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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**Letter dated 5 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release issued on 3 January 2004 by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the latest anniversary of the illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 32, the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

(Signed) César **Mayoral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative designate

Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 3 January 1833, British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, forcibly expelling their inhabitants and the Argentine authorities legitimately established there.

Today, on the 171st anniversary of that illegal occupation, which is still continuing, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm once again the inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Likewise, the Argentine Government recalls the permanent and steadfast objective of the Argentine people, enshrined in the National Constitution, to recover the full exercise of sovereignty over the above-mentioned territories and maritime areas through peaceful means for the settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, respecting the way of life and the interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Government reiterates the need to comply with the numerous resolutions of the United Nations and declarations of the Organization of American States calling for the resumption of bilateral negotiations in order to find, as speedily as possible, a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, recalls its constant readiness to resume such negotiations immediately, and exhorts the Government of the United Kingdom to demonstrate, without further delay, the same readiness to act in accordance with those appeals.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2004