

Translated from Spanish

New York, 20 August 2009

N.U. No. 290/09/600

DFL/mim

Sir,

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the submission of 11 May by the United Kingdom to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf with regard to the outer limit of the continental shelf generated by the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

The Argentine Republic categorically rejects the British submission and expressly requests that the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf neither consider nor qualify it.

The Argentine Republic rejects the United Kingdom's attempts to propose an outer limit to the continental shelf generated by the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, over which the Argentine Republic has complete sovereignty.

The Argentine Republic categorically denies that there is any maritime delimitation between States, either established or pending, in the area of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. It therefore rejects each and every one of the limits that the United Kingdom attempted to trace or insinuated in its submission of 11 May to the Commission and in the accompanying maps and charts.

The Argentine Republic recalls, as it indicated in its submission to the Commission on 21 April 2009, that the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the national territory of the Argentine Republic and that, being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, are the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries, which has repeatedly been recognized in declarations by the United Nations and other international forums and organizations.

In that connection, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, recognizing the existence of the sovereignty dispute referred to in the "Question of the Malvinas Islands" and urged the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations with a view to finding as soon as possible a peaceful

His Excellency the Secretary-General
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Mr. Ban Ki-moon
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and definitive solution to the dispute. The Special Committee on Decolonization, for its part, has made repeated statements to the same effect, most recently in the resolution it adopted on 18 June 2009. On 4 June 2009, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted a new declaration on the matter, worded in similar terms.

The Argentine Republic rejects the status of overseas territories which the United Kingdom is attempting to ascribe to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

The Argentine Republic repudiates and rejects the existence of the so-called authorities illegally established by the United Kingdom in those archipelagos.

The Argentine Republic reiterates to the Commission that it should neither consider nor qualify the above-mentioned British submission and that, accordingly, it would expressly object to the Commission making recommendations thereon in respect of article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its rights to sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The Argentine Republic would be grateful if this note could be circulated among the States members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the other States Members of the United Nations. It further requests that this note be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
