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UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

**Letter dated 10 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of
Argentina to the President of the Human Rights Council**

Sir,

I have the honour to write to you in connection with the statement made by the Argentine delegation in the course of the interactive dialogue during the presentation of the national report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/HRC/WG.6/1/GBR/1), paragraph 8 of which, referring to Overseas Territories, mentions the “Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands” and the so-called “British Antarctic Territory”.

The Argentine Government draws attention to the fact that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are an integral part of Argentine national territory and since they are currently illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, they form the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries. This dispute is recognized by various international organizations.

The illegal occupation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland led to the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, recognizing the existence of the sovereignty dispute, which it referred to as the “Question of the Malvinas”, and urging the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute as soon as possible. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the United Nations has repeatedly made a similar request, most recently in the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007.

For this reason the Argentine Government rejects the inclusion of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in paragraph 8 of the United Kingdom's national report on the basis of their designation as so-called overseas territories - an invalid designation because it refers to a part of Argentine territory.

With regard to paragraph 16 of the report, which lists the United Kingdom's international human rights obligations, the Argentine Republic states that, whenever the United Kingdom has tried to extend the territorial application of the instruments mentioned in that paragraph to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, it has unequivocally rejected that claim. The illegal occupation by the United Kingdom prevents Argentina from reporting on the application throughout its national territory of the human rights instruments to which it is party.

Moreover, and without prejudice to the full validity of article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, the Argentine Republic repeats that it does not recognize any British claim to sovereignty in the Antarctic, it reaffirms its legitimate sovereign rights over the Argentine Antarctic Sector and, at the same time, it rejects the latter's inclusion in the report under the designation of the so-called "British Antarctic Territory".

Similarly, Argentina rejects any other document or act which might stem from the purported territorial extensions to which reference has been made and which were rejected by Argentina at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, the Argentine Government requests that this note be circulated as an official document of the Human Rights Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed): Alberto J. Dumont
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
