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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 November 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 press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the bicentennial of the first raising of the Argentine flag in the Malvinas Islands, which will be commemorated on 6 November 2020 (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 46, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María del Carmen **Squeff**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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

1820–2020: Bicentennial of the first raising of the Argentine flag in the Malvinas Islands

[Original: Spanish]

Today, 6 November 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of the first raising of the Argentine flag in the Malvinas Islands.

From the very beginning of its existence as an independent nation in 1810, Argentina continuously exercised its jurisdiction over the vast territory that had until then been administered by Spain, including the Malvinas Islands, enacting legislation and establishing legal and administrative structures, including by promoting the development of commercial activities, regulating the exploitation of resources, distributing land and settling a population in the islands.

To that end, on 6 November 1820, the Argentine naval colonel David Jewett took solemn possession of the Malvinas Islands in the name of the United Provinces of the River Plate. In a public ceremony before the captains and crews of the vessels of various countries anchored at Puerto Soledad, Colonel Jewett raised the Argentine flag, fired 21 cannon shots and read a proclamation, making it known that, among other things, the authorities of Buenos Aires had decided to put an end to the unrestricted hunting of marine mammals.

The formal taking of possession of the Malvinas Islands was an official and public act that demonstrated the effective exercise of Argentine sovereignty. It was widely reported in America and Europe, and was not contested by the United Kingdom or any other foreign Power.

That event is one of the many acts carried out by the young Argentine State that demonstrate its continued effective occupation of the Malvinas Islands and its exercise of sovereignty inherited from Spain, and which culminated in the creation of the Political and Military Command of the Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn in the Atlantic Ocean in 1829.

That effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted on 3 January 1833, when the United Kingdom usurped the Islands, expelling the legitimate Argentine authorities and the population that had settled there, disrupting our country's territorial integrity. That act of force was immediately protested and has continued to be protested ever since then, and no Argentine Government has ever consented to it. Since that date, and until the present moment, the Islands have been the subject of a sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom, recognized by the United Nations through General Assembly resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#).

In accordance with that resolution, for 16 years starting in 1966, both countries negotiated in an effort to resolve the sovereignty dispute. Despite countless invitations from Argentina and calls from the United Nations, the United Kingdom systematically refuses to resume the sovereignty negotiations. The need for a prompt resumption of bilateral negotiations has been reiterated in ten General Assembly resolutions and 38 resolutions of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, and by the international community in several declarations issued at multilateral forums, such as the Organization of American States, the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summits, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the MERCOSUR

Parliament, the Africa-South America Summit and the South America-Arab Countries Summit.

The resumption of the full exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in a manner respectful of the way of life of their inhabitants and in accordance with international law, constitutes a permanent and non-renounceable objective of the Argentine people, as established in the first transitional provision of the Argentine Constitution.

On the 200th anniversary of its taking of possession of the Malvinas Islands, the Argentine Republic once again reaffirms its sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as its firm determination to promptly resume sovereignty negotiations with the United Kingdom with a view to finding a definitive solution to this anachronistic colonial situation.
