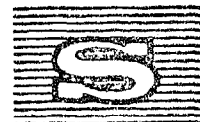


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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF VENEZUELA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 24 February 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana, which was circulated on 25 February 1970 as Security Council document S/9663.

On various occasions, since December 1969, Guyanese soldiers stationed at Eteringbang have fired at Venezuelan posts in the region of the Cuyuní and Venamo rivers.

In conversations between personnel of the two countries, in the region, Guyanese officials stated that these acts were the result of individual breaches of discipline among their staff.

On 17, 21 and 22 February 1970, however, the shots fired at our posts made it quite clear that the acts in question were deliberate. In fact they were used to fabricate the accusations contained in the communication to which I refer.

These accusations show every sign of being yet another manifestation of a policy motivated by the dual aim of solving internal political problems and making Venezuela appear as an aggressor in the eyes of international public opinion. This assumption is strengthened by the very significant fact that the incidents alleged to have occurred by the Permanent Representative of Guyana coincided with the presence in Georgetown of prominent personalities of the region and from other States, in connexion with the proclamation of the Republic of Guyana.

We trust that international public opinion will treat these new accusations with the scepticism with which they were received by public opinion in Guyana itself.

Guyana's attitude and its decision to bring these incidents to the attention of the Security Council in accord with the friendly statements which were made by Doctor Rafael Caldera, the President of the Republic of Venezuela, and by

Doctor Aristides Calvani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of my country, on the occasion of the proclamation of the Republic of Guyana, and which reflect the general attitude of the Government and people of Venezuela. Anyone residing in Venezuela and any international press correspondent will confirm that the Government did not encourage public opinion to adopt a bellicose stand, and that there was no demonstration that could reflect sentiments or attitudes hostile to Guyana. Venezuela, needless to say, is persevering in its efforts, in keeping with the rules governing the international community, to recover the territory of which it was unjustly despoiled.

I would further inform you that, for the reasons stated, Venezuela rejected in its entirety the note of protest from the Guyanese Government to which reference is made in the above-mentioned letter from the Permanent Representative of Guyana.

I should be grateful if you would be good enough to have the text of this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Andres AGUILAR M.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Venezuela
to the United Nations