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LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE BAHAMAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to ask that the text of the attached note verbale No. 184 of 21 May 1980, to which the Government of Cuba has not yet replied, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Davidson L. HEPBURN  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 21 May 1980 from the Government of Bahamas  
addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs of Cuba

The Ministry of External Affairs of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba and has the honour to refer to note No. 803 which was telexed to the Ministry of External Affairs on 19 May 1980.

The Ministry notes the reference in note No. 803 to the overlapping maritime zones of both countries which have not been delimited to which careful consideration will be given. The Ministry notes the admission that had the airmen of the airforce of the Government of the Republic of Cuba known that HMBS Flamingo was a Bahamian Government ship, they would not have fired upon her as an acknowledgement that she was effecting a lawful arrest.

The Ministry has the honour to state that the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas understands the contents of note No. 803 to be as follows:

- (i) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba has acknowledged the mistake made by its military forces in failing to identify HMBS Flamingo as a Bahamian Government ship for which the Government of the Republic of Cuba accepts responsibility;
- (ii) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba has indicated that it had no intention to violate Bahamian sovereignty nor its territorial integrity and accepts responsibility for the actions of its military forces in violating Bahamian sovereignty and territorial integrity at Duncan Town, Ragged Island on Sunday, 11 May 1980;
- (iii) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba has given its assurance to the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas that the Government of the Republic of Cuba respects and will continue to respect the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial integrity of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- (iv) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba, has agreed to make compensation to the relatives of the four missing seamen of HMBS Flamingo. The amount of such compensation is to be agreed between our respective Governments;

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- (v) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba has agreed to make reparation to the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas for the material damage caused to the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, for the loss of HMBS Flamingo. The amount of such compensation is to be agreed between our respective Governments;
- (vi) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba offer without reservations, its explanation for the Granma editorial on 13 May 1980, which was never intended to offend the national honour and dignity of the Government and People of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- (vii) That the Government of the Republic of Cuba has apologized to the Government and People of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas for the violation of its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ministry has the honour to state that the foregoing understandings set out in subparagraphs (i) to (vii) above of this note constitute the understanding of the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' note No. 803. Based upon these understandings, the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas accepts the apologies, acknowledgements and assurances of the Government of the Republic of Cuba as contained in note No. 803. The Ministry therefore proposes that the contents of this note and note No. 803 and a mutually satisfactory agreement on the amount of compensation and reparation constitute an honourable solution acceptable to both our Governments.

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