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Letter dated 1 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the light of the letter dated 25 September 2019 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations in connection with the statement concerning Gibraltar made by the President of the Government of Spain to the General Assembly on 24 September 2019, Spain would like to put on record that it reaffirms that statement unequivocally.

Furthermore, it recalls that Gibraltar appears on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories set to be decolonized since the establishment 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 in 1961.

Spain does not recognize British sovereignty or jurisdiction over areas other than those expressly yielded in article X of the Treaty of Utrecht, signed between the crowns of Spain and the United Kingdom in 1713; those areas did not include either the waters around the Rock or the territory of the isthmus, illegally occupied by the United Kingdom in 1909. Therefore, those waters and territory remained and remain under Spanish sovereignty.

That treaty establishes that if at some point in the future the United Kingdom should renounce its sovereignty over Gibraltar, Spain would have a preferential right over that territory.

This anachronistic colonial situation must be resolved through bilateral negotiations between the United Kingdom and Spain, as established by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions and decisions, and as my country has been demanding.

In this regard the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, declares that the principle of the self-determination of peoples must be compatible with the principle of territorial integrity of States.

Resolution 2353 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 indicates that any colonial situation which partially or totally destroys the national unity and territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and specifically to paragraph 6 of resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), referred to above.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Agustín Santos Maraver

