



# General Assembly

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## Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

### Summary record of the 8th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 June 2002 at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Huntley. . . . . (Saint Lucia)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.*

## **Adoption of the agenda**

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

## **Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**

(A/AC.109/2002/16 and Corr.1 and  
A/AC.109/2002/L.12)

2. **The Chairman** said that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to their requests.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ruckauf (Argentina), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Mr. Loizaga (Paraguay), Mr. de Rivero (Peru) and Mr. Paolillo (Uruguay) took places at the Committee table.*

4. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat contained in document A/AC.109/2002/16 and Corr.1 and to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2002/L.12.

## *Hearing of petitioners*

5. **The Chairman** recalled that at its sixth meeting the Committee had decided to hear petitioners on the item.

6. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Miller (Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands) took places at the petitioners' table.*

7. **Mr. Edwards** (Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands) said that despite the significant changes that had taken place in the Falkland Islands themselves, there had been little change in the position of Argentina with regard to the Islands. The period of colonialism belonged to the past. The islanders maintained close relations with the United Kingdom as citizens of an overseas territory but they managed their internal affairs independently and consulted the United Kingdom on matters of foreign policy and defence. The Islands were responsible for their own finances and had no national debt. Since before the middle of the nineteenth century there had been a democratic form of government in the Falkland Islands and the members of the Legislative and Executive Councils were elected by the people for a four-year term. With the approval of

the United Kingdom Government, a Speaker had recently been appointed to the Legislative Council and the Governor of the Falkland Islands no longer presided over its meetings although he continued, as before, to represent the Crown. The education system and the health service were organized to the highest standards and further education and medical treatment were available in the United Kingdom where requested and in case of need. Young Falkland Islanders, in contrast to earlier years, now saw themselves as having a future in the Islands.

8. Ceremonies had been held in the Islands in memory of those who had lost their lives during the invasion of their territory by Argentina in April 1982. At the same time, the islanders had celebrated their liberation in more senses than one. At the end of the conflict, the people had been able to decide on their own future. The United Kingdom had recognized their right to self-determination (which was also recognized in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV)). He reminded the Committee that the right of nations, both large and small, to self-determination was one of the cornerstones of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. Having determined their future, the islanders had been able to amend their Constitution, thus putting an end to the institution of absentee landlords and giving the Falkland Islands Government greater independence. That enabled the Islands to introduce their own nature conservancy and fisheries conservation zone and to begin prospecting for hydrocarbons to the north of the Islands. Agreements had been made with Argentina on joint prospecting for hydrocarbons, on a joint study of fishing zones and on the exchange of information for the purpose of environmental conservation.

10. He pointed out that Argentina continued to insist on the legitimacy of its claim to the Falkland Islands even though they had been discovered by the British at the end of the sixteenth century and had been under uninterrupted United Kingdom rule since 1833. Argentina continued without any justification to insist on its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. He called on Argentina to recognize the right of the Falkland islanders independently to choose the form of government in their Territory.

11. **Mr. Miller** (Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands) said that during the current year the Islanders were commemorating those who had died in fighting

against the aggression of an invading foreign nation; at the same time, they were celebrating their freedom and their right to self-determination: the islanders were British citizens who wanted to live under a flag of their choice. Argentina's unjustified claim to sovereignty over the Islands meant that there was no trust towards that country among the Islanders. If Argentina relinquished that claim it would be possible to build a trust from which both sides would benefit. The implementation of the agreement of July 1999 had demonstrated the willingness and preparedness of the Islands to continue to work towards cooperation with Argentina in areas where it would be mutually beneficial to do so. The signing of the joint agreement between the United Kingdom and Argentina in 1999 had created a hope that Argentina would recognize the Falkland Islands Government. He called on Argentina to abandon its claims and to recognize the rights of the islanders.

12. The Falkland Islands were self-governing in all matters other than foreign policy and defence. The Islands had a balanced budget which was financed by an income from their industries. Despite the dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina, the Falkland islanders, through their tenacity and hard work and with the support of the United Kingdom Government, had created a small democratic self-supporting nation. The Islands had strict regimes in place to protect the environment, all natural resources and wildlife. Education and health services were free and were of the very highest standards. The islanders made their contribution to disaster relief around the world.

13. It was for the islanders themselves to make their own choice of their sovereign Power and of their political allies. The only way of achieving cooperation and progress would be for the Committee to recognize the right of the islanders to self-determination.

