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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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Agenda item 3

**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL,
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS,
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Letter dated 5 March 2008 from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wishes that the following comments be placed on record with regard to the intervention made by Mauritius at the High-level Segment of the seventh session of the Human Rights Council on the morning of Wednesday, 5 March 2008:

“The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was ceded to Britain in 1814 and has been a British dependency ever since.

As we have reiterated on many occasions, we have undertaken to cede the Territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes.”

The United Kingdom would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Nicholas **Thorne**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
