The Ambassador of Bolivia to the United Nations, Mr. Mario Rolón Anaya, has seen fit to address to you a communication (A/S-10/18) referring to my reply to his statement during the special session convened to deal with the important questions of world disarmament, in which he had made reference to some matters relating to my country.

Although the relations between Chile and Bolivia are within the exclusive competence of the two countries, I consider it necessary to state the views of my Government concerning the matters raised by the Ambassador of Bolivia, in view of the fact that he has requested that his letter should be circulated and regarded as a document of the General Assembly.

The views of my Government are the following:

1. There is no territorial problem pending between Chile and Bolivia. The Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Trade of 20 October 1904 definitively established the frontiers between the two countries.

2. The Treaty was signed 20 years after the cessation of hostilities between the two countries in connexion with the War of 1879. It was approved by the Congress of Bolivia and duly ratified.

3. The Treaty of 1904 provided for heavy obligations on the part of Chile, which were duly complied with and were intended to give Bolivia the most complete and free right of transit to the Pacific Ocean.

4. The facilities referred to have been improved and increased through treaties and agreements which reflect Chile's constant desire to remain faithful to the spirit that motivated the negotiators of the Treaty of 1904. As a result of this process, Bolivia today has greater transit facilities than any other land-locked country in the world.
5. Notwithstanding the fact that Bolivia has no right to any part of Chilean territory, my Government agreed to enter into negotiations with that country with a view to satisfying its aspirations to obtain a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean. To that end, in December 1975, the Chilean Government formulated a proposal whose essential basis was an exchange of territory. That proposal was explicitly accepted by Bolivia.

6. During 1976 and 1977 negotiations were carried on with a view to clarifying and determining more precisely other aspects of the Chilean proposal. One of those aspects was the extent of the exchange in relation to the coastal area, to which the Ambassador of Bolivia refers in his note addressed to you. It proved possible to reconcile different views and arrive at agreements in principle on these and other points.

7. Even though the negotiations were never interrupted and were always given impetus by Chile, including action at the Presidential level, the Bolivian Government decided to terminate them abruptly by suspending diplomatic relations with my country on 17 March 1978.

8. Thus Bolivia has interrupted a negotiation process carried on by my Government with the utmost seriousness and with a firm desire to satisfy a Bolivian aspiration.

I should be grateful if you would have this communication circulated in the same manner as the note from the Ambassador of Bolivia.

(Signed) Sergio DÍEZ URZUA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative