to encouraging the beginning of sustained negotiations for the settlement of this dispute.

Convinced of the irreplaceable validity of negotiation in putting an end to tensions and settling disputes, my country notes with satisfaction the willingness constantly displayed by Argentina to open and pursue such a dialogue, and we appeal to the United Kingdom to associate itself with that.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): My delegation has listened most attentively to the preceding speakers, including - notably - Mr. Dante Caputo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, on the military exercises now being conducted by units of the British armed forces in the Malvinas Islands.

We have also taken due note of the statement of the British Ambassador, as well as the explanation of the British Ministry of Defence on 11 February 1988, that these exercises had been planned for some time, are limited in scale and scope and are related to the British Government's commitment to maintaining the security of the Malvinas.

Similarly, my delegation has noted that early this month the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States expressed deep concern over the British

