

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION**

**63/2008 26 June 2008**

Confirmation has been received from the UN that the amendments proposed by Joe Bossano in Indonesia at the Bandung Decolonisation Seminar have been accepted in New York.

It will be recalled that at the close of the Seminar it was decided to remit the decision to the Committee of 24 at New York and make available all the arguments that had been put in the debate in relation to the wording of paragraph 3 of the Report in the section dealing with the role of the Special Committee.

The amended paragraph now reads, "the participants underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop, as a matter of urgency, a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations List."

This wording clearly includes Gibraltar, which is on the UN list, unlike the original version which excluded territories where there was a sovereignty dispute.

The Leader of the Opposition, Joe Bossano, has written to the Chairman of the Committee of 24, who also chaired the Bandung Seminar, expressing appreciation for the sensitivity shown by the Committee in responding positively to the request in Joe Bossano's speech when he appeared as petitioner last week.

The revised text will now form part of the official UN documentation which is transmitted to the Fourth Committee when it considers the decolonisation programme for all 16 remaining colonial territories in October.

The Opposition is very satisfied with this result which has removed the discriminatory treatment against Gibraltar implied by the original wording, which limited the application to territories where there is no dispute over sovereignty. The amendment to paragraph 3 is the only one that has been upheld with the other 14 paragraphs, remaining as in the draft report.

The final text ensures equal treatment with the rest of the territories which is what Joe Bossano asked the Committee to do when he appeared before it as petitioner.

**ENDS**