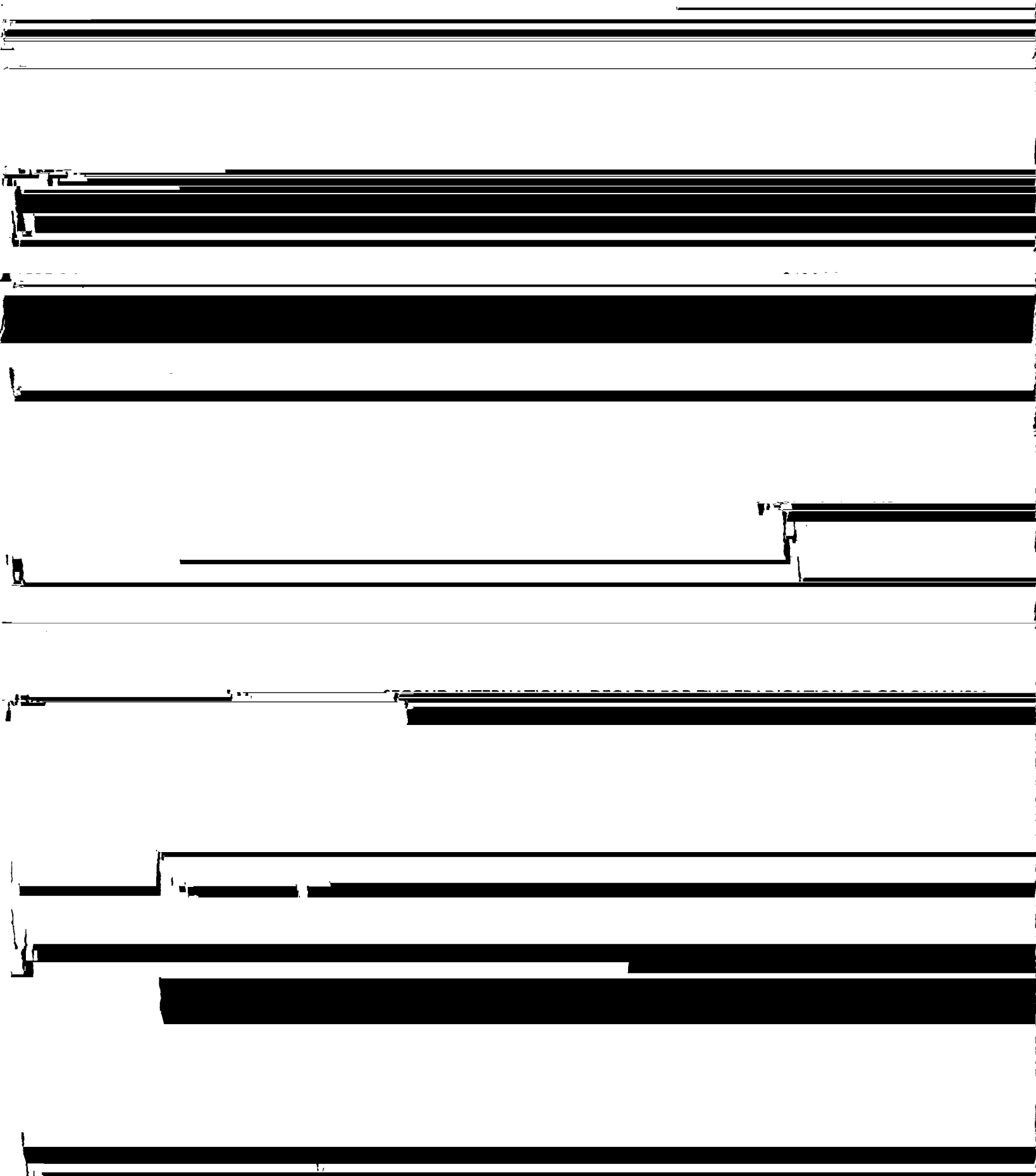


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My country is a firm believer in the decolonisation process. It always has been. Its genesis is marked by a struggle for freedom; my nation was born to independence when it broke free from the ties of imperialistic and colonial domination. Therefore, my

country's commitment with the objective of "*bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations*", can only be natural, a self-evident truth deeply embedded in its national identity.

But as UNGA Resolution 1514 put it, colonialism has many forms and manifestations. Not to acknowledge such obvious notion would run contrary to the reality depicted by the international scenario, where the cases considered by the Special Decolonisation Committee have characteristics of their own, beyond the common denominator given by the overarching element of colonial domination.

And the Question of the Malvinas Islands has features of its own which differentiate it

renewed on countless occasions. And it goes without saying that the Argentine Republic will steadfastly continue to protest all acts derived from the illegitimate presence of the United Kingdom in the usurped Islands for as long as the United Kingdom continues to exert such illegal control over Argentine soil and refuses to embark on sovereignty negotiations with my country as requested by the United Nations and other

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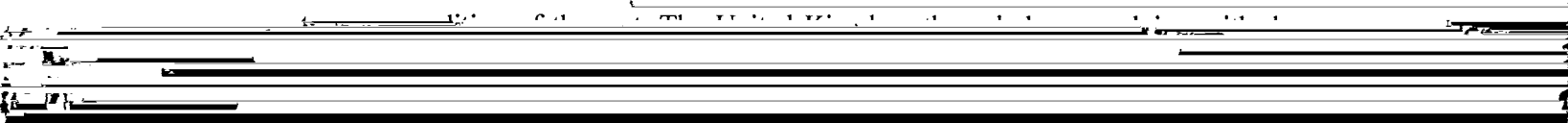
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reflecting the mandate of the international community to Argentina and the UK as the **only parties to the dispute**, to resume negotiations in order to find a prompt solution to this protracted controversy.

Nevertheless, the United Kingdom systematically refuses to sit down with Argentina at the negotiating table. It argues that it will not do so until the inhabitants of the occupied territories are "evicted". The ~~many~~ UN resolutions on the Question of the Malvinas Islands



I would like to conclude my remarks with one last thought. Self-determination is a key component in the decolonisation process. However, it does not exhaust it. Nor does it override it. Decolonisation is not synonymous to self-determination. It is a principle that, as all general principles of international law, should be applied taking into consideration the cluster of historical and political factors that explain a certain state of affairs, so that, in a case such as the Question of the Malvinas Islands, a case that is marked by the existence of a sovereignty dispute, the rights and claims of the parties to that dispute are duly preserved.

Once again, allow me to reiterate to you all that my country is willing to resume

sovereignty dispute, as requested by the United Nations. The British decision to comply with the UN mandate imposed on us both would send a positive and encouraging message to the international community, as we approach the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman