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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Letter dated 16 September 1985 from the Permanent
Representative of Argentina to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the press communiqué issued on 12 September by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, containing the statement by Mr. Dante M. Caputo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

I should like to request that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 23 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Carlos Manuel MUNOZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/40/150.

ANNEX

Press communiqué dated 12 September 1985 issued by the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic

Statement by Mr. Dante Caputo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

Buenos Aires, 12 September:

The 60-day period following the invitation which the Argentine Government extended, through me, to the United Kingdom Government, to resume negotiations on the question of the Malvinas Islands within that period, ended on 11 September. In that invitation, the Argentine Government also said that it was prepared to embark on the necessary preparations forthwith, either through the mission of good offices entrusted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations General Assembly or through the friendly protecting Powers who represent the countries' respective interests.

That invitation was couched in the broadest and most flexible terms in order to permit a resumption of the dialogue between the two nations in accordance with the guidelines provided by United Nations resolutions, with which my country complies fully.

The spirit in which we extended that invitation foresaw the possibility of coming to the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly with a negotiating process already under way which would show that a peaceful attitude and a desire to resolve the problem existed between our two nations.

Such a development would have been a positive response to the repeated calls by the international community to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

In the year marking the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, such an event would have signified a reaffirmation of the contribution which this Organization has made to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, which is one of the guiding principles of the Charter.

Thus far, however, the United Kingdom Government has given no positive response to the Argentine invitation. This blatant indifference shows how little importance the United Kingdom, a permanent member of the Security Council, attaches to the Organization's decisions.

The United Kingdom Government has emphasized the need to restore trust between the parties, yet it refuses to resume the dialogue, thereby ignoring the appeals of the international community and contradicting its own statements.

What is more, the Argentine Government's repeated offers have met with utter refusal on the part of the United Kingdom to consider the issue that lies at the heart of the conflict between the two nations and is the source of their other differences. These differences would no doubt be resolved gradually were the United Kingdom to agree to resume negotiations with the Argentine Republic.

We therefore appeal to the reason and good sense of the United Kingdom authorities, which cannot continue to ignore the existence of a dispute which they have acknowledged on numerous occasions.

The Argentine Government is still waiting for a positive response from the United Kingdom Government and, to this end, renews the invitation to embark on comprehensive negotiations on the question, without pre-conditions or predetermined dates, within a framework governed by the principle of good faith which must prevail in international relations.

The democratic Argentine Government reiterates once again its pledge that the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands must be taken care of during the negotiations, to which end it is prepared to guarantee their traditions, lifestyle and customs and grant the necessary safeguards.

There is thus no remaining justification for the United Kingdom's conduct other than the attempt to perpetuate an anachronistic and illegal colonial situation, ignoring United Nations mandates applicable to the situation.

We must none the less emphasize yet again that the passage of time will not weaken the resolve underlying Argentina's claim, nor its conviction as to the need to settle peacefully a dispute which is preventing the normalization of relations between the two nations.
