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LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BOLIVIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Representative of the Government of Chile to the United Nations has taken the liberty to reply to the note which I had the honour to address to you on 26 February 1964.

The note in question from the Chilean Representative is Note No. 18 of 26 February.

The Bolivian delegation is grateful to the Representative of the Chilean Government for the contribution he has made towards clarifying what took place at Mejillones, a locality situated in Bolivian territory occupied by Chile.

I request that special note be taken of the paragraphs in which the Chilean Representative officially confirms that the Bolivian flag fluttered over public buildings at Mejillones on 8 February 1964.

If this happened on Chilean Government buildings, it is clear enough from that Government's own confession what occurred in the case of private dwellings.

It must be added that the patriotic events at Mejillones were a result of the misery in which the Bolivian towns occupied by Chile find themselves - something that the Chilean Representative passed over in silence.

With reference to the opinions expressed by that Representative concerning the political life of my country, they only serve to underline the ideological incompatibility of a Government of feudal origin like his with a Government like mine which embodies popular aspirations. In this respect I need only quote the words with which President Kennedy greeted President Paz Estenssoro on his arrival in Washington in October 1963: "What you are attempting to do in your own country, Mr. President, is what I hope all of us in all of our countries in this hemisphere would try to do for our people".

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I regret having to trouble you and the distinguished representatives on the Security Council, to whom I ask that a copy of this letter be sent. Bolivia is obliged to proceed in this manner because the Chilean Government has closed all approaches to a constructive dialogue. This is demonstrated by the terms used by the Representative in question in the note addressed to you.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Román CASTRILLO JUSTINIANO

