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**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Note verbale dated 10 March 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland refers to the letter from the Permanent Mission of Mauritius dated 1 March 2010 (A/HRC/13/G/14) in connection with the joint study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (A/HRC/13/42).

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 the Government of the United Kingdom has reiterated on many occasions, it has undertaken to cede the Territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council.
