

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9663
25 February 1970

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GUYANA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention, for the information of members of the Security Council, the serious situation which has arisen as a result of the following unprovoked armed attacks by the military forces of the Republic of Venezuela against the territory of the Republic of Guyana:

(a) On Thursday, 19 February 1970, at approximately 20.15 hours, Venezuelan military forces on the island of Ankoko (half of which is Guyanese territory illegally occupied by Venezuela since September 1966) opened fire with machine-guns aimed in the direction of the Police station at Eteringbang, which is located on the Guyana side of the border;

(b) On Saturday, 21 February 1970, at approximately 16.15 hours, the Venezuelan military forces again opened fire with mortars and machine-guns, damaging the Police station, the camp of the Guyana Defence Force and an airstrip serving the station and camp;

(c) On Sunday, 22 February 1970, at approximately 06.30 hours, Venezuelan military forces levelled heavy mortar attacks against the air strip and surrounding buildings. Sporadic firing continued throughout the morning. Later in the day, mortar emplacements were mounted along the Venezuelan bank of the Cuyuni River, and the Police and Guyana Defence Force posts were again shelled.

At no stage in any of these attacks was there any retaliation by Guyanese personnel.

The attack on the Guyanese posts, at approximately 16.15 hours on Saturday, 21 February, began as the official celebrations to mark the inauguration of the

Republic of Guyana commenced in Georgetown, and the attacks throughout Sunday, 22 February, came on the eve of the inauguration of the Republic.

The attacks on the Guyanese posts at Eteringbang have been followed throughout Monday and Tuesday, 23 and 24 February 1970, by an increase in Venezuelan armed forces at strategic points along the Guyana/Venezuelan border. This military build-up has been accompanied by an increase in Venezuelan subversive activity among the Amerindian citizens of Guyana - activity of the kind already brought to the attention of the General Assembly by my Government, during both the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions. My Government is gravely concerned that these actions are calculated to lead to still further violations of the territorial integrity of Guyana.

The Government of the Republic of Guyana has entered a formal protest to the Government of the Republic of Venezuela against these acts of aggression and has demanded reparations for the damage done as a result of those acts, which are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

My Government will keep the Security Council informed of all further, material developments.

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) P.A. THOMPSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Guyana
to the United Nations
