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GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 23 October 1972 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement of the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic at the 2043rd meeting of the General Assembly on 27 September 1972 in which he spoke of the differences outstanding between his Government and my Government over the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and of his trust that a final solution to these differences would be "none other than the return of the Malvinas Islands to the Argentine territorial heritage".

As I indicated in my letter of 17 November 1971 to Your Excellency's predecessor, 1/ my Government shares the view of the Government of Argentina that the efforts of our two Governments to solve our differences should be pursued in a climate of mutual understanding based on the traditional and close ties of friendship which unite us. This spirit was evident in the joint statement on communications and movement approved by our two Governments on 5 August 1971, the text of which was enclosed with the parallel letters which the Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic (A/8368) and I (A/8369) addressed to your predecessor on 12 August 1971. In the notes exchanged between the two Governments in Buenos Aires on 5 August 1971, it was agreed, inter alia, that nothing contained in that joint statement should be interpreted as a recognition of or support for the position of the other Government with regard to territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. In the same spirit and in order to avoid any misunderstanding, I am instructed to state that my Government should not be taken to have recognized or to support the position of the Argentine Government as recorded in the passage quoted above, and that the position of my Government on that issue remains as described in the letter which Lord Caradon addressed to your predecessor on 26 September 1969. 2/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 9, document A/8527.

2/ Ibid., Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 9, document A/7691.

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I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) C. T. CROWE
