

**General Assembly**

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Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 27 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mariano Rajoy Brey, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, on 25 September 2013 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Mark Lyall **Grant**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Spain in the general debate on 25 September 2013

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recalls its sovereignty over Gibraltar and the territorial waters surrounding it and reaffirms that, as a separate Territory recognized by the United Nations and included since 1946 in its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, Gibraltar enjoys the individual and collective rights accorded by the Charter of the United Nations. The 2006 Gibraltar Constitution provides for a modern and mature relationship between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom.

This description would not apply to any relationship based on colonialism.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland restates its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar that it will not enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their wishes. The United Kingdom also confirms that it will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

The United Kingdom Government notes the desires of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar to continue the Trilateral Forum for Dialogue as the most credible, constructive and practical means of strengthening United Kingdom-Gibraltar-Spain relations for the benefit of all parties. The United Kingdom regrets the fact that the Government of Spain withdrew from those talks in 2011. Following an initial proposal by the United Kingdom and the Government of Gibraltar to Spain in April 2012, the United Kingdom notes a constructive move to ad hoc talks with the aim of taking forward cooperation on issues of mutual importance through means which fully reflect the interests, rights and responsibilities of the people of Gibraltar.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continues to enjoy strong relations with Spain and will continue, together with Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, to work constructively on all Gibraltar-related issues.
