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36, 37, 49, 55 and 66

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
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Letter dated 30 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a press release issued by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela concerning the final
communiqué of the British Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held at
Melbourne, Australia, from 30 September to 7 October, the text of which was
circulated on 12 October 1981 as an official document under items 22, 26, 28, 32,
33, 35, 36, 37, 49, 55 and 66 by the Permanent Representative of Australia and which refers in one of its paragraphs to Venezuela's territorial claim on Guyana Esequiba.

I would request you to arrange for the text of the press release issued by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 22, 26, 28, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 49, 55 and 66.

(Signed) Alberto MARTINI URDANETA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Annex

Press release dated 7 October 1981 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

The British Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Melbourne, Australia, has today issued a final communiqué, one paragraph of which refers to Venezuela's territorial claim on Guyana Esequiba.

The Venezuelan Embassy in Australia proceeded to issue a press release, which was distributed among the participants in the Meeting and to the international news agencies, summarizing historical, legal and moral arguments in support of Venezuela's claim to the territory west of the Esequibo and refuting the purported reasons on which the declaration is based.

This reference in the final communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government is conducive to improper internationalization of an issue which should be kept within the bounds agreed upon by the parties concerned.

It should be noted that this declaration appears at a time when the office of Secretary of the Conference of Commonwealth Heads of Government is held by Mr. S. S. Ramphal, the Guyanese Minister who signed the 1970 Protocol of Port of Spain.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned the Ambassadors of the Commonwealth countries accredited to the Government of Venezuela in order to confirm to them Venezuela's position on the issue.

The Venezuelan diplomatic missions in those countries have also been instructed to reiterate Venezuela's position in view of this development.

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