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THE SITUATION IN GRENADA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 1 November 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué issued on 31 October 1983 by the Government of Venezuela regarding the situation in Grenada. I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 145, and of the Security Council.

COMMUNIQUE

In view of reports by international agencies that a multilateral force consisting of contingents from countries situated in other continents which are members of the Commonwealth is being organized by the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guyana and present Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Shridath Ramphal, and will allegedly intervene in Grenada in order to "maintain the peace", the Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes to state the following:

1. In its official statement of 25 October, Venezuela set forth its position regarding the landing carried out in Grenada by combined forces of the United States and various English-speaking Caribbean countries. The landing of these forces revealed the presence in the neighbouring country of a powerful contingent of Cuban military personnel, which is also an unacceptable form of intervention in the internal affairs of Grenada.
2. The Government of Venezuela considers that in the present circumstances there should be, as soon as possible, a free and democratic consultation of the people in Grenada leading to the establishment of a legitimate Government capable of ensuring the independence and self-determination of this

neighbouring country. Venezuela considers that it is the joint responsibility of the countries of this continent to seek ways of achieving this aim and of putting an end to the present irregular situation. Accordingly, the Government of Venezuela is prepared to undertake the necessary consultations and to offer such co-operation as may be appropriate.

3. Our scrupulous respect for the sovereignty of the neighbouring island States must in no way be mistaken for indifference to the events taking place there. On the contrary, we are convinced that the real and effective independence of those States is the best guarantee of the security of Venezuela. The economic and cultural co-operation programmes which we have been developing, have always been directed towards this end. For the same reasons, which affect our vital interests, we have the right and the obligation to make sure that that independence is not compromised de jure or de facto, directly or indirectly, by the intervention of foreign forces.

4. The Government of Venezuela declares most emphatically that the presence of armed contingents from the continent and from outside the continent in an independent American State, on the pretext of an alleged "maintenance of peace" not ordered by the United Nations Security Council, is altogether unacceptable. In the view of Venezuela, such a presence would be contrary to the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American Treaty of Mutual Assistance. The presence of foreign troops in a neighbouring country would be regarded by Venezuela as a matter of the utmost gravity because of its implications for Venezuela's own security and as an ominous precedent for the independence of the countries of the continent.

(Signed) Alberto MARTINI URDANETA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Venezuela
