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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MR CARUANA, WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE**

It really is time that Mr Caruana realises that he no longer holds the post of Chief Minister.

In his latest fit of pique, the Opposition Leader has condemned the Government for 'going public (on the subject of the UN visit) without informing him.' Yet the story of the UN invitation made its first appearance in the press on Monday when it was none other than Mr Caruana who gave his views on the matter. So, before the Government had ever said a word on the subject, Mr Caruana was giving his views to the press. Clearly, it was he who 'went public' and not the Government.

And when the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the press he did so without informing the Government – something, of course, he is perfectly free to do. But then he should not react with such venom and fury when, without informing him, the Government had the temerity to give its own version of events to the press, and, in Mr Caruana's words 'without consulting him as to its terms.' Mr Caruana seems to believe that the Government must consult him before it speaks to the press!

The crux of the matter is that, in line with earlier promises, the Government had offered Mr Caruana the opportunity to attend next week's session of the UN's Fourth Committee. Rather than either accepting or declining this invitation, the Leader of the Opposition, behaving as if he is still the occupant of No 6, responded with a series of conditions: he would either give part of Gibraltar's address, or he would give his own separate speech. He also wanted to see the Chief Minister's speech in advance and he wanted to know exactly who else would be attending the Committee. In fact, he continued to behave exactly as if he was still the Chief Minister!

Mr Caruana, wake up and smell the coffee, you are not the Chief Minister any more.