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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for  
the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects

Quito, Ecuador  
30 May to 1 June 2012

STATEMENT

BY

The Representative of Spain

## Non-official translation (*traducción de cortesía*)

Mr. President,

Since it is the first time my delegation takes the floor before this Committee after your appointment, I would like first of all to congratulate you on your election and wish you, on behalf of the Government of Spain, the greatest success in your mission.

Mr. President,

Once again, my country wishes to use its intervention at this seminar to provide the participants with its position on the so-called question of Gibraltar, a self-governing territory still awaiting decolonization, because the Administering Power has decided to ignore the recommendations of this Committee and the resolutions of the General Assembly and intends to apply, in turn, a unique formula on which I shall dwell later.

Gibraltar was occupied by Great Britain on behalf of a third party, it was artificially populated in numerous episodes with people brought from different places and, last but not least, enlarged with land wrested, also from Spain, at a later date.

The occupation took place in 1704, on behalf of the Archduke Charles of Austria in the context of the War of Succession to the Spanish Crown. The population of the colony, planned by the occupier, took place well after the conquest; the Spanish who lived in Gibraltar until 1704, the real Gibraltarians, were forced to leave the town, producing a fracture in the region that survives to this day.

In the nineteenth century, because of different epidemics in the Rock, the United Kingdom requested the consent of Spain to evacuate the population to part of the Isthmus, north of the Rock. For humanitarian reasons, Spain responded generously. It happened, however, that despite Spanish protests these settlements on Spanish soil became permanent. In 1909 the United Kingdom built a fence, delimiting the area and consolidating the illegal occupation of this Spanish territory.

These circumstances have been recognized by the United Nations, who have declared that the colonial situation of Gibraltar undermines the territorial integrity of Spain. This was evident in the General Assembly Resolution 2353 (XXII), of 19 December 1967.

Spain, a sovereign state, one of the oldest in Europe and the world, is suffering from a colonial situation which cannot be justified in the XXI century.

It is therefore essential to analyse the situation of the resulting position of Spain

1. Regarding the part of the Treaty of Utrecht which provides for the solution with the United Kingdom regarding the

2. Spain has never recognized the Isthmus, illegally occupied therefore, has always

I would also like to stress that my country makes the territories subject to decolonization

Furthermore, Spain asks the original inhabitants of the Government does not ask the occupier to provide support the fate of a territory that

Spain does not have the population of the Rock, respects the human rights interests, as signified by going to do is to sacrifice rights over the territory colonial interests of the existed long before the

Therefore, Spain does not status to the current pretended right to dispose

I take this opportunity to not willing to do so either persuade everyone to

the inhabitants of Gibraltar by means of a referendum United Kingdom which way diminishes British

The colony is emancipated dependence on the United Kingdom granted by the United Kingdom Gibraltar a degree of self

my (the colonies) regarding

Gibraltar clearly defined the United Kingdom process

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slight change of this organization or support the benefit of the inhabitants of those

and new inhabitants of the Rock

out for years at an

Gibraltar has been giving the sovereignty

and, the United Kingdom government

ernment that those who clearly realise the difference two very different aspects

ed in the Treaty of Utrecht is the spaces ceded and Spain is willing to re-making into account the decolonization of the territories

ish sovereignty over the reference has already turned without conditions.

grant violation of the territory of Gibraltar clearly different

recall that the Spanish were forced to leave, the present inhabitants, the military garrison, should belong to them.

desire to forcibly interfere their nationality or their inhabitants and takes organization. Nevertheless, under its longstanding legitimacy of the inhabitants of the Kingdom. Spanish rights of those inhabitants as a

will acknowledge any Gibraltar nor will it

by all indications, the United Kingdom has a tentative formula:

exercised their right to referendum a Constitution a degree of self-governance over Gibraltar.

the same time, choose and to be governed by itself, states in its prearranged "compatible with British

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Kingdom is struggling to

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Such figment of imagination, with which the Administering Power and its territory purport that the territory ceases to remain on the list of territories under decolonization, does not withstand the lightest scrutiny. The relationship the United Kingdom and its colony pretend to have is neither modern nor mature, but a clear example of consented colonialism.

In these circumstances, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Spain would like to see that the important work carried out for decades by this organization in the field of decolonization is taken into account, with the respect and recognition it deserves, and for which my country has always expressed its gratitude.

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Organización de  
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integridad territorial de España (XXII), de 19 de diciembre de

España, uno de los E planetas, suf de esta mane encuentra ju fificación.

Por tanto, a mi Gobierno parece que quienes analizan profesionalmente la diferencia, y la consecuen distintos:

1. Respecto al territorio a reconocer que el Tratado de Amiens y las condiciones en que se firmó, la Doctrina de esta Organización, España des Unid
2. España no ha reconocido el Reino, ocupada il tanto la reclamado si

Quisiera también indicar e integridad territorial de mi país de otros territorios sometidos:

Es necesario también reconocer el territorio, fu on obligados acepta que los actuales habitantes de su guarnición militar, preten les pertene

España no tiene el menor deseo de alterar su nacionalidad o su forma de gobierno. Pero lo que yo quisiera hacer es ceder los derechos históricos del Reino de Gibraltar que ocupan y que pertenecen a aquéllos como agrupación h

Por tanto, España no reconoce Gibraltar ni personalidad jurídica internacional sobre el Peñón.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para señalar que el Reino Unido, convencer a todos p consistente en que "la población de Gibraltar, a través de un referéndum ur

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por el Tratado de Amiens se limita claramente a reconocer que se firmó esa cesión sobre el pr nizar una spl

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los españoles a traerlos, razón de ser de los actuales habitantes de Gibraltar, sus legítimos dueños, muy anterior

integrar por lo que yo quisiera hacer es ceder los derechos históricos del Reino de Gibraltar que ocupan y que pertenecen a aquéllos como agrupación h

reconocerá ni personalidad jurídica internacional sobre el Peñón.

lo que parece desde hace tiempo es que el Reino Unido, convencer a todos p consistente en que "la población de Gibraltar, a través de un referéndum ur

en la Resolución 2353 leral.

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mente importante que colonia tengan clara la lcto a dos aspectos bien

tracht, España se limita s espacio cedidos y las teniendo en cuenta la de des colonización del negociada con el Reino

Británica sobre la porción hecho referencia y por ndiciones

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habitantes originarios del la que n Gobierno no ante para dar soporte a de un territorio que no

za a la población civil del a. Respe los derechos intereses siguiendo las a hacer España es ceder s de Gibraltar y de los echos históricos sobre el la existe la misma de

los actuales habitantes ni derecho alguno de

mpoco es dispuesto a tiene estizándose por la innovora fórmula, ejercido derecho de institución otorgada por el

Reino Unido y sin que ello implique que la soberanía británica sobre su colonia se vea en absoluto disminuida”.

La colonia se emancipa pero elige seguir dependiendo del Reino Unido, y regirse por una Carta otorgada por el Reino Unido que, como dice su preámbulo, concede a Gibraltar un grado de auto-gobierno “compatible con la soberanía británica”.

Esa entelequia, con la que potencia administradora y su territorio pretenden que éste deje de figurar en la lista de territorios sometidos a descolonización, no resiste el menor análisis. El vínculo que el Reino Unido y su colonia dicen tener no es ni moderno ni maduro, sino un claro ejemplo de colonialismo consentido.

En estas circunstancias, Sr. Presidente, Señoras y Señores, España quisiera que la importante labor que durante décadas ha hecho esta Organización en materia de descolonización sea tenida en cuenta y reciba el respeto que sin duda merece y por la que mi país ha manifestado siempre su agradecimiento.

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