

United Nations  Nations Unies

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21 March 2016

Excellency,

I would like to refer to the letter of your Chargé d'affaires a.i., of 10 March 2016 which refers to a letter dated 21 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/809) which in its Annex sets out, "an internal review of historical precedents for regimes that have been devised to provide varying forms of protection for areas of territory and their inhabitants."

You indicate that this letter and its Annex "gained some media coverage [in Italy], in particular with regards to the issue of the Free Territory of Trieste as part of today's UN agenda." You attach to your letter one of the articles in the Italian press concerning this matter.

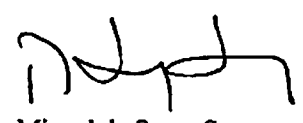
I wish to recall, as the letter from the Secretary-General of 21 October 2015 indicates, that the Annex was prepared in response to a letter from the President of the State of Palestine (S/2014/514) in which he requested that "the territory of the State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations" with the aim of "ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people". The Annex is purely historical in nature and constitutes an internal review by the Secretariat, "of historical precedents for regimes that have been devised to provide varying forms of protection for areas of territory and their inhabitants." The letter and its Annex by their terms do not purport to set out the current status of the territories that are listed therein.

Specifically, section V of the Annex entitled "The Free Territory of Trieste (1947)" is also historical in nature. It sets out, inter alia, a brief chronology of events immediately after the Second World War when the territory of Trieste and the area around it became contested between Italy and Yugoslavia and what role the United Nations was given at that time pursuant to a Security Council mandate.

His Excellency
Mr. Sebastiano Cardi
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations
New York

No issue concerning the "Free Territory of Trieste" is amongst the matters of which the Security Council is seized or on the agenda of the other principal organs of the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,



Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel

