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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 10 June 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the Day of Affirmation of the Rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the Surrounding Maritime Areas, which is commemorated every 10 June (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(Signed) Alejandro Verdier
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

10 June: Day of Affirmation of the Rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the Surrounding Maritime Areas

Today, 10 June 2020, the Government and the people of the Argentine Republic are commemorating the 191st anniversary of the establishment of the Political and Military Command of the Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn by the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

From its very inception, the Argentine nation, having inherited the Spanish territories in the South Atlantic, exercised on a permanent basis its rights over the islands located there, and established rules and legal and administrative structures that consolidated the full exercise of its sovereignty, including promoting the development of commercial activities and the settlement of a population. The first time the Argentine flag was raised on the Malvinas Islands is a significant landmark in the history of Argentine sovereignty over the islands in the South Atlantic, the bicentenary of which we will be celebrating on 6 November 2020. The process culminated in 1829 with the establishment of the governmental structure that we commemorate today, with Luis Vernet at its helm.

On 3 January 1833, however, that effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted through an act of force by the United Kingdom, which expelled the Argentine authorities and the population from the Malvinas Islands. That usurpation undermined the territorial integrity of the nation, a situation to which no Argentine Government has ever consented in over 187 years of history.

Since then, a sovereignty dispute has existed between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom, as the General Assembly acknowledged in its resolution 2065 (XX). In accordance with said resolution, for 16 years starting in 1966, both countries negotiated in an effort to resolve the sovereignty dispute. Despite countless invitations from Argentina and calls from the United Nations, the United Kingdom systematically refuses to resume the sovereignty negotiations.

The need for a prompt resumption of bilateral negotiations has been reiterated in 10 General Assembly resolutions and 37 resolutions of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, and by the international community in several declarations issued at multilateral forums, such as the Organization of American States, the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summits, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the MERCOSUR Parliament, the Africa-South America Summit and the South America-Arab Countries Summit.

The resumption of the full exercise of our sovereignty over the occupied island territories and maritime areas, in a manner respectful of the way of life of their inhabitants and in accordance with international law, is a permanent and non-renounceable goal of the Argentine people, as set out in the first transitional provision of our national Constitution.

In that connection, in his inaugural address to the Legislative Assembly, President Alberto Fernández stated that “there is no more room for colonialism in the

twenty-first century”, and that there is no other way for Argentine democracy to assert its claim than through diplomacy and peace.

The Government of the Argentine Republic is in the process of designing and implementing State policies aimed at achieving this permanent and non-renounceable goal of the Argentine people. Such measures must be oriented over the medium and long terms for them to be able to survive any change of government and to better serve the permanent interests of the nation, given the plurality and richness that characterize our democracy. To that end, the Argentine Government continues working to consolidate the support of the international community on the question of the Malvinas Islands and to steadfastly defend its sovereign rights in the South Atlantic. The illegitimate exploration and exploitation of natural resources and the disproportionate and unjustified British military presence in the South Atlantic are actions that violate General Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly calls upon the parties to refrain from introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the sovereignty dispute remains pending.

All measures aimed at affirming the rights of Argentina over the South Atlantic archipelagos and the surrounding maritime areas are grounded in the sincere and profound belief that they must be undertaken peacefully, with the avoidance of militarization of the South Atlantic, and be guided by universal humanitarian values. The Argentine Republic once again reaffirms its inalienable right over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and reiterates its firm determination to promptly resume sovereignty negotiations with the United Kingdom with a view to finding a definitive solution to this colonial situation.