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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**Letter dated 3 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the 187th anniversary of the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom, which is commemorated on 3 January (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(Signed) **Martín García Moritán**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

On 3 January 1833, the Malvinas Islands, which are an integral part of the Argentine national territory, were illegally occupied by British forces who dislodged the Argentine population and authorities that had established themselves there legitimately. The Argentine Republic immediately protested that illegitimate act of force, to which it never consented. Over the 187 years of this usurpation, Argentina has at all times vigorously asserted its claim to exercise its effective sovereignty over the archipelagos and maritime areas in the South Atlantic which to this day remain occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Furthermore, the Argentine Republic has at all times condemned unilateral activities of exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in illegally occupied Argentine maritime areas which, coupled with the continued British military presence in the South Atlantic, violate United Nations resolutions and have led to expressions of concern and rejection by the international community.

The Argentine Republic affirms once more its imprescriptible rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory.

The recovery of the effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with international law, while respecting the way of life of their inhabitants, is a permanent and unrenounceable objective of the Argentine people, as reflected in the national Constitution.

The United Nations has recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands and has established a mandate for the resumption of bilateral negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands.

The call of the international community for both countries to resume bilateral negotiations to settle the sovereignty dispute is enshrined in General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and has been reiterated in subsequent resolutions, as well as in the resolutions that the States members of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization adopt every year by consensus.

It has also been reiterated in numerous declarations by multilateral forums such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summit, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), the Africa-South America Summit (ASA) and the Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA), which have called for negotiations to be resumed as soon as possible.

In his recent inaugural address to the Legislative Assembly, President Alberto Fernández reaffirmed that the claim to exercise sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands is a State policy, transcending any partisan distinction, and emphasized that “there is no more room for colonialism in the twenty-first century”. He also stated that, as a democracy, Argentina had no other path than diplomacy and peace to assert its claim.

With the imminent commemoration of the bicentenary of the first raising of the national flag in the Malvinas Islands, on 6 November 1820, Argentina reiterates its willingness to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom in the same constructive spirit that, for nearly two decades after 1966, inspired both countries and led them to discuss various solutions.

Marking another year of the illegal occupation, the Argentine Government and people once again affirm their legitimate and imprescriptible rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, while reiterating their permanent and sincere willingness to resume the process of bilateral negotiations with the United Kingdom, as called for by the international community, to find a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2020
