

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2013/CRP.13

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional conference on the theme "The Caribbean Sea: A Zone of Peace and Cooperation"

Sr. Presidente,

Agradezco la oportunidad que se ofrece una vez más a mi país de trasladar a los

asistentes a este seminario la posición española sobre la llamada cuestión de

2.- El Istmo no fue cedido por España al Reino Unido a través del Tratado de Utrecht quedando siempre bajo soberanía española. La masa costera

para la adquisición de soberanía. Así pues, España siempre ha sido el

Non-official translation (*traducción de cortesía*)

Mr. President,

Please allow me to express my country's gratitude for granting us once again the opportunity to provide you all with the Spanish position on the so-called question of Gibraltar, a self-governing territory still awaiting decolonization, because the Administering Power, the United Kingdom, still ignores the

recommendations of this Committee and the resolutions of the General Assembly and intends to apply, in turn, a unique formula completely unacceptable for us on which I shall dwell later.

Gibraltar was occupied by Great Britain on behalf of a third party; it was

General in September 2012. Negotiations on the issue of sovereignty, as pointed out by the United Nations, correspond exclusively to the Governments of Spain and of the United Kingdom, although obviously this does not prevent ~~keeping in mind~~ the interests of the population of Gibraltar and also those of the

people of the *Campo de Gibraltar*.

2. The isthmus was not ceded by Spain to the United Kingdom by the Treaty of Utrecht and has always remained under Spanish sovereignty. The mere occupation thereof by the British does not comply with the requirements to acquire sovereignty under International Law. Thus Spain has always pointed out that the occupation of the isthmus is unlawful and contrary to International Law and therefore Spain has always demanded its return without conditions.

I would also like to stress that this flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of my country, makes the case of Gibraltar clearly different to those of other territories subject to decolonization.

Furthermore, Spain also wishes to recall that the Spanish population, the original inhabitants of the territory, was forced to leave, which is why my Government does not accept that the present inhabitants, taken there by the occupier to provide support to its military garrison, should intend to decide on the fate of a territory that does not belong to them.

Spain does not have the slightest desire to change the nationality or the way of life of the civilian population of Gibraltar. Spain respects the human rights of the

field of decolonization is taken into account, with the respect and recognition it deserves, and for which my country has always expressed its appreciation.

Let me conclude my intervention by thanking as well the Decolonization Unit of

the Secretariat for its interest in preparing the working paper on Gibraltar; I can assure everyone that in my country you can find a sound and enthusiastic collaborator in the development of the decolonization mandate.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.