14. *Mr. Edwards and Mr. Miller withdrew.*

15. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Betts took a place at the petitioners' table.*

16. **Mr. Betts**, referring to the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Territory, said that it was obvious that the Committee fully realized that, in contrast to all other Non-Self-Governing Territories previously under the control of one of the administering Powers, it was only the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) that was an issue of colonial status. Argentina's rights

to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) were firmly based on historical considerations which had repeatedly been clearly set forth in the context of the Committee and of the General Assembly. In numerous General Assembly resolutions and statements by the Committee it has been established that the colonial situation in the Islands could only be ended through the peaceful settlement of the dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina concerning sovereignty over the Territory, while taking due account of the interests of the islanders. Consequently, all bodies of the United Nations had rejected the applicability of the principle of self-determination as being fundamental to that issue. A just and definitive settlement of the dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) could be achieved only through the application of the internationally accepted principle of territorial integrity. In its resolution 2065 (XX), the General Assembly had recognized the existence of a dispute concerning sovereignty, and not of a problem of self-determination, and in resolution 3160 (XXVIII) it had referred to the need to arrive at a solution to the conflict of sovereignty.

17. From the legal point of view, the passage of time and permanent occupancy of an illegally occupied territory did not give rise to a right to the exercise of sovereignty over it. Moreover, Argentina had never relinquished its rights to the Malvinas Islands and had not ceased its efforts to establish its legal sovereignty over them, despite the passage of time, as succession of governments of differing ideological and political persuasions and the endless procrastination by the United Kingdom.

18. The sponsors of the draft resolution before the Committee were once again Latin American countries, a clear indication of the regional nature of the problem of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and of the determined support of the countries of Latin America for the legitimacy of Argentina's rights to exercise sovereignty over the archipelago. The draft resolution, as in previous years, essentially reflected the principles and purposes of promptly and definitively settling the dispute through negotiations and on the basis of a firm commitment to engaging in a constructive and equitable dialogue without which it would be impossible to reconcile differing positions and ensure understanding and respect for clear criteria, and without which no unilateral measures could be successful.

19. *Mr. Betts withdrew.*

20. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Lewis took a place at the petitioners' table.*

21. **Mr. Lewis** said that he had been born in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). His great grandparents had been missionaries and had come to the territory in the nineteenth century. They had had a son who later, like many other islanders, had moved to continental Argentina at the end of the nineteenth century and had established a sheep farm. He pointed out that all those who had relocated to the continent, had settled there with no problems, regardless of their language, origin or beliefs. In the province of Santa Cruz, where his family had lived for over 100 years, sheep farming continued to be a traditional trade, a fact that favoured the development of cooperation between the islanders and the population of mainland Argentina. International wool prices were currently improving and that might be another area to study since the wool trade, conducted through the cooperative system, would enable access to larger markets. Furthermore, sheep farmers on the Islands should seriously consider taking advantage of the benefits to be derived from the experience of the agricultural sector in continental Argentina.

22. Mining and tourism were other areas that were expanding. Relations with Chile in the field of tourism had made the region more interesting, especially for foreigners. Many farms benefited from the development of tourism and their activities could be coordinated with those of farms in the Islands. The same applied to fisheries conservation which was currently under discussion and to the pending development of hydrocarbons beneath the seabed.

23. In that connection it was appropriate on the twentieth anniversary of the war in the Islands to recall the need for further dialogue with the islanders. Argentina had repeatedly offered safeguards to the islanders with a view to the preservation of their way of life, taking due account of their interests. That approach had been reflected in the 1994 amendments to the Argentine Constitution of 1853. Despite that, the past 12 years spent in discussion of the question of sovereignty had not resulted in any progress. The Argentine claim to the Islands was legitimate and had consistently been affirmed in United Nations resolutions, but the United Kingdom had been reluctant to resume negotiations on the question of sovereignty

and had failed to comply with the provisions of those resolutions. The United Kingdom Government should respond to the appeal of the international community for a resumption of the dialogue with Argentina in order to find a just and definitive solution to the controversy.

24. *Mr. Lewis withdrew.*

#### *General debate*

25. **Mr. Valdes** (Chile), speaking also on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela, introduced the draft resolution on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (A/AC.109/2002/L.12), saying that the draft was a further contribution to the efforts to achieve a peaceful, just and long-term settlement of the long-standing dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. His country was firmly convinced that a peaceful negotiated settlement of the question of the Malvinas Islands was the only way to resolve the problem. For that reason, Chile once more called for the immediate implementation of resolution 2065 (XX) and other resolutions of the General Assembly by which Argentina and the United Kingdom were invited to resume negotiations on the matter. The draft resolution was based on the resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2001/25 adopted on 29 June 2001, and the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus. In conclusion, he drew attention to two errors in the text of the draft resolution in the French language.

