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LETTER DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention recent acts of violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Guyana by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Venezuela.

On Friday, 3 September 1982 a Venezuelan helicopter attempted to land at Baramita, a point within the territory of Guyana, located 70 kilometres from its western border with Venezuela. The occupants of the helicopter were dressed in military uniform. In a purely defensive action, members of the Guyana Defence Force fired a warning burst of several rounds. Thereafter the helicopter lifted and flew away.

At 15.45 hours on Sunday, 5 September 1982 the Venezuelan soldiers dressed in camouflage uniforms also made an attempt to land at Eteringbang, a military observation post in Guyana. They were however prevented from doing so by troops of the Guyana Defence Force, who warned them off. Later, at 19.00 hours the same day, Venezuelan soldiers armed with pistols and rifles again attempted to come ashore onto Guyana's territory. After one soldier stepped ashore, units of the Guyana Defence Force issued verbal warnings on three occasions and fired warning shots. The soldier returned to his boat and the party departed.

The Government of Guyana vigorously protests against these most recent violations of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the principle of the United Nations Charter proscribing the threat or use of force in the relations among States. The incidents moreover represent a clear violation of the Geneva Agreement entered into in 1966 between the Governments of Guyana and Venezuela by the terms of which the Government of Venezuela committed itself to a peaceful settlement with Guyana.

These recent attempted incursions by Venezuelan military personnel cause the gravest concern to the Government of Guyana, not least because they occurred at a time when Guyana is engaged, in accordance with the Geneva Agreement of 1966, in the process of seeking to reach agreement with Venezuela on the choice of one of

the methods for a pacific settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations. The incidents moreover have to be seen in the context of a pattern of blatant Venezuelan violations of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity over the years and in this regard I wish to allude to my letter of 11 May 1982 addressed to the President of the Security Council (document S/15072) that protested a similar action by Venezuelan military personnel on 10 May 1982.

The Government of Guyana, as in the past, has drawn to the attention of the Government of Venezuela these violations of its national territory and has reiterated to the Government of Venezuela its request that the necessary and appropriate measures be instituted to ensure that such provocative acts and violations cease.

For its part, the Government of Guyana wishes to reiterate that it remains firmly and unequivocally committed to the maintenance of friendly and peaceful relations with the Government of Venezuela, while continuing in its resolve to protect and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Government of Guyana also wishes to reiterate its determination to continue to abide faithfully by the Geneva Agreement of 1966.

It would be appreciated if this document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Noel G. SINCLAIR
Permanent Representative
