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LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you that, on 30 April 1982, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Mr. José Alberto Zambrano Velasco, issued a statement on the current situation with regard to the Malvinas Islands.

I request you to have this letter and the text of the statement annexed hereto distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alberto MARTINI URDANETA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Venezuela

AnnexStatement made on 30 April 1982 at Caracas by the Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

Following the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Americas to consider the serious situation in the South Atlantic and in view of the recent course of events, especially the definitive position taken by the United States in the dispute, I wish to state the following on behalf of the Government of Venezuela:

1. The Organ of Consultation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance adopted a resolution in which it unequivocally expresses its solidarity with the Argentine Republic in view of the violence to which the latter is being subjected by colonialism. This decision is not the optimum expression of the hemisphere's solidarity, but it clearly expresses the feeling of the continent concerning the current crisis, which constitutes an agreement binding on all States parties to the Treaty, even the dissidents.
2. The Secretary of State of the United States today expressed his Government's support of the United Kingdom position and announced measures directed against Argentina. This statement, which was hailed by the British Foreign Secretary, undermines inter-American solidarity and runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the resolution of the Organ of Consultation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance and is, therefore, in violation of that Treaty. It will certainly affect the future of inter-American relations.
3. The Government of Venezuela had been following with great interest the efforts to avoid useless bloodshed that the Government of the United States had been making up to the present. Regrettably, this new attitude adopted by that Government may well be an incentive to aggression, thus cancelling out the effects of the earlier peace-making efforts. Unilateral attitudes entail a serious risk of generalizing the conflict, for obvious reasons.
4. The Secretary of State has described one of the parties as intransigent, thereby actually siding with the other party, whose intransigence prior to and since the crisis is obviously the main cause of the deplorable current situation; that description reflects a biased position which has a detrimental effect on the possibility of finding a peaceful solution. The real origin of the conflict cannot be disregarded, nor can it be claimed that Argentina is responsible for the situation by referring to the only act of force, in which certainly no bloodshed was involved, committed by that country, as compared with 150 years of colonial violence, which are wilfully ignored.

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5. The Government of Venezuela is prepared to proceed, together with other Latin American countries, with the indispensable consultations concerning the possibility and desirability of reorienting the inter-American system in accordance with the interests of Latin America.

6. The Government of Venezuela considers that the new prospect opened up by the statement of the United States places an even greater responsibility on the Security Council of the United Nations.

7. We feel morally obliged to express clearly our surprise at the passivity with which the world body has watched the British fleet advance towards the Malvinas Islands.

8. It is time for the Council to order all necessary action to ward off the possibility of war by ensuring that its resolution is implemented in its entirety, a course which Argentina has stated it is ready to follow while the United Kingdom has refused to do so.

9. Lastly, the Government of Venezuela reiterates its solidarity with the Argentine Republic in this situation which requires the full, conscious and voluntary participation of its people, alongside its Government, to confront foreign aggression, and affirms that nothing is more important at this time than to avoid the loss of human life, to maintain continental solidarity and to preserve the peace.

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