United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

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All Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

Excellencies,

I refer to the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Venezuelan Mission to the United Nations, in the meeting of members of the Security Council to discuss the situation in Venezuela on 20 May 2020. I further refer to the letter sent from the same on 26 May 2020 to H.E. Sven Jürgenson in his capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May.

The claim that the United Kingdom, through its Venezuelan Reconstruction Unit or otherwise, had prior knowledge of the 3 May 2020 incident in which defector Venezuelan military representatives and independent security contractors entered Venezuela by speedboat is absolutely untrue.

The Venezuela Reconstruction Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was established in 2019 to coordinate the UK approach to the international response to the dire economic and humanitarian situation in Venezuela. The UK is committed to working with international partners to bring a peaceful end to the appalling crisis in Venezuela, and the Venezuela Reconstruction Unit is a reflection of that commitment.

The Unit has visited Venezuela twice, obtaining visas through the Embassy of the Maduro regime in London, in order to understand the challenges and determine how the UK might help. During the first visit, the Unit had diplomatic engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maduro regime. On both visits, UK Ambassador Andrew Soper spoke publicly about the Unit and its staff. The role of the Unit was further outlined by the UK's Chargé d'Affaires in Caracas when summoned by the regime's Foreign Minister on 14 May 2020. The UK government, including the Venezuela Reconstruction Unit, had no prior knowledge of the 3

May 2020 incident in Venezuela, and was not attempting to secure “preferred status” for British businesses in the case of the overthrow of Nicolás Maduro.

With regard to the reference made to UK warships in the Caribbean, the UK has a permanent maritime presence in the North Atlantic to assure the security of our five Overseas Territories in the Caribbean and the broader region. HMS MEDWAY forms the basis of this year’s maritime presence, enhanced by RFA ARGUS’ deployment in April 2020 to provide further resilience in preparation for the annual hurricane season. This maritime presence is not part of a “covert assault” against Venezuela.

With regard to the letter sent to the Security Council on 26 May 2020 by the Permanent Representative of the Venezuelan Mission, I would like to reiterate, as has been stated previously to the Security Council, that the Bank of England is an independent public organisation. As a matter of longstanding policy, Her Majesty’s Government does not intervene in private matters or any disputes that may arise therefrom. As an independent public organisation, the Bank of England is not an “executing arm” of UK government.

Furthermore, with regard to the other allegations made, the UK government has in no way divested Venezuelans of the financial means to overcome the humanitarian crisis. In fact, we are among top donors to UN and other humanitarian efforts in Venezuela, having recently committed $30 million for 2020-2022 to support Venezuelans in need both inside the country and in the region, building on $24 million of UK support provided in 2019, which is also supporting the Covid-19 response. We also deny the allegation that we are responsible for depriving the Venezuelan people of food and medicine. The only party responsible for the Venezuelan people’s years-long deprivation of food, medicine, and other basic goods and human rights is the Maduro regime, which has ruined Venezuela through its longstanding corruption, incompetence, and mismanagement.

Please accept, your Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonathan Allen