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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 30 January 1978 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 address Your Excellency with reference to the question of the Falkland Islands.

In this regard, and bearing in mind paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/49 of 1 December 1976, I have the pleasure to inform Your Excellency that, on the basis of the agreement expressed in the joint communiqué annexed to the note dated 8 June 1977 addressed to Your Excellency (A/32/11), representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Argentina met in New York from 13 to 15 December to continue the negotiations on the Falkland Islands. Both parties decided on the creation of two working groups which will meet shortly; one on political relations, including sovereignty, and the other on economic co-operation. They also agreed to meet again during the second quarter of 1978.

The text of the joint communiqué issued on 15 December 1977 when the meeting was concluded is attached.

I request Your Excellency to arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and brought to the attention of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

(Signed) Ivor RICHARD

ANNEX

Joint communiqué

In accordance with the agreement reached in Rome in July, an Anglo/Argentine Ministerial meeting was held in New York from 13 to 15 December 1977 to continue negotiations on future political relations, including sovereignty, with regard to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and Anglo/Argentine economic co-operation with regard to the said territories in particular and the South West Atlantic in general.

The delegations were led respectively by Captain Gualter Oscar Allara, Under-Secretary for Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic, and by Mr. Ted Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In accordance with the terms of reference for the negotiations announced in the statement of 26 April 1977, the two sides conducted a full exchange of views on how to make progress on the two themes. The discussions between the two delegations were conducted in a positive spirit.

The two sides recognized that there was a wide range of issues involved which would require detailed study. They accordingly agreed to establish at official level two parallel working groups on political relations, including sovereignty, and on economic co-operation to pursue these studies in depth and to report back to the heads of delegations. The venue, composition and timing of the meetings of the working groups will be settled through diplomatic channels.

The two Governments will keep under constant review the progress of the studies of the working groups. A further round of negotiations will be held within the second quarter of 1978.
