

**Security Council**

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Original: English

Letter dated 7 December 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 December 2023, from Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Carolyn **Rodrigues-Birkett**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 6 December 2023, I write to bring to your attention a video recording released to the public today by the Minister of Defence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, General Vladimir Padrino Lopez, in which he announces that three Generals have been identified to lead the “conquest of Guayana Esequiba”. Please see below link and transcript attached.

<https://x.com/vladimirpadrino/status/1732760956617294182?t=RQAkcQdrfcEosCwzAhEmmQ&s=08>.

This is a direct threat of military force against Guyana’s territory and, as such, a grave breach of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the order of the International Court of Justice of 1 December 2023.

I urge that this action – as well as the aggressive actions and announcements by Venezuela that were enumerated in my letter of 6 December – be communicated to the members of the Security Council in connection with their deliberation on this matter, which is scheduled to take place on 8 December 2023 at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Hugh Hilton Todd
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Enclosure

[Original: Spanish]

**Transcript of declarations from General Vladimir Padrino Lopez.
7 December 2023 9:45 am****Spanish:**

- ✓ **General Padrino López:** Good morning, Venezuela, it's 9:45 on 7 December.
- ✓ **General Padrino López:** Working since early this morning; late last night our Commander-in-Chief President Nicolás Maduro Moros authorized the appointment of the Generals who will serve as Commander of the Guayana Esequiba Integral Operational Defence Zone and the three Commanders of the comprehensive development areas. They are excellent Generals – patriots with a high sense of ethics and commitment – and I am sure they will fulfil the task as demanded by the people of Venezuela.
- ✓ **General Padrino López:** The people of Venezuela spoke last Sunday, 3 December, and that is a mandate for us, quite literally.
- ✓ **General Padrino López:** So we are heading towards the conquest of Guayana Esequiba, because the Essequibo is ours, it belongs to us, to Venezuelan women and men. Forward; we shall overcome.

Courtesy Translation

- ✓ **General Padrino Lopez:** Good morning, Venezuela, December 7th, it's 9:45 AM.
 - ✓ **General Padrino Lopez:** Working early; late last night, our Commander in Chief President Nicolas Maduro Moros authorized the appointment of the generals who will take on the roles of Commander of the Integral Defense Operational Zone Guayana Esequiba and the three Commanders of the Integral Development Areas. They are tremendous generals, patriots with a high sense of ethics and commitment, and I am sure they will fulfill the task as demanded by the Venezuelan people.
 - ✓ **General Padrino Lopez:** The people of Venezuela expressed themselves last Sunday, December 3rd, and that is a mandate for us, quite literally.
 - ✓ **General Padrino Lopez:** So, we are heading towards the conquest of Guayana Esequiba because the Esequibo is ours, it belongs to us, to the Venezuelan women and men. Forward, we will overcome.
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