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LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, on instructions from my Government, the communiqué issued by the Government of Venezuela regarding the events of 25 October 1983 in Grenada. I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a Security Council document:

Communiqué

1. As is public knowledge, in the course of the last few days a serious political crisis erupted in Grenada, the tumultuous developments of which led to the overthrow and execution of the Head of Government, Mr. Maurice Bishop, and the emergence of a military régime which, according to the scanty information that managed to leak out through the isolation imposed by it, sought to consolidate itself by force in the face of apparent repudiation by the population. These events merited the unanimous condemnation of the countries of the area and generated great anxiety about the repercussions they might have on peace in the region.
2. In the critical Caribbean context, the democratic Governments of CARICOM have stressed repeatedly, at the meetings of Ocho Ríos and Chaguaramas in particular, that all its members are required to show full respect for human rights and to establish representative democratic Governments.
3. In these circumstances, the Governments of a number of democratic countries of the area agreed to take joint military action, invoking instruments concerning security signed among themselves, in order to deal with what, in their view, constitutes a situation of imminent danger for the peace of the region.
4. On today's date a landing in the neighbouring country of Grenada was carried out by combined forces of Antigua, Dominica, Jamaica, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the United States of America, making the critical situation that had been developing in the preceding days still more serious.

5. Venezuela, as a Caribbean country and as the Latin American nation geographically closest to Grenada, has a special interest in the maintenance of peace and security in the region and in respect for the norms that govern international relations. Venezuela considers it essential to uphold the basic principles of the Inter-American System, fully reflected in its own Constitution, such as non-intervention, the self-determination of peoples, full respect for human rights and the institutionalization of democracy and freedom. It cannot, therefore, condone any form of intervention by foreign armed forces in the internal affairs of another State.

6. Venezuela defends and upholds the immutability of these principles in their fullest sense as a means of attaining coexistence in its highest forms and of enabling the free and full development of human beings and peoples. In this context, it is appropriate to reiterate what has been said at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly namely, that non-intervention attains its true dimension when it is based on the full exercise of self-determination.

7. Faithful to the principles that guide its action in international affairs, the position of the Government of Venezuela, a steadfast friend of the democratic nations of the Caribbean, is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- (a) Cessation of the armed struggle;
- (b) Cessation of all foreign intervention in Grenada, so that the people of that country can freely and fully exercise their right of self-determination;
- (c) Full respect for the safeguards pertaining to human rights and to the guiding principles of the Inter-American Community;
- (d) Maintaining the Caribbean as a zone of peace, free from the confrontation between the great Powers.

(Signed) Alberto MARTINI-URDANETA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Venezuela
