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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Letter dated 1 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter from Yorleny Jiménez Chacón, Minister for Foreign Affairs a.i. of the Republic of Costa Rica addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex) and respectfully request that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 84.

(Signed) Rodrigo A. Carazo
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica



Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

On behalf of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 21 February 2019 from Ambassador Samuel Moncada in his capacity as Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/73/767).

With regard to the contents of that letter, the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica flatly rejects any suggestion that it was responsible for the events of 20 February at the embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in San José. After the Republic of Costa Rica recognized the legitimate authority of Mr. Juan Guaidó as Acting President of Venezuela, it also recognized the person he chose as ambassador to Costa Rica and proceeded to give the previous Venezuelan diplomatic officials 60 days to leave the country. Without waiting for that time period to elapse, the new ambassador entered into private negotiations with the owner of the property where the embassy of Venezuela is located to take possession of the site. This was done without the knowledge or permission of the Government of Costa Rica. Indeed, on the same day that this incident occurred, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica summoned the new Venezuelan ambassador to his office to hand her a note of protest regarding these actions. All of this was public knowledge at the time. Pursuant to the request of Costa Rica, the ambassador vacated the premises that same day, a fact which was duly registered by accredited public notaries in a public document that was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

From the above-mentioned facts, it can be concluded that this was an incident strictly among Venezuelans and that the Government of Costa Rica was not in any way responsible for what occurred. On the contrary, as soon as the Government of Costa Rica became aware of the issue, it took the necessary urgent steps to restore conditions to their previous state. The Government also took steps to provide the embassy with adequate police protection.

Lastly, given that the Permanent Representative of Venezuela requested that his letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, my Government requests that its response also be circulated in the same manner.

(Signed) Yorlenny **Jiménez Chacón**
Minister a.i.