



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 January 2003
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-seventh session

Agenda item 39

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2003 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 today 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 General Assembly document under agenda item 39.

(Signed) Arnoldo M. Listre
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

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

Today, on the 170th anniversary of that illegal occupation, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm the inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The Argentine Government recalls the steadfast and permanent 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 islands.

On this latest anniversary, the Argentine Government reaffirms its conviction that the resumption of negotiations on the sovereignty issue, in accordance with the multiple and constant appeals of the international community, will contribute to the establishment of a framework conducive to achieving a fair and lasting solution to the dispute. Argentina is acting in the belief that the numerous interim understandings reached with the United Kingdom under the formula of safeguarding sovereignty rights in relation to practical issues in the South Atlantic are also contributing to the search for a solution to the dispute.

At the same time, the Argentine Government will continue to make progress in the dialogue with the United Kingdom with a view to consolidating a relationship of mutual trust and broadening bilateral cooperation.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2003