26. **Mr. Ruckauf** (Argentina) said that the question of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their adjacent sea areas was of enormous importance to his country. His Government was fully determined to re-establish sovereignty over the archipelago and its sea areas which were part of its national territory. The full establishment of sovereignty on the basis of peaceful diplomatic negotiations was an objective enshrined in the National Constitution. Argentina was determined to ensure that the interests of the islanders were fully taken into account, that their way of life and welfare would be safeguarded and their individual rights respected, and also to continue to promote the development of links between the population of continental Argentina and the islanders. His delegation comprised representatives of the most varied socio-political tendencies; that was hardly surprising since

there was no political controversy in Argentina on the question of the Malvinas Islands since the re-establishment of territorial integrity was an overriding national concern.

27. In 1833 the United Kingdom had occupied the Malvinas Islands, expelling the Argentine population and the established Argentine authorities by force. Since then Argentina had been seeking the return of that inalienable part of its territory. The position of Argentina on the matter had not changed with the passage of time. It was convinced that the long-standing dispute could be settled on the basis of the expected negotiations. In that connection, his Government restated its full willingness to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom in accordance with the provisions of the resolutions of the Special Committee and the General Assembly.

28. It was common knowledge that, in its resolution 2065 (XX), the General Assembly had recognized the colonial nature of the situation in the Malvinas Islands and had recommended that it should be brought to an end on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity of Argentina and recognition of the interests of the islanders. Moreover, the Special Committee had several times called on the Governments of the two countries to resume the process of dialogue and cooperation with a view to a prompt peaceful settlement of the sovereignty dispute. However, the United Kingdom had not stated that it was willing to renew such dialogue. In spite of that, the understanding that had been reached on a number of issues had been conducive to the development of contacts between the islanders and the continental part of Argentina. In that connection it was gratifying to note the agreements that had been achieved following the last session of the Committee concerning the carrying out of a feasibility study for demining in the Malvinas Islands and concerning visits by Argentine citizens to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Island. Unfortunately, in spite of those positive initiatives, the Government of the United Kingdom had taken unilateral action incompatible with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/49 of 1 December 1976 which had called on the parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation.

29. However, the relations between the two countries in recent years had developed positively. There had been numerous exchanges and meetings, including

meetings between the heads of State and Government of the two countries, as well as official visits by members of Government and Parliaments and by representatives of the senior military authorities. Moreover, in many areas Argentina and the United Kingdom held similar positions. For example, both sides were fully resolved to defend the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to promote free trade. The Government of Argentina hoped that the United Kingdom would favour a joint resolution of the sovereignty dispute through resumed bilateral negotiations. Argentina's efforts to renew the dialogue had been approved in a number of international and regional forums. For example, on 4 June 2002 the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, meeting in Bridgetown, had adopted a declaration by acclamation which called once again on the Governments of the two sides to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the controversy over sovereignty. Another example was the Declaration on the Malvinas Islands adopted in Lima on 24 November 2001 at the Eleventh Ibero-American Summit.

30. **Mr. de Rivero** (Peru) said that his country had from the outset supported the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate colonialism and recognized the inalienable rights of people to determine their future in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It also defended the right of peoples to self-determination as one of the fundamental principles of international law. The item under discussion was a matter of settling a dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands on the basis of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX) and 3160 (XXVIII). He pointed out that, during the conflict in 1982, his country had made numerous offers to mediate and to facilitate the establishment of peace, with the intention of promoting dialogue between the two parties. His country continued to seek the attainment of a peaceful and just resolution of the problem of the Malvinas Islands on the basis of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom. That approach had been reflected in the Declaration by the heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries on the question of the Malvinas Islands which had been adopted on 24 November 2001. In that Declaration, the heads of State and Government had affirmed the need for a rapid resumption of negotiations between the Governments

of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resolve the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States and in accordance with the principle of territorial integrity.

31. **Mr. Zhang Yishan** (China) said that the adoption on 8 December 2000 by the General Assembly of resolution 55/146 on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism had been an indication of the great importance placed by the Member States on the process of decolonization. It was to be hoped that progress would be made through the efforts of the Special Committee on the basis of the cooperation of all parties interested in the global process of decolonization. The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) had been discussed by the Special Committee for a long time. As early as December 1965 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2065 (XX) in which it called on the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to proceed without delay with negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the problem. Since then, the Special Committee had adopted a considerable number of resolutions containing requests to expedite the process of negotiations on the issue of sovereignty over the Islands. China hoped that the Governments of those countries, bearing in mind the provisions of those resolutions, would engage in a constructive dialogue with a view to a rapid and peaceful settlement of the dispute, and supported the draft resolution that had been submitted.

32. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country fully supported the resolutions of the Special Committee which called for the resumption of bilateral negotiations with a view to the prompt resolution of the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). He noted with satisfaction the statement by the representative of Argentina to the effect that his country was prepared to respect the interests and rights of the islanders and to develop friendly relations with the United Kingdom on the basis of cooperation between the inhabitants of Argentina and of the Islands. The adoption by consensus of all earlier resolutions on that matter reflected the interest of the international community in the attainment of a just and lasting solution to the problem. His country hoped for a speedy resumption of bilateral negotiations in order to put an end to the long-standing dispute and, as in

earlier years, supported the resolution that had been submitted.

33. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the members of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) as well as of Bolivia and Chile, said that the only way to put an end to the colonial situation was to find a peaceful and negotiated resolution of the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile supported the legitimate rights of Argentina in that dispute, and were concerned that the dispute should be settled in the near future in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States. At the meeting of the Presidents of Latin American countries which had been held in Brasilia in August and September 2000, it had been noted that a colonial situation subsisted in the Malvinas Islands, that that was incompatible with the ideals of peace, security and cooperation in the subcontinent and that it was essential to resume negotiations in the near future so as to reach a peaceful and lasting settlement of the sovereignty dispute. MERCOSUR welcomed the positive developments referred to in document A/AC.109/2002/16 but regretted that the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning negotiations on all aspects of the future of the Malvinas Islands had not yet been implemented. The MERCOSUR countries, together with Bolivia and Chile, supported the draft resolution and hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

34. **Mr. Loizaga** (Paraguay) said that in various international forums his country had always firmly supported, still supported and would continue to support the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute relating to the Malvinas Islands. The MERCOSUR countries noted with satisfaction that the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom were continuing to strengthen their political, commercial and cultural links and to expand their bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The relations that had been established between the two countries were a firm basis for the resumption of negotiations with a view to reaching a peaceful and negotiated solution to the problem in accordance with the resolutions of the Special Committee and the General Assembly, as well as the declarations of the Organization of American States which called for a resumption of negotiations between the two countries

with a view to the resolution of the sovereignty dispute and the ending of a colonial situation.

35. **Mr. Paolillo** (Uruguay) said that, as had repeatedly been pointed out in the Committee, the possession of the Islands by the United Kingdom was unfounded: it was not an "occupation" from the technical and legal points of view, since, in the process of taking possession, the Malvinas Islands had not been *res nullius*, an abandoned territory or a territory the title to which had been renounced by the sovereign. Furthermore, considerations relating to the passage of time were without foundation since, despite the fact that the United Kingdom had been in possession of the Islands for over 150 years, the real sovereign continued to dispute such possession. In that connection it was obvious that it was not a matter of peaceful or agreed possession. The Malvinas Islands belonged to Argentina from all points of view: legal, historical, geographical and geological. The Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom should display a desire to achieve peace and engage in negotiations with a view to a normalization of the position in the Malvinas Islands. The international community had long ago suggested that that should be accomplished on the basis of decisions adopted by many international organizations, in particular the General Assembly of the United Nations and the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

36. The objective was to put an end to such illegal possession and to the unjust violation of the territorial integrity of Argentina, a situation that cast a shadow over the history of the two countries, a political anomaly that adversely affected friendly relations between them, and a dispute that deprived a country in the southern Atlantic Ocean of the hope that the region would become a zone of peace and cooperation.

37. **Mr. Hidayat** (Indonesia) said that in the 42 years that had passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), the Special Committee had achieved major successes. However, its mandate has not yet been accomplished and there still remained 16 Territories in which the process of decolonization had not been completed. In spite of the fact that the process of decolonization must be based on the principle of ensuring the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, the Special Committee had always recognized that no single criterion would be applicable to the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories since each situation

was unique. The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) was no exception since the General Assembly had recently noted its special nature as reflected in its resolutions 2065 (XX) and 3160 (XXVIII) which urged the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to proceed without delay with the negotiations in order to put an end to the colonial situation. A large number of resolutions had subsequently been adopted but no final solution had yet been achieved. At the same time, it was satisfying to note that there had been positive developments in the relations between the two countries. Those included visits by senior officials and the exchange of information on the delimitation of the continental shelf, the mutual understanding reached by the two Governments on the question of preparations for the technical and economic feasibility study on demining activities and the continuing negotiation on cooperation in other fields. All those efforts had made possible the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the removal of the remaining disagreements in a spirit of mutual trust. The problem of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) could be resolved only through peaceful means involving compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the principle of territorial integrity.

