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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted under General Assembly resolution 41/40 of 25 November 1986, in which the Assembly requested me to continue my renewed mission of good offices in order to assist the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to initiate negotiations with a view to finding the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the problems pending between the two countries, including all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Following the adoption of that resolution and pursuant to it, I reiterated to the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom my readiness to extend to them whatever assistance they might require in the search for a peaceful solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
3. During the course of the year, I have maintained close contact with the two Governments and have, on a number of occasions, discussed the question with their respective Foreign Ministers and Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.
4. I have concluded from those exchanges that conditions have not sufficiently evolved to enable me to carry out the mandate with which I was entrusted by the General Assembly. The Government of the United Kingdom remains committed to the goal of achieving more normal relations with Argentina and considers that the only way forward is for both countries to concentrate on seeking solutions to problems of mutual concern, such as fisheries, while setting aside the sovereignty claim, on which it considers that views are diametrically opposed.
5. The Government of Argentina for its part has expressed continued readiness to comply with the terms of General Assembly resolution 41/40 and to that end to initiate negotiations to settle all issues outstanding between the two countries, including all questions relating to the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

6. While both parties have in the past year shown commendable restraint and a clear willingness to reduce areas of tension, I regret that it has not yet proved possible to engage both Governments in the kind of dialogue consistent with General Assembly resolution 41/40 that I have urged in the past. I wish to reiterate my continued willingness to assist both Governments towards that end.
