

RIO GROUP

DECLARATION ON THE UNITED KINGDOM MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

On the occasion of the communication sent by British military forces to the Argentinean authorities on October, 8th 2010 which reported on a missile fire project from the territory of the Malvinas Islands, the Rio Group rejects the implementation of such exercises that contrasts with the policy of adherence to the search for a solution by peaceful means. The foregoing is in accordance with the appeals of the international community and the provisions of Resolution 31/49 of the General Assembly of the United Nations that urges both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands go through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

In regard to this, on October 9th, 2010, the government of Argentina submitted a note of protest to the United Kingdom over the attempt to conduct military exercise and demanded the British government to refrain from carrying it out. This note has been circulated as an official document of the United Nations and the OAS.

The Rio Group reaffirms what was stated in earlier Declarations and reiterates its strong support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland referred to the question of the Malvinas Islands. Likewise, it reminds the permanent regional interest that the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland resume the negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich and the surrounding maritime areas in accordance with relevant resolutions and declarations of the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Santiago, 15 October 2010