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LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 1963 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
VENEZUELA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15 March 1963, which has been circulated as Security Council document S/5262.

With regard to the second paragraph of that letter, in which reference is made to the Council practice of circulating, at the request of a Member State, any document concerning an item inscribed on the agenda of the Council, I venture to point out that in my letter of 14 March 1963 (S/5260) I alluded, not to that practice, but to the language which should be used in documents intended for reproduction or circulation by the United Nations, and which should be consistent with the importance and dignity of the Organization.

The Security Council practice to which you refer is both known to my Government and accepted by it, as deriving from the right of every Member State to report a dispute and to use all the arguments it sees fit in defence of its position and against the opposing position of another State or States. What my Government cannot accept is the existence in a civilized society of a right to insult others and, consequently, of a corresponding obligation upon the United Nations to reproduce and circulate insults in official documents of the Organization.

I therefore reaffirm to you my previous communication of 14 March 1963 (S/5260), in all its parts.

Please arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official Security Council document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Carlos Sosa Rodríguez  
Permanent Representative of  
Venezuela

