



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/21041  
21 December 1989  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

---

Letter dated 21 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued by the Soviet Government on 21 December 1989.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV

Annex

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON 21 DECEMBER 1989

The United States of America has committed an act of blatant international tyranny. During the night of 20 December, the United States Armed Forces launched a large-scale invasion of the territory of the sovereign State of the Republic of Panama. The pretext for intervention was the oft-repeated allegation of a "threat to the lives of American citizens", as well as the notorious reference to "American interests". Aircraft, warships, tanks, artillery and air-borne troops have been thrown into battle against a small country. In various parts of the Panamanian capital, assault operations are being conducted and there is much bloodshed.

Washington's intervention against that independent State is a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of inter-State relations. The cynical thing about that action is that it is ostensibly for the "defence of democracy" in Panama.

The military action by the United States against Panama poses a challenge to the international community, which is striving to develop relations on the basis of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and dignity of other nations. It is clearly incompatible with the positive trends now being consolidated in world politics and with the policy of seeking solutions to complex problems through dialogue and political and diplomatic means.

The American invasion was undertaken despite repeated appeals by the international community to take a well-considered approach to the situation in Panama and despite the appeals to Washington by the Latin American States for unconditional observance of the principle of non-interference in the affairs of Panama. The American action runs counter to multilateral efforts to reach a political settlement in Central America. The security of Soviet citizens in Panama is also endangered.

The Soviet Union appeals to the United States Administration to cease its interventionist actions with respect to sovereign Panama.

