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ORIGINAL - ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional conference on the topic of the eradication of colonialism



Mr Chairman

Allow me to thank the Government of Ecuador for once again hosting the

Annual Seminar which is a reflection of Ecuador's commitment to the cause of decolonisation.

Last year I showed the parallels between my country's history and Ecuador's and exposed the absurdity of the Spanish stance in opposing our

the exercise of their sovereignty and integrity of their national territory, declares:

1. the submission of people to alien subjugation constitutes a denial of fundamental Human Rights contrary to the Charter,

2. all peoples have the right of self-determination, by virtue of

3. which they freely determine their political status, immediate steps should be taken in all the non-self governing territories to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories.

It is noted that this is a full and complete copy of the Charter of the United Nations.

It provides a platform to our neighbour Spain who argues that because they owned the territory in 1704, we the people of the territory should be deprived of the protection we are entitled to under the Charter.

What for, Mr Chairman, why have us participate if we thi

after you make any difference

Gibraltar is not a part of Spain occupied by the English in 1704, and the population of Gibraltar, its people, are not imported English people.

England took from Spain as spoils of war Gibraltar, which it Spain had held for 202 years, having itself taken it, in turn from its previous Muslim rulers that had held it for 791 years, having taken it from Celtic Visigoth invaders. Why should Spain's title be greater than anyone else's?

My country has been independent from Spain longer than yours Mr Chairman. Does that give them the right to claim restoration of their sovereignty over Ecuador?

The duty of this Committee is not to be influenced by national interests

never succeed because their very attempt is a blatant breach of Human Rights.

Distinguished delegates, the UN Human Rights Covenants to which Spain is a signatory in their first article states that, "all peoples have the right to self-determination".

Spain told you last year that the reason why it does not acknowledge our rights is because we were taken to Gibraltar by the occupation

In our case this is not true, but is it not the case that in almost all the

You have been reminded in your first meeting that

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