

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 99/2007
29 October 2007

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 29 OCTOBER

Mr Caruana seems to be unaware of anything that has been happening at the United Nations before this year or else is seeking to deliberately mislead public opinion in Gibraltar.

The consensus decision co-drafted by UK and Spain this year does indeed call for a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar. The definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar is the UN terminology agreed between the UK and Spain that has been used every previous year by the 4th Committee and approved subsequently in December by the General Assembly.

The Committee that considers Gibraltar is called the Political and Decolonisation Committee of the UN, and the session during which the matter is considered is the session that deals with the application to Gibraltar and all the other remaining colonies in accordance with the UN decolonisation resolution and in the context of the second decade for the eradication of colonialism which ends in the year 2010.

The Committee in question, in fact, has no jurisdiction to mediate or arbitrate in sovereignty disputes between members of the UN, and if the Gibraltar question was not being addressed as a question of decolonisation it would simply not appear on its agenda at all, a point made by Mr Caruana himself in previous UN speeches.

The United Nations own press release dated 15 October states that the 4th Committee was concluding its general debate on decolonisation and that it recommended nine draft resolutions for the adoption by the General Assembly including one on Western Sahara.

In that press release the 4th Committee also say that they heard a statement by an elected representative of Gibraltar whose territory was one of the sixteen on the committee's agenda, and they point out that the draft text would be considered at a later time. The draft text being the text to which Mr Caruana refers, and the statement made by him was as the elected representative of one of the sixteen colonies on the agenda of the Committee.

The representative of the United Kingdom exercised the right of reply in speaking on Gibraltar on the basis that it was replying as the administering power of one of the remaining sixteen colonies.

It is clear from reading the press releases, the minutes and the record of the UN that every participant in the 4th Committee was fully aware that they were taking decisions relating to the 16 non-self governing territories or colonies. This includes Gibraltar. The only person who thinks that anything different was taking place is Mr Caruana.

ENDS