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Palisaria. Front

Ref:

MEMORANDUM

The Case of Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa

674 Seminar

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

May 16-19 2017

UN Political Process

7. Western Sahara is the last colony in Africa. In 1963, while still under Spanish control, the Territory was

day.

8. The General Assembly in Resolution 1514 (XV) decided that in order to complete the process of

17. Resolution 34/37 (1979) "deeply deplored the aggravation of the situation resulting from the continued occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco," and also explicitly states, that "the Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro, the representative of the people of Western Sahara, should participate fully in any search for a just, lasting and definitive political solution of the question of Western Sahara, in accordance with the resolutions and declarations of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned countries".

18. And one year later in its resolution 35/19 (1980), the Assembly deeply deplored the fact that its resolution

34/37 had not been implemented and again declared that "it is deeply concerned at the aggravation of the situation deriving from the continued occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco and from the extension of that occupation to the part of Western Sahara, which was the subject of the peace agreement concluded on 10 August 1979 between Mauritania and the Frente POLISARIO". Resolution 35/19 also explicitly "Urges Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro, the representative of the people

25. Following the adoption of resolution 1754 (2007), delegations from the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco met in

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to UN personnel on a mass scale. Morocco's actions have also been an unprecedented challenge to the

authority of the Security Council that established MINURSO's mandate as a demonstration of the international community's commitment to achieve a resolution to the conflict, thereby making the Council the only legal authority for the deployment or closure of a UN peacekeeping operation under the terms of Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter.

33. On 29 April 2016, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2285 on Western Sahara with 10 votes in favor, 2 against (Venezuela and Hungary) and 3 abstentions (Angola, New Zealand and Russia). The fact that the

resolution was voted on for the first time in fifteen years signaled that it was no longer 'business as usual' in

restraint and to respect the ceasefire agreement, the Council met yet again on 29 September and again did not take any action on the situation, opting instead for 'quiet diplomacy'.

40 The Council's silence threatens regional stability on a continent already contending with a number of fragile

conflicts, and its inaction is quickly becoming a failure to conflict prevention. The Council's failure to

Envoy of the Secretary-General, expelled MINURSO personnel, and violates with impunity the human rights of the Saharawi people and plunders the natural resources of the Territory.

47. These actions in the absence of a credible UN political process are the underlying threat to security in the