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

Letter dated 13 September 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Spain  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

When you received me on 10 July I had the opportunity to explain to you, inter alia, the way in which the process of self-determination for the Sahara was developing and the steps being taken by my Government to that end. All of this is dealt with in document A/9655.

Subsequently, on 20 August, during your visit to the Middle East, I visited your Executive Assistant, Mr. Kittani, delivering to him the letter in which I reported the decision of my Government to take the steps required to enable the indigenous population of the Sahara to exercise its right to self-determination, under the auspices and guarantee of the United Nations, during the first six months of 1975. These matters are dealt with in document A/9714.

I shall in due course inform the Committee of 24 of the procedure which has been set in train for self-determination by the Sahara, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 1514 (XV), of 14 December 1960, and 3162 (XXVIII), of 14 December 1973. If this should not prove to be possible, the delegation of Spain would inform the General Assembly.

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Spanish Government reiterates its determination to guarantee to the indigenous inhabitants of the Sahara the free and authentic expression of their wishes, under the auspices and guarantee of the United Nations, and to this end will maintain a favourable political climate for the referendum to be conducted on an entirely free, democratic and impartial basis. My Government is already taking the necessary steps to ensure that only the indigenous inhabitants exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with resolution 3162 (XXVIII), paragraph 4 (b), determining, in consultation with the Governments concerned, the procedures for the holding of the referendum.

\* A/9700.

The Spanish Government affirms once again the principle that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory are the paramount consideration, and it will accordingly continue promoting their well-being and defending their peace and security.

The Spanish Government hopes that in this phase of self-determination all countries will contribute to the maintenance of stability and harmony in the region.

My Government will provide all the facilities required to enable the United Nations, under whose auspices and guarantee the act of self-determination is to be carried out, can participate actively therein. To that end I shall, in due course and sufficiently far in advance, be in contact with the competent organs of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this note circulated as a document of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(Signed) Jaime de PINIES  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain  
to the United Nations

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