Since the submission on 12 August 1969 of the addendum to the report (A/7550/Add.3) prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2429 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, the Secretary-General has received a further communication, dated 4 September 1969, from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, the text of which reads as follows:

"The letter addressed to you on 5 August by the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland confirms what I stated in my letter of 16 June 1969 to you concerning the Gibraltar Constitution and, inasmuch as it contains nothing which might contribute to the solution of the Gibraltar problem, it again reflects the United Kingdom attitude to that problem.

"Her Majesty's Government is unwilling to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly and does not dare to undertake sincere and detailed negotiations with Spain on the future of Gibraltar, because it is interested only in perpetuating its military presence in a sensitive area of Spanish geography. The military manoeuvres of 8 August, to which I referred in my letter of that date to you, and the increase in United Kingdom military activity in Gibraltar are clear proof of that interest.

* Item 23 of the provisional agenda.
1/ A/7550/Add.3, para. 2.
2/ A/7550/Add.2.

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"In order to justify a situation which, in this year of 1969, is unjustifiable, and to retain the support of public opinion in its own country, Her Majesty's Government affirms that its rebellious attitude to the United Nations is prompted by the need to prevent the civilian population of Gibraltar from coming under the control of the Spanish political system.

"This is a deliberate falsehood. The United Kingdom Government, you yourself and the distinguished representatives of Member countries know that the Spanish Government has never entertained the idea of placing the Gibraltarians under its control. On 18 May 1966 my country proposed to the United Kingdom that a special Statute should be negotiated for the city of Gibraltar, which would enable its population to manage their own affairs. This Statute, which the United Kingdom refused even to discuss, would be guaranteed by Spain, the United Kingdom and the United Nations, and would thus provide a practical method of applying the resolutions of the General Assembly.

"My Government fails to see how this formula could be more harmful to the Gibraltarians than the diplomatic dispute which Her Britannic Majesty's Government seems to think fit to maintain with my country.

"I cannot conclude this letter without observing that the present situation in Northern Ireland - a subject which has been discussed in the United Nations - shows how ridiculous it is that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should presume to judge the domestic policy of other States, as it does in annex II to the above-mentioned letter of 5 August from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom.

"I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a General Assembly document."