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General debate

Letter dated 25 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the published instructions for the right of reply, the United Kingdom would like to exercise its right of reply in response to a statement by the distinguished representative of Spain.

On 24 September, during the general debate under agenda item 8 of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, the representative of Spain made reference to Gibraltar, further to which the United Kingdom wishes to place the following statement in the official record of proceedings:

The United Kingdom recalls its sovereignty over Gibraltar and the territorial waters surrounding it and reaffirms that, as a separate territory recognized by the United Nations and included since 1946 in its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, Gibraltar enjoys the rights accorded to it under the Charter of the United Nations. The United Kingdom also recalls that the people of Gibraltar enjoy the right to self-determination. The 2006 Gibraltar Constitution, which was endorsed in a referendum by the people of Gibraltar, provides for a modern and mature relationship between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom.

The Government of the United Kingdom restates its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar that it will not enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their freely and democratically expressed wishes. The United Kingdom also confirms that it will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

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

(Signed) Karen Pierce

