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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 June 1983 from the Permanent Representative  
of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to communicate with you concerning the "Question of the Malvinas".

My Government has studied the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dated 18 May 1983 (A/38/208-S/15774), together with other statements by the British authorities concerning the situation in the South Atlantic and the future of the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. These statements indicate that the British Government is not yet ready to co-operate in seeking a speedy and definitive negotiated solution to the sovereignty dispute with Argentina in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/9. Indeed, the British authorities seem to be bent on maintaining the climate of confrontation and consolidating their illegal colonial presence in Argentine territory.

There is no need to emphasize the negative consequences of maintaining a tense situation as a result of this policy, which is contrary to the decisions of the General Assembly. It is obvious that Argentina and the rest of Latin America will never consent to the indefinite continuation of British colonialism in the Malvinas.

Moreover, the British position is in fact incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which the United Kingdom Government itself claims to support. By refusing to resume its negotiations with Argentina in accordance with resolution 37/9, the British Government is ignoring a

\* A/38/50.

decision applicable to the decolonization of the Malvinas and disregarding the provisions of the Charter concerning the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Consequently, the arguments put forward by the British Government to justify this objective contradiction between its policy and the mandate given by the General Assembly resolutions on the "Question of the Malvinas", together with its attempt to impose pre-conditions not foreseen in those resolutions, are unacceptable. The Government of the United Kingdom, both in the letter of 18 May 1983 to which I am responding and in various earlier statements is seeking to alter the terms of reference established by the General Assembly and to impose unilaterally on Argentina - and by implication on the United Nations - its own terms for the treatment of the question.

Clearly, acceptance by the United Kingdom of resolution 37/9 and abandonment of its policy of militarizing the Islands would constitute a significant step towards the settlement of the dispute.

The policy which is incompatible with the resumption of negotiations is likewise incompatible with the alleged concern of the United Kingdom for the well-being of the population of the Malvinas. Whereas the current attitude offers no viable alternative for the territory, questions such as the preservation of the way of life and traditions of the islanders and the effective protection of their interests would naturally receive special attention and appropriate solutions, including special guarantees and statutes, within the framework of a negotiated solution to the sovereignty dispute. It should be recalled that the Argentine Republic has repeatedly presented to the United Kingdom proposals concerning the just and effective protection of the interests of the population of the Islands.

To sum up, and taking into account the fact that Argentina has expressed its intention to comply with resolution 37/9 and to co-operate in your renewed mission of good offices, it is to be hoped that the United Kingdom will heed the appeal of the international community for the resumption of the Argentine-British negotiations with a view to finding a just, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute.

I would request you to have this note circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council, and to bring it to the attention of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

(Signed) Carlos Manuel MUÑIZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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