38. **Mr. Kamara** (Sierra Leone) said that the existence of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations was incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter. He hoped that, by the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, it would cease to exist. The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be offered the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination and determine their own form of government in accordance with the political status of the Territory. It was to be hoped that the Governments of the United Kingdom and Argentina would make efforts to establish dialogue and cooperation on the basis of bilateral negotiations. It was also satisfactory to note the commitment of the Government of Argentina to safeguard the way of life of the islanders; that should be conducive to the attainment of the objective of decolonization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and all later subsequent resolutions on the subject.

39. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation) said that his country supported the draft resolution that had been

submitted and was pleased that, as in earlier years, it had been possible to achieve consensus on the matter. The Russian Federation continued to proceed on the basis that it was essential to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem through bilateral negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

40. **Mr. Ovia** (Papua New Guinea) said that the item under discussion was of a very delicate nature. In the opinion of the members of the Special Committee, Argentina and the United Kingdom should begin a dialogue and constructive negotiations to resolve the sovereignty issue. At the same time they recognized that it was a matter of decolonization; with that in mind, Papua New Guinea considered it essential to ascertain the opinion of the islanders themselves concerning the future status of the Territory. Moreover, it appeared that the issue should in the first instance be discussed by Argentina and the United Kingdom, bearing in mind the interests of the islanders. In a spirit of cooperation, those two countries could assist the Committee to resolve the outstanding issues for its consideration, including the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

41. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that a peaceful solution to the problem on the basis of negotiations between the parties in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the General Assembly should be achieved, bearing in mind the interests of the islanders. Ethiopia called on the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume the negotiation process with a view to the rapid attainment of a just, peaceful and long-lasting resolution of the problem of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

42. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Iraq) said that his country supported the right of Argentina to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). At the same time he noted with concern that, in spite of the appeal made to Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations with a view to achieving a peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute, the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions aimed at bringing the occupation to an end and restoring Argentina's sovereignty had still not been implemented.

43. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that his delegation fully supported the legitimate right of

Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands and stated again that only the continuation of dialogue and cooperation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom could lead to the attainment of a lasting, peaceful and appropriate solution to the conflict.

44. **Ms. Pulido Santana** (Venezuela) said that, as before, her country together with Bolivia, Chile and Cuba, was a sponsor of the draft resolution concerning the Malvinas Islands. Venezuela once again expressed its full support for the legitimate right of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute concerning the Malvinas Islands and was convinced that efforts to achieve a negotiated and peaceful resolution of the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom were the appropriate means of resolving that important issue. Venezuela was in favour of the resumption of negotiations between the two parties. The current relations and the cooperation that had become established between them in recent years would provide the essential conditions for efforts to achieve a satisfactory settlement of the issue. The work carried out by the Special Committee in that area and the good offices of the Secretary-General to promote the effective implementation of the resolutions on the matter were evidence of the intention of the international community to promote a negotiated, peaceful and lasting settlement between the parties.

45. **Mr. Naidu** (Fiji) was pleased to note the improvement in relations between the people of Argentina and those of the Falkland Islands. In recent years, relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom had improved significantly. The Government of Fiji called on Argentina and the United Kingdom to take the opportunity to begin a constructive dialogue without delay in order to settle the dispute bearing in mind the interests of the islanders and in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly.

46. **Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the item concerned two States with which Côte d'Ivoire had established friendly and flourishing relations. The international community should ensure a positive outcome in accordance with the numerous resolutions of the General Assembly which referred to the dialogue that was essential in the search for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the problem. His delegation welcomed that approach. His country called on the Government of Argentina and that of the United Kingdom to act resolutely to solve the problem of



sovereignty. The question of self-determination for the Islands could be resolved only on the basis of negotiations.

47. **Mr. Ortiz Gandarillas** (Bolivia) said that his country supported the efforts aimed at the resumption of negotiations in order to find a peaceful, just and lasting settlement of the sovereignty dispute concerning the Malvinas Islands. Bolivia, together with Chile, Cuba and Venezuela, was a sponsor of the draft resolution which appealed once again to the parties to initiate negotiations and find a rapid solution to the existing problem; his country hoped that the Special Committee would adopt the resolution by consensus.

48. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) said that his delegation was ready to join the consensus on the draft resolution. His country understood all the complexities of the sovereignty issue and hoped that, when a serious dialogue on the matter began, the interests of the islanders would be taken into account.

49. **Mr. Lewis** (Antigua and Barbuda) noted with satisfaction that Argentina and the United Kingdom were cooperating to ensure the security and development of the islanders whose rights it was essential to safeguard.

50. **The Chairman** said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote. If he heard no objections he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution on that basis.

51. *Draft resolution A/C.109/2002/L.12 was adopted without a vote.*

52. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the item.

*The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.*